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### **Demand cleanup of sites connected to nuclear weapons production**

In the '60s and '70s, you called us "hippies" and "flower children." Now, we have grown and become "yuppies." The concerns of nuclear armament and waste of the "flower power" generation is back for the yuppies to clean up.

We tried to warn all of you do-gooders who thought the "Cold War" was a direct threat upon American citizens and the Vietnam War was justified, but you weren't listening. Are you listening now?

Now, uranium and other radioactive materials are threatening all of us because a few were not heard and were labeled extremists. Our fathers and grandfathers who unquestioningly trusted their government have gone to their graves, carrying with them a deadly secret.

These valued men of our society cannot be replaced, nor tell their horrific stories of illness. Even they were not privy to knowing that what they worked with might eventually kill them. Yes, management knew, and precautions of the times were implemented, but continued warnings from health officials were basically ignored.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims the amount of radiation from uranium or thorium at the Simonds plant is negligible. I want them to explain this to me, since no sincere cleanup effort ever was undertaken, and the half-life of uranium is 24,000 years.

To explain this in simplest of terms: Take a full glass of water and pretend it's uranium. In 24,000 years, you will have 1/2 glass. In another 24,000 years you will have 1/2 of 1/2, etc., until 100,000 years has gone by and the uranium is totally eradicated by nature. Can we afford to wait this long?

"So what?" you say. "I won't be around." What about your great-grandchildren's grandchildren? Is this the legacy you want to leave them?

The City of Lockport needs to get off their complacent behinds and start complaining and demanding answers from all our government officials. Isn't it strange how only one politician has come to our defense and said that Simonds must be cleaned up? Where are the others you trust and voted into office?

Please demand action, not promises. The men who worked at Simonds and other private-sector sites around the country are heroes, because they unknowingly gave their lives to "protect" our nation.

**Karen Hallifax  
Lockport**