

MEC Newsletter

Mendocino Environmental Center

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<http://www.pacific.net/~mec>

Issue 28

Supported by Members!

Summer 1998

Over 300 Hike to Visit Luna on Anniversary

By Robert Parker

This month Earth First! activist Julia "Butterfly" Hill, 24, marked the six month anniversary of her tree sit high atop the 1000-year-old tree known as Luna. Enduring El Nino storms, helicopter harassment, a 10 day siege by company security, and the sorrow brought about by witnessing the destruction of a forest, her feet have not touched the ground since December 10 of last year. Yet Butterfly continues to persevere, inspiring people around the world while continuing her struggle to save the last of the ancient redwoods.

On June 10 over 400 supporters gathered in a display of solidarity and celebration with Butterfly in the town of Stafford, CA, site of the mudslide which raced down

from a Pacific Lumber Company clear cut, destroying 7 homes on New Year's Day, 1997. Included amongst the participants was Mickey Hart, former drummer of the Grateful Dead, who had arrived to lead a drum-in near the base of Luna, showing his support for protecting our forests through music.

The brief rally which kicked off the event was highlighted by a message from Julia herself, relayed via cell phone over a PA system. In her address Julia urged those gathered to enjoy the day, and look upon it as a chance to celebrate and re-energize, yet to remember that each of us must become more involved in the effort to save the ancient forests, and that one person alone is not enough.

"People ask me, 'What will it take for you to come down?' I want to come down to a world where there is no more clear cutting, a world where no more herbicides are sprayed on our forests or trees harvested on steep slopes, a world where all of the remaining 3% of our ancient forests are protected forever," said Julia. "There will be no more dealing, and no more compromising."

As the energy of the rally peaked with Julia's inspiring message and hundreds of drummers laying down a powerful and deep rhythm in unison, preparations began for what would become an event those in attendance will never forget.

"It was the most amazing day of my life," said Julia, as over 300 people arrived at Luna after an arduous two-mile hike into Pacific Lumber Company land to drum, celebrate, and share their joy on this day. Hikers carried over one month's worth of food, water, and supplies up the steep trail, to be hauled into the tree in over a dozen



Mickey Hart (center) gets the drumming started for Julia Butterfly and the ancient forest.

loads. Many people expressed disappointment to the Luna support team upon finding out there was no more to carry.

Yet any disappointment over not being able to help, or the difficulty of the hike, was soon lost as the drumming and party resumed, this time on a landing only a few hundred feet away from Luna with Julia dancing to the beat high up in her branches. As supporters looked on in amazement, Julia ascended even higher up the tree to Luna's very top, and with no way to climb further, continued to sway to the now pounding rhythm of the drums.

Poetry, prayer and shared thoughts among a circle of hundreds finished the event, as everyone prepared for the long hike back to Stafford. But in the end one of us did not return that day. As the sun began to set over Humboldt county, still high atop

Luna remained Julia Butterfly. And there she remains today, continuing to hold fast in her demand that our forests be saved, inspiring each of us to find the strength within ourselves to do everything that we can to create a world that she can come down to.

"Those things of real worth in life are worth going to any length in love and respect to safeguard." - Julia Butterfly Hill.

Photography by Jon Heppner



Julia Butterfly dances atop Luna to the drums being played below.

Looking Down on the Headwaters Deal

A Letter from Julia Butterfly to the Governor and the California State Legislature

Dear Governor Wilson and Members of the California State Legislature:

My name is Julia Butterfly Hill. I am writing this letter from 180 feet up in the ancient redwood tree Luna, on the ridge above the town of Stafford, California. I write to you today on behalf of one of the last wild places left in our country—the remaining 3% of our ancient and old

growth forests. I write to you on behalf of the animals, ecosystems, and people whose lives are being destroyed by the destruction of these incredible forests. I write to you on behalf of our country, which holds the balance of temperate rainforest survival in our hands. I write to you on behalf of all that is our past, everything and everyone that is our present, and all that will be our

future for the rest of time. On behalf of all of us I thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

I have lived here in Luna since December 10, 1997, to protest the destructive logging practices of Pacific Lumber under Charles Hurwitz's Maxxam Corporation.

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How's the MEC doing these days?

The MEC has an essence of its own, independent of who is working in and out of it. Its purpose is noble and critical, and it is supported by so many conscience, caring people. So in the overall picture, the MEC is just fine!

In a more pragmatic sense, we are feeling a little ease from the immediate financial crunch, thanks to the generous response to our call for help. Longer term funding is being pursued through events, increased membership, program sponsorships, and grants.

We are still operating on shortened hours of noon to 6 pm due to reduced staff. We will return to opening at 10 am when we have volunteers to cover those hours or enough money to pay for the coverage.

How About the Expansion?

Paperwork is being done, and when it's determined what materials are needed, we'll be soliciting donations. The actual time frame for the work being done is undetermined, but it will probably be some time late summer/early fall. Due to the extensive scope of the construction, during the time it's being done we will be operating out of another location, to be determined. For now, we are packing and storing seldom used material.

We still need professional services and carpentry, and a barn, garage, or other storage space for the office furniture, which will be the last things out and first back in.

The MEC As a Proactive Influence

Beyond the minimum of keeping the doors open and phones answered, we are moving to expand the scope of our work and to be more proactive in the protection of our environment. For example, there are people who are willing to sit through hours of public hearings, board and commission meetings, advisory counsel and committee sessions in order to monitor what is happening at this critical initial level. By developing an action alert program, the MEC can advise members who have indicated interest in a given area—water & rivers, air quality, forestry, toxins—when to call, write or attend a meeting to influence decision makers.

Public education and discussion forums are another way the MEC can help the community stay informed about a healthy bioregion and the causes of environmental deterioration. An educated community is in a position to help direct the area's growth and development in an environmentally sound way. Funding for these activities will be through individual sponsorship and grants.

Why Does the MEC Take On The Issues It Does?

Frequently people ask "Why has the MEC gotten involved in this issue?" or "Why isn't the MEC doing something about that problem?". Our bylaws list under Article 2(f) these purposes: To provide office space, meeting space, an address, information and resources exchange and coordination, facilities for networking and other support services...for groups and individuals working to promote peace and justice, and the preservation, restoration and wise use of the Earth's natural resources".

There are basically two ways an issue comes to be worked on out of the MEC:

1) The MEC Board of Directors and/or staff (depending on the scope of the issue) determine a particular problem or situation needs to be addressed. Responses by the MEC might include written or oral public comment to an agency, letters or phone calls to representatives in public office or agencies, public education campaigns, petitions, and legal action. Financial, material, volunteer and staff resources are taken into consideration, as well as the compatibility of the issue with the mission of the MEC.

2) Individuals or community groups come to the MEC to work on a problem or situation about which they are concerned. For a long term or on-going project, a group may become a Membership Organization with a signed agreement with the MEC concerning use of the facilities and reimbursement to the MEC for expenses. Groups working out of the MEC include Earth First!, Toxic Free Future, Human Rights Monitoring Project, Youth for Environmental Action, and the Lincoln-Peters Defense Alliance.

These MEC functions—to take on pressing environmental and social justice problems as an organization, and to provide the resources for people in the community to organize around problems they have defined—allow for maximum coverage of issues with fairly limited financial, material and staff resources.

Other MEC Activities

Music at the MEC happens every Friday night. Munchie pot luck starts around 6:30 pm. Bring instruments, music, your voice, or just a toe to tap for this interactive music jam. Also, look for the MEC booth at the Concerts in the Park in Ukiah on scheduled Sunday evenings. Stop by and buy an iced coffee!

Please feel free to call or come by the MEC to see what we can offer you and to offer what you can to us.

Current MEC Wish List

- Public address system
- VCR and TV with 36" screen or larger
- Cam-corder
- 35mm camera
- Overhead video projector
- Boom box with tape dubber
- New, "late model" computers
- Printer
- Scanner
- Cordless 2-line telephones
- 10-Key calculator with tape
- Dry-erase boards and markers
- Energy efficient refrigerator
- Small natural gas stove
- People to help with renovations to the MEC
- Storage facility (barn or garage to store our furniture during renovations)

The Mendocino Environmental Center Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Mendocino Environmental Center, a non-profit corporation promoting the conservation, restoration and wise use of the Earth's natural resources, peace and social justice, and providing a facility where people can work together towards these ends.

The Newsletter Production Crew

Jan Allegretti, Jenny Burnstad, Chester Collins, King Collins, Dale Glaser, Rebecca Grant, Bruce Haldane, Jon Heppner, Kirsten Johnsen, Al Krauss, Marc LaBelle, Lynda McClure, Vicki Oldham, Lang Russel, Obie Sage, David Severn, Doug Strong and a special thanks to Green Mac Desktop Publishing.

MEC Board of Directors

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The MEC Newsletter is printed with soy ink on recycled paper.

WHERE DOES YOUR DONATION TO THE MEC GO?

The MEC is a lean operation. Our monthly expenditures vary between \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending on what activities are happening. This covers salaries for people doing reception, data base management, computer system management, accounting, maintaining the newspaper archive, and newsletter coordination, as well as rent, utilities, phone, fax, e-mail/internet, newspapers and other resource material, postage, office supplies, office machine maintenance, printing and reproduction, office and worker's comp insurance, legal costs, and various taxes that even non-profits are required to pay. We truly make a little go a long way.

What we provide with your donations is an activist's office, where people can base themselves to take on environmental and social justice issues. They can use the MEC's address and phone number, computers, fax, accounting resources, bulk mail, and networking resources. The MEC, as an organization, monitors conditions and activities which impact on the environment as well, and passes the word when action is needed. We make written or oral comments to governmental bodies, and occasionally will be party to litigation.

If you support the MEC's work, please give your financial assistance to keep it going! If you already have, thank you very much.

MEC Mission Statement

The Mendocino Environmental Center (MEC) works through educational outreach, nonviolent direct action and the legal system to uphold and promote environmental and social justice in Mendocino County and beyond. The MEC is a resource center which offers support to grassroots community groups and empowers individuals to work for positive change. The MEC networks with a politically and socially diverse community, encouraging integrity, tolerance, nonviolence and a sustainable future.

News from Betty & Gary

By Lynda McClure

We haven't left. We've just expanded the scope of the MEC." That's what Betty had to say when asked about life after the MEC. In fact, we're in frequent contact with her, either sending information she's requested or calling to ask her a question or opinion. Even from Colorado, she and Gary continue to be one of the MEC's most valuable resources.

Both of them report that, though they miss everyone greatly, they are very happy to be home in the Rocky Mountains they love. Being with family and reconnecting with old friends and past co-workers is a joy for them as well. And they welcome visits from all!

Gary is working at Jade Mountain, a small, but growing alternative energy catalogue store. He is the purchasing department, handling all the tasks of that operation. It's very demanding, he says, but it is

giving him the opportunity to learn about solar and other energy systems, bolt by bolt.

Betty is working part time at two jobs, which means well more than 40 hours a week, of course. One organization is Global Response, which is to environmental protection what Amnesty International is to human rights: a letter response campaign addressing ecological crises. Betty does outreach, making use of her extensive resource base.

With the rest of her time she works for the Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center as the Peacemaker Coordinator. In this capacity, she does community organizing for conflict resolution and nonviolence training for direct action. She also works with a coalition of national and international environmental groups including Earth Island, Friends of the River, Rainforest Action Network, International Rivers Network and the Pacific Resource Environmental Center, to make grants to grassroots environmental groups in third world countries.

