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For Boeing, no more nukes

COMPANY MOVING TO DROP NUCLEAR ARMS CONTRACTS

By Stanley Kubrick

Facing action by the United Nations declaring nuclear arms illegal, Boeing is preparing to announce in the coming week that it will cancel its multimillion-dollar defense contracts to maintain and enlarge America's nuclear missile arsenal.

Rumors of Boeing's plans stunned military and corporate officials as they learned the aerospace giant will drop maintenance work on Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles and forgo its role in developing a next-generation nuclear missile system. Also to be phased out will be work on components for Trident submarine-based nuclear weapons, as well as a guided tail kit for the B61-12 nuclear gravity bomb to be deployed in Europe.

"We have the chance to change Boeing from an Armageddon machine right here in the Pacific Northwest," said one key Boeing executive, who declined to be identified prior to the company's announcement. "We can set a new long-term course of sustainable growth for our business."

A month ago several senior and mid-level Boeing executives canceled overseas travel plans after being advised they could face arrest upon entering the European Union. The threat was dismissed then as a legal maneuver orchestrated by rival planemaker Airbus to pressure negotiators for trade concessions.

But with many nonnuclear countries having signed last year's U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, it's now clear Boeing's leadership has bigger problems. A sealed decision by

judges of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, is said to declare nuclear arms illegal.

Work by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, or ICAN, led to the landmark U.N. treaty, which goes well beyond past nonproliferation agreements. The little-known, grassroots coalition of disarmament activists, based in Geneva, suddenly gained the spotlight last fall when ICAN won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Having never ratified creation of the International Criminal Court, the United States and its elected officials are not bound by its decisions. Boeing, however, does fall under the court's jurisdiction as an international corporation.

"I feel like Airbus and the EU were making me personally their first-strike target," said one executive who canceled his vacation plans in France. "Listen, I am just like any other corporate executive who dreams big -- you know, the cars, the luxury real estate, Arnold Schwarzenegger as my personal trainer. All I wanted was to play bacarrat in Monte Carlo. I am not some kind of war criminal."

Another Boeing official took a less personal view, saying the business of nuclear arms has now shifted.

"Naturally, we don't want to stand trial," the official said. Asked if other military contractors might follow Boeing's lead in renouncing nukes, the official said, "It's not a question of if, but when."

While known in the Northwest mainly for its commercial jetliners, Boeing has been part of the nuclear arms industry since World War II. In 1945 the Boeing-designed B-29 Superfortress bomber "Enola Gay" introduced the world to atomic weapons when it dropped the bomb that devastated Hiroshima, Japan, killing as many as 146,000 people.



Work by ICAN, which led to the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, has top executives at companies like Boeing fearing international prosecution. Pictured are three ICAN "Treaty Enforcers."

In recent years Boeing has provided the Air Force with engineering support and program management for ICBM guidance systems and other technology under a series of contracts worth more than \$1 billion.

After nursing along the Minuteman III ballistic missile system under "cost-plus" contracts with guaranteed profit margins, the company at one point advised it would have been cheaper to totally replace the system. Boeing then received another major contract to participate with Northrop Grumman in doing just that.

While giving up its cash-cow nuke programs, Boeing is still well-connected in Washington, D.C. The company anticipates another huge cost-plus contract, this time to build energy-farm wind turbines in the same states where

nuclear-tipped ICBM missiles have long been siloed.

Whether fearing that its most valued executives could face a war-crime prosecution, or simply in recognition of a new business reality, Boeing appears to have reversed its attitude toward the bomb. "They no longer find it conscionable to bilk the taxpayers for projects that, at best, lead to weapon systems that won't function, and at worst serve the apocalypse," one defense industry analyst remarked. "It's been a bit like licking honey off a razor blade."



Reset your Doomsday Clock back one hour.

Leaked Pentagon study a call to disarm

ANALYSIS REJECTS \$1.7 TRILLION NUKE 'MODERNIZATION'

By Albert Einstein

A secret Pentagon study takes issue with plans to spend more than a trillion dollars "modernizing" the U.S. nuclear arsenal in coming decades. The newly leaked study instead recommends a negotiated nuclear disarmament as a smarter strategy for long-term national security.

The study, underway for several years and intended for a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, faults the underlying premises of U.S. nuclear policy and points to alarming risks inherent in maintaining the nation's massive stockpile of nuclear weapons.

