

Desert Voices

The Newsletter of Nevada Desert Experience Vol. 10 No. 2 Fall 1997

Interview with August Desert Witness Speaker Ted Taylor:

Bomb Pioneer Critical of Subcritical Tests

by Keith Rogers,
Las Vegas Review-Journal

With its \$40 billion stockpile stewardship program, the United States is spiraling toward another Cold War that could produce small, fusion bombs without full-scale tests, a former nuclear weapons expert said.

Theodore Taylor, who designed some of the first atomic bombs tested at the Nevada Test Site and who was deputy technology director for the Defense Nuclear Agency in the mid-1960's, has, in his words, "done an about-face."

Instead of backing the government's Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program—a 10-year government project to assess reliability of the nation's aging nuclear arsenal—Taylor decries the program that will use high-tech lasers, computers and non-nuclear experiments to simulate nuclear explosions.

While plutonium might not

be the main ingredient in these smaller bombs, pure fusion—the joining of atoms to release large amounts of energy—could be accomplished using lithium and heavy hydrogen combined with techniques from these new experiments.

"It would open up a Pandora's box," he said in an interview last week following his arrest at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California where he protested the lab's National Ignition Facility, a giant laser system, under construction, that is part of the \$10 billion program.

He said the bombs wouldn't be able to deliver the massive nuclear punch like the atomic bombs he once helped design, but they would be powerful enough to be used by terrorists to blow up a marketplace or building.

Taylor, 72, was the featured speaker at an anti-nuclear conference Saturday in Las Vegas at Christ Church Episcopal.

He was expected to carry his protest further today, joining others from the faith-based Nevada Desert Experience who intend to stage nonviolent, civil
(continued on back page)

Dorothy Day's 100th Birthday



A Legacy of Love

November 7, 8, 9, Las Vegas
(See poster inside)



Franciscan Friar David Buer leads a procession of 60 people to the Nevada Nuclear Weapon Test Site gates for August Desert Witness 1997. 27 people committed civil-disobedience by crossing onto the Test Site and were arrested for trespassing. Photo by Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun.

August Desert Witness 1997: 60 People Commemorate

Crossing the Line at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site

by Marti Searcy, August Desert Witness 1997 participant from Reno, Nevada

*I always cry when I cross the line.
My tears are full of joy
And my heart leaps in my chest
As if it has met a kindred spirit, after a long separation*

*The day- whether dull and grey
Or bright with a crystalline blue sky and a radiant sun
Seems larger, more vibrant
Filled with possibilities*

*I dance my walk to the women's pen
As I chatter with my escort
Attempting to pass this great joy to him
I want to embrace him and invite him to dance*

*Our steps may not match
but in God's eyes we will perform a pas de deux
That couple our hearts as the sorrow I feel for this imprisoned space
is transformed into a hippy-shake tribal celebration I invite the world to share.*



HIROSHIMA HAIKU

*Whether or not I listen
ghosts sob on the atomic field*
Taniguchi Seinosuke

*Charred beyond recognition yet
the shoes he wears are my boy's shoes*
-Masuda Misako

*One side of the face shuns light
August anniversary*
-Kushibe Masayuki

*An empty shell I walk
Flowers hit my eyes*
-Sasaki Isami

Left: Participants pray at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site as Prayers for Peace of 12 World Religions are read. **Center:** Altar Site at Test Site gates. **Right:** Franciscan David Buer talks to Nye County Sheriff before crossing cattleguard onto the Test Site and being arrested. Photos by Stevi Carroll.

Right: Dr. Ted Taylor is handcuffed and led into the outdoor jail compound after he crossed onto the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site, 26 others were arrested while 30 supporters looked on during August Desert Witness 97.




On November 15, 1950, Ted Taylor, nuclear physicist, was drawing circles on a map indicating potential nuclear war targets. His circles did not include all of Moscow. Taylor, a dissident, found himself in Moscow's Gulag, perhaps a couple of thousand happy-lucky prisoners, walking around enjoying the sight of the city.