According to Betty, Headwaters is known in Colorado, with students at the university in Boulder regularly distributing information. She continues being active with community education and organizing around this and other issues including Judi Bari's & Darryl Cherney's case against the FBI and Oakland police.

A major project with which both Gary and Betty are involved is stopping the Wipp (Waste Isolation Pilot Project) from transporting radioactive waste on flatbed trucks across the nation's highways, to be buried in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Such transportation of hazardous and nuclear waste is an extreme danger, as the chance of accidents is high and the consequences obviously incurable.

So whether located in Mendocino County or in Colorado, the Balls continue being dedicated environmentalists, working globally and locally for Mother Earth.



The Mendocino-Lake Counties Human Rights Monitoring Project

By Lynda McClure

The Grand Jury's report on Carol Dunlap's suicide in the Mendocino County Jail is a validation of the grassroots impacting on the system to ex-

pose serious concerns in our county. It was the hard work of grassroots groups, including HRMP and the People's Alliance for the Mentally Ill (PAMI), that provided the data and witnesses - the tools needed by the Grand Jury - to illuminate the wrong doings of California Forensic Medical

Group, the contracted corporate health care provider at the jail. The report was critical of the Department of Mental Health and jail personnel, as well.

With people sitting on the Grand Jury who truly care about the well being of the whole community, not just the segment with

which they identify, who have a sense of justice and a willingness to speak out against the parts of the system that aren't working properly, the grassroots can work through the governmental system to effect change.

Lincoln-Peters Defense Alliance

By Yvonne Jolly-Crawford & Cora Lee Simmons

In September, 1997, Eugene "Bear" Lincoln was found not guilty of 1st degree murder charges filed against him after a shoot-out in Covelo in April, 1995. District Attorney Susan Massini filed manslaughter charges in the case against Bear in December, 1997. This trial is scheduled for this September. Call the Lincoln-Peters Defense Alliance at the MEC for specific information.

Civil Suit

A hearing was held in San Francisco on July 8th, 1998, in Federal Court. This is the suit brought against the Sheriff's Department for their abusive and illegal treatment of the Native American population in Covelo during their search for Bear. Attorney Dennis Cunningham is handling the case.

Religious Rights

Last winter Governor Wilson and Dan Lundgren effectively overturned the

Prisoner's Rights Bill passed in 1982. Native American prisoners have been ordered to cut their hair or go into full time lock down. Arlis Peters and Leo Somersall are currently in lock down for violating this order. For these men their hair is a religious issue and enforcing this law ignores the Native People's religious practices. Arliss is Acorn's brother and is imprisoned at Pelican Bay, which has a sweat lodge and in the past had honored Native religious rights. Leo, a longtime traditional man, is currently in San Quentin. There are others for which

we have not been able to get names. This is another instance of domination and control—a lessening of one's humanity. If anyone wants to get involved or know more about this injustice, attorney Patricia Littlefield has more information and can be reached at (707) 485-5784.

For your continued support and generosity, thank you!!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Most of the MEC's financing comes from individual donations. The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers here at the MEC wish to give our sincere thanks for the people who responded to our financial crunch with donations in all amounts. We received a total of over \$7,000 from two sources alone: John Schaeffer of Real Goods, and a socially and environmentally conscious stock broker who remains anonymous, but has for several years donated considerable amounts of money to the MEC. From the \$5.00 per month donors to those of you who are able to donate thousands, your money is appreciated and spent with respect for the trust with which it is given.

Journalists Needed

If you've ever been or had an urge to be part of the world of publishing, we have a fine opportunity waiting for you. The newsletter crew welcomes any and all participation, experienced or not. We need writers, editors, graphic artists, layout people and distributors as well as folks for other odds and ends. Just come on by the Environmental Center and see where you can plug in. Or call us at 468-1660.

Out and About?

Look for the MEC at "Concerts In the Park", August 2 and 16, and at the Hog Farm September 5 and 6. We'll be serving iced coffee and have lots of information to pass out, T-shirts to sell, petitions to sign. See you there!

The DEA's plan to use Garlon on pot

By Patrick Burnstad

HHEY! Did you see that slider that the DEA just threw at you? It was low and outside so don't beat yourself up if you missed it.

The slider I'm talking about is the Drug Enforcement Administration's Environmental Impact Statement titled "Cannabis Eradication in the Contiguous United States and Hawaii". This document is the update to a 12 year old EIS which was created to address the issues of the methods used to exterminate the Cannabis Sativa plant within the jurisdiction of the United States of America.

To quote the document's Executive Summary: "This Supplement to the EIS's considers potential changes in these alternatives since they were considered in 1985 and 1986. The changes considered include (1) the addition of triclopyr as an approved program herbicide; (2) elimination of paraquat as an approved program herbicide; and (3) changes in program delivery, including elimination of broadcast aerial applications of herbicides, use of new technology in aerial directed treatments of herbicides, use of marker dyes, and use of amine formulations of 2,4-D."

My, that last sentence certainly sounded innocuous (reason enough to dissect it). What's this "triclopyr" stuff men-

tioned in Item 1? Oh, that's the generic name for Garlon! This style of name usage is repeated two paragraphs later when the chemical "glyphosate" is discussed. You are more likely to recognize the Monsanto trade names for this lovely little food additive - Roundup Pro or Rodeo. Now I know what we're talking about, some of CalTrans favorite chemicals - You know it as the cause of the dead, brown strips along as many roadways as CalTrans can possibly spray it. (BTW, Monsanto, which gets most of its income from Roundup, was recently purchased by American Home Products - comforting, eh?)

Item 2 - Good Show! - Great Start! - Way to go! - ATTAHOY! We, the human being citizens of this country, would very much benefit from an extension of this behavior.

But - lo, then we get to Item 3, which is a 55 gallon drum of worms. The first sub-phrase is prelude; the second sub-phrase is diversion; the third sub-phrase gets translated later in the document to mean that all DEA helicopters will have spray rigs mounted on them so they can eradicate any cannabis plants they might spot. However; we are repeatedly assured that "The general public is unlikely to be subject to adverse health effects." And "Impacts to soil organisms, fertility, and erosion rates are likely to be minimal."

But let us trudge on. We all know that dyes are completely harmless, since we've been fed Red Dye #48 and Yellow Dye #17 from childhood we won't even discuss the possibility that the FDA might be capable of making a mistake. And I must cop-out on starting meaningful comments about 2,4-D since my cardiologist has sermonized repeatedly that I have to keep my blood pressure down. Let's just say it has been 40 years since Rachel Carson published evidence of the carcinogenic effects of 2,4-D, and the economic health of the chemical manufacturers is still considered more important than the physical health of biological organisms (including Homo sapiens).

But we can rest assured that the DEA has the public safety and welfare at heart since they held five public comment meetings to ascertain the public's will concerning their planned program. The one closest to Ukiah was held in Boise, Idaho. Not terribly convenient for us NorCalers; but, it was convenient for Helen Chenoweth & like-minded ilk. If you missed that meeting, you can send comments to:

Ms. Vicky Wickheiser
DOA/APHIS
4700 River Road, Unit 149
Riverdale, MD 20737-1228

Short Look at the DEA

If these attitudes and policies seem illogical, absurd, harmful or idiotic to you, please allow me to give a very short history of the creation of the DEA. The DEA is the direct descendant of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, which was founded by Harry J Anslinger. Mr. Anslinger was the nephew-in-law of Andrew Mellon, then Sec. of the Treasury. Mr. Mellon's other credentials were that he was the richest man in the USA, and the principal investor in DuPont Chemicals. These two "gentlemen" (and several others) worked intensively for ten years to build a climate in which hemp (which had to be re-named to marijuana so that it would sound foreign) prohibition could be foisted onto the US citizenry.

It came out in hearings in front of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors that CalTrans has a contract for Garlon that runs until 2012. I wonder if the DEA might have a similar contract; how long it is set to run; and what quantity of poisons will the taxpaying public buy to have sprayed on our own heads?

Looking Down on the Headwaters Deal

concluded from page 1

The knowledge I have gained in this time has come through reading, talking to various individuals and groups, as well as incredible and indisputable first hand experience. My purpose in writing you today is to ask you to respect the decision of the Budget Subcommittee on Resources, chaired by Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin, to remove appropriations for the Headwaters Forest agreement from the upcoming budget. Assemblywoman Strom-Martin is the representative of the district where I reside and in which the Headwaters Forest is located.

There are many reasons why this decision is vitally important. But I'm only going to take your time with one for now. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is a deciding factor on the outcome of the Headwaters Forest agreement. The California State Legislature and voting public should be allowed proper time to review this potentially 1,000 page document. Under current law it is indeed required that a 60-day public comment period take place in regard to the Headwaters Forest agreement and HCP. The taxpaying citizens of the state have a legal right to know exactly what their money will purchase.

Pacific Lumber was convicted of

criminal violations of the California Forest Practices Act on May 22, and at the time of this writing is awaiting sentencing. Pacific Lumber has committed over 250 violations of these laws since 1995. Since this company repeatedly breaks existing laws, how can we expect them to provide a plan that will properly safeguard critical habitat for threatened and endangered species? Why should we now expect them to adhere to the laws that protect those species? With their continued cutting in Timber Harvest Plan 1-97-188 HUM in the Bell Creek watershed they are already breaking the proposed rules of their Pre-Permit Application Agreement in principle. Located just north of All Species Grove in the 60,000-acre Headwaters Forest, Bell Creek is a critical component in the ecology of downstream Coho salmon spawning habitat in Lawrence and Yager Creeks, and hosts its own population of steelhead trout. Look at Pacific Lumber's record thus far and know that if funding for this proposed deal is pushed through without proper public review and control a horrifying precedent will be set. That precedent will be a death sentence for the ancient forests, our local community, and forests across the country for the rest of time.

Should you allow the headwaters For-

KZYX
90.7 FM

Tune in for the best in environmental, social justice and alternative lifestyle community radio and progressive national broadcasting:

Daily Programs:
Morning Public Affairs 9:00 am
Community News in the morning & 6:00 pm
Fresh Air Noon
Jim Hightower 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Pacifica News 4:30 pm

Weekly Programs:
Sustainable Community Show 11:00 am Sun.
New Dimensions 9:00 pm Sun.
Women's Voices 7:00 pm Mon.
Natural Living/Health Care 1:00 pm Tues.
Alternative Radio/David Barsamian 1:00 pm Wed.
Ecology Hour 7:00 pm Thurs.
Truth to Power 1:00 pm Fri.

est agreement appropriation to be included in the budget, the mass destruction that will result will rest on your shoulders. You will be held personally responsible for violating the public trust. I beg of you to distance yourself from political and corporate pressure and examine this issue for what it is—a matter between right and wrong. To allow appropriations for the Headwaters agreement to be bulldozed through is wrong. To take the time necessary to ensure the preservation of life is not only right,

it is vital.

Because of these considerations I urge you, as a representative of the public trust, to remove appropriations for the Headwaters Forest agreement from the Governor's budget proposal. Thank you for your consideration in this matter

In defense, respect, and love for all life,
Julia Butterfly Hill

[This message was transcribed on behalf of Julia Butterfly by her on-ground support team.]