FBI officials said a still unidentified Pentagon employee, apparently hoping to prod cautious lawmakers to act, hyperlinked secret study documents to an Instant Pot recipe-sharing website. Within hours the documents went viral.

Military strategists long have dismissed nuclear weapons as useless in war, the study points out, because

See STUDY, A2

War machine not so hot as an economic engine

By Eleanor Roosevelt

While business and political leaders often present and justify military spending as an all powerful bringer of jobs and prosperity, an economic study has found millions more jobs result from government spending in other areas of the domestic economy.

Spending public dollars on education and health care would create more than twice as many jobs as by spending the same amount of the taxpayers' money on defense, according to economist Heidi Garrett-Peltier, a research fellow at the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Her research focuses on the employment impacts of public and private investments, particularly those that support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Redirecting military funding toward clean energy and infrastructure projects would result in over 40 percent more jobs, she has reported in a paper titled "Job Opportunity Cost of War."

As weapon manufacturers, including aerospace businesses like Boeing, rethink their business plans, the hard

numbers could also prompt elected officials to reconsider the effects of large military budgets.

Officials at the Congressional Budget Office note that tax revenue diverted from spending on nuclear weapons could instead fund public schools, hospitals, miles of bridge replacements and a host of other much-needed infrastructure projects. Educators envision free preschool and kindergarten programs for all U.S. children.

When it comes to employment, Garrett-Peltier's research found big differences depending on how the government spends tax dollars. Each \$1 million going to the military directly produces 5.8 jobs in defense industries and another 1.1 jobs in the armed forces supply chain. On the other hand, every \$1 million spent on education creates an average of 15.2 jobs -- 11.2 jobs in higher education or 19.2 jobs in primary and secondary education. Spending on health care and energy projects also outpaces military spending in jobs created.

Between 2001 and 2016, the government's military spending actually cost the U.S. economy up to 3 million potential jobs, Garrett-Peltier estimated.

Abandoning \$1.7 trillion in spending to modernize U.S. nuclear forces and instead devoting that much more to education and social service programs could have profound effects, eventually removing much of the burden now carried by nongovernmental organizations.

TRUTH TO POWER Reporting Project

A researcher has found that for every \$1 million the government spends, the number of jobs created varies a lot, depending on where the money goes.

ECONOMIC SECTOR	JOBS PER \$1 MILLION
Education	19.2
Health care	14.3
Energy efficiency retrofits	10.6
Infrastructure construction	9.8
Wind and solar projects	9.5
Military	6.9

"If our country were fully investing in improving lives, surely we wouldn't need so many nonprofit organizations," said Laura Skelton, executive director of the anti-nuclear-weapons advocacy group Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility. "I think I'd finally resume my oil painting," she said, "something I've wanted to do for decades. If I didn't have to worry about nuclear weapons on a daily basis, why not bring more beauty into the world?"

Subs as home ports for homeless of Seattle?

By Hyman G. Rickover

The expected closure of the Navy's nuclear submarine base at Bangor, Kitsap County, could mean more emergency housing for Seattle's growing homeless population.

Eight decommissioned Trident submarines based there have been offered to the city of Seattle as temporary shelters. Each sub is approximately the length of two football fields and contains numerous compartments that can be converted easily to living space.

The Seattle City Council plans to vote quickly on a proposal to relocate the submarines to parkland along the west side of the Duwamish River. Each vessel would leave Hood Canal under its own power, then be towed by tugboats into Elliott Bay. Cranes would lift the boats onto the vacant riverfront property. Conversion of the sub fleet to dormitories, kitchens and family living quarters could be completed by next spring. Some might be left afloat to provide occasional cruises for their new residents.

While the black submarines aren't exactly cheery, a Navy official said some creative kids with a few buckets of paint might do wonders. "I'm hoping for at least one yellow submarine," he said. "You know, like in that Beatles song?"

Meanwhile, Kitsap County commissioners envision a very different future for the former Bangor naval base. The

commission has announced the 8,000-acre facility will be divided between the state of Washington and the National Park Service.

Officials say the state's share of the land will be set aside for a new public university, tentatively to be named Bangor State. A wildlife refuge and possibly a national recreation area will be considered for the federal portion of the property.

Studies have found that all the native species have outlasted nearly a century of Navy operations.

Over the next five years, Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific and other naval offices will be remodeled for Park Service administrative purposes and for university classrooms. Housing for naval personnel will be converted to accommodate university students and staff.

Naval Base Kitsap, created in 2004 by merging Navy facilities at Bremerton and Bangor, has been the third-largest Navy base in the U.S.

