

ment. From the club's entryway, lawmakers were escorted to the proper zone, where they were plied with drinks, hors

of-fact about his motives: "It was a punitive action. I would be less than candid to say that it was not." —Seth Rosenfeld

Yes, We Have Spirulina

Available at local health food stores, the ultimate diet pill.

"SPIRULINA IS ONE OF MANY NEW SOLUTIONS to the problems of our planet," says Larry Switzer, who grows spirulina in the Imperial Valley and who bills himself as "a futurist and entrepreneur." Switzer's company, the Proteus Corporation, markets imported as well as domestic spirulina—the blue-green, high-protein, fresh-water algae that is fast replacing vitamin C, pre-digested protein, cocaine, Gatorade, and bottled glucose as the fashionable thing to put in your fashionable body.

Spirulina is a single-cell marine plank-

Bottled algae: high in protein, low in calories, astronomical in sales potential.



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ton that grows naturally in the alkaline lakes of Mexico and Africa. Most of the spirulina sold in California comes from Lake Texcoco, Mexico. The Aztecs used to eat it. Nowadays, 100 50-gram tablets sell for about \$7.75 at local health food stores. Spirulina is high in protein (65 to 70 percent), but at that price it does not seem to offer much competition for hamburger. Spirulina is also low in calories, one of the greatest attributes a food sold in California can have. Spirulina has long been available in health food stores, but it was only after an article touting spirulina as a way to lose weight appeared in the *National Enquirer* this year that people noticed. A recent article in *Mother Earth News* calls it "the probable algal superstar of the eighties" and gives advice to homesteaders on how to grow spirulina in their own backyard vats: "Stir the water gently and move the algae over a set of baffles ... assuring constant exposure of the growing organisms to sunlight." And there are now ads appearing in the personal columns of newspaper classifieds offering the opportunity to sell spirulina.

One of the people who will help you do this is Dr. Christopher Hills, who believes "the spirulina plankton is the manna from heaven that kept the Israelites alive for so many years among the rock pools of the desert." Spirulina is "the most nutritious food on the planet," he writes in his remarkable book, *Rejuvenating the Body Through Fasting With Spirulina Plankton*, available in health food stores. In addition to eating it in tablet form or sprinkling it on your granola, Dr. Hills recommends twelve or more spirulina enemas per year. Ideally, he says, you should apply two quarts, while standing on your head.

Dr. Hills, who founded The University of the Trees near Santa Cruz, is, like his competitor Larry Switzer, promoting spirulina as an answer to world hunger, malnutrition, and spiritual malaise. Spirulina is to Dr. Hills what est and the Hunger Project combined are to Werner Erhard. He believes spirulina could replace gold—that is, he foresees a U.S. economy backed not by gold but by spirulina. When we are all reduced to basic survival, says Dr. Hills, "the real currency will be a one-pound packet of spirulina plankton."

It would be easy to dismiss Dr. Hills (and Switzer) as a new age, holistic version of a snake oil salesman, evoking in his pitch a nation of neo-Popeye cartoon characters who, instead of spinach, munch algae for the energy rush necessary to achieve economic and spiritual nirvana. But Dr. Hills has anticipated the jaundiced view. He's been dismissed before. His ideas on spirulina are so new, he admits, that some of us might not be ready for them. Ideas like

"supersensonic potentization." Dr. Hills sells "potentized" spirulina. Potentized is the kind of spirulina that the staff at the University of the Trees has rendered more powerful by charging it up with their Supersensonic Homeopathic Energizer.

What the Homeopathic Energizer does is "charge the spirulina trace elements with subtle radiational life energies, which work on the principle of mind over matter," explains Dr. Hills. What's more, "There is no physical way of testing the enhanced products except by the muscle-testing methods of kinesiology, or by dowsing with a pendulum."

Dowsing with a pendulum? Right here, even a layman can see the potential abyss in any communication between Dr. Hills and conventional science. But

he sees it, too. "Because these methods are completely new breakthroughs in consciousness research, at the frontiers of human knowledge," he says of his potentized spirulina, "they are not known or accepted by traditional universities, or by the official medical authorities, who, at present, would oppose their use in healing." As Dr. Hills says, supersensonic energies are "nonphysical thought fields," and to focus a nonphysical thought field on, say, a bowl of spirulina in order to potentize it, you have to know what you are doing. Specifically, you have to have a "full conscious understanding of the new science of supersensomics," which happens to be the kind of understanding a student who enrolls at the University of the Trees may study. Spirulina distributorships are also available.