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied!

It's time for a trial in Judi Bari's case against the FBI!

By Alicia Littletree

Most Earth First!ers are familiar with the fast pace and adrenaline of nonviolent direct action on the front lines to defend the forest: pre-dawn gate lockdowns, perilous tree-sits high in the forest canopy, and sometimes tense run-in's with timber security and law enforcement. But Earth First! can also be found on another, quieter, front of the struggle. For the past seven years, EF! has

"The most persistent hurdle we face is the FBI and Oakland Police's relentless stall tactics."

been in Federal Civil court, where our hardworking legal team has come face to face with none other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Oakland Police. The lawsuit stems from the FBI-driven false arrest and smear campaign of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney after a car bomb exploded in their car on May 24, 1990, as they travelled through Oakland on a Redwood Summer organizing tour. We are charging the FBI and OPD with using COINTELPRO tactics reminiscent of their covert operations against the Black Panthers and AIM to try to "neutralize" Earth First! The civil rights lawsuit was filed in 1991, more than seven years ago, and is still making its way to trial. This is quite a leap from the color and noise of a blockade in the forest. But the bombing case, and the determination of Judi, Darryl, and the Redwood Summer Justice Project (RSJP) are a huge reason

Earth First! can remain on the front lines in the face of FBI counterintelligence and Wise Use Movement dirty tricks aimed at stopping our effective work.

Bombing Case Update

Since the spring, a number of factors have forced the gears of justice to a near halt as the bombing case moves slowly to-

on the facts of the case. We first asked the court to throw it out, but they agreed to hear the appeal anyway, putting off trial for yet another 12 to 14 months due to a backlog in the Federal appellate court. In the meantime, Oakland's lawyer Karen Rodriguez has had to bend over backward to find a shred of logic to support the appeal, which has absolutely no grounds in the law, and we are certain to win once it comes before

day Judi and Darryl first walked into court, the deck was stacked against them. The FBI is a truly powerful force, and it seems that even the Judge herself is not immune from the agency's intimidation. This is why the bombing case has always been the focus of a political effort and not just a legal one. There's no justice in the courts alone! It is increasingly clear that if we want to bring the FBI to trial in the bombing case we must demand it.

This is where our experience on the front lines comes in handy. The time to put the bombing case back in the spotlight is now. There are many ways we can push to build momentum for trial, and if we don't we run the risk of suffering endless delays from the government and the police dragging out the case indefinitely.

If you are part of an organization, or just a concerned individual, consider signing on to endorse the bombing case, and our demand for a trial NOW! You can also request a packet with additional information to pass on to others and help get the word out even more. There is a lot you can do. Contact us at (707)468-1660.

Pack the Courtroom

The next court appearance in the lawsuit will be July 31, 1998, at 1:30 pm at the Oakland Federal Building (1301 Clay Street, downtown Oakland, CA). The status conference has been rescheduled for this date, and hopefully will not be put off again. It is imperative that we show up in numbers to this hearing, to demonstrate to the judge that she is accountable to US, not just the FBI, and that we demand a trial in this case! Please help mobilize people for this event, and come yourself. Make sure to call the MEC before you leave for Oakland to make sure it hasn't been called off yet again. If for some reason the sta-



ward trial. The most persistent hurdle we face is the FBI and Oakland Police's relentless stall tactics. The Federal Government and OPD have leapt at every chance to drag out the lawsuit, clearly trying to delay this nationally significant case into oblivion.

In February, the Oakland Police appealed Judge Claudia Wilken's latest ruling denying them immunity from prosecution. We feel that the OPD appeal is frivolous, based on a subtle technicality and not

the judge. Its only purpose, of course, is to delay the progress of our case.

We were disappointed with the decision of the appellate court to hear Oakland's appeal, but we resolved to put the time to good use going after additional discovery

"It is increasingly clear that if we want to bring the FBI to trial in the bombing case we must demand it."

documents from the FBI. Not to miss a chance to drag this case out even longer, the Feds announced in May that they wanted to hold up the discovery process until Oakland's appeal is resolved. We had hoped to bring this matter before Judge Claudia Wilken, who has been very clear in the past about her desire to move this case along to trial without delay. Apparently flip-flopping on this position, just three days before the scheduled status conference in open court, Judge Wilken herself called the hearing off and the case came to a grinding halt.

Help us bring the FBI to trial!

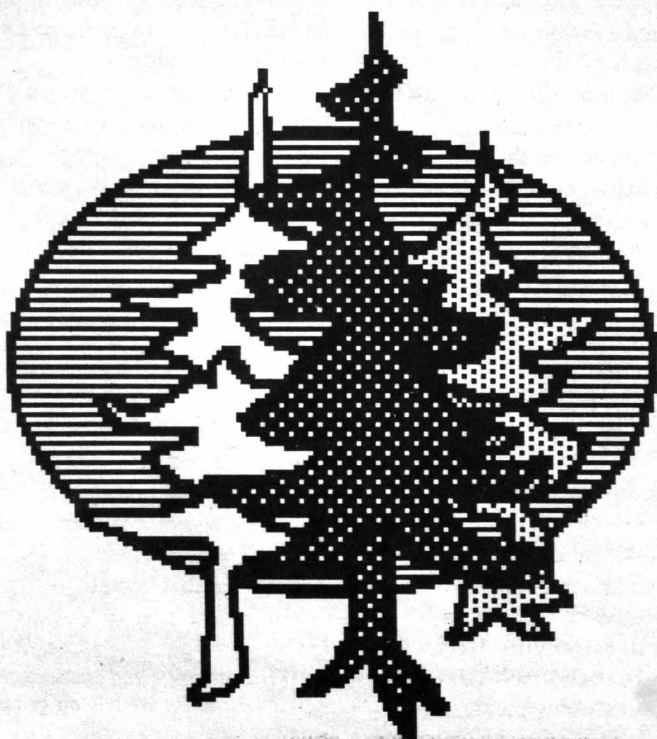
It is disturbing that the "justice" system seems to be collaborating to delay a trial in Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's case. Disturbing, but not surprising. From the

tus conference does get cancelled, make some noise! Write or call the FBI, OPD, and Janet Reno, and tell them to stop stalling.

Donations needed

The purpose of the delay tactics, of course, is to wear down our resources and force us to exhaust our shoestring budget. The RSJP is a grassroots group, and as we come closer to the astronomical costs of trial money is always needed to cover pre-trial expenses like discovery and appeals. Please donate to support Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's lawsuit against the FBI. Contributions can be sent to RSJP at PO Box 14720, Santa Rosa, CA, 95402. Please make checks payable to Redwood Justice Fund.

See you in Court!!



IN EACH OTHER WE TRUST

PRINTING OUR OWN MONEY

The picture (right) depicts local currency users surrounding the Ithaca, New York *Hour Town* newspaper which contains an up-to-date list of participants in their local money system. A wide variety of products and services are available.



By King Collins

Imagine this: You are about to pay for a breakfast at your favorite cafe. You open your wallet and find, not just one, but two kinds of money. No, you're not in a foreign country. You're in Ukiah. There's the familiar U.S. dollar and there's that *other* bill. It feels like money. It looks like money. But it is measured in hours, "UKIAH HOURS."

Your breakfast costs \$5.50, so you hand the cashier a 1/2 HOUR note valued at \$5, and two U.S. quarters.

Afterwards you feel a tinge of pride and exhilaration knowing that you have not only provided for your own needs, but also strengthened the *local* economy. Unlike the federal dollar, which drifts quickly out of the area, the UKIAH HOUR will circulate only in your community, and in doing so it will be exchanged over and over again to provide valuable goods and services as well as employment for your neighbors.

Larry Sheehy discovers the Ithaca Hour

If this scenario is really going to happen it will be due, in large part, to the efforts of Larry Sheehy, a longtime advocate of community economic development.

Sheehy had thought about local currency before, but he says, "The first time I really got interested in the idea of printing our own money was a couple of years ago at a slide show sponsored by the Environmental Center." The slide show featured Paul Glover and the ITHACA HOUR. "I was

impressed with how well the local currency actually worked in Ithaca," says Sheehy, "and I was impressed with Paul Glover's knowledge of community economics."

Paul Glover is the founder of the Ithaca currency and has become the most prominent and accessible figure in the growing movement. Glover's thoroughness in documenting the seven year progress of the Ithaca experiment and his willingness to provide expertise and other kinds of support make it relatively easy for anyone to issue a local currency.

The two key elements of a successful currency, according to Glover's model, are 1) the money (the bills) which must be designed and printed, and 2) a newspaper in which participating businesses and individuals list their goods and services.

Rapid growth of local money

Thanks in part to Glover, new currencies have been springing up all over the United States. Five years ago, there were only a handful of local currencies in the United States. Since then, the Ithaca model has been replicated in more than 60 communities in this country and there are many more in Canada and other parts of the world.

In the last few months major newspapers have had articles on local currency. For example, *The New York Times* recently carried an article titled "A Small Connecticut Town Issues Its Own Currency."

The image on the lavender notes wasn't a portrait of George Washington, or even Thomas Jefferson, but an engraving of a covered wagon and three pioneers

(and) the bills' motto declared not 'In God We Trust' but 'In Community We Trust.'

'It's real money in this town,' explained Wollner, who runs her restaurant, the Willimantic Brewing Company 'It's worth 10 real dollars. And we take it for 100 percent of a bill.'

Thomas Greco: taking the mystery out of the economy

About a year ago another money mentor, Thomas Greco, visited Ukiah to promote his new book, *New Money for Healthy Communities*. He was interviewed on *Radio Curious* (KZYX&Z) and was featured in an article in the *Ukiah Daily Journal*.

The radio show and the article in the *Journal* attracted a few more people to the idea, including a local business owner who contacted Sheehy and offered to help him get UKIAH HOURS off the ground.

Greco maintains that there is an *educational* value to participating in local currency: By creating money and using it our-

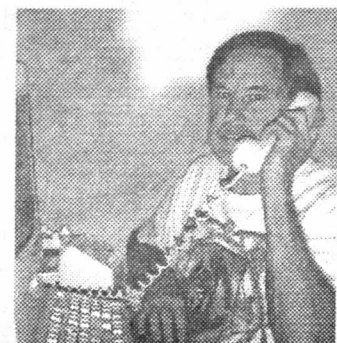
selves—by customizing money to fit our needs—we begin to understand what it is and how it works. We experience it differently. Instead of money being the ruler of our human condition, we use it to liberate ourselves. In a word, we demystify it.

Start-up group

Sheehy says, "We decided to jump-start the process with a small group—a steering committee. That group is taking the first steps to initiate the project." Once the basics are established, the steering committee plans to reach out with barter potlucks and town hall type meetings. In this way, according to Sheehy, they will establish a democratic process, a way for members of UKIAH HOURS "...to participate in the governance of the program."

UKIAH HOURS has set-up an office in Ukiah and is currently completing the design work for the prototype currency. The committee will soon be signing up members to be included in the HOUR TOWN

Larry Sheehy, master networker, is on the phone and the web a lot. An avid promoter of sustainable economic development, he is also a member of the UKIAH HOURS Steering Committee and soon-to-be publisher of "HOUR TOWN UKIAH." He has served on the Ukiah Planning Commission and most recently on the Mendocino County OEDP (Overall Economic Development Plan) Committee as the MEC alternate representative.