Presented by Nevada Desert Experience

Las Vegas Catholic Worker: 500 W. Van Buren Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 647-0728 / Nevada Desert Experience

Commemorate 52nd Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki



*"We were
fascinated by
abstract violence
on a huge scale.*

*I became
addicted to
nuclear weapons
work. It gave me
a sense of great
power."*

*-Dr. Ted Taylor
ADW 97 Speaker*

ear weaponeer, sat in Washington, D.C.,
precisely the devastation his latest creation
ny. "I remember being disappointed the
On July 9, 1986, Ted Taylor, nuclear
Red Square. He "looked around, saw
king people, including several wedding
hts." Ted Taylor wept.

-Mother Jones magazine interview



.....
*Come on, dear ones
Put your tender arms around each other
Come now, stand up, won't you?*

.....
*Dear ones
The time of silence is over!
With your bright eyes
Clear voices and joyful cries
Come on
Join the struggle on this earth
Against patriotic old men*

*Spreading your arms opened to everybody
Pressing your cheeks to every breast
Let the crystal tears of humanity
Gush forth over the world
Come, dear ones
Run to any and everyone, shouting
We are of Hiroshima
Boys and Girls of Hiroshima!*

-Sankichi Toge

*Another 'subcritical' underground nuclear
weapons test is planned this month (Septem-
ber 1997) at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons
Test Site.*



.....] available at the registration table.

ce and the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

erience: P. O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127, (702) 646-4814, fax (702) 631-5538, e-mail: nde@igc.apc.org.

**UPCOMING NEVADA DESERT EXPERIENCE
EVENTS AT THE NUCLEAR TEST SITE:**

September, 1997: Planned Nuclear Weapon test (call for details)
November 7, 8 & 9, 1997: A Legacy of Love, Celebrate Dorothy Day's 100th Birthday, poster inside this issue
April 3, 4, & 5, 1998: Lenten Desert Experience XVII
April 5-10, 1998: Holy Week Walk, Pilgrimage with Brother David Buer from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site.
April 10, 1998: Good Friday Nuclear Stations of the Cross

April 9, 10 & 11: Retreat with Joanna Macy
December 31, 1999: At midnite as we enter the new millenium we will gather with religious leaders from around the nation and have a candle-lit procession onto the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site.

OTHER GROUPS; TEST SITE EVENTS:

October 10-13, 1997: Call to the Desert Gathering
April 10-13, 1998: Healing Global Wounds Gathering
both sponsored by Healing Global Wounds, (408) 338-0147

DESERT VOICES

Franciscan Friars of California
NEVADA DESERT EXPERIENCE
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(Ted Taylor, continued from front page)

disobedience actions at the Mercury entrance to the test site, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. (Ted Taylor and 26 others were arrested trespassing onto the test site after an interfaith service.)

Subcritical nuclear experiments, in which high explosives are used to slam bits of plutonium in a detonation that stops short of a nuclear chain reaction, will give scientists an edge on new weapons development even though they are designed to assess aging of the stockpile, Taylor said.

"They are extremely informative even if they don't create lots of energy," he said.

Asked if full-scale tests, like those historically conducted at the test site, from 1951 to 1992, would still be required, Taylor said, "We're reaching a point, and have passed it, where those kinds of nuclear tests are no longer necessary" for weapons development.

Full-scale nuclear tests have been put on hold since the last test, Divider, on Sept. 23, 1992. But Taylor contends subcritical experiments like the one conducted below ground at the test site last month, and another planned for this month can damage the United States' reputation with other countries that view the experiments as leading to another arms race.

"The thing that disgusts me most, the country is preparing to violate a treaty signed by our president last September. Article I forbids any nuclear explosions of any kind, yet we're preparing to build the National Ignition Facility. The purpose is to make (nuclear) explosions that don't use plutonium or uranium at all," he said.

Asked what he meant when he said in 1995, "We were fascinated by abstract violence on a huge scale," Taylor, a former nuclear weaponeer at the Los Alamos, N.M., national laboratory, said he and probably other scientists were

addicted to work on nuclear weapons.

He said he witnessed two nuclear tests in Nevada and three in the Pacific.

"It was my bomb and my idea, and the thrill of seeing something the size of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, it was a cause for celebrating," Taylor said.