More productive use of the large area is projected to create up to 40,000 jobs, almost double those of the base's current civilian and military personnel. New Park Service uses will attract thousands of visitors, a boost for the local tourism and hospitality industry.

"The changes," said a county official who declined to be quoted by name, "will constitute a tremendous economic boon to Kitsap County."

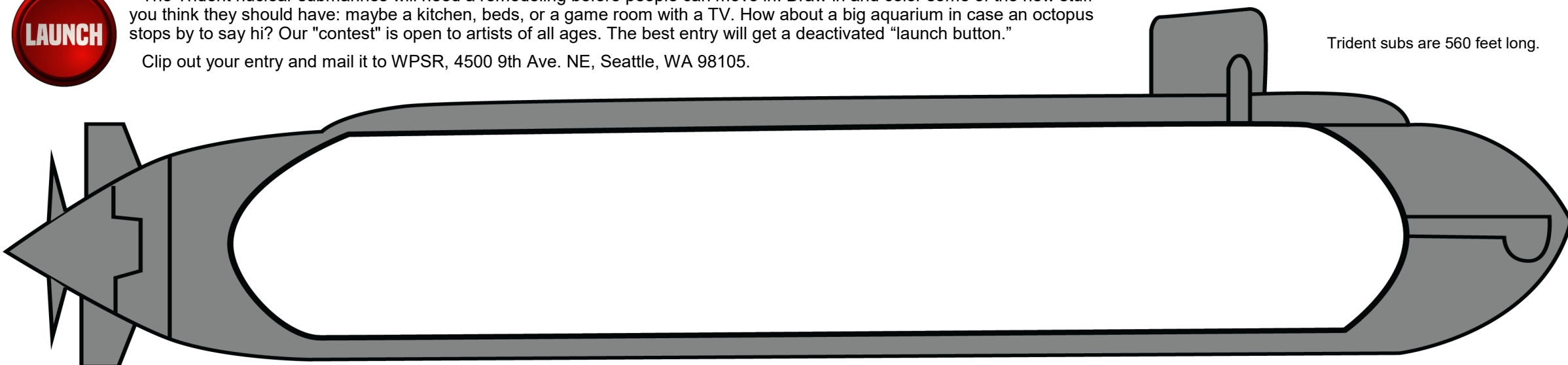
New Clear News is having a coloring contest!



The Trident nuclear submarines will need a remodeling before people can move in. Draw in and color some of the new stuff you think they should have: maybe a kitchen, beds, or a game room with a TV. How about a big aquarium in case an octopus stops by to say hi? Our "contest" is open to artists of all ages. The best entry will get a deactivated "launch button."

Clip out your entry and mail it to WPSR, 4500 9th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

Trident subs are 560 feet long.



Ask Ebeye

Think you'd survive a nuclear strike on downtown Seattle? Get out!

Dear Ebeye: I live near Green Lake and a friend lives near the Vashon ferry in West Seattle. If a nuclear bomb hits downtown, what should we do? — Hallie

Hello, Hallie: Trident subs typically carry 475-kiloton bombs, as many as 120 of them. Let's suppose one of them were detonated at First and Pike. Based on the online Nukemap application, there are five ways to measure a nuclear blast:

Fireblast: Temperature is 3 times hotter than the center of the sun. Impact from First and Pike: north to Belltown, south to Pioneer Square, west to Elliott Bay, east to Interstate 5. No survivors, no buildings.

Airblast and radiation: North to Denny Way, south to Sodo, west to Queen Anne and West Seattle, east past I-5. 50-90 percent survivors.

Second airblast: North to Green Lake, south to Spokane Street, west to Queen Anne and West Seattle, east to Lake Washington. Most buildings collapse; fatalities widespread.

Thermal radiation: North to 85th, south to Chief Sealth High School in West Seattle, west to the Salish Sea, east to Lake Washington. Survivors have third-degree burns.

You have 15 to 30 minutes to leave. Take food, water and clothing. In a major city like Seattle, odds are the infrastructure will be destroyed, so bridges probably won't be functional.

If you can, head for the mountains, where the topography might shelter you better. Or go underground and hang tight.

Nearby targets are likely to be the Port of Seattle, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Bangor, the four Boeing facilities, and military facilities at Whidbey Island and at Indian Island near Port Townsend.

You can, of course, do something now to prevent all of this. Join the Washington Against Nuclear Weapons coalition (see below for link) and work with others to prohibit nuclear weapons. Since 1960, more than 50,000 weapons have been decommissioned.