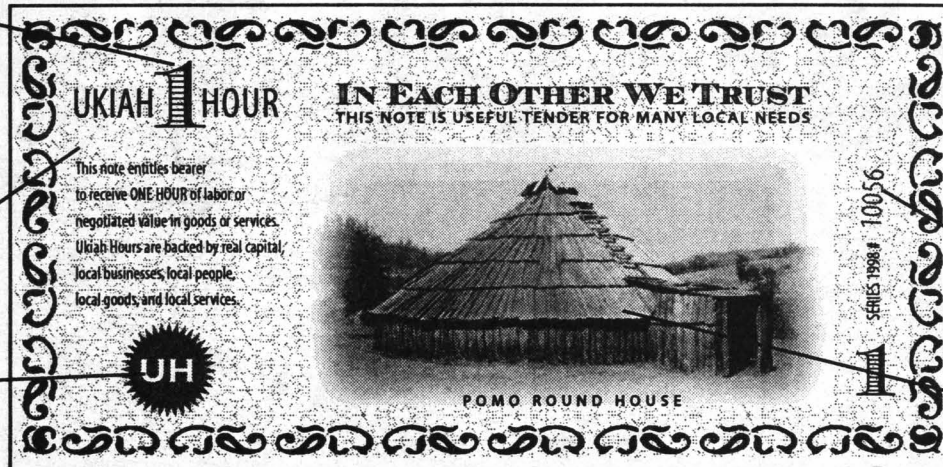
UKIAH HOUR UNDER CONSTRUCTION

This the prototype bill. The steering committee is satisfied with the overall design but, as noted above there are several elements that need to be completed.

The denomination of the bill is measured in Hours. One Hour is valued at \$10 U.S. dollars. Denominations to be issued include: 2 Hour, 1 Hour, 1/2 Hour, and 1/10 Hour

The design calls for two colors: Black and Green for this bill. Text is black. Background is a lightly textured pattern of green; photo image is duotone.

A seal, still to be designed, will appear somewhere on the front or back of the bill



The border. This is to be replaced by more refined work by a calligrapher/illustrator. The design calls for a floral pattern made up of plant images drawn from the bioregion.

Each bill will have a unique serial number which will either be printed or hand stamped.

Each denomination will have an image in this area on the facing side of the bill.

LOCAL CURRENCY RESOURCES

Thomas H. Greco on Money and Local Currency. A Radio Curious Interview/Audiocassette, \$7 Pre-paid orders from: Barry Vogel, Box 7, Ukiah, CA 95482. Contact Barry at 462-2793. A critique of the global financial system and discussion of local currencies as a tool for community economic development..

New Money for Healthy Communities and Debt: A Solution to the Global Crisis. Both by Thomas H. Greco, 1994, \$19 and 1992, \$11 respectively, post-paid order from: Community Information Resource Center. P.O. Box 42663, Tucson, AZ 85733. Phone: (520) 577-2187 Email: circ@azstarnet.com Web: www.azstarnet.com/~circ/links.htm

Ithaca HOURS (Paul Glover) P.O. Box 6578, Ithaca, NY 14851 Phone: (607) 272-4330 Email: hours@lightlink.com Web: www.lightlink.com/hours/ithacahours/ One of the first local currency projects. Web site lists local systems around the world. Send \$25 for Hometown Money Starter Kit; and \$15 for 20 min. video, "HOUR Town."

NORTHERN CA LOCAL CURRENCY PROJECTS:

Ukiah HOURS (Potter Valley to Hopland), "HOUR Town Ukiah" (Newspaper and Trading List) 296 Gardens Ave/P.O. Box 296 Ukiah, CA 95482 Phones: 468-5538 or 462-4543 Email: greenmac@pacific.net

S.E.E.D. (Mendocino/Coast) P.O. Box 498 Mendocino, CA 95460 Phones: 937-4412 or 937-4077 Email: seed@mcn.org

Our Community Cash (Sonoma Co./Santa Rosa) 5500 Burnside Rd. Sebastopol, CA 95402 Phone: 573-0853 Email: SonomaCash@aol.com

Sequoia HOURS (Mateel Watershed) P.O. Box 398 Garberville, CA 95542 Phone: 923-4488

Humboldt HOURS (Eureka Area) 2204 Freshwater Rd. Eureka, CA 95003, Phone: 444-9489 Email: georgek@tidepool.com

UKIAH, the trading list newspaper, and plan to have their first Barter Pot-Luck sometime this fall. (If you are interested in participating or would like more information, call Larry at 468-5538 (email: greenmac@pacific.net).

Another local currency called SEED (Self Sufficient Economic Development) is developing on the Mendocino coast. They can be reached at 937-4412 or 937-4077.

The Real Agenda

In truth, this article is more about economic development than anything else. *Economic development*, now there's a term that is guaranteed to put a bunch of people to sleep, and for good reason. After all, when has economic development done anything good for you and me?

Yes, the economy is getting bigger and bigger. But what about us? We're working (or worrying about working) most of the time just to survive.

Like, never mind universal health insurance, that's just a dream—because of, you know, the economy. Yeah, the economy that is doing so well is the same economy that won't support health insurance for you and me. That's interesting, isn't it?

Anyway, we, the sleepy ones, are beginning to realize that maybe it's the economy itself that makes us drowsy. Pardon the noxious analogy, but it's like we're in a big garage (the world) and we left the economy running. We're beginning to understand that this thing we call the economy may be running just fine long after we're all asphyxiated.

Let's just say that one way or another we are going to have to wake up. Of course we're talking about a whole society waking up, and society doesn't wake up all at once. We are also talking about Northern California. We're talking about Ukiah. We're talking about what we can do to get a better life for ourselves right here in our region and in our town.

We are talking about an economic theory and practice (pardon the scientific terms, but they are necessary) that openly and effectively supports and *creates* human social organization based on mutual aid and mutual benefit. To be more specific, UKIAH HOURS are about a particular *tool* of community economic development. The tool is a local currency based on productive *time* rather than the abstract, misunderstood greenback.

OK, that's enough socioeconomic theory for today. I know we left some crucial concepts undefined. Like, what is *sustainable* economic development? We'll get to that later.

About the author: King Collins is the owner of Green Mac Desktop Publishing, Ukiah's first digital graphic design company and an instructor of computer science and desktop publishing. He can be reached at (707) 462-4543, or: web: www.greenmac.com, email: greenmac@pacific.net



One of many cartoons used to popularize the currency in Ithaca, New York. It is a fact, that the credit union in Ithaca accepts ITHACA HOURS for some transactions.



MASONITE

WHAT KIND OF ELEPHANT? (OR, MAYBE EVEN A DEAD DUCK!)

By Al Krauss

What is the truth about Masonite? The question, on its face, is absurd because it conjures up the old Sufi story about the six blind men and the elephant, where one observer defined the beast by its trunk, another by its tail, and so on.

In our real lives, here in Ukiah, Masonite has been, on the one hand, an economic engine for jobs, cash flow, banks, resource utilization (or exploitation, depending upon your polarization); and then, on the other hand, the company was revealed to have been a long term source of environmental pollution, the focus of major litigation over air quality issues, with serious epidemiological fallout.

Over a period of two years, local media carried stories about the suit brought by Citizens for a Healthy Ukiah against the EPA and Masonite, and a countersuit by Masonite to "...protect its trade secrets" (withhold data regarding the composition of emissions).

Overflow crowds jammed hearings before the local Air Quality Control Board. Impassioned testimony from alleged victims of airborne particulates and toxins went back to back with orchestrated counter testimony by employees and friends and family of the Masonite community. Although the final settlement mitigated some of the offending pollution through an up-

grade of the plant's venting systems, there was a sense that "truth" remained at large, unresolved, and somehow not accounted for.

Just as the turmoil seemed to have subsided into a pattern of watchful waiting and

regular payrolls, a different part of the elephant came up for grabs early this year, with the surprise announcement by Masonite's management that in April the plant would downsize by 192 persons. Of those, 27 were to be "administrative" or

salaried employees, and the remainder hourly wage earners represented by Teamsters Union Local 624.

Ukiah went into shock, blindsided (to stick with our Sufi story) by the same kind of reality which had hit many other communities in America over the past decade.

According to one source who was present, when local Masonite management were asked at a meeting with labor representatives if they had had any inkling of Head Office intentions, their collective response was only "silence and smiles." And this despite the fact that the local mill had only recently been given special plaudits for its productivity and profitability.

The company was very well prepared, however, with an aggressive program of public actions to assuage anxiety, and to show at least a face of genuine concern for the well-being of employees. MPIC (Mendocino Private Industry Council) was enlisted to help with ferreting out jobs and retraining programs. Masonite even sponsored a job fair to bring prospective local employers together under one roof.

The original downsizing plan was to alternate production between the two lines of product (molded doors and siding panels), with crews trained to run either line as needed, rather than the former practice of running both production lines concurrently using separate crews. In fact, even the new plan has been modified to run a new product—a door core which is lighter and uses

After Shocks

15 of the original hourly wage people who were slated to be terminated, actually were retained. The remaining 150 were given the option of accepting severance packages, or of being "laid off" so that they could retain a place on a mandatory one year call back list while keeping their seniority rights, etc. In fact, only 7 chose the "call back" list option, partly because the likelihood of being called back within a year was considered slight.

At the time of this writing all seven have been called back, leaving a total of 143 hourly wage employees terminated with so-called "voluntary" severance packages.

In the words of MPIC marketing supervisor Debbie Thrasher, "...we have been very impressed with the people we have been helping, and I must say that the outcomes have been much more positive than might have been anticipated when the news first broke."

On the other hand, Marty Lombardi of Savings Bank of Mendocino County cites his own experience with what has happened in our local economy:

"Although we have no hard data, we do have anecdotal experience - comments from different people - that there has been a strong negative impact on our community. We have a very fragile economy here, and it lives close to the bone, so that even the loss of a few jobs creates a multiplier effect which small businesses feel keenly.

"I hear about the vigorous economy elsewhere, about the things going on in Sonoma County, for example, but you can't see it here, and the combination of the loss of however many jobs finally are tallied at Masonite with the El Nino impact, and the declining tax base from timber holdings, creates a pretty major economic deficit for our area...."

less fiber—in place of the original molded door line.

Significantly, what may seem like irrelevant trivia, the changing of a product line which doesn't impact the number of jobs, is very relevant to the question, "What might the future hold for Masonite's presence in Ukiah?"

The clue lies in that dropping of the molded door line.

Speaking of "dropping," when asked about when "the other shoe will drop," Masonite representatives deny there is another shoe, and state that they are fully committed to the viability of their enterprise, and to protecting the ongoing place of Masonite in Ukiah's economic life. [see box: "It's The Other Shoe"]

DISTORTION

Yet sometimes it's the slight distortions of truth by officials who know more than they let on which provide significant clues to the underlying reality.

In the Santa Rosa Press Democrat's February 13 coverage of the job cuts, plant manager Carolyn Stein (who has since been relocated) was cited as follows, apparently providing the official Masonite rationale:

"We've heard rumors (emphasis added) that different competitors were going to be building mills.... It's a reality now.... They are starting up, and they are shipping."

This was in the context where Ms. Stein, according to the Press Democrat, had explained that from Malaysia to Chile, new mills have popped up in the last year.