"It's fair to say I bottomed out, admitting that I was hooked on a process that when carried through the end point was nothing but death, the death of most people in the world," he said.

"It was a full realization that I had been deceiving myself, and my mother and my wife. I had been working on this thing that would kill as many as possible," Taylor said, referring to his decision in 1966 that led to his prominence as an anti-nuclear activist.

reprinted from page 4B of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sunday, August 10, 1997.

Celebrate Dorothy D

A Legacy of Love; Do

Schedule

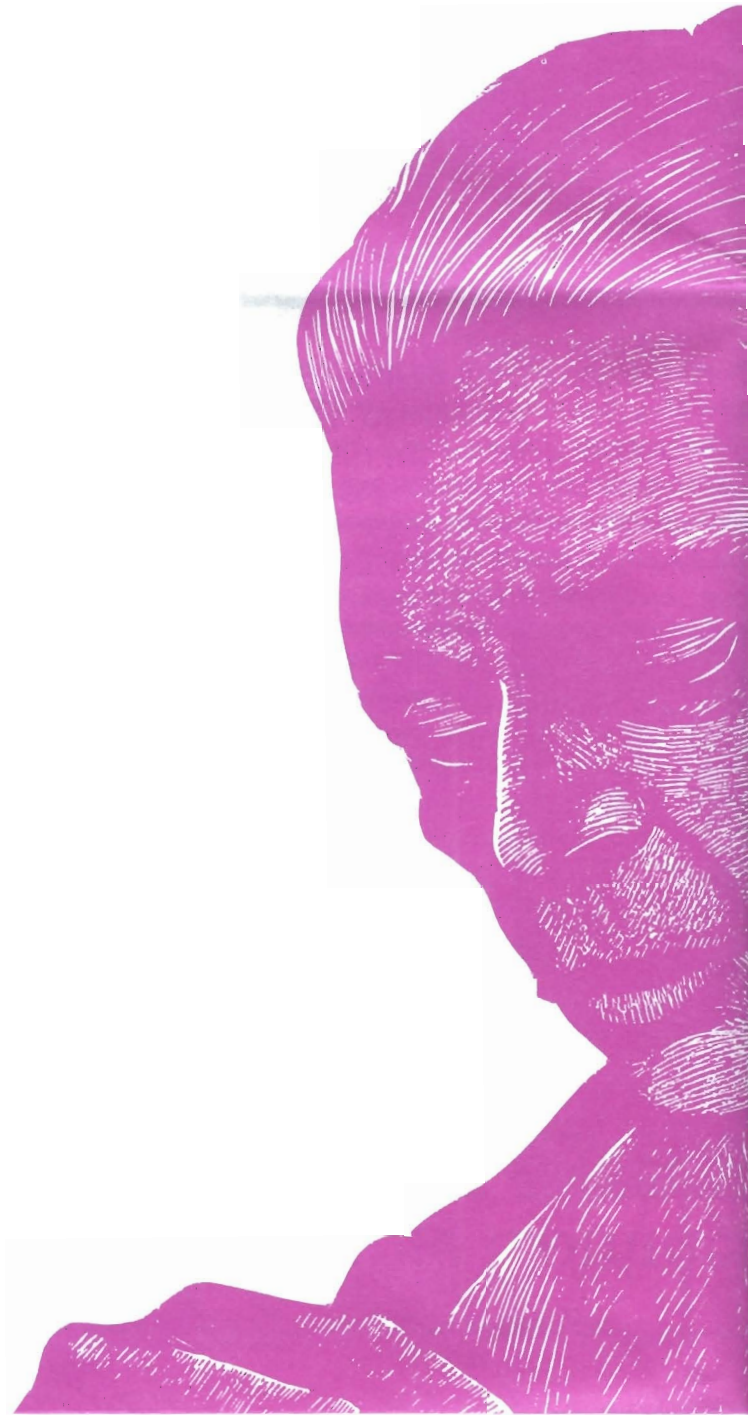
Friday, November 7, 1997

- 8:00 a.m. Check-In (in Hall)
- 9:00 a.m. Round Table A
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Round Table B
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Round Table C
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Round Table D
- 4:45 p.m. Break
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner (in Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony (in Church), Anne Symens-Bucher, Larry Holben, Informal Storytelling
- 9:00 p.m. Social (in Hall)

