

MEC Newsletter

Mendocino Environmental Center

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Issue 30

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EDITORIAL

a time for Change

It is not happenstance that this issue of the Mendocino Environmental Center Newsletter includes articles on both the Y2K computer bug (below) and community sustainability (p 6). Experts are weighing in on the Y2K issue with varying estimates of how much disruption that will involve. However, nobody believes that it won't have some effect, that we won't be spending some amount of time without the usual everyday life resources that we're used to.

It probably makes sense to have some necessities on hand when the time comes—January 1, 2000. But while we're at it, why not do it right and put together a set of new

arrangements, new institutions even? And that moves us over to the Heckerroths' article on the material and technological aspects of a sustainable community.

We have the technology—the gadgets—that we need to reconfigure our communities as sustainable living arrangements, not for just the length of a given crisis, be it Y2K or the inevitable collapse of our economic system, but as our normal way of life. We need to pull the technology together and arrange it properly, but we need to do more than that. In speaking with Steve Heckerroth about the material in his article, we determined that the hardest part might be build-

ing the consciousness required for such living arrangements.

Communal Strands

Though there are many communalistic strands in the cloth of our American society, our primary cultural ethos has involved glorification of the individual. But when disaster strikes, most of us take a somewhat wider view and chip in to help. We need to raise that "chipping in" to the level of a new mode of living in our communities, even to a new cultural ethos.

Toward that end, our readers will be find-

ing articles in the coming issues of the Newsletter that deal with community sustainability. The object is to build that consciousness mentioned above. We can't do that by ourselves in this Newsletter; it requires a lot of people picking up the ball and carrying it to all the circles in which they move.

We don't feel that what we have to say alone will get us to a new mode of living. In fact, we may find ourselves putting forth an occasional screwball notion. But that's what we have readers for. We sincerely hope that a dialogue on these issues will lead to movement in a sustainable direction and a community direction as well. So let us know what you, the readers, think.

And if you want to do more than dialogue, let's all get together and make the sustainable community a reality right here in Mendocino County.

Y2K? YNOT?

by Sharane Palley and Bruce Haldane

A couple of weeks back we heard the news that the entire city of San Francisco had shut down because somebody forgot to disconnect a ground wire at a power station. When that blew the circuits, it snowballed; that is, the power went off through all the little substations all the way down the line. The city ceased to function. Shops closed; trolleys stopped; hospitals and other emergency facilities had to go on backup power. Life did not go on as usual.

Multiply that event by a week, or maybe a month; or what about forever? That about covers the range of guesses as to how serious the impact of the Y2K (Year 2000) bug will be. The Y2K bug is the mother of all computer glitches and it's due to hit as our clocks register midnight between December 31, 1999 and January 1, 2000. At that time, all computers that programmers haven't made Y2K compliant, will allegedly break down because they can't distinguish between the year 1900 and the year 2000 when all they have to read is 00. Given the

degree to which our society—our global society, that is—depends on a multitude of computers to function, that turn of the century breakdown will be something between a relatively mild inconvenience and a social cataclysm of monstrous proportions, depending on whom you talk to.

Food Outlets

Consider this: The buyers for large food outlets such as Safeway, Albertson's and Raley's customarily use computers to determine "how much" of "what" they need to order and where they can get it, and they use the computer to do the ordering. Gasoline suppliers, ditto. Most of us get our water by means of computer-controlled devices. The electric grids most of us depend on are entirely computer-controlled. The hospitals and many other health services use computers for scheduling, diagnostics, preparation and distribution of medications, etc. Natural gas and propane supplies and deliveries depend on computer technology, as do most of our communications systems. A bulletin from the U.S. Department of Ag-

riculture Year 2000 Program Office tells us that the Department is concerned about adverse impacts on agricultural markets and trade, including market news and data and commodities tracking. Programs providing food assistance, loans and crop insurance, and food safety and disease monitoring systems could all be affected.

Consequently, a worst-case scenario has us without food, water, fuel for transport or heating, transportation, adequate health care and all the many other things you can think of that come to us by means of some kind of computer-driven device. And nobody has any idea how long that might last.

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REBIRTH of the MEC WEB SITE

by Dale Glaser

The MEC web site is going to become more and more useful as an information and internet access tool for environmentally-inclined folks in the county. Check it out at: www.pacific.net/~mec.

The MEC site consists of several general components:

Environmental Links: A page of links to environmental organizations and information organized by topic. There is a special page of Headwaters links.

Environmental Groups: A contact list of current environmental organizations and groups in Mendocino County.

Online MEC Newsletter: The current issue as well as an archive of the last dozen or so issues of the MEC newsletter (the goal is to get all 30 issues online eventually).

Grand Index of Newsletter: A topic index of articles of all online issues of the MEC newsletter.

Calendar of Events: An ongoing Calendar focusing on environmental and MEC-related events.

If you are interested in helping maintain the web site (and learning about the web in the process) contact the MEC.

Are you interested in some great web site maintenance tools?

Are you part of a community group who wants to put information like that found on the MEC web site onto your site? If you use a Mac, I have the tools for you!

There is a real challenge in maintaining a web site with database content. You need to gather the information, update it and then be able to convert it into web pages on a recurring basis. This can get laborious, or boring!

Over the last few years I have designed some pretty cool applications, using a program on the Mac called HyperCard, which makes the creation and maintenance of the different parts of the MEC web site very easy. With these applications the information is updated and then converted into web

pages with the click of a mouse. Computer novices can use these tools. Without them, either:

1. You don't even try to put information such as quarterly newsletters, grand indexes, listings of community groups, or a calendar of events online.

2. You learn the basics of web page design and laboriously and manually and continually update your web pages using the HTML language or a web editor.

3. You use some kind of sophisticated web publishing program which has to work with your internet service provider (I don't know of any that do work without a steep learning curve or additional expense.)

In contrast, the applications I've created are easy to use and require no technical skills whatsoever except the ability to type and click a mouse. I am currently turning these applications into user-friendly tools that other community groups can use who have a Mac and wants to put information similar to the MEC site onto the web.

On behalf of the MEC, I have decided to offer these tools to others as "shareware" products. In other words, if you feel they make your web life easier, then send a donation to the MEC.

If you are interested, email me at dglaser@pacific.net.



Vittles & Videos & Verbosity

by Jenny Burnstadt

You know how it is when you read an excellent book and then you want to get copies for your friends? Sometimes that happens with videos as well. One of those rare and remarkable films is called "Who's Counting?"—Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics." Marilyn Waring is a goat farmer, former member of the New Zealand Parliament, university professor, world renowned political economist and author of "If Women Counted." No one takes on global economics with more vigor, humor and clarity. "Who's Counting?" is a rich anthology of ideas in which Waring maps out an alternative economic vision, one that changes the way we live on the planet. With irony and intelligence, "Who's counting?" demystifies the language of economics.

A Bay Area group known as the "Who's Counting?" Project has found this film to be an organizing tool of astonishing power and believes that it has the potential to stimulate a new wave of community action. Because people are likely to benefit more from the movie if they have an opportunity to talk about it afterwards, we would like to invite you to join us for the evening. Marvin and Millie Lehrmann have graciously consented to allow us to congregate in the Forks Theater free of charge. There will be a potluck dinner Friday, February 19, at 6:30 pm. The 90 minute film will run at 7:30. After the film, Patrick "Sumo" Burnstadt will facilitate an informal discussion group. The MEC will host similar gatherings throughout the year.

"Fire in the Eyes," a documentary about the pepper spray incidents in Humboldt County, is now available for members to check out from the MEC video library. Copying videos onto CD Rom has been suggested as a good way to duplicate them without compromising film quality. It then becomes possible to broadcast via the internet and enables people to view it on their computers internationally. How can we, as a politically active environmental center, lobby against the continued use of pepper spray? This will be a priority concern for the new Board of Directors in January. Please come forward with your thoughts and suggestions. We cannot allow this torture to continue.

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.

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.

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Taxtrocity

Corps rule???

by Bruce Haldane

by Lynda McClure

Many Mendocino County property owners had a strong reaction to the message on the envelope of their tax bill, which read:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors believes that the key to preserving our rural lifestyle is to encourage the preservation of the agricultural lands and open space. The Board will not consider the inconveniences arising from agriculture or timber operations to be a nuisance if such operations are legal, consistent with locally accepted customs and standards, and conducted in a non-negligent manner.

People who own property within or adjacent to agriculture lands or Timber Production Zones (TPZ) should understand that along with the financial and scenic benefits of such ownership, there can also be additional nuisance factors. These can include, but are not limited to, noise, dust, chemical spraying, and hazardous road conditions due to use by heavy equipment. Within reasonable limits, these conditions must be accepted by the property owners in such areas.

It is the unanimous wish of the Board of Supervisors that a prosperous and sustainable timber and agriculture industry be a permanent part of the future of Mendocino County.

The MEC Board of Directors responded with the following letter, which also was sent to county media as a letter to the editor.

What You Can Do

We encourage Mendocino County residents to:

1. Write or call your supervisor about this ordinance
2. Attend a Board of Supervisors meeting and make public comment about the ordinance. (Tuesdays at the Administration Center on Low Gap Rd., Ukiah. Opportunity for public comment is throughout the day.)
3. Check with the MEC for the day and time when this will be heard on the agenda and attend that BOS meeting.
4. If the ordinance is not satisfactorily amended, **boycott the April property tax payment.** Perhaps send a tea bag in the envelope.

Dear Mendocino County Supervisors:

Like many other residents of the County, members of the Mendocino Environmental Center were disturbed by the recent statement sent on County tax bills...While we agree that encouraging preservation of agricultural lands and open space is one of the keys to preserving our rural lifestyle, we also believe that it must not be done in a way that causes harm to other rural residents as your statement seems to condone. We find it particularly ironic to send such a statement on tax bills, as it seems to confer second class citizenship to many rural residents.

The Mendocino Environmental Center believes that:

- (1) ownership of timber or agricultural land does not (or should not) confer any special privileges to those owners beyond using the land for the purposes for which they are zoned;
- (2) use of such lands, and all other rural lands, must be done in a way that does not create nuisances to other residents or cause long-term harm to land, waters, or wildlife;
- (3) excessive noise, or movement of dust, chemicals (or sediment) from land use operations on agricultural lands onto adjacent lands or waters are indeed unacceptable nuisances;
- (4) hazardous road conditions due to use by heavy equipment is not acceptable and can be mitigated; and
- (5) the County Board of Supervisors has a statutory responsibility to protect all citizens from the nuisances described in 3 and 4 above.

We reject the idea that citizens must accept such nuisances. Rather we feel that it is the legal and moral obligation of all landowners to ensure that their land uses do not create a nuisance for other residents of the county.

