



# Voice Box

## Reaction to Midland March: Great!

Dear VOICE,

Congratulations to the Huron Alliance and all of those hardy and brave souls that made the Midland demonstration such a huge success. Gatherings such as that not only create media focus, but reaffirm to all of us in the movement that we are a vital community and very much alive in the 1970's. Being in a continual state of "red alert" can be a ticket to the mental compost pile without these happenings to recharge the spirit.

One of the most constructive things I learned at Midland was that the real work begins when you get home to your communities, where we slog through barriers day after day. The symbolism of the anti-nuclear speakers from labor notwithstanding. I was disappointed to see that the movement is still mostly conspired of white middle to upper middle class people. In this respect, little has changed from the sixties. The importance of a broad base of support can hardly be underestimated, especially now as political and corporate power continue to accelerate.

But we are confronted today with, as someone said, "insurmountable opportunities." The public in America lies confused, angry and powerless. They would rather be secure in their frustrations than risk change because at least they have adjusted to the

present. And who can they trust anyway? Uncle Sam and General Motors have laid Vietnam, nuclear fission, inflation and the day to day threat of nuclear holocaust on everyone.

Remember when people told you not to criticize the system unless you had a better idea, leaving us all rather at a loss for words? Well, one thing that the seventies has brought us are well-articulated alternatives that can be demonstrated using the language of economics, politics, and technology to be workable blueprints for the future. Schumacher, Toums and Henderson, among others, are telling us that there is a better way of running a world.

We must make alternatives clear to people, educating them in their own language and being careful not to alienate their already bruised sensibilities. Support alternative energy, co-ops, vegetarian restaurants, alternative media; anything that fosters the potential in humans for understanding the world and the freedom that is an inherent principle of life. If we really believe that what we're into is righteous and good, then we should be able to break down walls with the force of reason and sanity.

Take it to 'em,

Tim Booth  
Coordinator, Center for Urban Ecology

To the Staff of the VOICE:

I have just picked up a copy of the April '79 "Special No Nukes Edition" of the VOICE. The coverage of the problem is very good, just what we need in Michigan. I would be interested in your doing an analysis of the insurance problem in a future issue — with the goal of repeal of the Price-Anderson Act in Congress. My understanding is that no private insurance companies will touch nuclear plants and therefore public money is being used under this law. A drive to repeal might focus on this, what do you think?

I am wondering too if your paper might research another horror story of our times which could be related to Midland Dow Chemical. My information about this subject is based on a book by John G. Fuller entitled "The Poison That Fell From the Sky." The author documents the catastrophic chemical accident in the town of Seveso, Italy on Saturday, July 10, 1976; the factory manufactured 2,4,5-T and hexachlorophene. In the explosion that happened in the TCP reactor that day, dioxin, one of the bi-products, has apparently forever made a wasteland of this area of the Po Valley in Italy (it

could happen here — in Midland?) To quote, Seveso is now "a wasteland, surrounded by barbed wire, posted with ominous signs: Contaminated zone. Roll up windows. Do not stop. It is a desert where not even an insect can live."

In the *Detroit News* of February 17, 1979, the Associated Press, dateline Midland, describes the pollution in the Tittabawassee River as a dioxin trace TCDD coming from the Dow power plants. To quote, "James Sibbison, an EPA spokesman, said yesterday the level of TCDD in Midland dust and soil samples showed the area to be a definite hot spot." . . . "He indicated that EPA scientists had trouble accepting Dow scientific methods and believed the firm was using weakly circumstantial evidence to reach its conclusion."

The connection between the chemical plants in Seveso, Italy and Midland, Michigan is, of course, the by-product of deadly dioxins produced in these plants.

TCDD is a dioxin produced in the herbicide 2,4,5-T.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Pickford  
Waters, Michigan

## Terrific! . . . Rare

Hi VOICE!

Just a quick note to congratulate you on the success of the Midland March, and to thank you for all the work it took to organize it. It was terrific!

And I appreciate you asking me to be a part of it. It was my privilege and a rewarding experience — one I shall long remember.

Keep up the good work and enter my name for a subscription to the *Voice*...

Thanks again.

Helen LeTarte, Co-Chair  
Nuclear Waste Watchers

Dear VOICE,

Demonstrations of genuine political power are rare in our society. The huge number of people gathered in Midland under the banner of the Huron Alliance was an impressive and legitimate demonstration of popular concern unlike anything I've witnessed in almost ten years.

All of the people connected with this effort are to be heartily congratulated for making the American process work!

Sincerely,  
Michael Kelly

## Time for a new breed

Dear VOICE:

I appreciate your efforts to stop the nuclear plants, and I am in total agreement with the cause. Perhaps a small contribution will consist of the poem within, which was written directly after reading the last page of "The Hard Rain Times." Hopefully, it will be published and gain some support for your cause through your

paper.

It is a time for writers, thinkers and speakers of a new breed, and I support you in heart for your endeavors. Keep the public informed and the people free from the danger of these 'humps upon the land.'

Sincerely,  
Jeff Scott

## Help for battered women

People:

I have a couple comments that I didn't see addressed in your article on battered women nor in the editorials.

— House Bill No. 5349 was passed last July and this bill indicates that a police officer may arrest a spouse, former spouse, or person of the opposite sex residing or having resided in the same household as the victim if there is violence. This applies whether or not the violence was committed in the presence of the officer. Since about 50% of the officers in Genesee County are unaware or unwilling to support this bill, I suggest getting a copy by contacting Mark Clodfelter's office at 232-9131. I would

like to state I support the police officers who are helpful and supportive when such action is necessary.

— Flint does have an emergency hotline (FRES - 235-5677) that can provide emergency housing overnight. It's worth trying.

I hope this information is helpful. Although neither parts of this information may guarantee what a battered woman needs, it does help her chances of getting help, along with the other services currently being put into effect at the YWCA and the services at the Everywoman's Center.

Sincerely,  
Pam Durr

## Jim Sherry a good writer

Dear VOICE,

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my respect for the abilities of Jim Sherry. His articles always make me do some heavy contemplating. I hope you people realize what a jewel you have in Jim Sherry.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Rodgersson

We at the VOICE appreciate your thoughts and criticisms. If you have any comments or opinions pertaining to the VOICE specifically or anything in general, we encourage you to write us.

For the upcoming issue we will be focusing on alternatives that would make Flint a better place. If you have any ideas on how to improve this city we live in please send them to us by June 2 at 5005 Lapeer Rd., Burton, 48509. — And thanks!