Saturday, November 8, 1997

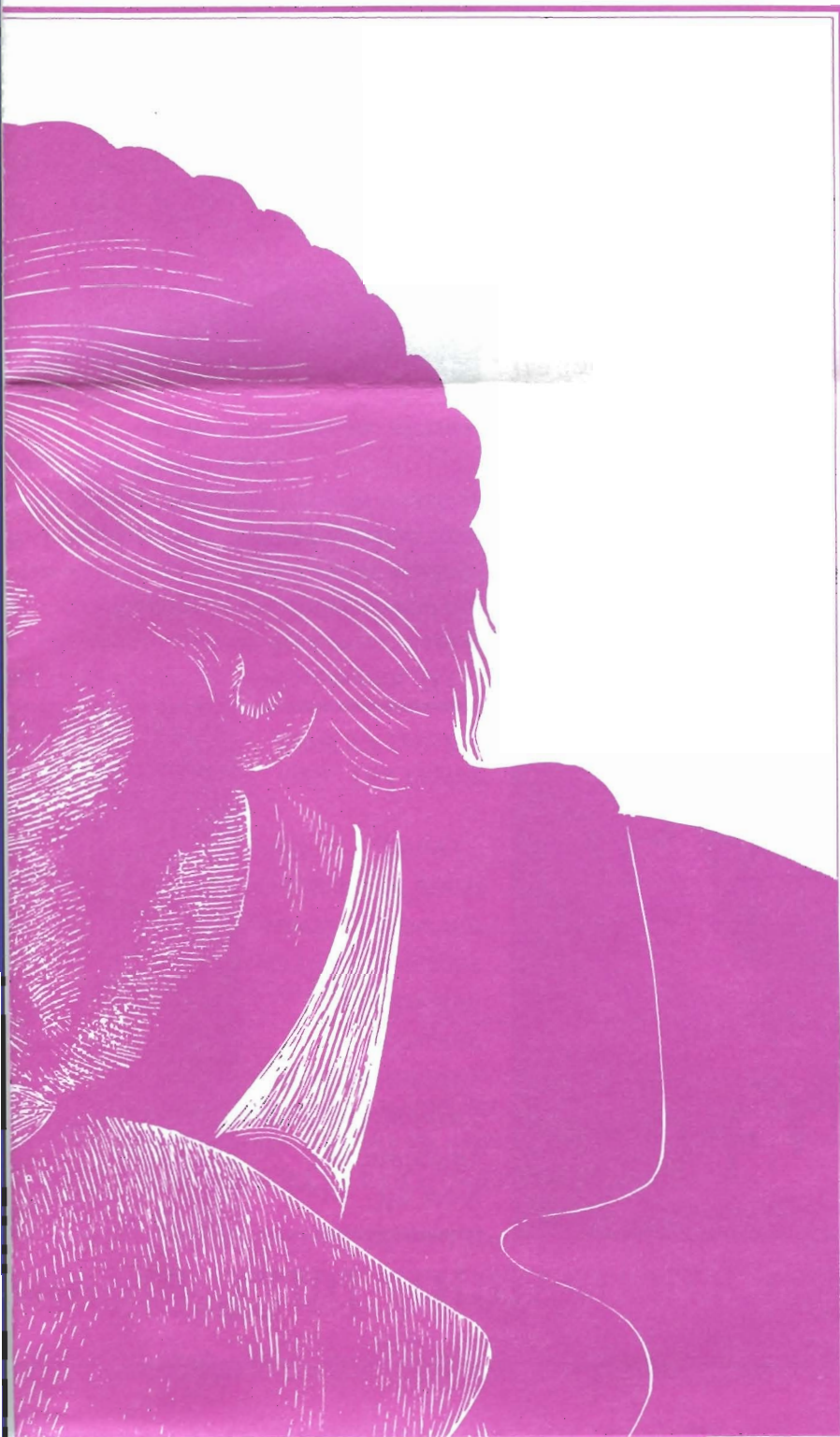
(On Saturday please park away from church as there are two Weddings)

- 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (in Church)
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Mike Davis & Ched Myers
- 10:00 a.m. Small Group Discussion
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Murphy Davis
- 11:45 a.m. Small Group Discussion
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Round Table E
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Round Table F
- 4:45 p.m. Break
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Gathering in Church; Test Site: Faith & Action, Concert
- 9:00 p.m. Social



ay's 100th Birthday!