We understand that at least some of the existing language comes from an existing county ordinance. We do not know the history of that ordinance, but feel that it no longer expresses the will of the citizens of the county. Nuisances as described are no longer "locally accepted customs".

Therefore the Board of Directors of the Mendocino Environmental Center requests that a revision of that ordinance be put on your agenda, as soon as possible after the new Board is seated in January, so that a new policy that reflects the principles above and that does not relegate many of us to second class citizenship can be adopted. We thank you for considering this request, and encourage all citizens to let their supervisors know how they feel about the current policy.

Sincerely,

Mendocino Environmental Center Board of Directors

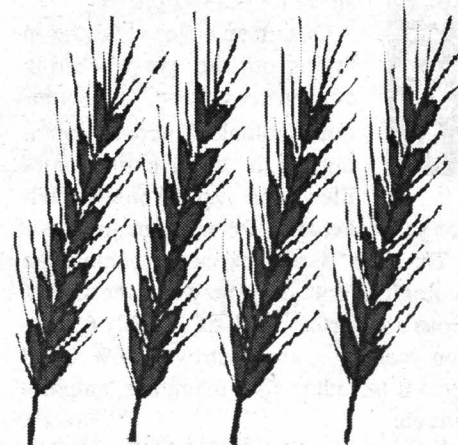
Reserve the weekend of January 22-24. Those are the dates of the MEC-sponsored workshop entitled "Why Do Corporations Have More Rights Than You?"

Why is that an issue? Corporate culture is in the driver's seat of our society, shaping our thought forms and languages and stifling the human and community potentials for justice, peace, freedom and economic well-being.

"Historically in this nation, corporations were created to be and were regarded as artificial entities, chartered only to serve the public interest, cause no harm and at all times be subordinate to the sovereign people..." (from the City of Arcata Advisory Measure on Democracy and Corporations - passed on November 3, 1998 by a 65% majority).

"...the exercise of the police power of the State shall never be so abridged or construed as to permit corporations to conduct their business in such manner as to infringe the rights of individuals or the general well-being of the State (Constitution of the State of California, 1879, Article XII, Section 8).

The January 22-24 workshop will address the issue of how corporate rule has replaced democracy and what our communities can do about it.



Food not bombs

Ukiah Food Not Bombs! started serving in October of 1998. We serve **free** hot vegetarian meals to anyone who is hungry. Currently we serve meals once a month. We need more volunteers so that we can serve weekly or even daily meals! Get involved! We need volunteers to organize food pickups, make and post flyers, and to cook and serve meals. Meetings are held once a month. Please call the MEC for the location of the cookhouse and to get involved in Food Not Bombs!

support the **MEC**

The MEC's primary source of financial support is from individual donations.

We count on you to keep the MEC open and operating.

If you are a current contributor, thank you very much.

If you have not contributed and you support the work done by and out of the MEC, won't you please make a contribution?

We need your help.

CODE RED EXTINCTION LOOMS

by Al Krauss

We're stalled in our institutions at the intersection where the street of our ordinary daily lives crosses an evolutionary track. There is an express train hurtling towards this spot, where you and I sit paralyzed, right now, right here. There is no time for calm, meditative processes, even though we may be required to "keep our cool."

"We" can be defined as narrowly or broadly as any reader wishes, but the action, the moving off the stuck place of everything "as usual," whether for a resident of Ukiah, or London, or Peking, or anyplace anywhere, must happen so precipitously that it will be tantamount to revolution.

A brilliantly written summary by David Quammen entitled *Planet of Weeds: Tallying the Losses of Earth's Animals and Plants* in Harper's magazine (October 1998) portrays a disastrous culmination immediately ahead for our biosphere,

Quammen's piece goes far in laying out the overwhelming consensus among "conscientious biologists" about a looming "sixth" major extinction of life forms (over the past half billion years, there have been five major ones).

The most "recent" extinction came at the geological boundary between the Cretaceous and Tertiary periods, roughly 65 million years ago, and destroyed 76% of all species including fish, mammals, amphibians etc.

Now we are told (by W. V. Reid of the World Resources Institute, via *Planet of Weeds*) that by the year 2040, even if all current environmental regulation planned or in place is fully enforced, the prospect is that "between 17 and 35 percent of tropical forest species will be extinct or doomed to be."

Over the ensuing two or three hundred years, in the dismal scenario of Quammen's article, a major mass extinction of life forms will have reached critical momentum.

The great reservoirs of genetic diversity, the huge numbers of "narrowly endemic" species (species that make up the bulk of our biodiversity, and which require either unique local conditions or a large but specific kind of wild range) will be eradicated and along with them their untapped poten-

tial as food, medicine and, yes, genetic resources, leaving the world with a genetically impoverished cluster of "weedy" species.

Meanwhile, "weedy" is defined not merely as a negative adjective, but as describing "...species that survive by reproducing quickly and surviving almost anywhere: kudzu, Mediterranean fruit flies, boll weevils, and the primary culprit in the chain of catastrophic events, homo sapiens."

The fact that "by the middle of the next century ...tropical forest will exist virtually nowhere outside of protected areas... currently 6.3 percent of the planet's land area," leads us to another of the converging forces leading to mass extinction.

Those scattered ecological islands, which at best can be defined as "fragmented habitat," will suffer the same fate as most ocean island ecologies. As a direct result of habitat fragmentation, Robert M. May, an Oxford ecologist, concludes that "most extant bird and mammal species can expect average life spans of between 200 and 400 years."

Quammen says: "The lesson of fragmented habitats is 'things fall apart.'"

And finally, the paleontologist David Jablonski, Hinds Geophysical Laboratory, University of Chicago, "foresees unpredictable levels of loss in many physical and biochemical functions that ordinarily come as benefits from diverse, robust ecosystems" ranging all the way from "cleaning and recirculating air and water and creating new soil," through "damping short-term temperature extremes and longer-term fluctuations of climate and shielding Earth's surface from the full brunt of ultraviolet radiation."

Two giant factors loom in the chain of events: "continuing landscape conversion and the growth curve of human population." Though human population likely will level off somewhere in excess of 10 billion, population pressures in the equatorial belt will be accelerating degradation of the landscape at an alarming rate.

But the international investment community is concerned with the world only as an arena for an infinitely expanding consumer base. To match this new world "marketplace" of expanding "opportunity," our entire education system is being subverted to provide high tech skills for "high tech job readiness."

It is clear that our economic and social institutions must change radically.

The institutions I refer to are twins which seem to oppose each other, but really are acting in collusion: nation states on the one hand, and corporate capitalism on the other. Both must be shown the door, and along with them the mythic confusions of personal liberty with private property, of human dignity with ethnic/national pride.

The change must occur within no more than a generation so that aversive action can occur, and so that panic from an unplanned social collapse doesn't lead us into destructive forms of anarchy.

The fact that the United States has taken on a world leadership role is opportune. If ever there was a time for a non-violent domino principle to work, this is it. It will have to be the great middle American public which acts through its political potential. And it must be galvanized to do so.

How?

The big corporations already are helping to radicalize that public, exploiting every piece of action as though they owned people's rights to live and breathe. As a result, unions are reviving, and elsewhere in this newsletter you will see cooperative action themes which are gaining ground.

Still, the process is too slow. Given the urgent message outlined by Quammen in Harper's, one senses that something dramatic is going to have to happen if we are to mitigate impoverishment and crowding in the Third World (*Planet of Weeds* also analyses how equato-

rial population pressure impacts the rate of degradation).

The first step in that "mitigation" for the Third World is the step which breaks the grip of corporate power in the First World.

We must countenance political events close to home which change laws so that corporations are no longer regarded as "equal persons." We must come to understand the fundamental opposition: "human rights versus corporate ownership of all resources."

In view of the urgency, nearly tantamount to the approach of an asteroid on collision course with Earth, we may have to appropriate corporate holdings and re-direct their use. In parallel, we are going to have to restructure all of our social values away from consumption and "wealth accumulation"

towards long range spiritual goals like enabling universal wisdom.

A certain circle will have been completed in strange irony as America becomes the revolutionary inspiration for a New Communalism!

Or, we (and the world) shall simply slide into the scenarios depicted in Harper's, in the words of the poet (T. S. Elliot), "not with a bang but a whimper."



Readers are encouraged to read Quammen's article. The highly selected information used here cannot do justice to the complexity of the phenomena, described in *Planet of Weeds*, which are devolving towards "The Sixth Major Extinction."

continued from page 1

which is uncompliant.

Chrysler Test

In 1997, Chrysler, which had been fixing its system since 1995, did a test. They shut down an entire assembly plant and set the clocks in the plant to 12/31/99. They expected glitches, but what they got was a security system shutdown that locked everybody in and out of the buildings. That resulted from embedded, date-sensitive chips in nearly every piece of equipment in the plant.

Some 100,000 older mainframe computers are still in use as the backbone workhorses of government and industry. They don't even write programs any more for

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Genetically Engineered Foods a Taste of Disaster

by Jan Allegretti

Genetic engineering changes the DNA of living organisms—a scary notion, especially when it's in the hands of those who believe human beings have the right and the authority to apply any scientific trickery that comes within their capability.

Using enzymes to cut and join strands of DNA, or DNA-like viruses known as vectors to infect a cell and insert themselves into its DNA, molecular biologists are on the verge of wreaking havoc on the gene pool of the entire food chain.

Tomatoes are sensitive to frost. This shortens their growing season. Fish, on the other hand, survive in very cold water. By identifying the gene which enables a flounder to resist cold, and using the technology of genetic engineering to insert this "anti-freeze" gene into a tomato, it is possible to extend the growing season of the tomato. And if eating fish genes with your salad doesn't upset you, consider this. The same companies that brought us chemicals like DDT and Agent Orange are now genetically engineering corn and potatoes to produce toxins that kill insects. And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Dangerous technology

The bad news goes beyond the obvious. DNA is actually not well understood. 97% of human DNA is called "junk" because no one has any idea of its function. The workings of a single cell are so complex, no one knows the whole of it. Still, the biotech companies have already planted millions of acres with genetically engineered crops, and they intend to engineer every crop in the world.

There are fundamental weaknesses in the technology of genetic engineering. When a scientist moves a gene from one organism to another, he has no idea where the gene will be inserted in the DNA of the new organism. The functioning of the genes essential to the life of that organism may be disrupted. And such introductions of foreign

genes into a host's genetic structure have long been known to have harmful and fatal effects, such as strange mutations and cancer.

And if you think you'll be safe if you eat organic or grow your own, hear this: insects, birds and wind can carry genetically altered seeds into neighboring fields and beyond. Once transgenic plants pollinate, genetically original plants and wild relatives can be cross-pollinated, so that all crops, organic and non-organic, are vulnerable to contamination from genetically engineered specimens.