Urge our leaders to join us, and help vote out those who believe in the outdated deterrence theory. Nuclear weapons

provide no protection, and having them won't save us. Missile defense is unreliable and a waste of tax dollars.

Fire and Fury, the title of a recent book about the Trump White House, also could describe the death of our beautiful planet in a nuclear war.

(Ebeye is a small South Pacific island with a history of forced relocations, overcrowding, illness outbreaks and broken promises by the U.S. government dating back to American testing of nuclear weapons and missiles in Micronesia during the Cold War. Sources for today's column: Nukemap, *Missile Envy: The Arms Race and Nuclear War* by Helen Caldicott).



STUDY

Continued from A1

neither side in a superpower showdown could achieve a meaningful victory amid the massive toll of death and destruction. Aside from the doubtful theory of deterring attack, the only practical use of America's costly nuclear capabilities has been for threatening other nations when hostilities arise — as with North Vietnam in the 1960s, for instance, or more recently North Korea.

The study questions a plan to spend as much as \$1.7 trillion over the next 30 years to modernize U.S. nuclear armaments. Given the distractions of the Trump White House, the nuclear modernization policy has drawn little attention in the mainstream news media. But as the study notes, the policy already is spurring a new Cold War of military competition among the United States, Russia and China.

Also examined by researchers was the mathematical probability of catastrophic nuclear events over the next 30 years. The experts considered three scenarios — the accidental explosion of a nuclear bomb, a massive release of radiation, and an accidental war between nuclear superpowers. The chances that one of the three will occur sometime in the next three decades were calculated to be 36.4 percent, too high for comfort.

The pressures of global climate change on international relations were among many potential factors the study took into account. Another was low morale reported at U.S. missile sites, increasing the possibility of a disastrous lapse in safety or security.

The study proposed an alternative approach — disarmament. The U.S. could begin a measured nuclear stand down, unilaterally, but with a proviso that at each stage an equivalent percentage of arms reductions would be negotiated with each of the other eight global nuclear powers.

While long neglected, a policy of "good faith negotiation" already exists in U.S. law under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which took effect in 1970 with the goal of eventual global nuclear disarmament.

President Donald Trump had no comment on the leaked Pentagon study. Some generals in the U.S. nuclear chain of command, however, expressed relief that the issues are finally gaining attention. For years, they said, they have quietly feared the horror of being ordered to launch nuclear weapons, then afterward facing imprisonment or execution as war criminals.

RANT and RAVE

RANT: Who gives *Homo sapiens* the right to split atoms anyway? Did we or the Russians vote for the doomsday machines our governments have built? Will they let us vote to get rid of them?

RAVE: I met a little boy in a Batman outfit yesterday in a local eatery. He said a hero helps people and he helped my wheelchair-bound friend by opening the door. We need more heroes.

RAVE: We honor all those people, up and down the chain of command, who disobeyed when commanded to launch a nuclear weapon, later learning there was a false alarm. We are still here because of you. Thank you.

OPINION: Macho Boeing wakes up

New Clear News Editorial Board

Boeing, long our beloved local producer of commercial jetliners, has a dark side, one we don't seem to talk about much.

In 1958 the company became the Air Force's prime contractor and original equipment manufacturer for America's first ballistic missiles, the Minuteman ICBMs. That role has continued into the military's current plans to "redo" its entire nuclear triad of missiles, submarines and bombers.

Perhaps because most of this defense work goes on in Utah and Ohio, Boeing's extensive role in the production of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems hasn't been so well known in the Pacific Northwest.

But it's a big part of Boeing's profit picture and its identity.

Boeing has grown and prospered for decades as a macho corporation committed to safeguarding this country by helping make America bigger and tougher than its enemies. And what could be bigger — longer, too — than a 100-foot tube tipped with a nuclear bomb, standing proud and erect on the Montana plains?

The neighbors, however, aren't so sure they like this corporate "missile envy" or living in the nightmarish shadow of a future Armageddon.

