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*1986  
Annual  
Report*

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**Bulletin**   
of the Atomic Scientists

## From the editor

It has become increasingly clear that this is a time of rare opportunity to reverse the nuclear arms race. The leaders of both superpowers appear receptive to, if not eager for, significant progress toward disarmament. In the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev's domestic agenda has shaken the system more than anything since Nikita Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin in the mid-1950s. And this policy of domestic change has been coupled with foreign policy initiatives such as the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing, which lasted 19 months until its recent termination, and several arms control proposals. In the United States, Ronald Reagan's hostility toward the Soviet Union seems to have been tempered by desire for a historic agreement, as indicated by the near miss at Reykjavik, which occurred even before the Iran/contras scandal broke. Given the latter, plus congressional and public pressure, an arms control deal could be struck despite the still powerful opposition of hardliners.

But the substantial obstacles still blocking progress toward ending the arms race can only be removed through the efforts of well-informed policy makers and citizens of many countries. And that's where the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* comes in. Last year, our readers in more than 70 countries were able to gain a deeper understanding of U.S.-Soviet relations, global nuclear proliferation, and numerous related topics of science and public policy. Our desire to continue to expand editorial coverage this year and throughout the *Bulletin's* fifth decade of publication led to the creation of a Fund for the Future to complement our annual Albert Einstein Fund drives. We are particularly grateful to the MacArthur Foundation for its generous gift to this campaign.

While 1986 was a successful year for this publication in most ways, it also carried sadness and personal loss. The recent death of editor-in-chief Harrison Brown meant the loss of a friend and adviser. We will miss his unique counsel and contributions. At the same time, we will continue the work that was so important to Harrison, and with your continued support we will make the *Bulletin* an even stronger voice of reason in its forty-second year of publication.

—Len Ackland

## Bulletin wins award

The *Bulletin* was presented an Olive Branch Award for its "outstanding coverage of the nuclear arms issue" in 1986. The award singled out the January article "Scared Stiff—or Scared into Action" by Peter M. Sandman and JoAnn M. Valenti. The award is sponsored by the Editors' Organizing Committee, the Writers' and Publishers' Alliance for Disarmament, and the New York University Center for War, Peace, and the News Media.

## Editorial coverage



**CHERNOBYL**  
THE EMERGING STORY

Last September the *Bulletin* published a special section of articles, "Chernobyl: The Emerging Story." These 12 articles, written by a wide range of specialists, analyzed the broader context and implications of the Chernobyl accident in a way that set our coverage apart from that of other publications. Many of the articles and illustrations have been reprinted by newspapers and journals around the world, and the issue is frequently requested for classroom use.

Special sections such as that and the one published last spring about the relationship between international security and global population growth are a useful way to examine certain events or issues. In 1986 these sections enhanced the *Bulletin's* coverage of timely subjects such as the shifting debate about Star Wars, the internal changes in the Soviet Union, nuclear tests and weapons development, South Africa's circumvention of the arms embargo, and nuclear proliferation. More debate was added to our pages with pro and con articles on topics including the University of California's control over the nation's weapons laboratories, the need for traditional arms control, and the impact of military spending.

## Expanded public education

A new editorial page service is enlarging the *Bulletin's* audience far beyond its immediate subscribers. Since last May we have been sending condensed versions of two articles a month to 500 newspapers around the country. Many are published, and all serve an important function: helping inform members of the press. "The articles are read by lots of staff," an editor at the *Miami Herald* told us, and a Missoula, Montana editor called them "editorial springboards." *Bulletin* authors such as Ted Taylor, who wrote "Endless Generations of Nuclear Weapons," report being contacted by journalists who have read the pieces.

This important service is free to newspapers. Funding by a subscriber got it started, and foundations are supporting the project through 1988.

Other articles are making news as well. For example, one by Barton Bernstein on secret plans for anthrax bombs during World War II raised concern in Terre Haute, Indiana, after the Associated Press picked up the story. The community was not happy to be named as the former site of one of the factories.

Reaching classrooms was a major goal for our new book, *Assessing the Nuclear Age*, published last March and based on the fortieth anniversary issue. But the British magazine *New Scientist* thinks it should be required reading for politicians, and that they should be "rested on its contents before being allowed to take further part in the Great Nuclear Debate." The book will soon be available in Spanish and Italian editions.

The University of Chicago Press plans to issue a new edition of another *Bulletin* book, *The Soviet Union Today*, edited in 1983 by James Cracraft. This, too, has been popular in college classes, as is the magazine itself: one enthusiastic professor has a *Bulletin* subscription for every member of his chemistry class.



The cover illustration from the March 1987 issue.