The potential health hazards are impossible to estimate. Genetic engineering changes the fundamental nature of the food we eat. It uses material from organisms that have never been part of the human food supply. Without long-term testing no one knows if those foods are safe. The unexpected mutations that often occur in genetically altered foods may result in new and higher levels of toxins, or unforeseen and unknown allergens. Some crops are implanted with genes which confer resistance to antibiotics. These genes may be picked up by bacteria which can ultimately infect humans and other animals.

Widespread pollution

Genetic engineering will result in a radical increase in the use of herbicides and pesticides. Farmers will be able to use chemicals more liberally without killing crops that have been engineered to be herbicide-resistant. Some genetically altered crops are even able to manufacture their own pesticides, putting even more toxins into our food and fields than ever before.

There is no limit to the scope of the ecological impact of genetically engineered organisms. They may compete successfully with wild relatives, causing unforeseen changes in the environment. As these unnatural foods are consumed upward through the food chain, and genetically altered bac-

teria and viruses are released into the environment, it is impossible to contain or recall them. The effects will be irreversible.

What the experts say

George Wald, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Biology at Harvard University has this to say in his book, *The Recombinant DNA Debate*: "Recombinant DNA technology [genetic engineering] faces our society with problems unprecedented not only in the history of science, but of life on the Earth. It places in human hands the capacity to redesign living organisms, the products of some three billion years of evolution.

"Such intervention must not be confused with previous intrusions upon the natural order of living organisms, animal and plant breeding, for example, or the artificial induction of mutations, as with X-rays. All such earlier procedures worked within single or closely related species. The nub of the new technology is to move genes back and forth, not only across species lines, but across any boundaries that now divide living organisms. The results will be essentially new organisms, self-perpetuating and hence permanent. Once created, they cannot be recalled.... Going ahead in this direction may be not only unwise, but dangerous. Potentially, it could breed new animal and plant diseases, new sources of cancer, novel epidemics."

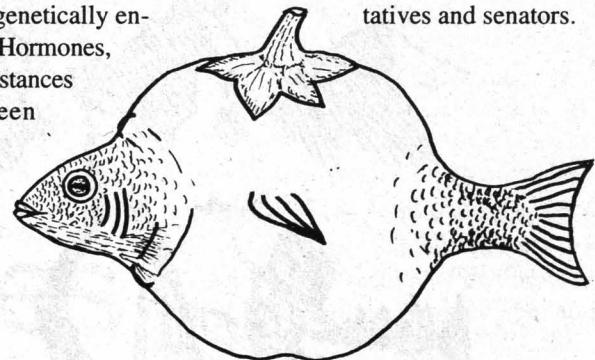
The FDA has taken the position that genetically engineered foods may be introduced freely into our food supply, without restriction and without labeling. As a result, right now over 60% of foods sold in grocery stores contain genetically engineered organisms. Hormones, viruses, bacteria, substances that have never been part of the human food supply now permeate the foods

we eat every day.

What You Can Do

So what is a conscientious eater to do? First, pay attention to what you eat. Buy organic whenever possible. Eat fresh whole foods and read labels when you don't. The odds of getting the genes that Mother Nature created are far better when you stick with organic growers. Keep in mind, however, that packaged foods may contain a list of ingredients that bear scrutiny. There are resources available that can help you select food manufacturers that are committed to using only non-genetically engineered foods. One of these is Mothers for Natural Law, who has, among other efforts, compiled a list of "safe" foods. It is available on their website, at <www.safe-food.org>, or at many health food stores.

But soon, even those measures won't be sufficient. We need to generate the numbers and volume to see that the voice of reason is heard among those with the power to call a halt to what may be the most serious and irreversible threat to every living creature on the planet. A massive grassroots campaign is emerging to demand that Congress legislate mandatory labeling of all genetically engineered foods. Mothers for Natural Law is gathering signatures as are most health food stores, and of course, the MEC. Stop by and sign a petition or, even better, write your representatives and senators.



A genetically engineered tomatofish.

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some of the languages those machines use. The IRS, the Social Security Administration, the Pentagon, our nuclear arsenal—we can expect all these and more to quit functioning, at least according to the more pessimistic of those addressing the issue. Our lives are so computer orchestrated, in all areas from national security and air traffic control to catalog ordering, credit cards and computerized auto repair diagnostics and parts inventory, that the technological safety net we have become so dependent on is now even more fragile than our planet. And we approach an unchangeable deadline.

What to do? In fact, none of this may happen. Y2K may come and go with no more than a few days inconvenience, or it could bring down civilization as we know it. Or something in between. It makes sense to prepare for, if not the worst, at least some period of shutdown. That involves acting out of concern, but not in panic.

Possible Earthquake

Think of it as a possible earthquake which takes out all our utilities and all our usual sources of supplies over an unknown period of time. To be ready we have to get together with our families or households, our neigh-

bors, and our communities and set things up so that we have food, water and fuel on hand and a system whereby we can hunker down and ride it out by helping each other. Each household should have at least a couple of week's worth of supplies on hand and the community should have backup supplies in case that isn't enough. We might point out that such an arrangement is a good idea anyway. Short-term, emergency solutions of decentralized power pegged to sustainable power later, sustainable agriculture, local currency, and vigorous community barn-building of all sorts not only might save our behinds, they represent better long-term

practices anyway.

Some folks will be tempted to collect their dry goods and get plenty of ammunition, then take themselves and their guns back into the woods, there to defend themselves against the imagined hordes that will be coming after their stores. Think again. The single individual against the world scenario plays well with survivalists and any number of TV-oriented romantics, but its efficacy is limited in real life. Whatever disruptions we may experience, we're far, far better off approaching them as neighborhoods or communities than as individuals.

a time for Change

a Song of the River

by Denny O'Brien

I am the river.

Every day, water from the South Fork of the Eel River is diverted into the Russian River through a tunnel at the north end of Potter Valley. The water flow is used by P.G. & E. to generate power. P.G. & E.'s license is granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FERC will only grant a renewal if the needs of the Eel River watershed are addressed.

My water is being taken.

FERC has been working with other government agencies, such as the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and members of the public to determine how much diversion, if any, can be permitted. Those interested include water users in Mendocino, Sonoma, and Marin counties. Southern Sonoma and Marin Counties receive their water through the Santa Rosa Municipal system, even though they are not in the Russian River watershed.

a time for Change

My fish are dying.

In late November, DOI took the position that the Eel River fisheries must be protected before any water can be diverted. Marin County officials responded that bureaucrats were taking "their" water, noting that Sonoma County "owned" 87% of the water in Lake Mendocino (the construction of which was financed by that county). In early December, Mendocino County officials expressed concerns that the newly formed Russian River Watershed Council was weighted too heavily toward Sonoma County users.

I want to give life.

There are essentially three positions in this debate: 1) Priority should be given to agricultural/residential uses over the natural watershed; 2) Priority should be given to the watershed, including the fisheries, over the agricultural/residential uses; and 3) The Eel should be restored to its natural state, with no diversion.

Let me speak through you.

Last August I went to a gathering of like-minded nature lovers for a celebration of summer along the East Fork of the Russian River above Lake Mendocino. Most of our activity was in or near the water, which rushed neck-deep before widening to a pleasant shallows ahead of the rapids. A few miles away, along the North Fork, the riverbed was dry, as the East Fork would be without the diversion. Every drop of water we were playing in, every drop that was flowing into the lake, was the Eel River.

In late October, before the heavy rains, I went to the Eel. First I passed the Russian, still flowing strong. Then a brief look at the power plant at the top of Potter Valley before heading over the divide into the Eel River watershed. Van Arsdale Dam awaited, several stories high, its awkward, switchback fish ladder seemingly impassable. Finally, via a closed road between private property, I reached the river below the dam.

It was no longer a river. It was an ankle-deep stream that I easily jumped across, meandering through a wide cobblestone riverbed. At least 95% of the water, even by the roughest estimate, was being diverted.

I want to love, and be loved.

The strongest argument for diversion is the fact that the Russian River would dry up each year north of the Warm Springs Dam near Healdsburg. That area is composed of five valleys: Potter, Redwood, Yokayo, Sanel, and Alexander. These valleys were created by a river that included the flow from Clear Lake, until a massive landslide several hundred years ago redirected that water to the central valley.

If there is to be any diversion, then the stewards of the Eel River would adopt the valleys of the upper Russian. And they would require this adopted family to use and protect the water as though still flowing north, with the same protections as other wild and scenic rivers.

Would this be natural? Yes, if human ingenuity is part of nature. But then, so is the human conscience, and reasoning. And love.

Please listen.

There can be no compromise in the need to restore the Eel River fisheries. If there is any diversion, it can only be the excess. And the Russian River Valleys must be protected.

There are some with whom I've spoken about the diversion, and their response is "Hell, no. Damn the tunnel!" They are principled people who have seen impersonal forces, such as the profits of distant corporations, destroy nature. The river speaks through them.

The Russian River dwellers must never presume the generosity of the Eel. If we need its waters, let us please ask with respect, and cherish each drop. Or, like the goose's golden eggs, the water will disappear forever.



Oraibi Hopi Nation, Arizona

Counting on his fingers, a Hopi elder stood and spoke, "You have been telling the people that this is the 11th hour. Now go and tell them THIS IS THE HOUR! There are 10 things to consider:

1. Where are you living?
2. What are you doing?
3. What are your relationships?
4. Are you in right relationship?
5. Where is your water?
6. Know your garden.
7. It is time to speak your truth.
8. Create your community.
9. Be good to each other.
10. Do not look outside yourself for the leader."

Then he brought his hands together in a clasp and said, "This could be a good time."

Sustainable community

by Steve and Christiane Heckerroth

People tend to dwell on the philosophic, aesthetic and social aspects of sustainability when they talk about sustainable communities and give less attention to the maintenance of the physical environment. Yet, in the end, it will be the physical environment that determines whether a community can sustain itself.

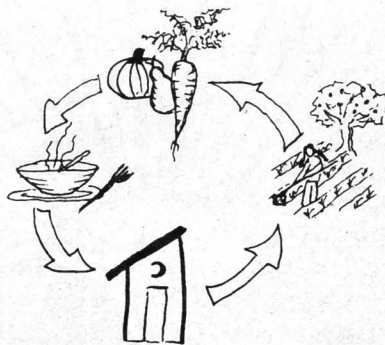
There are three key principles: first, we must maintain or improve the air, water and soil quality; second, we must assure the completion of natural cycles; and third, we must use resources equitably and efficiently.

We put a lot of effort toward ensuring the quality of the food we eat. But consider, we can survive a month without food and only three days without water, but without oxygen we can only survive for three minutes. Oxygen is arguably the most precious resource on earth, yet we take it for granted.