More than 400 ICBM sites dot the western states of Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota. Many residents of farms and communities near these doomsday installations are not amused by plans to replace the missiles again. A flurry of protests, a rarity for some very traditional communities, showed people have run out of patience with knowing their hometowns are targeted for

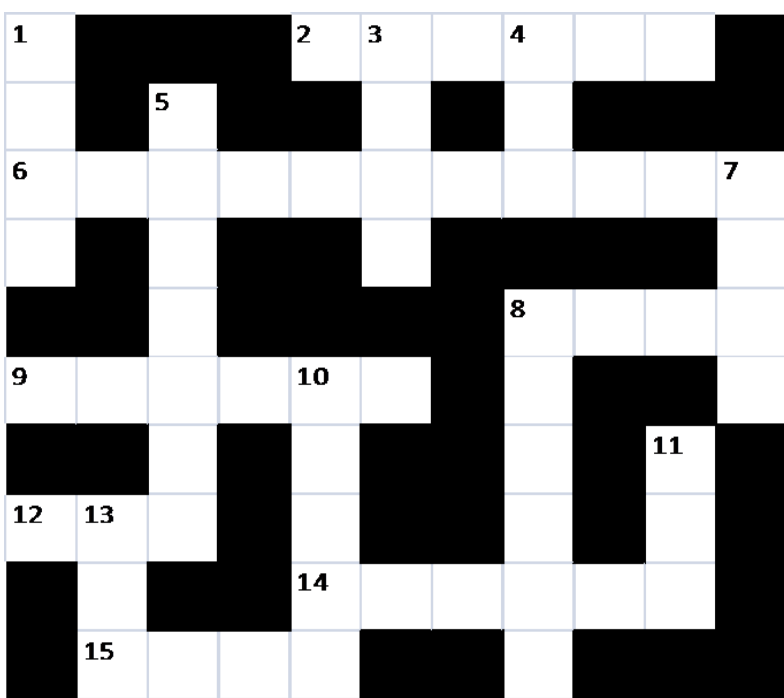
incineration by foreign governments.

To the Vladimir Putins and Kim Jong-uns of this world, the locations of these sites are no secret. If you're curious, rent a car sometime and tour the missile bases. The Air Force will even provide a map.

As you survey the bucolic landscape, picture the unthinkable. Unlike Trident submarines, for missile silos there's no wartime strategy of lurking and darting to evade a dead-on nuclear strike.

In conservative, patriotic, red state communities, protests used to be unthinkable. But now the widespread yearning for change can't be overlooked, not even by Boeing. For the company's psyche, a sexual revolution is here. Goodbye, ICBM contracts. In the boardroom, those big, strong, manly missiles just won't fly anymore.

NEW CLEAR NEWS CROSSWORD



- Across**
 1 Miles from Bangor to Seattle
 2 All-out nuclear attack to take out an enemy's nuclear attack capacity
 3 Organized collective violence, first evidence of which was detected in 12,000 BC (plural)
 4 Nuclear contractor
 5 Force of an explosion is measured in kilotons of _____
 6 Nuclear weapons don't provide
 7 Elimination of nuclear weapons

- Down**
 1 Organisms that can grow, adapt to their environment, respond to stimuli, reproduce and die
 2 Bangor is 20 miles _____ of Seattle
 3 Proposes low yield tactical weapons
 4 Silent menace, Ohio class
 5 Seattle is 20 miles _____ of Bangor
 6 A nuclear accident could bring nuclear _____
 7 Trident subs don't make _____
 8 Little _____ dropped on Hiroshima
 9 When diplomacy should start

Not faux:

LEARN MORE, DO MORE

Washington Against Nuclear Weapons
<https://www.wanwcoalition.org/>

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
<https://www.wpsr.org/>

Don't Bank on the Bomb
<https://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/>

Ground Zero for Nonviolent Action
<http://www.gzcenter.org/>

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
<http://www.icanw.org/>

Nukemap
<http://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/>

Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>

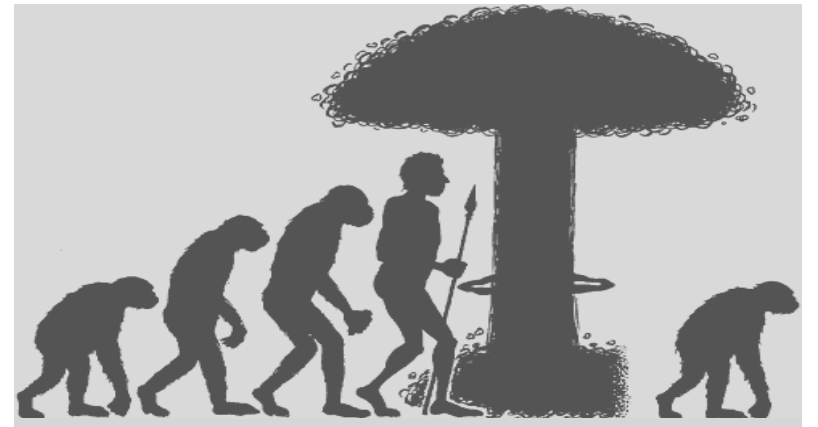
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ANNUAL LANTERN-FLOATING CEREMONY
 August 6th, every year, 6 PM, south of the Bathhouse Theater, Green Lake, Seattle

