

LETTERS

Palisades should adhere to strict safety checks

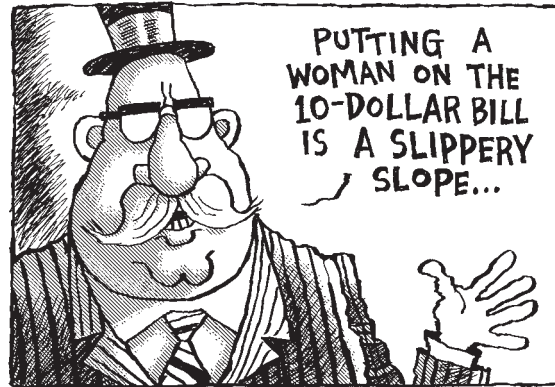
Editor,

The Herald-Palladium in the recent past has accurately called for the testing of Palisades' safety operations in Covert ("Palisades: Is it safe? Repeated shutdowns raise doubt about plant's long-term safety," In Our Opinion, May 23, 2013). Dangerously, federal authorities in charge of ensuring the safety of the aging fleet of nuclear power reactors have weakened, not strengthened, nuclear industry rules.

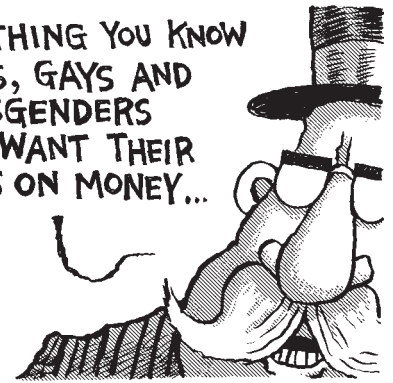
Only 18 miles north of Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Entergy, a Louisiana-based energy company, operates Palisades, one of the oldest (1974), containing the most "embrittled" nuclear pressure vessel in the U.S. The "embrittlement" in nuclear plants' pressurized reactor vessels (PRVs) determines the operational life and fundamental safety of the plant. That is why nuclear regulators required the nuclear industry to conduct rigorous testing on physical specimens taken from the PRV and to meet robust "embrittlement" standards.

Now more and more nuclear plants operate past their 40-year operational life expectancy. Instead of taking a common-sense conservative approach to safety, they have persuaded nuclear regulators to weaken these safety standards (<http://www.ap.org/company/awards/part-i-aging-nukes>).

Palisades has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for "regulatory relief," allowing it to operate for another 25 years. Palisades suggests substituting mathematical data extrapolated from other nuclear reactors instead of analyzing real test "coupons" inserted into the Palisades PRV during construction. Hopefully, The Herald-Palladium and civic leaders will oppose Entergy's reckless and unprecedented refusal to physically test the embrittled



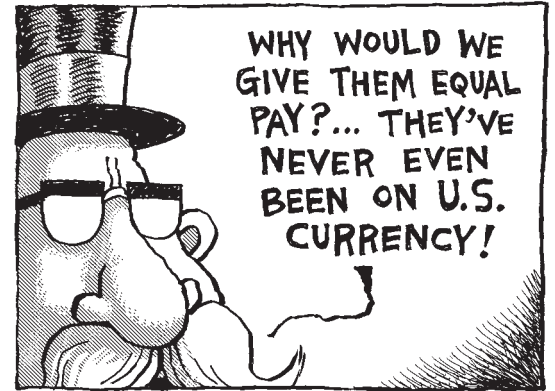
NEXT THING YOU KNOW
BLACKS, GAYS AND
TRANSGENDERS
WILL WANT THEIR
FACES ON MONEY...



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PITTSBURGH
POST-GAZETTE
ROFF



OR WORSE...
WOMEN WILL
WANT TO BE
PAID THE
SAME AS
MEN!



WHY WOULD WE
GIVE THEM EQUAL
PAY?... THEY'VE
NEVER EVEN
BEEN ON U.S.
CURRENCY!

ment of its reactor vessel, without exemptions, excuses or amendments from decades-old safety rules.

Mark Muhich
Chairman
Sierra Club Nuclear Free
Committee
Jackson, Mich.

Honoring the many United Way volunteers

Editor,

Each Spring, we are treated with seeing all sorts of life burst out of the ground, producing the best colors and scents, from frozen soil to a circus of life. It seems almost magical, but we know there's hard work going on beneath the surface, as a seed or root prepares each year for the unveiling. This letter celebrates a similar process. The United Way of Southwest Michigan (UWSM) has begun the process to release \$3 million into the community for the coming year, to impact the education, income, health and basic needs of our community. This money comes from

thousands of us and more than 180 companies in Berrien and Cass counties, and is designed to reap a rich garden of services in our communities.

But, before these monies can pour out of the United Way and into the lives of individuals and families, there were important critical things happening, unseen by most of us. Starting in December 2014, 85 community members, from all walks of life, came together for nearly three months to consider each application for United Way funding. These people had a very difficult task, considering 57 proposals for United Way allocations, knowing that there would not be enough monies to fund every proposal, or give every proposal their requested resources. That meant that tough decisions would have to be made. But these volunteers, who each freely gave more than 20 hours of their time to the process were willing to do this important work to make sure each of our donations to UWSM was directed to making the maxi-

mum impact in the community. Each application was carefully considered for the expected outcomes, the results that would occur, along with a plan to measure the positive impact on people's lives.

Our volunteers work "beneath the soil," allowing all of us to enjoy the fruits of their efforts as community agencies use these resources to address the real needs of our community neighbors. We get to see our giving turn into lasting change right before our eyes. As United Way of Southwest Michigan board members, we thank our volunteers for their dedicated work this spring in the allocation process.

Luann Harder
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Western Michigan University

Clinton Gabbart
UWSM Chairman of
Impact Strategies Cabine
Vice President of
Student Service
Lake Michigan College