## Upcoming projects

The *Bulletin* will add a new feature in 1987, a two-page "Nuclear Notebook." The first page will consist of short news items gleaned from obscure government documents, many of which have been obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and other sources. The second page will consist of statistical information, presented in charts and tables, about important arms race issues. This feature is intended to meet the need expressed by some of our readers for such up-to-date information. The Nuclear Notebook will be prepared by the staff of the Nuclear Weapons Databook Project of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

This year we will continue to complement the *Bulletin's* regular coverage by occasionally publishing special sections of articles that examine various aspects of a single topic. One such section, "International Views of the Superpowers," was carried in the March issue. Another planned section will focus on the prospect of nuclear war at sea, a look at U.S. and Soviet naval forces and strategy.

The *Bulletin* has changed its production schedule to bring more timely information throughout the year. We will continue publishing 10 times each year, now combining the January/February and July/August issues.

The *Bulletin* will soon be moving into new quarters on the University of Chicago campus. We look forward to the move, as it will mean bigger and better offices.



## Financial and circulation reports

In addition to subscription income, the *Bulletin* has received contributions from individuals and foundations in support of our 1986 operations. The New-Land Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, and the Ploughshares Fund all made grants to help the *Bulletin* distribute articles to papers throughout the country for inclusion in opinion and editorial pieces. The Ruth Mott Fund recently provided funding to send the *Bulletin* free of charge for the next five years to all members of the U.S. Congress and all United Nations delegations.

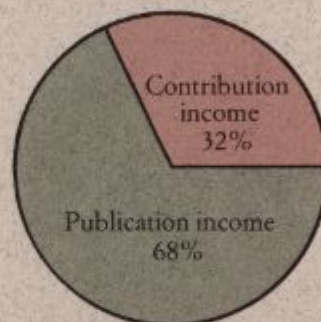
We have launched a special fundraising drive to finance the long-term development of the magazine. The goal is to strengthen the *Bulletin's* unique editorial content and to reach a larger audience. The Fund for the Future drive is being co-chaired by Robert McNamara, former secretary of defense and World Bank president, and John Simpson, Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor of Physics at the University of Chicago. Through the Fund, the *Bulletin* plans to raise \$1 million by Spring 1988. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has already provided a generous contribution toward this goal.

In addition, we are testing a new direct mail package to help increase the circulation, and therefore the impact, of the magazine.

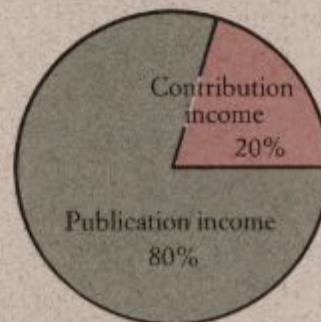
We are also attempting to increase advertising in the magazine to help offset higher printing costs. A new experiment is our Reader Order Card, carried in each issue of the magazine. Advertisers using the card include an assigned number in their advertisement for their book or product. Readers can then order the book or product by circling that number on the card and dropping it in the mail. Please patronize our advertisers by ordering books or products through the *Bulletin* Order Card whenever possible. You will have the convenience of having your order delivered to you, and you will be strengthening the magazine's advertising position at the same time.

### Income

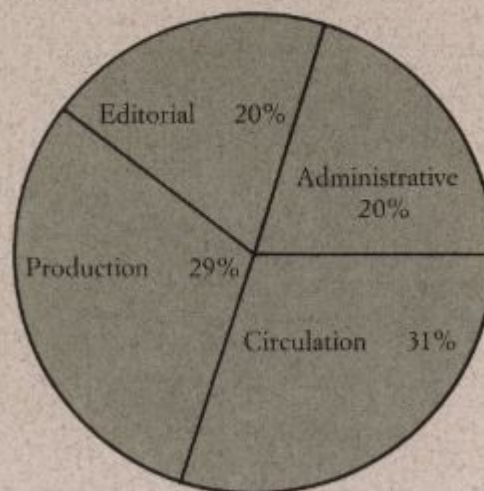
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### 1986 Expenses



## Bulletin people



Gloria Duffy



Betty Bumpers

The *Bulletin* welcomed two new members to its Board of Directors in 1986: Gloria Duffy and Betty Bumpers.

Duffy is a Soviet specialist who now heads Global Outlook, an organization that does public interest research and consults on international security issues. She joined the *Bulletin's* board because "the *Bulletin* is getting better and better as a publication... and sometimes that's when a publication needs more help in its organizational aspects. As the magazine's quality has increased, the need to solidify its base of circulation and funding has also grown."

Bumpers is founder and president of Peace Links, an organization dedicated to involving grassroots citizens in activities that reduce the threat of nuclear war. Bumpers believes she'll contribute to the *Bulletin* because she comes from "a totally different perspective—I have no expertise in the technology of the arms race. I try to represent the grass roots. I think that not only do we need to involve experts, we have to involve the masses before we can solve (the arms race)."



The *Bulletin* staff, front row, left to right: Lisa Grayson, art director; Cathryn Plys, promotions director; Nell Lundy, administrative assistant; Ruth M. Grodzins, manuscript editor; Nancy J. Myers, managing editor; (back row) William Paul Fiefer, assistant editor; Nancy L. Watson, circulation manager; Len Ackland, editor; Vicki L. Smith, business manager.

(Photo: Patricia Esawi)