In the first six months of life, an infant converts about 400 cubic feet of oxygen to carbon dioxide. Burning one gallon of gasoline uses approximately the same 400 cubic feet of oxygen, but the exhaust created contains many toxic gases that can't be assimilated in the environment. When we use the oxygen in combustion, we disrupt the cycle and compromise the quality of the air. When we breathe we are participating with the earth's plant life in a cycle that includes photosynthesis and respiration in a process that maintains the balance that makes life possible.

Natural Cycles

A sustainable lifestyle has to incorporate an understanding of the importance of completing natural cycles. For instance, human waste is a nutrient when buried in the soil, but when introduced into streams, lakes and oceans, it becomes a pollutant that disrupts the natural cycle. It's even worse with the fertilizers and poisons that we use on agricultural lands that leach into streams.



The word "waste" shouldn't even be part of our vocabulary. The concept of completing cycles precludes producing things that create waste. If it's not a nutrient, if it doesn't fit into a cycle, we shouldn't produce it. Reduce, reuse and recycle are hollow words if we don't practice them. We need to go way beyond plastic bottles to every manufactured product we use.

Equity

As for the third principle, understanding what equity means as it relates to sustainability requires some history. Both the oxygen that makes life possible and the resources that fueled the industrial revolution developed on earth over billions of years, yet we are depleting those resources in a matter of centuries or even decades. Sustainability implies intergenerational equity, which means that the earth's supply of resources should last until the sun burns out, some 5.5 billion years from now. At our present rate of use, petroleum resources will probably run out early in the coming century.

It all starts with the individual. Even the most environmentally sensitive people will get in their cars—often the gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles (SUVs)—and drive for miles and miles without thinking of the environmental cost. Cars are extremely inefficient, considering the amount of fuel they consume, the embodied energy that goes into their manufacture and the infrastructure that supports their use.

Burning a gallon of gasoline uses up 150,000 BTUs of energy. A car that gets 15 miles to the gallon uses about a million BTUs to go a hundred miles. Contrast that with the efficiency of a human being. We consume a net of about 2 BTUs of food energy a day. On that amount of energy we can walk 30 miles or ride a bike about 100 miles. Which means that people are half a million times more efficient than cars in converting fuel into mobility.

Unfortunately, the layout of our existing communities often does not support pedestrians or bicyclists. We need to plan communities around people, not cars, and we can do so using existing alternatives.

An enclosed ultra-light rail pedal-electric car offers a virtually frictionless mode of transportation between communities. An 8' wide, raised, two-directional rail system could carry as many people as 24 lanes of freeway and leave the ground undisturbed for wildlife corridors and agriculture. The other wonderful thing about rail is that you don't have to pay attention to the road, which leaves your mind and hands free. Constructing 24 lanes of freeway, weighing 130,000 pounds per linear foot, is an unconscionable use of resources when compared to the 150 pounds per linear foot of a raised ultra-light rail system.

More Energy

Sustainability requires that we learn how to tap the virtually unlimited but dispersed energy that we get from the sun. More energy strikes the earth from the sun every day than the amount of energy available from the earth's entire petroleum resource, but we design our buildings to work from a utility grid that provides power from non-renewable sources. In addition, there are tremendous losses in transmission and distribution of electricity. We need to consider solar access when we do our planning, to build our shelter on south slopes, leaving the north slopes for forest and open space. If we orient our buildings toward the sun, the buildings' skins will generate the electricity and heat needed by the occupants and eliminate the need for artificial lights during daylight hours.

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a time for Change



Local currency: Building bridges

by Jan Allegretti

Local currency may prove to be an important tool as we seek to refashion our society in days to come. Whether we are preparing for a post-Y2K apocalypse or simply growing a vision for a more compassionate community, shifting from our present federally-based monetary system to one that operates solely within our immediate geographical area will help ensure our survival on many levels.

Local currency is a form of money that is printed and circulated locally. Individuals sign up to offer goods or services, based on their own talents and desire to contribute. When those goods or services are provided in exchange for similar contributions from other members of the community, and paid for with locally printed bills, those bills become a representation of a barter system that helps to de-

fine and clarify the value of the exchange.

One of the key benefits of a community monetary system is its ability to foster a greater level of connectedness among people. Because it encourages them to unplug from the federal note system, they are more likely to search out local resources rather than shopping at a corporate giant retail outlet. As explained by Chris McCormick, a member of the steering committee for Ukiah Hours, local currency "helps to bring out those aspects of people that they don't normally think about. They have jobs that are different from what they really dream about. It's a way for the community to get to know what an individual has to offer, a way of offering services that are not easily marketed in other ways.

"Within the federal note system, individual usefulness goes forgotten, so potential becomes devalued. In the framework of a local currency, people get to know one another

on a different level, relative to those values. They begin to build bridges, so that ultimately they may not need the bills; they get to know each other and provide for one another without having to plug into a corporate job just to make ends meet."

McCormick goes on to say, "If, indeed, our society is heading for change, local currency will help us to survive upheaval. People will be able to help each other out, know who they can turn to locally for food and other resources when the big corporate sources are gone. If the federal currency collapses, the money won't be in the community. If there is local currency circulating, there will be actual wealth in the community that we can use.

Ukiah Hours is a local currency that is being developed here in the greater Ukiah area. The steering committee is seeking new members, and is ready to start signing up participants and getting the word out about what services are available. If you're interested in joining the steering committee or would like more information, call (707) 462-4543. For information about SEED, a local currency for the Mendocino coast area, call (707) 937-4077 or 937-4412.

I aint gonna work on the corporate farm no more

by Joel Steed

"Many of the most lively expressions of spirit spring from the joyous, continuous contact of human beings with a particular locality. They feel the age-long spirit of this valley or that hill, each with its trees and rocks and special tricks of weather, as the seasons unfold in their endless charm. If life can be made secure in each community and if the rewards of the different communities are distributed justly, there will flower in each community not only those who attain joy in daily productive work well done: but also those who paint and sing and tell stories with the flavor peculiar to their own valley, well-loved hill, or broad prairie.... Every community can become something distinctly precious in its own right. Children will not try to escape as they grow up. They will look ahead to the possibility of enriching the traditions of their ancestors."

Henry Wallace

a time for Change

Between 1944 and 1950 Walter Goldschmidt (professor of sociology at the University of California) conducted a comparative study of Dinuba and Arvin, two farming communities located 120 miles from each other in the Central Valley. On the surface they were quite similar; both had populations between 4600 and 5000; both were supported by an equal acreage of farmland; both were limited by like ecological constraints. The one significant outward difference being that Dinuba was a small-farm community, while Arvin was surrounded by large Corporate farm holdings.



Inwardly, however, the study revealed fundamental differences between the two. The small-farm community Dinuba had 62 separate businesses; corporate Arvin only 35. Over 50% of Dinuba's work force was self-employed; compared to 30% of Arvins. Less than a third of Dinuba's workers were landless farm laborers; in Arvin nearly two-thirds were. Dinuba generated \$4.4 million of annual retail sales; Arvin \$2.5 million. Individually Dinubans spent three

times as much for household items and building equipment as did the residents of Arvin.

The citizens of Dinuba spent more time and money on the well-being of their community. Dinuba maintained more paved roads and sidewalks, had four elementary schools and one high school to Arvin's single elementary school and enjoyed three parks/playgrounds while Arvin had one on loan from a corporation. Dinuba was served by two newspapers both devoting more space to news than Arvin's single newspaper. Clearly the economy of Dinuba's self-employed farmers and businessfolk was more robust than Arvin's and, more importantly, the community as a whole and as individuals shared the benefits of their economy to a greater degree than did Arvin's.

Mendocino County

It is just as clear that Mendocino County and its constituent communities more closely resemble the model of Arvin's corporate plantation rather than Dinuba's self-sufficient one. Vast corporate timber holdings are ever the rule; modest locally owned timber lands the exception. Vineyards dominate agriculture with large foreign and domestic corporate wineries controlling a greater percentage of acreage with each passing year. Ukiah's ever growing strip mall along 101 provides for the 'harvesting' of local dollars by national and regional corporate retailers.

The dependency on corporate payrolls creates the illusion for local politicians that corporate participation is the goose that lays the golden egg of Mendocino's rather tarnished economy. Political leaders who do not see viable alternatives to the corporate plantation system will always be susceptible to threats of economic blackmail when attempts are made to enforce local environmental and land use laws on corporate entities. This results in decisions being made by corporate leaders—whom we do not elect and seldom see—that effect the economic, environmental, and social well-being of our community.

But we as citizens are not powerless in solving this dilemma. Our individual and collective spending, saving, and investing habits can create a Dinubian economy of self employed citizens who support their community. Dollars spent at corporate grocery outlets support the importation of produce at the expense of the environment and support the exportation of dollars at the expense of our communities and neighbors. Dollars spent at local grocery retailers support those businesses and the local farmers who provide them with produce and do not support environmental cost elsewhere. This is just one example of how our dollars have the power to shape a truly local economy. Farmers, tradespeople and retailers will be answerable for their business and environmental practices. Their profits will flow back to the community and their products will reflect their individual tastes, talents and pride, helping create a truly local culture, freeing Mendocino County from its status as one more outpost of Madison Avenue fad mongering.



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The use of energy efficient appliances, like front-loading washing machines, can cut our energy needs in half.

Every one of us has the opportunity to chart a new course for the future by the purchases and decisions we make every day. We can choose to plant an apple tree, harvest the fruit of our labor and buy locally-grown organic produce and support our neighbors, or we can buy apples from New Zealand. We can choose to buy a \$200 bicycle instead of a \$20,000 SUV and use it at every opportunity for the mostly short distances that we travel. And when we walk or ride bicycles we improve our health and gain an understanding for how roads divide communities and where paths are needed. We can start to make informed decisions in the planning process. We can spend the \$19,800 we saved by buying a bicycle on a photovoltaic roof on our home, and be

energy independent, taking advantage of the inexhaustible supply of energy from the sun available to all of us, or we can keep on paying the utilities to continue operating nuclear power plants.

We can make choices to build our homes of durable materials with low embodied energy. We can design our houses to take advantage of the energy and light available from the sun. We can choose to live in a community where our homes are within walking or cycling distance from employment, schools and services. We can work at home and we can support businesses that follow the guidelines for sustainability.

With enough individuals making those choices we can start a shift to sustainability.

tree free options

by Vicki Oldham

If we want forests, intact ecosystems and biodiversity to be a part of our future, we have to make some short-term sacrifices and lifestyle changes immediately. In the short-term, consumers must be willing to pay slightly more for tree-free alternatives and choose not to use some products.