The fact is that Ms. Stein had to have known that in November, 1997, her real employer, International Paper Corporation (I.P.), had purchased Merbok FormTec, a Malaysian company in the business of producing molded doors with a new advanced technology.

Did this have something to do with those silent smiles we talked about a little earlier in our story?

When Masonite's executives speak, they speak only under the corporate umbrella of I.P., and I.P. has a global perspective and an agenda far removed from local concerns.

So where is the elephant? And is this one white? [see box below] After all, when

I.P. (or any other major corporation) issues an annual report, it must speak to its own fiscal truth and, however phrased and depicted, must reveal therein its long range intentions, saying and doing what needs to be said and done to satisfy stockholders, analysts, who bring in potential investors the way movie critics bring audiences to films.

THE BOTTOM LINE

A good bottom line is the ultimate end towards which all decisions must lead. And a good annual report justifies the corporate direction, its *modus operandi*, the company's very existence.

The I.P. annual report which was distributed in March of this year (almost at the same time as Masonite's bombshell announcement), contained ominous signs of I.P.'s future plans, which include focussing on their strengths and clearing out marginal projects, or projects which are not central to their global paper, fiberboard and building products business.

lion or \$1.03 per share, compared with prior-year earnings (also before special items) of \$434 million or \$1.49 per share. Net sales of \$20 billion were about even with last year's level. For 1997, International Paper recorded a loss of \$151 million or \$.50 per share after special items....

"But despite the many accomplishments of 1997, and the hard work by thousands of proud and dedicated employees that went into making them happen, our financial performance failed to meet our, and our shareholders, expectations. We understand that we must do things very differently if we are to achieve our goals." [emphasis added]

"International Paper said it would rid itself of any operations that did not contribute to meeting its financial goals."

Well, just for starters, a major liability sits heavily embedded in Masonite's books: the obligation to pay out hundreds of millions of dollars worth of claims accruing from a defective siding settlement over a seven to ten year period, beginning with January of this year.

Although several other manufacturers of siding products have had their own lawsuits and settlements, Masonite, as a leader in its field, has the most prominent settlement and biggest exposure. [See sidebar next page: "The Emperor Has No Clothes"]

In fact, during development of Masonite's settlement, Class counsel claimed that it had received thousands of telephone and written inquiries regarding the case, requesting participation in the Settlement. According to Class counsel, "...many class members submitted unsolicited letters expressing support for the Settlement.... All class members (sought) recovery for the same type of damages—those arising from their Masonite siding—and [have shared] comparable monetary damages (typically in the range of \$6000-\$10,000)."

NO LIMIT

According to a story in The Seattle Times on Sept. 21, 1997 by Caroline E. Mayer of The Washington Post, "There is no limit on the amount of money Masonite will pay," Russ Adams, Masonite's manager of strategic planning said. But "the company is confident the payout will not be more than the \$150 million in legal reserves that International Paper has set aside for all its pending legal actions."

On the other hand, Jonathan Selbin, a San Francisco attorney for the homeowners predicted the costs would be "at least four to five times \$150 million over the life of the settlement." (emphasis added)

The same article states: "Masonite has no plan to redesign its hardboard siding as a result of the class action settlement. [Adams] said the hardboard 'is still a very good product. The settlement should in no way be taken as a lack of confidence in the product. The settlement was made solely for economic reasons.'"

Quote, unquote, with no further comment about the siding from Masonite..

Returning now to the problems being confronted by I.P. in their 1998 Annual Report, in the section devoted to "Specialty Products", we find an interesting juxtaposition of comments, the first ("A") talking about products, and the second ("B") describing fiscal restraints and long range strategy:

[A] "Our Masonite subsidiary molds wood fiber into a broad line of door fac-

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

IT'S THE OTHER SHOE!

CHICAGO (Business Wire) Nov. 26, 1997—Masonite Corporation is pleased to announce that its parent company, International Paper, has acquired Merbok FormTec, a Malaysian company that has pioneered high-quality door facing products through postforming of medium-density fiberboard. The unique Merbok technology will allow Masonite to improve its product quality and increase its overall efficiency as it pursues commercial development in U.S. and international markets.

Masonite President Manco Snapp said, "New plants will be built close to markets without having to be located

near a forest resource. Facilities will be designed to produce standard products as well as products tailored for individual markets. We have 10 Merbok lines in the planning stage, the first of which are being planned for Korea."

Snapp added, "This acquisition will help our customers become more competitive in the global marketplace through better service, improved quality and a reduction in transportation cost and duties. When added to our existing manufacturing capabilities, the Merbok technology will ensure our continued leadership role in the door and building materials industry."

By the way, I.P. distinguishes between "specialty" products and building products. Masonite's lines, although used in the building industry, are defined as specialty products. Depending on which piece of company literature you are reading, there is some overlap.

In his letter to the shareholders, John T. Dillon, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, wrote:

"Although we made significant progress on many fronts, 1997 proved to be a very difficult year for International Paper.

"Last year at this time (i.e. winter, 1997) I had anticipated that business would improve early in the year. But the recovery from the depressed conditions experienced since late 1995 stretched out until the third quarter, and just as a discernible improvement started to take hold, the economic problems in Southeast Asia began to affect some of our major businesses.

"As a result, we finished the year with earnings before special items of \$310 mil-

lion or \$1.03 per share, compared with prior-year earnings.... It said that more than half of the jobs to be eliminated would come from units already up for sale, and that more cuts would come from the sale of units yet to be identified. A smaller number of jobs are to be lost when production plants are closed...." [emphasis added]

The article continued:

"International Paper said it would rid itself of any operations that did not contribute to meeting its financial goals.

"We will be divesting or closing operations that no longer meet the company's financial or strategic objectives and utilizing plants and machinery to serve customers more efficiently," John T. Dillon, the company's chairman and chief executive, said in a statement."

LIABILITIES: A HEAVY BACKPACK

How does Masonite fit into the fiscal regimen for improving the I.P. bottom line?

WHITE ELEPHANT: Metaphor defined by Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition, as "...an object no longer of value to its owner, but of value to others."

Continued on next page

THE EXPOSURE, OR THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES

From SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS:

"The Class period runs from January 1, 1980 to the present [January 15, 1998]. For Class members who own homes or structures on which Masonite hardboard siding was installed or incorporated between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 1989, there will be a 7 (seven) year claims period...within which they may file claims.

"For Class members who own homes or structures on which Masonite hardboard siding was installed or incorporated between January 1, 1990 and the present [January 15, 1998], that claims period will be 10 (ten) years, running into the year 2008.

"Compensation Formula: The Settlement provides that Class members will receive compensation from defendants for damages they have sustained as a result of their Masonite hardboard siding in an amount that exceeds Masonite's liability under its express warranty [emphasis added]. ...All Class members—even if their siding was installed or incorporated as far back as 1980—will be entitled to recovery for their damages.

"Under the Settlement, ...damage is presumed to have been caused by product defect....If product defect is even partially responsible for the observed damage, or if a question about the cause of damage remains, the Class member still recovers full value. Any doubt about causation is resolved in favor of the Class member.

"Legal fees, which were negotiated only after all substantive terms of the Settlement were agreed to, are paid by defendants in addition to, not out of, the class recovery [emphasis added]. Accordingly, no class member's recovery is reduced to pay fees or costs to Class Counsel.

"Additionally, based on the size of the Class, the expected typical recovery per class-member, and claims experience in similar litigation against another manufacturer, it is reasonable to expect that total claims will exceed \$315 million over the life of the Settlement" [emphasis added]

ings with many different designs and sizes.... Today, Masonite is the world leader with its CraftMaster brand.... Our success depends on customizing marketing programs to meet specific needs of individual segments (by) investing in technology to lower operating costs.... For example, recently acquired molding technology [They are referring to Merbok FormTec - see comments by Manco Snapp in "It's the Other Shoe" on previous page] using smaller, more capital efficient plants, is positioning us to expand our CraftMaster line of products in new international markets in advance of demand "emphasis added)

There's that molded door thing!

Now, for the fiscal constraint:

[B] "For much of our history, we have been primarily a manufacturing company, believing that success will come from manufacturing excellence and from being the low-cost producer. Today, however, it is clear that manufacturing expertise by itself is not enough. We need to become more attuned to market trends and, as we did in 1997, continue to reduce working capital by curtailing production before inventories are built." (emphases added)

Another part of the same annual report drives home the bottom line implications of dabbling in products "...not central to their global paper, fiberboard and building products business" (keep in mind that blurry distinction between "building" and "specialty" products):

"Specialty Panels includes molded interior door facings, hardboard siding and decorative surfaces such as high-pressure laminates.... Specialty Panels' operating profit declined 12% due to start-up costs associated with a new door facings plant in Ireland and weaker earnings at Carter Holt Harvey (another overseas subsidiary). Sales and earnings of our U.S. low-pressure laminates and industrial panels businesses were weak in 1997, plagued by over capacity, and we announced plans to exit these product lines by mid-1998. [emphasis added]

"In 1998, we expect demand for door facings to continue to grow, but we expect pricing to be under pressure because of new industry capacity. We are targeting sales growth in international markets, particularly Europe, and in Asia, where we are using new technology to build less costly production lines...." (again, our editorial emphasis—to underscore how I.P. must play both sides of the game for its survival in the investment jungle: you build better capacity in response to more capacity).

THE HUGE LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, PLANT

What is the Masonite division doing elsewhere? Their Laurel, Mississippi, facility carries the heart of Masonite's domestic capacity. Sometime in 1995 the following information was put on the Web by Laurel, Mississippi's, chamber of commerce:

"Last week, the company capped a multi-year \$110 million facility upgrade with the official opening of a \$60 million automated molded doorface line. The third of three modernized doorface panel lines,

the sprawling 10-acre line will export products for a growing European market.

"Completion represents the final phase of a plant-wide rebuild and upgrade on lines producing roofing, molded siding and door facing ...with Laurel's facility contributing nearly 1,000 jobs to the area economy—including 250 workers on the new line....

"Meanwhile, the Laurel facility offers, uniquely, 'more capacity than demand,' and turns new orders around within 10 days. Typically, enough panels for 15,000 doors are pressed daily, using finely milled pine fibers harvested from Mississippi and Alabama forests....

"We'll be able to meet whatever demand the market requires (for pressed wood products)," [a spokesperson] said. "That's key to the success of this entire line.

"Export markets represent the largest window of opportunity for growth, given that the U.S. market has peaked."

To help meet the export demand from a more centralized location, a new Masonite manufacturing plant is being constructed in Ireland.

IRELAND

And what about Ireland? Here is the Irish chamber of commerce with its own triumphal song, no date given:

"*Masonite Corporation To Pursue Commercial Development*

"A massive £90 million wood processing plant is to be established in County Leitrim by a major American manufacturer.... The County Leitrim plant, owned by the Masonite Corporation of Chicago, will make state-of-the-art moulded door facings. Masonite is one of the world's leading producers of wood composite materials for residential and commercial construction."

HOT OFF THE WIRE

Meanwhile, among the Securities and Exchange Commission's monthly filings with a date of May 6, 1998, was an announcement by I.P. that it had reorganized the Company "...to accelerate improvements in financial performance."

Among other things, I.P.'s Chairman John T. Dillon announced that the reorganization of the company would "...increase management focus on individual businesses."

