

12 guilty of trespassing at Williams plant

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

Twelve anti-missile demonstrators were found guilty Thursday of charges stemming from the Aug. 8, 1988, trespassing incident at Williams International in Commerce Township despite supporting from former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

A 52nd District Court jury of four women and two men found the 12, including Carolyn Peysor of Birmingham, guilty of "interfering with employees on their way to work in a lawful occupation."

The 12, along with dozens of others from across the state, sang songs and staged a sit-in at the Maple road entrance to the Williams plant last Aug. 8, observing the 43rd anniversary of the bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The plant manufactures engines for the cruise missiles, which can carry nuclear warheads.

Penalty for the obstruction misdemeanor is a maximum of 90 days in jail and/or a \$100 fine. Peysor will be sentenced at 2:30 p.m. today. Defendants have 21 days to appeal.

Steve Freedkin of East Lansing, one of those found guilty, said no decision has been made on appealing the verdict.

THE FOUR DEFENSE lawyers had sought to prove that Williams International employees were engaged in an unlawful occupation — that production of Williams International's cruise missile is illegal because it is paid for by the federal

government in violation of treaties. As expert witnesses, the defense called in Clark, U.S. attorney general under President Lyndon Johnson, and Paul Walker, a defense analyst for the Institute for Peace and International Security, a consultant for several congressmen.

Clark's testimony was not heard by the jury on the order of presiding Judge Michael Batchik. Batchik did allow the several hours of Clark's testimony to be read into the record, which could lay the groundwork for an appeal. Walker was not allowed to speak.

Clark testified into the special record that the laws of the United States come from both customary law and from treaties and that treaties restrict the use of nuclear weapons.

Clark was asked by assistant prosecutor Lawrence Kozma if all nuclear weapons violate the law.

"That's my view," Clark said. "I came to an informed judgment in the '70s."

FREEDKIN SAID both Clark and Walker donated their time. Their airfare was paid through contributions to a defense fund, he said. Hurwitz and the three other defense attorneys — William Goodman, Debbie Choley and Ken Mogill — donated their time.

Asked if the protest served any purpose, he said, "In the context of overall resistance of the nuclear arms race, it was one small step. It's like dropping a pebble in a pond and creating ripples. You can't know all the ramifications. Many of us felt we had to do it, to intervene in the destruction of the human race."



Police drag away a protester in last summer's incident at Williams International.

OU professional programs in April

In April, the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education will offer several programs and courses for professionals.

They include evening programs to train as a paraprofessional accountant or legal assistant, and evening and Saturday hands-on computer classes.

SPRING TERM for the Paraprofessional Accountant Program starts April 3. A free career night runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Oakland Center on campus near Rochester.

A free career opportunity seminar for those considering entering OU's Legal Assistant Program will be offered April 5 in the Oakland Center. OU graduates working in various areas of law will discuss their careers from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Speakers will include Mara D'Agostini of Utica, Beverly Miller of Auburn Heights and Martin Teresi Cazzolino of Bloomfield Hills. The Legal Assistant term begins April 17.

Both programs provide on-the-job experience and job referral service. There is no charge for either seminar, but reservations should be made by calling the Continuing Education

office at 370-3120 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

COMPUTER COURSES currently important for professionals will be offered: WordPerfect 5.0 Software for Beginners, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 5-26; Intermediate WordPerfect to follow, May 3-24.

Tuition for each is \$125.

Beginning IBM personal computer instruction will be conducted Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., beginning April 8. The class provides experience in the fundamentals of operating the IBM personal computer, including word processing, PC-File III data base manager and

Lotus 1-2-3. Practice time is included in the sessions. Tuition is \$115.

An evening Lotus 1-2-3 class will be offered those with previous computer experience in a two-week format: from 6:30 to 10 p.m. April 25 and 27; May 2 and 4. Tuition of \$150 includes an instructional package for post-class reference.

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