For the general public, the sacrifice and change will be relatively painless. However, for the forest and mill workers, the changes and sacrifices are much greater. Like the gold miners, trappers, whalers, salmon fishers, and myriad others whose jobs disappeared before them, timber and mill workers now face job extinction. Retraining programs need to be initiated now. Habitat restoration projects and alternative fiber industries must be established to provide local jobs. The workers must realize that the future of employment in the timber industry is very bleak and encourage their children to seek higher education and employment in other fields. Fortunately, *Homo sapiens*, unlike other endangered species, has the ability to reason and adapt; we can capably survive severe changes.

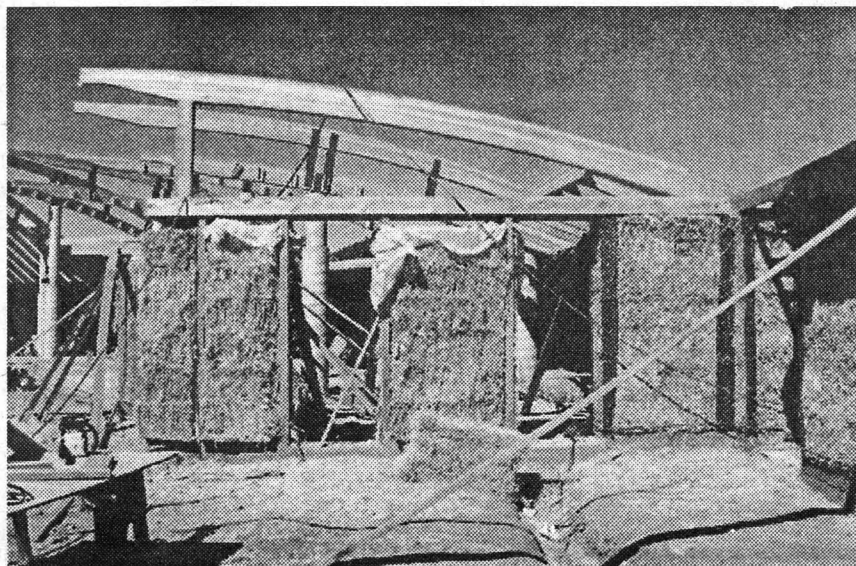
Most of us are aware that our own gluttonous consumption of forest products has contributed to the non-sustainable forestry practices that have all but destroyed our temperate rainforests. If we want the destruction to stop, then we have to stop. It's time to walk our talk, to rethink our own use and abuse of tree products and consume out of necessity, not convenience. Paper plates and cups, toothpicks, restaurant chopsticks, napkins and paper towels are all made to use and dispose. Stop using them. The alternatives are obvious and the sacrifice is small. Tree-free art paper, office paper and writing paper are available; pay the premium and use them. To answer the age-old question, "How ya gonna wipe yer butt?", the immediate answer is post-consumer waste, recycled paper. By the time we've used up all the recycled paper, there should be plenty of cheap alternative fibers for toilet paper.

More than a third

More than a third of the lumber consumed in the U.S. is used for housing, and over 90% of new single-family houses are wood framed. Approximately 11,000 board feet of lumber are used to build a medium-sized house. Framing accounts for 70% of the wood used in the average home. Wood is also the primary material used for subfloors, doors, cabinets, trim and siding. The timber industry says that if they don't cut trees there won't be enough wood to house the poor. We note the concern, but we don't need trees to house anyone. There are more practical, energy and labor-efficient, and less costly building systems and materials than wood provides. By choosing these alternatives we choose not to contribute to forest destruction.

Structural panel systems—used for over thirty years—provide a material- and labor-saving alternative to traditional two-by-four and two-by-six stick framing. With a core of expanded polystyrene (EPS) and oriented strand

board (OSB), the panels are structurally sound and can be used for walls, floors and roofs. They are ideal for housing the poor; not only are they quick and easy to erect, but the finished product is an energy efficient dwelling with energy bills that low-income people can afford. Although the EPS foam core is derived from a limited petroleum source, it only takes one quart of oil to make forty quarts of EPS foam, with no CFCs, HCFCs or formaldehyde. Expanded foam can be made from vegetable oils; hopefully it will be, in the future. OSB is mostly made of small wood chips harvested from fast-growing trees as opposed to the larger



Real Goods' straw bale Solar Living Center in Hopland, California, during construction.

dimensional timber used in plywood. OSB processing often uses plastic resins, toxic glues, binders and formaldehyde additives. There are a few manufacturers who make non-toxic, sustainably harvested OSB. There are also structural panels made from waste agricultural fibers. Manufactured from rye or wheat straw, corn or sugar-cane rind, and using non-toxic glues and binders, these panels not only help provide a tree-free building but also eliminate the burning of agricultural resources. Structural panels are also fabricated with recycled steel wire mesh faces over an EPS core. Shotcrete is field-applied to form an insulated, load-bearing, finished wall.

Straw bale houses are a low cost, low technology approach to home construction. Bales are stacked on a solid foundation, secured together and protected with thick coats of stucco. Bale houses are well-suited for areas with high seismic risk and/or severe climate, where straw resources are available. The two-foot thick walls can provide an insulation of R-45. Straw bale houses built in Nebraska at the turn of the century show very little sign of decay. Unlike wood, straw contains up to 60% silica which acts as a natural fire-retardant. The density of the compressed bales further prevents combustion. Straw bales make beautiful and comfortable tree-free homes.

Many dwellings can be made from earth. Cob houses have thick earthen and straw walls. There are also rammed earth and adobe-constructed houses which use very little wood. Super blocks are made by filling sand bags with earth and building dome dwellings by taking the earth from the interior "footprint" and finishing with stucco or cob. "Earthships" are earth-sheltered, adobe finished houses that

use recycled tires, bottles and cans as a substitute for exterior and interior walls.

Most residential sidings used today consist of wood or wood-based composites. There are alternatives available now. Fiber-cement composite sidings are a fireproof, durable and attractive alternative. Metal siding uses a great deal of energy to produce, but it often contains a high recycled content. When durability and end-use recyclability are factored in, the total energy involved in producing the siding is reduced. Stucco has long been a conventional alternative to wood siding.

The saying, "They can't see the forest for the trees" has been an appropriate description of the vision of the timber industry. Now, they don't see trees, they see fiber. That's how we win. There are many cheaper, superior, faster growing fibers that can replace tree fiber.

Kenaf and hemp produce longer, stronger, faster growing fiber than trees and can be used to make paper, plywood, OSB and engineered structural lumber. Many waste agricultural cereal crops can be made into paper wall coverings, cabinets, furniture and sheathing for structural panels.

Bamboo, the largest variety of grass, is super-strong, durable and the fastest growing woody plant. It is being used for posts, beams and trusses that are stronger than steel. Bamboo can cantilever two and a half times further than steel. It's 23% harder than oak and makes superior flooring, paneling, particle board, OSB, engineered lumber, molding, furniture and fencing. Harvesting does not harm the plant, which will produce more timbers. It can replace its mature fiber every three and a half years. There are varieties of timber bamboo well-suited to our climate. They also produce edible shoots worth about \$5/pound, sold fresh in Asian markets. Timber/edible bamboo is a crop that can compete in terms of dollars per acre with grapes.

If you must use wood:

- Buy salvaged lumber. Although there is certainly not an inexhaustible supply, it makes sense to reuse good wood as a natural resource that would otherwise be wasted.
- Buy certified sustainably harvested wood, to protect biodiversity. For "sustainability harvested" claims to be credible, they need independent, third-party certification.

Everything we do or don't do is a choice. To choose a future of forests forever, the path of the present must change. We must implement a shift of policies, ideas and lifestyles.

We can live without forest products. We can't live without forests.

What You Can Do

- Aspire to a tree-free lifestyle. Stop using all the tree products you can now, and wean yourself from using others.
- Write to our representatives and ask for re-training programs for forest workers. Tell them that well-paying, habitat restoration jobs are important for all species. Encourage them to promote the uses of alternative fibers, to relegalize hemp, and to establish new building codes that can cut the lumber used in construction by 70%.
- Buy recycled plastic lumber. Some plastic lumber is structural and can serve as studs and headers. They also have many outdoor applications, such as fences, decking, benches, picnic tables and landscape borders, replacing solid wood. Plastic lumber is rot and corrosion-proof and will not crack, splinter or chip. By purchasing 100% post-consumer, recycled ADP and HDPE manufactured lumber, we keep plastics from the waste stream.

a time for Change

Butterfly

On Thursday, December 10, Julia Butterfly Hill set an incredible record—living one full year on a tiny platform, 180 feet up in the top of a giant redwood named Luna.

She endured torrential rains, gale force winds and freezing temperatures, dangerous harassment by a log-burdened helicopter, and a ten day siege by company security that failed to intimidate or starve her out. She bore witness to the slaughter



of Luna's sister trees all around her, and grieved as other clearcuts appeared as blights on neighboring slopes. She watched as the massive mud slides that devastated the community of Stafford continued to erode and dump silt and debris into waterways below.

Yet, Julia is not concerned with records, has not given up hope, and is not about to come down: "When I climbed Luna, I gave my word to her, the forests, and all people that I would not allow my feet to touch the ground until I felt I have done everything I possibly can. I feel there is still much more to accomplish, and I have no immediate plans to descend."

What this remarkable young woman continues to accomplish is to speak truth to power, and to compel others to listen. Pure and clear (she prays every day and is facile with facts and figures), Julia has gained the respect of loggers who once ridiculed her, and has grabbed the attention of mainstream media previously unimpressed by the "antics" of us civil disobedient protestors. Good Housekeeping magazine nominated her as one of the "Most Admired Women in the News."

On December 12, the Saturday after Julia's one year anniversary in Luna, over 500 people rallied in Stafford to support her and to protest the Headwaters Forest Agreement and species killing Habitat Conservation Plan.

On the day of the Winter Solstice, December 21, Julia placed dozens of flashing battery powered lamps on Luna's branches, creating the world's largest, oldest Christmas tree. Clearly visible from Highway 101 in the Stafford area, Luna shines as "a beacon of hope for our forests, communities and our children."

Gypsy Mountain

The day after Gypsy's killing, a vigil and blockade were established at the road head leading up to the logging site. Soon thereafter, a support camp was set up at a nearby campground, the blockade was expanded and a tree-sit went up. Gypsy's killing evoked mass outrage and renewed criticism of PL/Maxxam's logging practices and the "Deal", including a sympathetic story in Time magazine.

Three months after company logger A. E. Ammons intentionally felled a large tree in the direction of Gypsy and his friends, the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office absolved Ammons of guilt; they based their "findings" almost entirely on Ammons' account of what happened and ignored the statements of seven activist eyewitnesses. In fact, a few weeks earlier, District Attorney Terry Farmer suggested charging the surviving affinity group members with manslaughter!