The company's current sector structure will be replaced by seven business groups that will report directly to Dillon. Effec-

"We are using new technology to build less costly production lines."

"The Laurel (Mississippi) facility offers 'more capacity than demand,' and turns new orders around within 10 days."

The fate of an older facility like Ukiah's... remains in question.

tively, Masonite's current top executive, Manco Snapp, will become a Senior Vice President of I.P., and will head up the business group called Building Materials with responsibilities for the company's Decorative Products, Masonite and Wood Products businesses.

UKIAH'S BOTTOM LINE

In other words, Mr. Snapp is placed at an executive level removed from his exclusive identity with Masonite, and the new internal auditing procedures will more exactly track what each production unit adds or subtracts from that all-important bottom line. Snapp can be part of any decision to sell off Masonite as a whole, because it produces "specialty items" not central to I.P.'s main business (to say nothing of its ongoing siding liabilities).

Or, even if a "leaner, meaner" Masonite continues on within I.P. as a technological entity, the fate of an older facility like Ukiah's, with its diminishing resource base and environmentally challenged location, remains in question. The door core product substitution in the local plant would seem to be a short term solution, despite its lower raw materials requirement.

If you read between the lines, or even right on the production lines, Masonite Ukiah may not have a long life span ahead.

POLLUTION TASK FORCE

7:00 pm, Wednesday, August 19 at the MEC

Let's try this again. Our last issue contained a call for creation of a pollution task force to deal with pollution in our local area. All kinds of pollution. Alas, the date set to meet came and went and the Newsletter still wasn't out. So that was a fizzle.

This time we'll leave more leeway. We'll meet on Wednesday, August 19,

at 7:00 pm at the MEC, 106 W. Standley St., Ukiah. We need to figure out just what it is we need to do and how to go about it.

All interested persons are welcome. See you there!

Bruce Haldane

CHIAPAS THREATENED BY INTERNATIONAL PAPER ASSOCIATIONS

By Dr. Ronald Nigh, Dana Association

Information has recently surfaced involving plans for large paper-pulp and lumber plantation projects in Chiapas, involving the planting of at least 300,000 hectares of eucalyptus on Indian and ejido lands. Former President Salinas contracted with investors, including International Paper from the US.

The communities to be affected have not been consulted, nor has the issue been raised in the negotiations with the EZLN

(Zapatistas), despite the fact that their supporting communities' lands would be involved.

Chiapas and neighboring states include several important protected natural areas as well as thousands of Indian farmers with diverse agricultural and agroforestry traditions.

The life of the plantations would be only 30 years, after which these lands would be seriously degraded. If, however, the government followed through with the agreement which they signed with the Zapatistas one year ago to recognize Indian rights to

"autonomy," (required under a UN treaty as well as by the Zapatista accords) they would have to recognize communities' right to reject the project.

In June of 1995, the government received a letter from Edward Krobaker, International Paper CEO (now John Dillon), establishing a series of conditions, some requiring changes in Mexico's forestry law, to "create a more secure legal framework" for IP's investment.

According to *La Jornada*, all of Krobaker's (original) demands were agreed

to and new forestry legislation has been prepared. Upon returning from a Wall Street meeting with Henry Kissinger and other top financial celebrities, Zedillo announced the rejection of the proposed legislation to implement the Zapatista accords.

Instead he presented a counterproposal, designed to be unacceptable, which the Zapatistas rejected.

Shortly thereafter, Environmental Minister Carabias announced a large World Bank loan for "forestry," i.e. commercial plantations.

HAZMOBILE REPORT

By Mike Sweeney

In its ongoing campaign to get rid of toxics, Mendocino County's award-winning HazMobile program served its 9000th customer in May. Earlier this year the HazMobile received an award from the State of California as the Outstanding Rural Household Hazardous Waste Collection program for 1997. The program has made a dent in the huge stockpiles of hazardous materials that were building up in garages and storage sheds throughout the rural area. Folks have brought in poisons dating back to the 1930's.

The HazMobile provides the only legal disposal opportunity for toxics that can't be put in the trash or flushed down into the sewer. The most common items are:

- Paint, both oil-and water-based
- Used motor oil
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Pool chemicals
- Gasoline and solvents
- Antifreeze
- Toxic household cleaners
- Household batteries
- Fluorescent light tubes
- Photo chemicals
- Acids and alkaline corrosives

Car batteries are also toxic waste, but the HazMobile doesn't take them as they can go to recycling centers and auto parts stores.

The HazMobile removes about 100

tons of hazardous waste from Lake and Mendocino Counties each year. Most of that is recycled, including latex paint, motor oil and fluorescent light tubes. Oil-based paint and solvents find use in "fuel blending" for cement kilns. Other hazardous wastes go to a special hazardous waste incinerator in Arkansas which generates a high enough temperature to break toxic chemicals down into simpler molecules like carbon dioxide and water. High temperature incineration costs considerably more than landfilling, but there is general agreement that incineration is an environmentally superior alternative. [Ed. note: There is no consensus on the value of incineration of hazardous wastes; many feel that it creates hazardous toxins in the air.]

The mobile HazMobile unit sets up

almost every weekend in some community in Lake or Mendocino County. The unit accepts up to 15 gallons of hazardous waste per vehicle free of charge. There is a fee for small business toxics. The HazMobile also distributes information to the public about non-toxic alternatives to common household hazardous waste items. For example, HazMobile staff mixes and filters any latex paint that comes in and gives it away free to the public. People have benefited from more than 15,000 gallons of recycled latex paint since the HazMobile started in 1996.

To get on a list for free recycled paint or to learn the HazMobile schedule of collection dates, call the Recycling Hotline at 1-800-246-3939.

HYDROGEN POWER

By Charles Bensinger

While U.S. Vice-President Al Gore and leaders from many nations of the world are sounding the alarm regarding the rapid heating of the planet's atmosphere due to the buildup of human-induced releases of greenhouse gases, a group of engineering students at Arizona State University in Mesa have decided to do something about the problem.

With the help of the American Hydrogen Association, they have modified a standard gasoline lawnmower engine to run on hydrogen fuel. The ubiquitous lawnmower engine produces disproportionately high levels of polluting gases, including unburned hydrocarbons (HC), carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and carbon dioxide (CO₂). HCs are considered carcinogenic and cause smog; CO is toxic; NOx and CO₂ are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute in a big way to greenhouse warming. But when operated on clean-burning fuel, hydrogen fuel either dramatically lowers or entirely eliminates the pollutant levels produced by the gasoline-fueled lawnmower (see graph).

The news gets better. Not only was the exhaust from the lawnmower clean and

drinkable (the product of hydrogen combustion is potable water), but the hydrogen combustion process reduced ambient air levels of hydrocarbons in the test facility by 70%. Where did the hydrocarbons in the ambient air go? The lean-burn process facilitated by the hydrogen turned them into water and trace amounts of carbon dioxide. If it can do that for lawnmowers, it can do the same for cars, trucks, buses, trains and airplanes.

Nearly 25% of CO₂ emissions result from the 200 million plus vehicles on U.S. roads. Catalytic converters that were once considered a miracle response to air pollution are now implicated as major producers of nitrous oxide (N₂O), a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than CO₂. The EPA has estimated that N₂O emissions—produced by catalytic converters when they combine oxygen with nitrogen monoxide (NO)—now account for 7.2% of global warming.

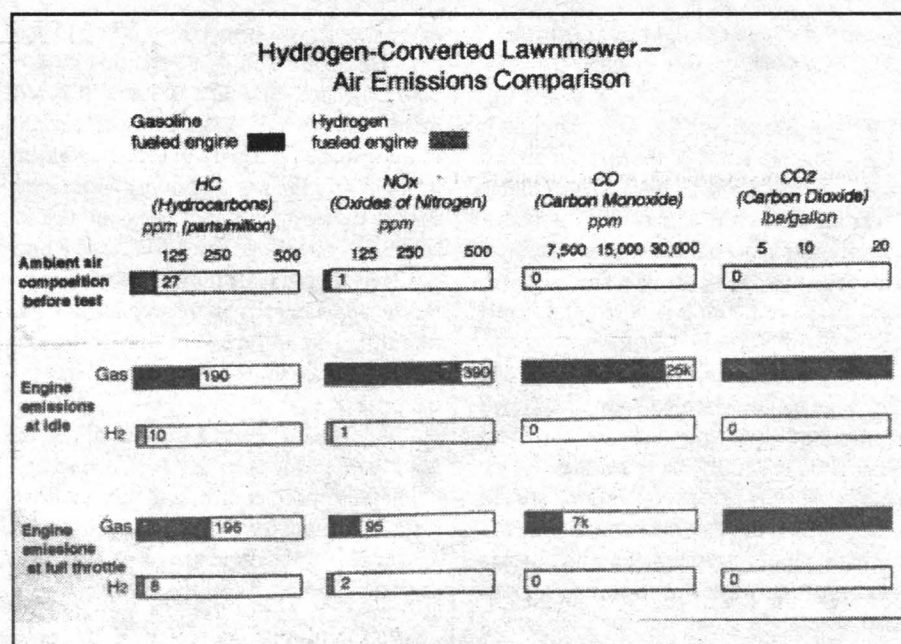
Hydrogen powered engines require no catalytic converters and produce only trace amount of NO. Hydrogen is an inexhaustible resource which can be derived from organic matter, water or fossil fuels. Unlike fossil fuels, hydrogen is non-toxic, burns cleanly and recycles itself into water when burned in an internal combustion en-

gine or a fuel cell. Hydrogen offers a safe, potent solution to the world's urgent environmental and energy problems. Because it can be made using locally available renewable resources, its use will greatly lessen the need to transport oil from distant sources or to spend billions of dollars annually for imported oil. It will render unnecessary our expensive military presence in the Middle East; in itself that's a multi-

billion dollar cost savings.

Thank you, engineering students! Let the politicians make the noise, while you deliver the goods.

For more information: Charles Bensinger at the Southwest Renewable Energy Center, 505-989-4750 or E-mail at newworld@timewindow.com



Welfare "Re-forum"



Tola Levison, chair of the Department of Social Service's Citizens Advisory Council

By Doug Strong

A funny thing happened on the way to welfare reform - my article on welfare reform, that is. The MEC Newsletter Collective charged me with probing the facade of welfare reform in Mendocino County and exposing its fissures. However, rather than acquiring source material for an expose, I encountered a defense of the bureaucracy, at least of its rank and file.

Tola Levison, currently chair of the Department of Social Service's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), provided the defense. Levison has had ample opportunity to observe the workings of the welfare system. As a child, she lived in a series of foster homes and as a young mother received Aid to Families with Dependent Children for several years. She currently works for Project Sanctuary and recently completed an assignment as an Americorps Vista Volunteer with the WEST Company, a local

non-profit agency helping women prepare for micro-business ownership and to succeed in business.

By participating on the CAC, Levison became conversant with welfare reform and followed its passage through the State Legislature into law and regulation. She also served on a county-wide task force on welfare reform, convened by the National Women's Political Caucus. There she helped draft, distribute and evaluate data obtained from a survey assessing client needs and recommendations about the program.

While mindful of its other flaws, Levison points out that in drafting and implementing welfare reform, insufficient attention was devoted to those charged with administering the program at street level...the line staff.

