

# Nader attacks pollution in CSU speech

by ZACHARY GREEN

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader called on students to take action and "do it" in his lecture on environmental pollution and its alternatives given Tuesday afternoon at Cleveland State University's Woodling Gym.

The Harvard Law School graduate stated that active citizens should be a part of government and a part of learning in college. "If you want to involve yourself, all you have to say is that I want to involve myself," he continued.

Nader focused on water purity, corporate irresponsibility, the dangers of nuclear energy and the available alternatives in his speech.

Most water purification is intended is mainly to curb bacteria levels, but many systems are outdated and cannot effectively deal with the toxins presently being dumped into the nation's waterways, according to Nader.

"Corporations need only to spend five percent of their pre-tax profits to control pollution. They refuse to toilet-train themselves and are doing impersonal violence to our health," Nader said.

Most cancer is environmentally caused, by such things as cigarettes, food additives and industrial wastes that can be controlled. Nader cited statistics that indicate that pollution is partially responsible for 100,000 deaths a year.

Nader said he would like to see controls on nuclear power, which he called "the curse of mankind."

"One pound of plutonium, a principle nuclear fuel, could give lung cancer to every person on earth," Nader said.

He presented excerpts from a government report on nuclear energy that had been suppressed for nine years. The findings of the study indicate that one major catastrophe can wipe out a city the size of Cleveland, contaminate a state the size of Pennsylvania, and cause genetic damage to future generations.

Although Nader said that no one can say what the chances of such an accident are, he was able to present evidence of near misses. The \$200 million Brownsferry Nuclear Power Plant fire was his prime example. It was started by a single candle and, had it not been contained, would have resulted in nuclear melt-down and catastrophe. The fire was the most expensive in history.

In addition to the inherent dangers that were cited, Nader also said that the use of nuclear power will increase electric bills. He emphasized the need for fuel efficiency by everyone, which could only result in "less profits for the oil companies."

Nader is strongly in favor of the use of solar energy. He said that the sun is our only infinite resource and that the technology is available to use that energy now.

"A little boy knows the power of the sun when he holds a magnifying glass over an ant," he said.

"Oil companies control thirty percent of the coal and sixty-five



percent of the available uranium, but more solar energy falls on the earth each day than the energy of all the oil reserves in the world," Nader said.

"Oil companies don't own the sun, it is ever-present, and cannot be affected by supply and demand or embargos," he continued.

In addition to solar energy he pointed out the availability of waste wood. The supply is equivalent to one-third of our coal resources, could supply twenty

percent of our electricity and could save \$210 million annually in imported oil.

The extent to which individuals will put civic obligations on their shoulders is the extent to which their environment will be changed, according to Nader.

Nader closed by saying that youth has the potential for bringing about the change, and that college students should be willing to apply their value systems and skills towards making some of those necessary changes reality.



Ralph Nader attacked lack of proper controls on nuclear power.  
Photos by Sergio Abramof.

## Jules Feiffer