—Frank Robertson

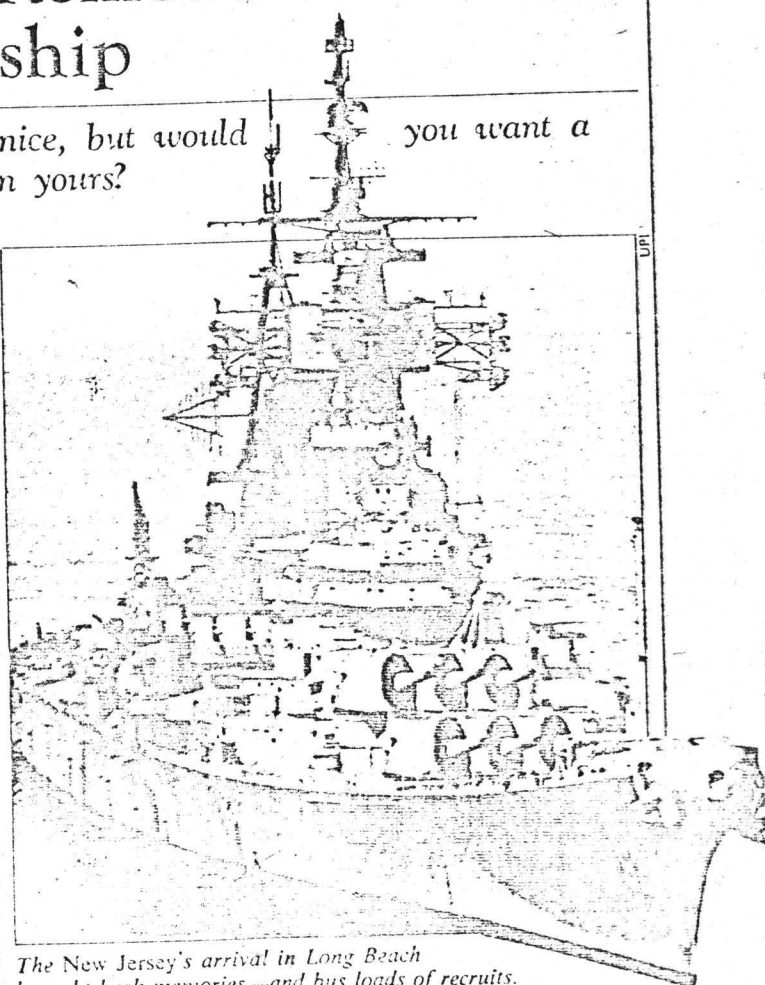
How to Remodel A Battleship

Teak decks are nice, but would you want a missile battery on yours?

"IT'S ALL TEAK," explained George Turnquist, a 73-year-old retired navy commander, pointing at the weatherworn deck of the USS *New Jersey*. "When I served aboard her in Korea, you could eat off it."

Turnquist was one of many ex-sailors who thronged to the teak deck of the largest battleship in the world during its brief public display at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. The navy expected a small crowd of perhaps 10,000, but more than 100,000 people turned out to inspect the *New Jersey*, a relic of World War II that will be refitted and sent to sea as a fighting ship of the nuclear navy. Nineteen months from now the recommissioned battleship will show the flag in a gesture of American resolve, much as an earlier generation of dreadnoughts did when Teddy Roosevelt sent the Great White Fleet around the world back in 1907.

The emotions that played across Commander Turnquist's face as he once again



The *New Jersey's* arrival in Long Beach brought back memories—and bus loads of recruits.

saluted the colors—pride, patriotism, and nostalgia in equal measure—are precisely the ones President Reagan hoped to inspire when he ordered the *New Jersey* and its sister ship, the *Iowa*, out of mothballs. Within a few weeks after the announcement that the battleships would be recommissioned more than 3,500 sailors applied to serve aboard them. "It