REQUIREMENTS

To succeed, welfare reform requires staff who are compassionate and well-trained, with high motivation and dedication to their profession. Unfortunately, conditions favoring development of those qualities do not currently exist at the Department of Social Services (DSS). Levison cites the following:

- high staff turnover
- excessive and uncovered caseloads
- low morale
- reluctance to return phone calls
- lower salaries than neighboring counties
- inability to comply with deadlines for the food stamp program.

Regarding food stamps, Levison notes the State requires that applicants for expedited food stamps receive them within seventy-two hours from application; currently,

it could take as long as ten days.

DSS administrators cite staff shortages and excessive work loads as causing the delays and have assured the CAC that with full staffing the delays will cease.

Levison believes that a depleted staff, under unreasonable stress, cannot attain the ambitious goals of client independence and self-sufficiency welfare reform calls for. She blames the County Board of Supervisors for this situation.

DSS caseloads have historically been excessive and salaries frequently insufficient to retain qualified personnel. Levison understands the salary scale in Sonoma County is as much as thirty percent higher than in Mendocino County for certain classifications. That's a strong temptation for competent employees to transfer to Sonoma County after gaining experience here. The impact on the quality of service in Mendocino County is predictable: "You can't treat people with respect unless you are treated with respect," she emphasizes.

RECENT STEPS

Levison acknowledges the Board has recently taken steps to address some of the problems by agreeing to augment DSS staff and expanding the CAC to include persons with expertise in human services, such as Michelle Patterson of Project Sanctuary. But even with an increase in personnel, it will take four to six months for the new staff to be trained and have an impact.

Levison is encouraged by the Board's action, but she believes the CAC must continue to apply pressure to convince the Board that a crisis exists, and that welfare reform won't work unless the machinery to make it work is in good repair.

YMCA plans Logging

Friends of Camp Gualala Old Growth:
(707) 522-8447

The Berkeley YMCA is planning to log 315 acres of the last old growth redwood and fir trees on the Gualala River to raise cash to pay their debts for building improvements on their facilities. This forest is one of the last shreds of late seral forest remaining in Sonoma County, and in all of Northern California.

The area is prime habitat for listed species such as the Marbled Murrelet, Northern Spotted Owl, Coho Salmon, and Steelhead. It is generally accepted that without positive survey results, operations are permitted which destroy habitat and may hasten extinction. Surveys to see whether these species actually live on the plan area should also assess the potential for recovery of species.

CDF forester Steve Smith participated

in the pre-harvest inspection of the 315 acre cut. He said, "You don't see this kind of land anymore. It's nice to know it is still there," acknowledging the rarity of this kind of undisturbed old growth forest. Walking through this land is like being in a cathedral of towering massive trees, an awe inspiring experience. The YMCA, as a non-profit educational institution enjoying reputation and benefits of respectability and morality, should be aware that destroying this habitat for money goes against its ethical principles.

Agency officials admitted about the land marked for cutting, "It's darn steep." Their comment reinforced this visitor's impression that the proposed logging road, zigzagging up a slope across an old slide/debris plain just above the camp cabins at the edge of the river, must not be approved. This road would be used to truck fuel up to the helicopter landing proposed for a large

natural saddle atop the ridge, currently home to an open rolling natural meadow fringed with trees. Failure of this road (which will be used in winter) will deposit sediment into the river. Leakage of fuel tanks could have more far reaching effects. The Gualala River is already listed by the EPA as "impaired" due to sediment under Section 303d of the Clean Water Act. Potential for adverse impacts on the river from the YMCA logging plan are great.

Many trees on this plan average 5-8 feet in diameter. This is a forest in a stage of the forest life cycle that exists on less than 5% of its historic acreage, and has been virtually eliminated from Sonoma County. 95%-98% of all old growth forest in the Pacific Northwest has been destroyed. This habitat is endangered and must be protected!!

Letters are urgently needed to:

California Department of Forestry
Tom Osipovich
PO Box 670
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
call: (707)576-2275
fax: (707)576-2608
Re: THP-1-98-177-SON

YMCA Metropolitan Office
Larry Bush, Executive Director
2016 Center St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
call: (510)549-4515
fax: (510)649-9885

A Different Kind of Day at Round Valley High

A Class in Conflict Resolution

By Marc Labelle

We started out from Ukiah just after daybreak on a foggy, chilly morning in early May. There were three cars in our caravan. We couldn't see each other but we stayed in touch with our cellars as we headed north past Willits on our way to Round Valley. I asked myself why I was doing this because part of me was still asleep, unaccustomed to this form of behavior at such an early hour.

We were a training crew for Fillman Associates, which does seminars on non-violence and conflict resolution, and we had been invited to conduct a session at the high school by some interested parents and school officials. Fillman Associates normally deals with businesses and special groups, so this was to be the first time they would be dealing with a large group of high school students- about 350 of them.

And so as the car wound up Covelo Road, with its spectacular views, we could see the Eel River snaking north hundreds of feet below, with wilderness peaks cutting the fog all around us.

It makes you ponder, and I thought about the things that are happening to this society- or appear to be:

*Every day, 100,000 American kids carry guns to school.

*Each month over 28,000 students in secondary schools are physically attacked.

*Every 36 minutes a child is killed or injured by a firearm.

*Between 1979 and 1989 firearm murders by youngsters between the ages of 15 and 19 increased 61%.

In the "Uzi 90's" the figures make officials scurry for job-protecting denial. It's hard to make headway, but hey, most people don't want their kids dying in the play-



ground. It ain't normal. So what's causing this? Movie heroes like Stallone, Van Damme, etc? Videogames like Mortal Kombat? The endless "Good Guy-Bad Guy" TV dramas, where violence by the "Good Guy" is perfectly acceptable? The NRA's powerful propaganda campaigns, where guns are portrayed as necessary for protection against violence? Parental neglect? Rejection? We could say "all of the above" and more but it's hard to be logical where feelings and passions are involved. Fires aren't put out with appeal.

Anyway, we got to Round Valley early enough to eat breakfast. I reminisced about living there and remembered RV High being a pretty normal small town school. We went to the gym where the session was to take place, met the gym teacher and assistant principal, and then the students started filing in. They didn't look much different

from students from Oshkosh or Syracuse. There must be a Network of World Standards for Student Appearance, as there seems to be for other categories such as Business, Public Officials and Others.

Given that only three teachers were present, we were impressed by the relative quiet. Participation was to occur on the gym floor and students were asked to remove their shoes.

About half the students elected to watch as non-participants. At first I thought this was perfectly passive-aggressive (Oh yeah? Show me—); but I realized later on it was mostly shyness. Most important, all seemed to watch the proceedings intently.

Gayle Fillman, chief instructor and Aikido expert, had them spellbound. She understood that a verbal dissertation wouldn't do the job. So students were en-

couraged to "act out" their behavior. They were shown how a potential victim holds him/her self, how they look, how they talk, how they react.

They were shown how violence can be the result of needless escalation. Attitude, dude, attitude. Conflict and polarization are part of life, but need not be resolved through the violence that too often leads to tragedy. Discussion and understanding are viable options.

They walked through one "hands-on" real life situation after another for about three hours. Then, so they wouldn't get bored, the seated students were challenged by the participants. They HAD to respond in their own way to a situation that was not imaginary. A REAL person was forcing them to respond. They all did well.

The students were then treated to a demonstration of self-defense techniques which can be used when discussion is not possible. Accomplished Aikido students, outnumbered by their determined attackers, performed a series of turning movements and "Ki extensions" to send their would-be assailants flying as gently as possible.

Our group was so quiet and attentive you could have heard a pin drop.

Then the bell rang, signaling the end of our sessions. After an enthusiastic round of applause we headed out, and I heard one student say, "I should have taken part." Another told me, "This turned my life around."

It's almost two months later now, and we're still getting feedback from students and teachers alike about how much they enjoyed the training. They've even asked if we could do it again. And we just might. It'll be like getting together with our old friends again.

Mendocino College Ecology Club

The Most Active on Campus

By Obie Sage

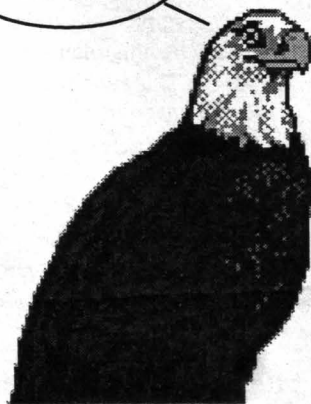
The Mendocino College Ecology Club is the largest club currently active at the college. As one of the most active clubs, our primary goal is to inform students of environmental issues and get them involved in the local community.

Last year the group consisted of 13 students and was well organized, meeting every Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30 in the afternoon. Some of the things the Ecology Club did this last school year was organize concerts and festivals on campus. The club is also responsible for all the on-campus recycling programs.

Next year the club will have new direction and be based on a more radical approach to ecology. Less concerts and more direct action! We will continue to be part of the discussion on the preservation of the college land that is being sold by the Mendocino College Foundation.

We would like to build a better connection between other environmental and ecological groups in our county. We welcome all to participate in the oldest and most active club at Mendocino College.

"Lets make a difference!"