Dorothy Day, 1897-1980



Hall: Why I Left the C.W. Frenzy & How I Coped with the Guilt, Anne Symens-Bucher

Room #1: Dorothy & Non-Violence, Sr. Patricia McCarthy

Room #2: C.W. Printery demonstration, Gary Cavalier

Room #3: Usury, Mario Carota, Peter Stiehler & Eric DeBode

Hike: Meet at picnic tables outside

Hall for Red Rock hike at 1:30 pm

Round Table F, Sat., 3:15 - 4:45 pm

Hall: Sacred Dance & the Gospel, Carla DeSola

Room #1: C.W. Newspapers; Critique, Discussion & How-To's, Chuck Trapkus

Room #2: Harm Reduction Workshop, Jim Lively, Fr. River Sims

Room #3: Art & the C.W., Willa Bickham

Chapel: Centering Prayer, Sr. Michelle Fischer

Basketball: meet courtside at 3:15

Sleeping Space

There are many options for lodging but please make arrangements early, so we can prepare. There will be sleeping bag space at local churches and we will have a place for tent set-up also. We also have space in the homes of friends in Las Vegas if you have your own transportation. Please contact us early to make arrangements.

Motels

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Dorothy's 100th Birthday!

- 7:45 a.m. Leave Las Vegas for Nevada Test Site
- 9:00 a.m. Service at the Nevada Test Site, Mercury gate
- 10:00 a.m. Nonviolent Action at Nevada Test Site
- 12:00 p.m. Picnic at Floyd Lamb State Park, Group Site #3, (\$5 fee per car, vouchers available)

Round Table Talks

Round Table A, Fri., 9 -10:30 a.m.

Hall: Peter Maurin's Rural Vision, Brian Terrell

Room #1: Micro-Power Community Radio, Marcus Page

Room #2: Christianity & Deep Ecology, Udo Wald

Round Table B, Fri., 10:45-12:15

Hall: Hope & Humor in the Shell of the Old; Fun Actions, Protests & Parties, Bruce Triggs.

Room #1: Computer Technology

and the C.W., Chuck Trapkus

Room #2: Presentation on C.W.

Archives, Phil Runkel

Round Table C, Fri., 1:30-3:00 pm

Hall: Raising Families in the C.W. movement, Katrina Plato

Room #1: Practical Experiments with Non-Violence, Rich Lombardo

Room #2: Plowshare Round Table, Washington, D.C. Catholic Worker

Room #3: Tensions between Hospitality & Community, Rosalie Riegle

Round Table D, Fri., 3:15-4:45 pm

Hall: Growing Up in the C.W., Maria Montesano, Kate Walsh-Little, Deirdre Cornell

Room #1: Books available on the movement, Paul Magno & Kim Lamberty

Room #2: Icons & Holy Work, Fr. Alain Richard

Room #3: Gay & Catholic; A Justice Issue, Michael Harank

Round Table E, Sat., 1:30 - 3:00 pm



Eichenberg © 1984

November 7-9, 1997, Las Vegas &

Friday & Saturday: Christ the King Catholic Con

Sunday: the Nevada Test Site & P

Ten years ago over 400 people came to Las Vegas to Celebrate Dorothy Day's 90th Birthday.