"The PalCo Papers", a chapter in Judi Bari's book, *Timber Wars*, documents the callousness of PL/Maxxam's management in condoning and encouraging violence against nonviolent protestors during Redwood Summer in 1990. A couple of weeks before Gypsy's killing, at the

State Legislature's Headwaters appropriations hearings, Pacific Lumber president John Campbell told Darryl Cherney that his workers were very angry and he didn't think they could be stopped from lashing out at protestors. It was more like a threat than an expression of concern.

The vigil at Gypsy Mountain continues where Gypsy left off, challenging and exposing PL/Maxxam's illegal logging practices, assuring his spirit that his sacrifice was not in vain. It is also intended to prevent destruction of evidence (Ammons wasn't falling trees in a rational sequence, although he is a seasoned professional), and to focus on the need for an impartial reinvestigation by the State Attorney General.

Meanwhile, Gypsy's family is filing a civil wrongful death lawsuit against PL/Maxxam. Though they have no background in "radical" involvements, they approved of his efforts to save Headwaters. Gypsy's mother, Cindy Allsbrooks, speaks out publicly and eloquently in support of environmentalists and against what PL/Maxxam is doing to the forest. She has asked that donations in Gypsy's memory be made to Earth First!

Watershed alliances

Julia Butterfly is not the only concerned citizen living in a tree. A local resident in the Freshwater area is in the third month of a tree-sit organized and supported by people who live in the area.

A very significant shift is occurring in the movement to stop PL/Maxxam from ravaging Headwaters Forest and the rest of their holdings. More and more established Humboldt County residents are speaking out against the way the company is doing business. What they have come to realize is that since Maxxam took over PL in 1985, only the name is the same. Pacific Lumber used to pride itself on practicing sustained yield forestry; PL/Maxxam prides itself on clearcutting.

On December 2, 1998, residents of the Freshwater and Elk River areas sponsored a press conference to publicize new reports by respected scientists critical of PL/Maxxam's draft Habitat Conservation Plan/Sustained Yield Plan. The reports conclude that these combined plans could cause the extinction of threatened coho salmon and marbled murrelets, and would increase mud slides and flooding suffered by downstream property owners. Some residents are suing PL/Maxxam. If found guilty, the company will not only be re-

sponsible for restitution, but also for substantial punitive damages.

One of the main reasons timber corporations like PL/Maxxam manage to do so much damage is lax enforcement of laws and rules on the part of state and federal agencies. Occasionally, however, one of these agencies takes its mandate seriously, and the North Coast Regional Water Control Board is acting vigorously on complaints lodged by downstream residents. Last spring the agency issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order on Freshwater Creek and the North Fork of the Elk River. The Board met again on December

10, chastised PL/Maxxam for failing to obey terms of the order, and instructed their staff to force the company into compliance. They also communicated with CDF, urging that agency to do its part to keep watersheds from being trashed.

This month, the Humboldt County Watershed Council and Forests Forever will petition the State Board of Forestry to adapt emergency rules governing cumulative impacts of logging, water quality and flooding in several watersheds. The State Forest Practices Act mandates such rules, and the California Endangered Species Act requires actual measurements, but the BOF has done neither.



Head

by Lang Russel

The Campaign to save Headwaters Forest is a loose each year their efforts come together in a unique way.

In 1998, there was no mass rally in mid-September to help people prepare to defend old-growth groves. On October 1, it was crunch time, the California State Legislature left opposition to Maxxam's Habitat Conservation Plan.

David "Gypsy" Chain was killed on September 11, 1997, together at the Action Training Camp, and was trying to establish a murrelet study area.

On November 1, several hundred people participated in the killing of Gypsy Chain, and police use of pepper spray from Arcata Plaza to the office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. U.S.F.W.S. office was a right-on destination, since it was on the "Deal", most of them critical.

Following are updates on several components of the campaign.

Fire in

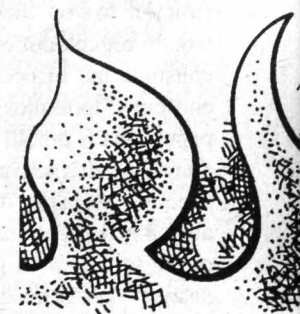
Frustrated by the persistence and effectiveness of the Headwaters campaign, the powers-that-be have begun to seriously crack down. Besides the ultimate violation of assaulting us with falling trees and finally killing one of our brothers, PL/Maxxam, via "law enforcement," resorts to torture.

On several occasions sheriff's deputies have rubbed and poured liquid pepper spray directly into the eyes of nonviolent activists engaged in passive resistance. Heretofore, pepper spray was reserved for violent persons posing an immediate threat, or for out-of-control riots, neither of which has ever been an issue in Earth First! actions. Pepper spray has caused numerous deaths, leading civil rights advocates to urge that it not be used on anyone.

This is intimidation by torture, plain and simple. The desperate tactic was used in August and September of 1997 against protestors who had "locked down" (joined their arms together in metal sleeves) in Pacific Lumber's Scotia headquarters, in ex-congress member Frank Riggs' Eureka office, and at a logging site at Bear Creek. The police claimed that pepper spray was the "safest" way to force the activists to release themselves and that they (the police) didn't have any other choices. The reality is that over the years they have cut literally hundreds of us

loose using little problems.

For a while, it and the police violence and sadistic practice



a police video of victims evoked a sense of outrage when it was shown on newscasts. In August, a jury of eight jurors agreed with women's eyelids with pepper spray agony constituted

The victims were retried, but before Judge Vaughn W. Stating that pepper spray was a reasonable way to force protestors. Short ruling, the Police Training Commission conclusion, stating that the difference between a protest and a riot. If you do

Headwaters

INTERVIEW & UPDATES

ated effort by many organizations and individuals, and ad, Earth First! conducted an Action Training Camp to organizations focused on the Headwaters acquisition "Deal". approved the state's share of funding on August 31. This is the last hope for stopping the "Deal". everything changed. Gypsy's affinity group had come to PL/Maxxam logging which was illegally encroaching

a spirited rally in Arcata, focusing on the "Deal", the march led by giant Art and Revolution puppets made its finale at the State Service, where street theater was performed. This collection point for the 18,000 public comments submitted

Headwaters Campaign as they have evolved over the past few

Fire in the eyes

grinders, with no that PL/Maxxam dare resort to this stark footage from

On October 7 and 8 of 1998, Humboldt County sheriff's deputies again used pepper spray in activists' eyes as they were "busting" the multi-staged blockade of the road leading up Gypsy Mountain. One young woman withstood repeated pepper spray assaults over the course of a full day and was eventually cut out the old way.

Now we must not only nonviolently defend the forest, but also ourselves from deadly assaults and torture. An appeal of the civil suit on behalf of the pepper spray victims is set for this month, and an excellent video, "Fire In The Eyes" is circulating.

This is a critical time in the Headwaters struggle. In their desperation, PL/Maxxam is saying, in effect, "If you try to stop us or expose what we are doing, we may torture you or even kill you." We must remain strong, must keep putting ourselves in the path of destruction, and must demand that we be treated as what we are—principled, nonviolent forest protectors.

by lawyers of the outrage and criticism on network TV of 1998 a civil trial when four out of at pulling young and swabbing them they screamed incessive force." Looking forward to a could commence dismissed the case, ay in the eyes is a al with nonviolent er Judge Walker's ers Standards and came to a similar t there is no differ- and passive resist- ey an officer's or-



With PL/Maxxam logging at a frenetic pace, this is boom time for timber workers. Cutting and milling are proceeding at two to three times the sustained yield rate of the old Pacific Lumber, and labor has been imported from other states.

Of course, the flip side of boom is bust, and bust will come in a few years after PL/Maxxam has stripped off most of the remaining old growth and mature second growth trees. The corporation claims they are converting their clearcuts to even-age monospecies tree farms. But even if this biologically bankrupt plan were to work for a while, it wouldn't take very many workers to harvest crops of "pecker poles."

Even now, there are tensions between workers and management. When CDF did a rare turnabout and pulled PL/Maxxam's Timber Operator License in November,

The workers

180 workers lost their jobs. Boom-time logging is erratic, with winter layoffs that the old PL did not resort to. And there are still lingering resentments and a lawsuit over the \$55 million that Hurwitz ripped off from the employees' pension fund when he took over PL thirteen years ago.

A few workers have seen the writing on the wall and have spoken out. Stan Chandler, a third generation old-growth timber faller went public after he was fired for protesting cost cutting moves that compromised worker safety. And Doug Thomas quit working for PL/Maxxam out of conscience, relocating and taking a lower paying job. Doug has voiced his concerns before the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and at Headwaters rallies.

For ten years, starting with Judi Bari,

activists have consistently tried to bond with workers, pointing out that long-term job security is totally dependent upon sustained yield forestry and healthy forest ecosystems. For over six months, Earth First!ers sat at a table in Scotia with signs that read "Pro Worker/Anti Maxxam" and "We Will Listen."

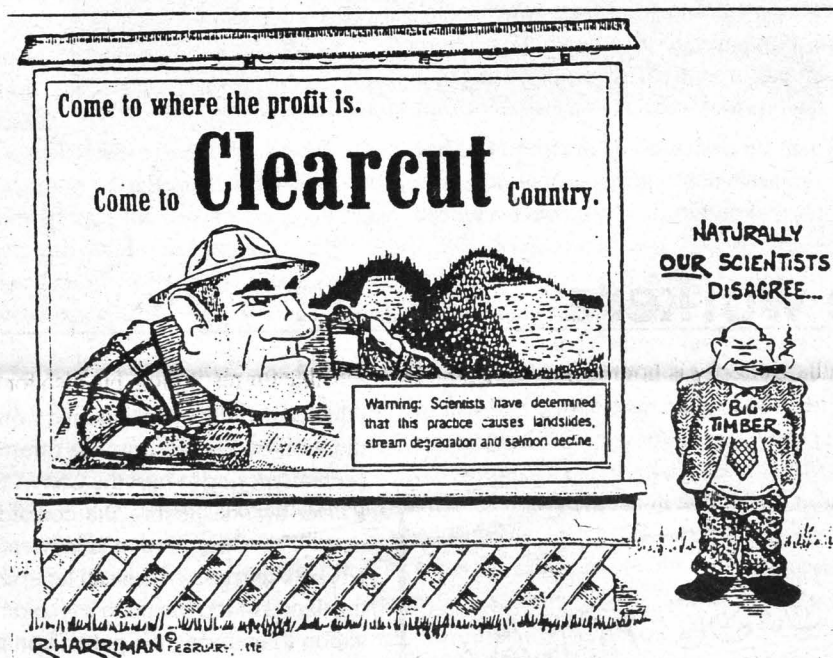
A very heartening alliance is developing between environmentalists and the United Steelworkers of America, and it directly relates to Headwaters and to Pacific Lumber employees. Maxxam Corporation leveraged a takeover of Kaiser

Continued on page 12

Jail Hurwitz—debt for nature

It's outrageous enough that if the Headwaters "Deal" flies, Charles Hurwitz will be rewarded to the tune of \$480 million for circumventing the Endangered Species Act. The real travesty is that he owes us taxpayers for the \$1.6 billion bail-out of a failed savings and loan.

