

Her Adv - Dec 2000

Time to evict campers...

WHY is Argyll and Bute Council not acting on the eviction notice it has in its possession to remove the unsightly Peace Camp, dangerously situated at the roadside at Shandon? This dump has been a blot on the landscape too long.

In Your Page last week Phill Jones (Scottish CND) said Councillor Freeman was wrong to suggest that there is no support for the peace camp in the local community.

He even says he saw base workers giving the thumbs up to the people on the tripods.

I would suggest he has his eyes tested as that is not the finger I have seen being given to them!

I for one support Cllr Freeman completely in this eviction.

I am sure the vast majority locally and indeed in the base do too. Pity other councillors don't!

As for Phill Jones saluting the bravery, dedication and idealism of the peace campers, does that include vandalism, graffiti and destruction of local roads, signs, trees and property over the years?

Lastly, for those who are worried about the cost of the eviction to the local taxpayer

What is the cost of all the police over the years? Why not seize the assets of Scottish CND, Ploughshares etc to pay for it!

Give 'us' peace for a change!

D Prophet

Mary Browne Walk, Garelochhead

Or send them abroad...

HAVING read Phill Jones' apology in the November 30 edition of your newspaper, with its peculiar claims of support by Faslane workers (amongst other absurd statements) for the anti-social activities of 'Peace Camp' occupants and others in their persuasion, I suggest to him that he now organises a rapid transfer of the squalid sub third world encampment to places less tolerant of such ideas and so experience somewhat less acceptance of them.

I propose Iraq, Russia or China as suitable locations.

He would then be able to expand his politics from within a barbed wire enclosure, which seems to be a CND activist ambition, in short order and with rather less application of democratic philosophies than the United Kingdom defence policies guarantee him and his ilk. The flouting of all laws and statutes concerned with public health, construction and planning by the 'peace campers' is disgraceful, as is the tolerance of these by Argyll and Bute Council.

D A Jones, Shandon

Sub problems show safety comes second

IWISH to take issue with Rear Admiral Anthony's claims that all is well with the nuclear submarines at Faslane (November 23).

The normal cloak of secrecy which surrounds these vessels has been lifted because the Navy had the misfortune of taking HMS Triumphant into Gibraltar.

Political pressure has resulted in detailed information being given to nuclear experts advising the Governments of Spain and Gibraltar. Much of this is now in the public domain.

HMS Triumphant has two cracks in

the primary coolant circuit close to the reactor pressure vessel. If Rear Admiral Anthony seriously believes

his statement that 'there are no radiation hazards associated with this flaw' then he is not a fit person to be in charge of nuclear submarines.

In the week before his letter was published HMS Triumph hit the seabed off the West Coast of Scotland and was taken into Faslane.

Yet the Rear Admiral chose to keep this fact a secret from us all. He claims that the repair to HMS Splendid and HMS Superb will use

a 'straightforward and fully proven engineering process'.

But the experts advising the Gibraltar government have published a report, based on information from the MoD, which makes it clear that the Navy has never before attempted this kind of repair.

There is a great deal of uncertainty over how it will be done and whether it will work.

The same report reveals that the Navy will not know the cause of the problem for several weeks. So the claim that HMS Triumphant

is clear of the defect is a nonsense. The Navy do not know what they are looking for.

Furthermore they have not carried out a proper physical inspection of the suspect part on HMS Triumphant - and I challenge Rear Admiral Anthony to say that they have.

The recent decisions made at the highest level with regard to HMS Triumphant illustrate very well that, when push comes to shove, the MoD will put operational demands before public safety.

John Ainslie, Scottish CND