Presenters include:

Mike Davis

Anne Symens-Bucher

Louie Vitale, OFM

Julia Occhiogrosso

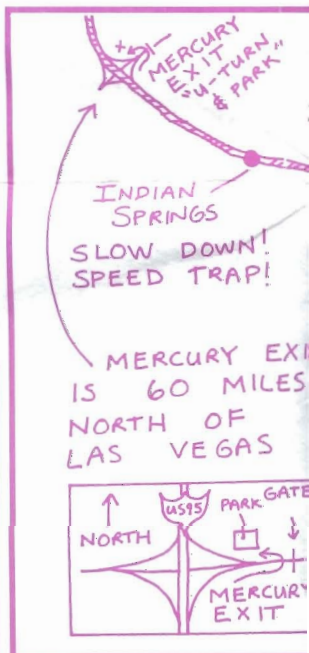
Ched Myers

Murphy Davis

Larry Holben

Hennacy House Band

Charlie King



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Special Needs (diet, _____

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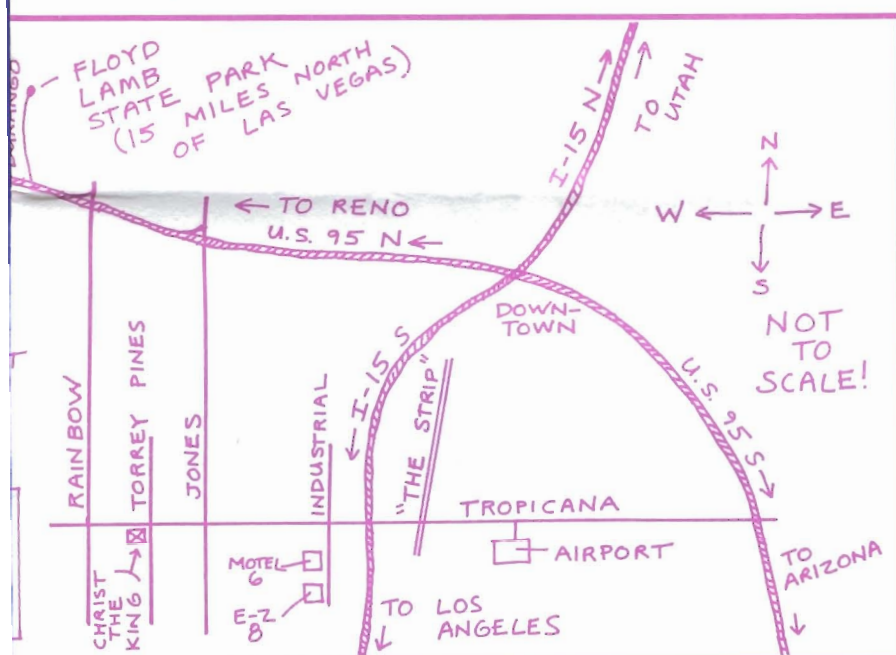
Presented by Nevada Desert Experien

Las Vegas Catholic Worker: 500 W. Van Buren Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 647-0728 / Nevada Desert E



at the Nuclear Weapon Test Site

Community, corner of Tropicana and Torrey Pines
Picnic at Floyd Lamb State Park



Nevada Desert Experience, P.O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127

State: _____ Zip: _____

sleeping space, etc.): _____

ation is to help with food, transportation and other costs.

rtation available in Las Vegas (extra space for _____ people)

oming: _____, _____, _____, _____ I will need sleeping bag space

Las Vegas is loaded with lavish Motels, but these two are the closest, simplest and cheapest we could find.

Motel 6, Location #1324, 5085 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118, (702) 739-6747. One Adult: Sunday-Thursday, \$34, Friday & Saturday, \$50. Second Adult \$6 (children under 17 free). For reservations call 1-800-4-Motel6.

E-Z Eight Motel, 5201 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118, (702) 739-9513. One bed, one or two people, \$29. Two beds, two people, \$39. Two beds, 3 or 4 people, \$44. Each room \$10 additional on Friday & Saturday nights (children under 14 free). For reservations call 1-800-32Motel (extension 40).

Transportation

Christ the King Catholic Community, the E-Z 8 Motel, Motel 6 and the airport are all located on Tropicana St. (take the bus West to Christ the King located at Tropicana & Torrey Pines, phone 228-7433 for bus times). At the event we will arrange car pooling to lodging and to the Nevada Test Site.

Meals

Meals will be provided Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Volunteers, Personalists needed to help.

Children

Our goal is to have supervised activities for children throughout the event, please let us know ages of children coming and if you could volunteer to help. Rooms 6 & 7 will have special activities for children during Round Table times.

Area Attractions

There are many scenic natural areas nearby including natural hot springs, information will be available at the registration table.

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