Hurwitz has been charged in this connection by the Office of Thrift Supervision, and is currently on trial in Houston. Should he be found guilty, many feel that, at the minimum, he should cede Headwaters to the public as a "debt for nature." Others also believe he should be imprisoned for his fraudulent financial activities, and a \$50,000 reward is being offered for information leading to his arrest, conviction and incarceration. Check out <www.jailhurwitz.com>.



Spring Headwaters campaign

The big September Headwaters Rally is happening early this year—on Sunday, February 28. A Mass Civil Disobedience action will follow the next day. An Action Training Camp will start on Wednesday, February 24 to help people prepare for the mass CD and for smaller actions at specific Pacific Lumber/Maxxam Corporation logging sites.

As in the past, the focuses of our protests will be the slaughtering of the last old-growth groves; the massive clearcuts and resulting mudslides and siltation of creeks and rivers; and the imminent extinction of Coho salmon, marbled

murrelets, spotted owls and dozens of other species. Other important issues are the torturing of nonviolent activists with liquid pepper spray rubbed directly into their eyes; the killing of David "Gypsy" Chain; the harm done to neighboring property owners; and the unemployment and local economic depression that will follow the liquidation of the forest.

The fate of the Headwaters Forest Agreement (the notorious "Deal") is still uncertain as this newsletter goes to press. Several weeks after their "final" deadline, Senator Diane Feinstein and representa-

tives of Maxxam and the Interior Department have been unable to come to terms. Most environmentalists didn't like the draft versions of the "Deal" anyway, and it is unlikely that whatever tinkering the Interior Department has done will make much difference to the trees, the critters, the neighbors or the workers.

The locations of the Rally, the Mass Civil Disobedience and the Action Training Camp are still being finalized. Call the MEC at (707) 468-1660 or North Coast Earth First! at (707) 825-6598 for information.

Gray Davis Maxxam connection

by Lynda McClure

One of the first acts of governor-elect Gray Davis was to appoint Barry Munitz to head his transition team. In that capacity, Munitz will be key in the appointment of more than 100 new gubernatorial staff and advise on allocations in the state budget. As former California State University Chancellor, and current CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust, he has some impressive education and financial management credentials. However, there is more to Barry Munitz' work history. He served for nine years as vice chairman of Maxxam Corporation, parent company of Pacific Lumber, which owns Headwaters Forest. He is co-respondent in federal Justice Department hearings with

Maxxam president Charles Hurwitz over the crash of a Texas savings and loan, which invested in junk bonds to finance Maxxam's unfriendly takeover of Pacific Lumber. Munitz is charged with unsafe and unsound banking practices and certain regulatory violations associated with the failed S&L.

During his time as CSU's chancellor there were substantial student fee hikes, enrollment reduction, and phasing out of affirmative action. Allegations of corporatizing the CSU campuses are based, in part, on deals with high-tech companies to provide money or technology to the university in exchange for product monopoly or property rights on the campuses. GTE, Hughes Communication, Fujitsu, and Microsoft were some of the companies involved with these unprecedented corporate/CSU deals. Strong oppo-

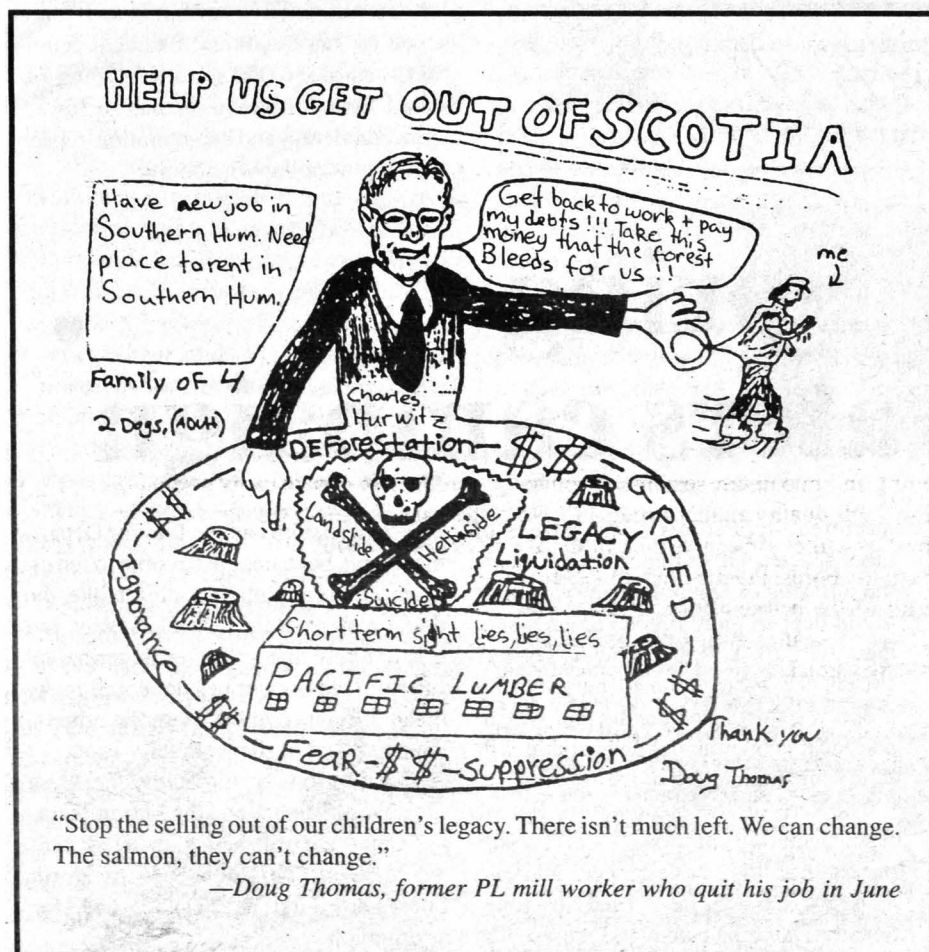
sition by the California Faculty Association took some of the support from this policy.

It will be wise to keep a close eye on the governor's appointments which are made at the recommendation of Barry Munitz, and on the course a governor who would seek his counsel will chart.

Material for this article is excerpted from the Sonoma County Independent, Vol. 29, No. 29, Dec. 10-16, 1998; "To The Maxx by Cecily Barnes."

Headwaters: The workers

continued from page 11



Aluminum with profits gained from the liquidation of Pacific Lumber forests, and is presently trying to bust the USWA from five Kaiser plants. Seeing the connection between their struggle and Headwaters, steelworkers sent out a thousand letters demanding denial of PL/Maxxam's Habitat Conservation Plan during the public comment period. Earth First! reciprocated by helping blockade the unloading of a ship carrying bauxite to Kaiser's plant in Tacoma, Washington.

A contingent of 150 USWA members visited Humboldt County early in December, conducting informational pickets at PL/Maxxam mills in Scotia, Carlotta and Fortuna. Their purpose was to encourage PL workers to unionize and to ask them not to "scab" at the Kaiser plants the USWA is striking (after PL/Maxxam lost their Timber Operators License, the corporation offered their laid-off employees big bucks to become Kaiser "replacement workers"). In a blatant affront to free speech, management locked PL workers inside the mill buildings at lunchtime and after work, denying them any contact with the picketers.

The USWA people did have lots of good contact with local environmentalists, who are rooting for PL employees to form their own union. If that happens, workers will be much less subject to corporate intimidation, and much more open to allying themselves with us forest defenders.



MRC in the forest: Head 'em off at the Gap!

by Mary Pjerrou

There's a Gap in Mendocino County forests—what's left of them, that is. On July 1, 1998, a newly formed company, the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC), assumed ownership of Louisiana Pacific Corporation's 235,000 acres of mostly cut-over timberlands in Mendocino and Sonoma Counties. The Fisher family has a controlling interest in both MRC and The Gap, Inc. They've made a fortune, reported to be in excess of \$11 billion, from clothing sales at their Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy clothing stores and have invested part of it in the final liquidation of L-P forests.

Green-washing

The Gap tries to project an environmentally friendly corporate image, but MRC's actual logging practices do not jibe with the Fishers' promises of conscientious forest stewardship. According to the California Department of Forestry (CDF), fifty percent of the timber harvest plans (THPs) filed by MRC since their takeover contain clearcutting and over seventy percent contain high-impact logging methods, including clearcutting. These are the same percentages as for L-P THPs filed in 1997 and 1998 (plans which the Fishers now own as well.)

Current (1997-'98) Fisher family plans include all or partial clearcutting in many watershed areas; one, at Flynn Creek, almost denudes a steep ridgeside and calls it "alternative prescription." They call other high impact plans "rehab" or "shelterwood removal."

Fisher spokesperson Sandy Dean has been trying to sell this L-P clearcutting program as "restoration!" publicly using the example of a 418 acre Elk Creek clearcut, which he characterizes as "primarily tanoak." But MRC's own forester declares that the areas marked for clearcutting are 58% redwood and Douglas fir. Dean leads people to believe that the company's clearcutting plans are somehow benign.

MRC's logging program is aimed at taking the last merchantable trees on their forest lands. Many coastal residents suspect that once they extract the last timber profits, the Fishers will divide the land into small parcels and sell it off (the family is also in real estate development).

Farewell to the salmon

The same Elk Creek logging plan that Sandy Dean keeps trying to paint green, THP 1-97-445 MEN, is a disaster in the making for Coho salmon. L-P fish distribution data (released under threat of lawsuit) shows that the "10 or fewer" fish found in Elk Creek, just downstream from the proposed

clearcutting were the only Coho found in a 150 square mile region. The first version of the THP suppressed that data, and the licensed professional forester who wrote the plan now says that more surveys are re-



quired. He proposes to clearcut the area, then repeat his previous stream channel analysis, proposing no new fish surveys. Last April, Mendocino coast residents obtained an injunction on THP 445, but CDF is about to fraudulently re-approve it. In a deal worked out with the Fishers' lawyer, Jared Carter, and the outgoing attorney general, CDF "fixed" the plan with minor and cosmetic changes.

Adding insult to injury, CDF is about to approve another 402 acre logging plan, THP 1-09-266 MEN, directly downstream from those same pitiful Elk Creek Coho, despite the fact that it doesn't discuss the cumulative effects of the upstream THP 445. Together, these plans propose over a thousand acres of logging surrounding this dying fishery, and neither plan considers the other.

