

2-21-91

P8

U.S. MARINES? UH,
NEGATIVE, SIR... IT'S
ANOTHER GROUP OF
IRAGI SOLDIERS
SURRENDERING...



I only remember Grandma's stories. One story begins with air raid sirens. If it is night all lights must be turned out. Families run for shelter, there is no time to lose. I am strapped to Grandma's back. There is a whirring sound of airplanes and then exploding bombs. The earth is shaking and we draw close together. We are afraid. After planes pass there is a sound like hundreds of people crying, people hurt, people dying. Mothers cry for lost children, brothers die holding onto each other. Night wails.

This is an old story. But always somewhere the Grandma has to carry the child strapped to her back and run with fear, always brothers die together. I wonder how many of us could drop bombs if we knew the hurt we made, the innocent women and children we killed to have our way.

I say loudly now, "No more bombing! No more killing!"

If I keep quite the stones themselves will start to shout.

Leiko Yamada O'Neill
Hilo

Scuds & spaceport

The rocket launcher facility proposed for Ka'u has often been called a "spaceport" by promoters trying to glamorize something that will violate the environment and pierce the peace of this rural area. During recent months, a new and evil word has become familiar worldwide. The word is Scud. Scud best conveys what is being proposed for Ka'u. "No Scuds for Ka'u, Thank you!"

George H. Balazs
Honolulu

Here's how our dear state government has lied to us on this point. The 300- to 500-acre figure the state likes to quote refers to the first 100 MW only. There can be no 100 MW without the whole 500 MW — the Big Island can't use it and the cable requires megabucks. And, there are not 60,000 relevant acres of Puna forest which the state uses for figuring. The 27,000 acres of lowland Wao Kele are biologically unique, and the state must be counting the lava wasteland for which they traded our forest to get this figure.

What happens when you periodically kill all the birds in the surrounding area with poison gas releases? And drive them away with constant noise? And what if the forest is bird-pollinated? And what if it's the last forest of its kind in the world? Of course, these are just secondary effects, not even reflected in the acres-cleared figures. We can't discuss these, because then it becomes clear that we are destroying the entire native Hawaiian forest and not just some percent, as though it were an acceptable sacrifice.

Words like extinction and biological diversity can also be quantified and made to seem less personal. But to whom else goes the responsibility for the murder of entire species and ecosystems, but to those humans who promoted it, and those who allowed it to happen? Extinctions are forever and believing government propaganda does not release one from this higher responsibility to the earth and our children.

Anne Wheelock
Kurtistown

Editor:

Imagine coming over a hill or rounding a bend and encountering a large truck whose left front tire is almost three feet over the center line into your lane. Although most truck drivers are safe and responsible, there are others who abuse their privilege to drive and hog the road. Given our narrow Kona roads, nearly nonexistent shoulders and increased traffic, this scenario is happening more often.

There is something you can do if you get safely around the truck. Take note of the truck company, date, time, location and if possible a truck number and license plate. Truck companies keep a log of who drives what, where and when.

Call the police with your complaint. The police will visit the company with your complaint. After several complaints, the police will patrol the area where the driver is scheduled to drive. Also call the company as no company wants to employ an unsafe driver.

B. Easley
Kailua-Kona

No Scuds

Editor:

The rocket launching site proposed for Ka'u has often been called a "spaceport" by promoters trying to glamorize something that will violate the environment and pierce the peace of this rural area.

During recent months, a new and evil word has become familiar worldwide. The word is Scud; "Scud" best conveys what is being proposed for Ka'u. "No Scuds for Ka'u, thank you."

George Balazs
Honolulu

Geo myth

Editor:

The myth that only one percent of the forest will be affected by geothermal development needs to be laid to rest. Wao Kele O Puna has about 27,000 acres. 500 megawatts (MW) of geothermal will directly destroy a minimum of 1,500-2,500 acres. That's 5-10 percent if all went perfectly, and we've learned that geothermal in Hawaii has been quite imperfect. Add in secondary effects on the forest and the percentage game becomes meaningless. It is shameful for the state to promote such myths as a "one percent sacrifice" when it is recklessly gambling with Hawaii's biological heritage; the stakes

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