Youth for Environmental Action

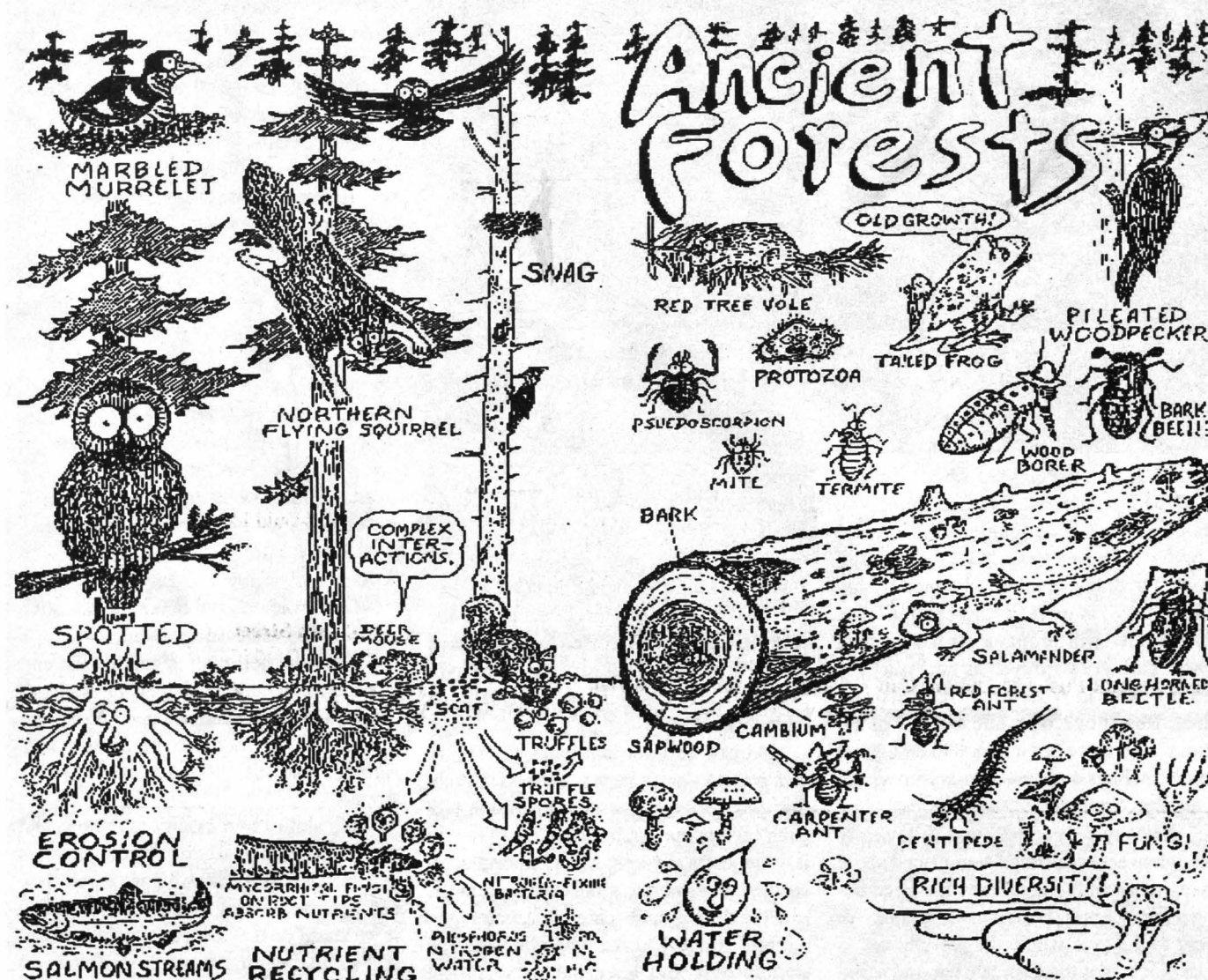
By Amber Trotter

Youth for Environmental Action is a group working out of the MEC which encourages teens to get involved in environmental and social issues. Our current project is stream restoration and we've put on a Tree Planting and a River Clean-Up event in the last months. We planted Willow, Ponderosa Pine, Big Leaf Maple, and Doug Fir along the Russian River and a tributary creek in Redwood Valley. All are healthy and growing strong. We also collected several pick-up trucks worth of trash from a segment of the Russian River through Redwood Valley and Calpella. It was hard work, but we enjoyed splashing around in the water! This month we will run 12 hours overnight in the first annual Relay For Life, benefiting the American Cancer Society. And we've been investigating the use of pesticides in California Schools, and are working on reducing the amount used by Ukiah Unified School District. Anyone interested can call Amber at home, 485-5528, or at the MEC, 468-1660.

Kids' Page

The Headwater's Forest Rally is just a few months away! Do you know why Headwaters is so special? One reason is because Headwaters is an **Ancient Redwood Forest**. This means that the types of plants and animals that live in the forest have existed there for over 1000 years! Many of these plants and animals are endangered because there are very few Ancient Redwood Forests left today.

COLOR in this picture and learn more about the cool creatures that live in the ANCIENT REDWOOD FOREST!



"HAIKU FOR HEADWATERS"

Japanese Haiku is a form of poetry with only three lines.

The first line contains five syllables,
the second line has seven syllables,
and the third line has five again.

Example:

Redwoods, oh Redwoods
So tall, strong, and beautiful
How I love those trees!

My Haiku poem:

Write a Haiku or any poem, story, or art about Headwaters Forest, turn it in to the MEC, and we'll print it in our next issue. Drop off or send poetry to: MEC Kid's Page, 106 W. Standley, Ukiah, CA 95482

Opal

This is a poem titled "Opal", and was written many, many years ago by a six-year old orphan girl named Opal Whitely. She wrote this in her diary, because she had a very hard life in a mining camp, and often wrote to feel better after being sent to bed for punishment. [from *Writing the Natural Way*, by Gabriele Lusser Rico]

Today the grandpa dug potatoes in the field
I followed along after.
I picked them up and piled them in piles.
Some of them were very plump.
And all the time I was picking up potatoes
I did have conversations with them.
To some potatoes I did tell about my hospital in the near woods
and all the little folk in it
and how much prayers and songs
and mentholatum helps them to have well feels.

To other potatoes I did talk about my friends -
how the crow, Lars Porsena,
does have a fondness for collecting things,
how Aphrodite, the mother pig, has a fondness
for chocolate creams,
how my dear pig, Peter Paul Rubens,
wears a little bell coming to my cathedral service.

Potatoes are very interesting folks.
I think they must see a lot
of what is going on in the earth.
They have so many eyes.
Too, I did have thinks
of all their growing days
there in the ground,
and all the things they did hear.

And after, I did count the eyes
that every potato did have,
and their numbers were in blessings.

I have thinks these potatoes growing here
did have knowings of star songs.
I have kept watch in the field at night
and I have seen the stars
look kindness down upon them.
And I have walked between the rows
of potatoes
and I have watched
the star gleams on their leaves.

A Visit with my mom in Federal Prison

By Chester Collins

Last year, early in the morning during the Christian holiday Lent, the Prince of Peace Plowshares group boarded a U.S. warship in Maine. Surrounded by snow and armed only with hammers and their own blood, the group symbolically converted the destroyer. The group of priests, fathers and friends hammered on the missile silos of the ship and poured blood that represented the purpose of the ship—to take lives. Finally, all over the ship they posted pictures of the destruction and death the weapons cause.

My mother, Susan Crane, was one of those arrested for participating in this "Plowshares" action. The idea of plowshares comes from the old testament prophet Isaiah, who calls us to beat our swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Plowshares actions also draw from the life of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, whose teachings were based on non-violence and love for our enemies.

Our federal government, however, puts its trust in weapons, spending huge amounts of money on war machines and weapons of mass destruction as a means for preserving national security and peace. This leaves only pennies for education and social ser-



Family day behind barbed wire: From left to right: Robin Collins, King Collins (Dad), Susan Crane (Mom) and Chet Collins. Barbed wire not pictured (it's there, though).

vices, with many taxpayers and resisters feeling responsible for the horrific mechanisms of genocide our government has created.

That's how my mom, a former school teacher here in Ukiah, became a prisoner of the federal government.

I recently visited my mother at the Women's Federal Prison in Dublin, Cali-

fornia. After being processed through the locked doors and barbed wire, I was able to give my mom a hug and tell her how much I love her. Since Susan is a teacher she uses her time in the prison to help other women get their GED's and education by teaching classes. Recently she was removed from this job because she was teaching "anti-government" material.

Now she is the gardener of the Recreation Field. She works outside planting flowers and taking care of the bushes. She is enjoying the work so the change of jobs isn't all that bad. This, however, is just an example of the censorship of truth and the injustice that our federal government perpetrates.

Another example happened during the trial of the Plowshares group. They were not allowed to speak of the U.S. government or of the international treaties our government has signed that make weapons of mass destruction illegal. They were not allowed to speak of God or of jury nullification, the jury's right to make a conscientious decision.

The Plowshares group turned their backs on the judge and received the maximum sentence for their charges, 27 months for my mom.

So if you ever hear someone say, "We have no political prisoners here in the United States," think twice and remember this story. Susan has 12 more months to serve. If you would like to write her a letter, send it to:

**Susan Crane #87783-011
5701 8th Street
Dublin, CA 94568**

Calendar of Upcoming Events

ONGOING

- Every Friday - *Music At The MEC*: Acoustic music jam & munchie pot luck. 7 pm at the MEC
- 4th Thursday of the month - *MEC Board Meeting*: 6 pm at the MEC
- 3rd Wednesday - *Information & Discussion Forum*: See below for topics. 7 pm at the MEC.

AUGUST

- 1st - *Russian River Watershed Council*: Formation meeting. 9 am to 1 pm, Ukiah Conference Center.
- 2nd to 5th - *Protecting Mother Earth Conference*: Presented by the Indigenous Environmental Network. Fall River Mill, California. Call (218) 751-4967.
- 7th - *Valley Clean Up*: Sponsored by Youth for Environmental Action. Walk, Run & Bike Trash Clean-Up. 8 am, meet at Eagle Peak School. Call Amber at 485-5528.
- 8th - *Full Moon Fest & Community Fun'raiser*: **Free Admission!** Music, Dancing, Performances, Open Mic, Food, Kids Activities, Great Family Fun!! 3 to 11 pm, Alex Thomas Park, Ukiah. **MEC Benefit.**
- 9th - *ACLU Forum & Discussion of the Bear Lincoln Case*: Pot Luck lunch. 11 am, Buffalo Room, Covelo.
- 12th - Workshop. *Natural Healing for Animals Part I: Creating a Holistic Lifestyle*. Explore the "hows" and "whys" of holistic health care for animals including fundamentals of nutrition, homeopathy, and herbs. \$5 to \$20 sliding

scale, a portion to benefit the MEC. 7 pm at the MEC. Call 485-9309.

- 19th - *Monthly Information & Discussion Forum (3rd Wednesday of Each Month)*: Forests: Headwaters, Albion & LP Land Sale. 7 pm at the MEC.
- 26th - Workshop. *Natural Healing for Animals Part II: Applying Nature's Gifts*. Learn to create a first-aid kit for animals. Practise hands-on healing techniques. \$5 to \$20 sliding scale, a portion to benefit the MEC. 7 pm at the MEC. Call 485-9309.
- 30th - *Outdoor Concert with Alameda Superstars!* Great line up of Bay Area performing bands. Food, Crafts, Kids Activities. Don't miss this day of sun & music! 3 to 9 pm, Ukiah Fairgrounds, Willow Tree Stage. MEC Benefit.

SEPTEMBER

- Date & Location To Be Announced - *Rally to Save Headwaters*: Watch for details on this annual rally & protest. Call the MEC to sign up for non-violence training, car pooling, and to volunteer as Peacekeeper or Legal Observer.
- 16th - *Monthly Information & Discussion Forum (3rd Wednesday of Each Month)*: Corporate Control; What It Is; What We Can Do. 7 pm at the MEC.
- 19th to 27th - *Celebration of the Russian River & Its Watershed of Creeks*: Nine days of events & activities to salute the spirit of the river and the gifts it offers us. Various locations in Sonoma County. Call 874-2871.



MEC Newsletter

Mendocino Environmental Center

106 W. Standley St., Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 468-1660 <http://www.pacific.net/~mec>
Issue 28 Supported by Members! Summer 1998



Hundreds drum for
Julia Butterfly
Page 1

Masonite's future
page 8

Cover photograph by Eric Stomanson/Zuma Press

Mendocino Environmental Center
106 West Standley Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

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Mendocino Environmental Center

The MEC is a grassroots membership organization located in the heart of Northern California. Our support comes from our members. Memberships are a minimum of \$5 a year, but we ask that you give \$25 or more if possible. It's your help that keeps us going!

Please join us in working for a sustainable earth!

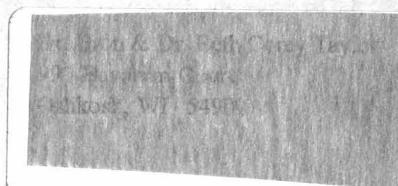
Name	Telephone	Date
City	State	Zip
Amount Enclosed		

Address

Mail To: MEC
Attn: Membership
106 W. Standley St.
Ukiah, CA 95482

*Members receive our quarterly newsletter and
action alerts.*

*The MEC is a non-profit, politically active,
501-c4 organization*



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