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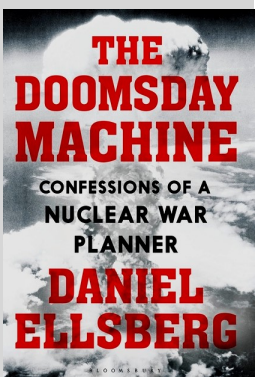


NUKE LINE

Mushrooms to the rescue: Frustrated by delays in building a massive, \$17 billion nuclear waste treatment plant at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, the U.S. Department of Energy may turn to mushrooms. The department proposes to use fungi to concentrate nuclear waste for safer storage. After decades of producing plutonium for weapons, the compound near Richland is holding vast quantities of atomic waste in rusting and leaking storage tanks. Mushroom spores have been used successfully in other environmental cleanup work, officials say. "This will be another great example of the bioremediation we can achieve with these amazing species," one mycologist said of Hanford. To grow mushrooms in arid Eastern Washington conditions, engineers envision turning the unfinished treatment plant into the world's largest terrarium. Amazon has offered to donate its Spheres.

Working on a railroad: As it swears off nuclear weapons work, Boeing also is about to make a bold departure from its commercial aviation roots. The company soon will announce formation of a high-speed rail division under a public-private partnership with the governments of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. The goal will be to bring 200-mph bullet trains to the Interstate 5 corridor, linking Seattle with Vancouver, B.C., Portland and perhaps someday with ultra-fast rail service proposed between Northern and Southern California. The idea of high-speed Cascadia rail service isn't new, and Boeing officials think America's long economic recovery has left it poised for major infrastructure spending. High-speed trains have operated in Japan since the 1960s, and the technology is more energy efficient and less polluting than air travel. With airport congestion and cramped airliner cabins, a 500-mile trip by bullet train, downtown to downtown, would be faster and more comfortable than flying. "We think the time is right for ultra-fast rail service in many U.S. regions," said a Boeing executive, "and I know people here who are relieved to be working on something not about nuclear annihilation."

Hair-trigger launch mode: A new book by antiwar activist Daniel Ellsberg, famed for his 1971 disclosure of the Pentagon Papers about the Vietnam War, is now out. The policy of reacting with overwhelming force after any "first use" of a nuclear weapon, perhaps even by accident, is described in the book *The Doomsday Machine: Confessions of a Nuclear War Planner*. Ellsberg says Barack Obama was the only president ever to consider ending the first-strike policy, as well as declaring a no-first-use policy and getting rid of America's ICBMs. To get a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty through the Senate, however, Obama had to drop those policy revisions and also commit to a \$1.2 trillion (now \$1.7) modernization of the U.S. arsenal.



www.thenation.com/article/the-secret-daniel-ellsberg-really-worries-about/

Goodbye, spies? Boeing's decision to drop out of the nuclear weapons industry could make Seattle an even less inviting target for Russian spies. The White House already shut down the Russian consulate in Seattle last spring, citing its proximity to Boeing and to the Navy nuclear submarine base in Kitsap County. With the ease of posing as diplomatic staff members now gone, spies are left to face the area's affordable-housing squeeze. Near Boeing's Renton assembly plant, where 737s are being fitted out as submarine-hunting naval aircraft, figures in tattered trench coats have been seen loitering on a sidewalk. Their hand-painted sign: "Homeless and hungry. Any photocopied nuke defense secret will help."

This day in history: The "Little Boy" atomic bomb was detonated by the United States over Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6, 1945, killing as many as 146,000 people, most of them civilians. Roughly half died the first day, the remainder from burns, radiation sickness and other injuries in the following months. Weak and crude compared with today's weapons, the bomb had a one-mile radius of total destruction and left a wider area of the city burning. Three days later another U.S. nuclear bomb devastated the city of Nagasaki, killing as many as 80,000. The U.S. finally acknowledged Japan's requests for peace and formally accepted its surrender six days later, ending World War II.

CROSSWORDS