RCWA #1: Sustained yield all over again

In the early 1990s, the Redwood Coast Watersheds Alliance asked the Superior Court in San Francisco to declare that the Board of Forestry must write Forest Practice Rules resulting in "maximum sustained production of high quality timber products." No such rules had ever been written in the 20 years of the Forest Practice Act. In 1994, as a result of the heroic efforts of Stephanie and Chris Tebbutt, Bill Johnson, Richard Hart and Sharon Duggan, the court ruled that the Board does indeed have such a duty.

Meanwhile, Pete Wilson appointed his campaign manager Terry Gorton to head the Board of Forestry, and Gorton and industry lawyers got busy writing our present "sustained yield" rules which, as we know, have resulted in "maximum sustained production of pecker poles." However, there is still the potential for *real* sustained yield rules as long as the Board has to comply with RCWA

v. Board of Forestry (RCWA #1).

Failed gubernatorial candidate Dan Lungren appealed this ruling, as one of this last acts as California Attorney General. The hearing took place on December 17, 1998 in the Court of Appeals in San Francisco, before a panel of three Appellate Justices. It appears, from questions the Justices posed (starting with, "What are we doing here?") that liquidation logging may lose this one.

Though it's a bit late in the day to be thinking about "sustained yield," we do have the future of the current crop of 11- to 16-inch diameter trees to consider. Will we ever have a true forest here again?

At the turn of the century, local people used to fill wheelbarrows with what were called "silver-sided salmon" two or three times a winter. As late as the 1970s there were still fish in the streams and in the ocean. What has happened since that time—all the way up to this New Year's Eve—is one of the crimes of the century.

What You Can Do

- * Contact friends and relatives and tell them about the on-line petition. It is available for downloading or on-line signing at: <www.elksoft.com/petition>.

- * Ask friends and relatives to boycott all Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy clothing stores and ask them to write a letter to the Fishers, telling them why. Write to: The Fisher Family, c/o Robert Fisher, Gap, Inc., 900 Cherry Avenue, San Bruno, CA 95400, phone# (650) 932-4400.

- Write to public officials:

Governor Gray Davis, California State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814;

Virginia Strom-Martin, California State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814;

Attorney General Bill Lockyer, California State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814;

California Department of Forestry, P.O. Box 670, Santa Rosa, CA 95402, fax (707) 576-2608;

For more information, call Mary Pjerrou, (707) 877-3405, Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance or Mary Bull, (415) 731-7924, Save the Redwoods/Boycott the Gap.

To help or donate badly needed funds for the cause, contact the above or the MEC, (707) 468-1660.

GAP boycott actions

by Mary Pjerrou

People in more than 30 cities around the nation picketed Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy stores on November 27 to protest Fisher family logging of redwoods on the Mendocino Coast. The grassroots uprising kicked off a boycott slated to continue until Mendocino Redwood Company—also controlled by the Fishers—starts logging sustainably and stops clearcutting, felling the last old-growth trees and spraying herbicides.

Pickets walked in New York City, where 10 Lindy Hoppers danced on 5th Avenue for the redwoods, in Chicago, Atlanta, Durham, Chapel Hill, Seattle and Tacoma; in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Utah, New Mexico, Hawaii and other points, including

eight California cities. All these events were in concert with our rally in Union Square in San Francisco, where 300 people gathered, marched and picketed the Gap, a march and picket on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley and a T-shirt picket in Santa Rosa Plaza organized entirely by Mendocino Community High School students. Picketing continued throughout the Christmas shopping season in San Francisco, home of the Gap, organized by coordinator Mary Bull with the help of Forests Forever and other volunteers.

In addition, **ten thousand people** around the state, the nation and the world, have signed the Petition to Save the Mendocino Coast Redwood Forest! You can download the petition or sign it on-line at <www.elksoft.com/petition>.



Cold Creek Compost

UPDATES

bombing case Judi Bari

by Vicki Oldham

I called "Preserve Country Neighborhoods" attorney Pano Stephens to find out the status of their lawsuit filed against the County regarding the nuisance and CEQA issues surrounding Cold Creek Compost, Inc. (CCCI). Stephens said that they were requesting a trial date and had decided to split into two separate suits: one regarding CEQA and the other regarding nuisance. That's because a nuisance suit may be allowed a jury trial and can use evidence up to the present. A CEQA suit takes place before a judge and can't use current, developing evidence.

Perusing County Files

I spent a few hours at the County Health Department's Division of Environmental Health, reading through the CCCI file. I was curious to see what the corporation and the County had been up to since the Board of Supervisors heard the appeal and approved the project in April, 1998. I noticed that CCCI has continued to mine soil at their Guntley Ranch site to mix in with their product. They have persisted in soil mining despite a warning from the County that the unpermitted soil mining must stop.

In the August, 15, 1998 Report of Facility Information, the mitigation regarding testing the Masonite ash, as written and approved in the EIR, has been changed, after the fact. It now states, "Masonite ash will also be tested prior to acceptance if burning fuels other than clean wood, oil, natural gas and residue from their manufacturing process." The word "oil" is an addition. It refers to Fuel Oil #6, a dirty waste oil. Oil was deleted as a mitigation measure in the EIR, but that dirty little word has now reappeared in the Masonite ash mitigation. This allows the International Paper subsidiary to burn fuel oil without notifying the Lead Enforcement Agency or being required to retest what CCCI calls "wood ash."

Violation

The Compost Facility Inspection Report of 8-25-98 states that CCCI was in violation of (PRC44002) "Operator has not complied with condition #2, application for Solid Waste Facilities permit is past due. The report notes an area of concern: "Ash must be covered with tarps for dust control." The covering of Masonite boiler and scrubber ash is a mitigation to protect the public from airborne particulates. The Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors approved the EIR expecting this mitigation to take place.

On 9/21/98, Martin Mileck, owner-operator of CCCI, submitted a standard permit application for the overdue Solid Waste Fa-

cilities Permit. Under the type of materials to be handled, Mr. Mileck included: biosolids, fishery wastes, street sweepings and restaurant wastes. In certifying the EIR, the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors specifically deleted those feedstocks from the project. On 10-15-98, John Morley, of Environmental Health, stated in a letter to Mileck, "At this time the LEA cannot accept the application for filing." Besides the addition of prohibited feedstocks there were also other items that needed to be addressed. There was "no mention of sampling for pathogen reduction compliance and no odor management plan."

On 11-19-98, John Morley sent a registered letter to Mileck regarding CCCI's still overdue Solid Waste Facility Permit application. It stated, "This is the first notice informing you of our intent to issue a Cease and Desist Order against Cold Creek Compost, Inc. (Operator) on December 31, 1998 if by that date the operator does not have an application for solid waste facility permit that has been deemed completed and correct by the Local Enforcement Agency."

On 11-30-98, during a storm event, John Morley inspected CCCI. He found "Approximately 2,000 yards of post pathogen reduction compost stored outside the roof structure with no tarp cover." This is a violation of mitigation measure 3.2.1(a). The report also states, "Mitigation Measure 3.2.1(c) referred to North Coast Regional Water Quality Control (NCRWQCB). Compost pad has not been swept. No evidence that pad was scraped. Residual compost material mingled with compost pad soil contributing to leachate running off compost pad. Leachate flow primarily in northern direction." Morley had taken several photos of oozing brown leachate flowing off the compost pad. The pictures are truly worth a thousand words. These violations are typical of the "Best Management Practices" of CCCI. The MEC repeatedly warned the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors about that, to no avail.

I asked John Morley if CCCI would be fined for these blatant violations. He said it was no longer up to Environmental Health and the NCRWQCB is the agency that now addresses the fines. I then asked him if the Supervisors could act. Morley said that in May, 1999—one year after the Board approved the Use Permit—chief planner for the project, Pam Townsend, will report to the Board on CCCI. Until then it's up to the public to call the Board's attention to CCCI.

A report from the Redwood Summer Justice Project

Federal Magistrate James Larson said, at a December 16 hearing, that he will order the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide further evidence to lawyers for the late Judi Bari and fellow Earth First! activist Darryl Cherney. The Bureau had claimed that an appeal by co-defendant Oakland Police Department of an earlier ruling in the 71/2 year-old lawsuit shielded it from the requirement to provide additional evidence.

Bari and Cherney filed their federal civil rights lawsuit in 1991, charging that the FBI and Oakland Police failed to conduct a legitimate investigation of the May 24, 1990 bombing of the two and instead used the bombing as an excuse to conduct an illegal disinformation campaign intended to destroy Earth First! and their environmental organizing. They allege that FBI conduct in this case shows the Bureau is still using the tactics of COINTELPRO even though the Bureau's covert action program targeting political dissent was found unconstitutional by Congress in the 1970s and supposedly was terminated.

Using a delaying tactic seen several times before in this case, the Oakland City Attorney last winter filed an appeal of an October, 1997 District Court decision denying the Oakland police officers "qualified immunity" from suit. The appeal, now pending before the 9th Circuit Court, has already delayed for over a year the setting of a trial date, and the FBI's refusal to cooperate has compounded the effects of that delay.

The December 16 hearing on a motion to compel discovery also considered whether

Bari and Cherney's legal team would be allowed to take the deposition of former FBI Director William Sessions. Both the FBI and the Oakland Police Department argued to delay discovery and depositions until Oakland's appeal is resolved. Bari and Cherney attorneys Dennis Cunningham and Erica Etelson argued that Larson should order the FBI to continue with discovery and depositions that do not directly involve Oakland Police officers.

In an oral preview of his decision, Larson said that a number of depositions should be allowed, with clear restrictions to protect Oakland's interest. He said he would make his ruling in writing early in 1999. He said he will not allow plaintiffs to take the deposition of William Sessions at this time. He stated that "there was an outline" of the needed proof that Sessions had personal knowledge of the events surrounding the Bari bombing, but that further justification would be needed to allow his deposition. But he did allow that further depositions might establish the necessary connections between Sessions and this case.

"Clearly this was a victory," said Noelle Hanrahan, a supporter of the activists. "We got the FBI and the Oakland Police Department back into court, and discovery will move forward." The FBI must allow depositions with "rotor clerks" and other FBI personnel, who will be answering questions regarding the FBI's procedures and regulations regarding evidence and record keeping.

Judi Bari died of breast cancer in 1997. Her estate and Darryl Cherney are pursuing the suit, which alleges false arrest and conspiracy to violate their constitutional rights.



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Election rejuvenates Humane Society

by *Friends of the Humane Society*

On Monday, December 21, the Humane Society of Inland Mendocino announced the results of its recent Board of Directors election. The "Candidates for Change" had won by an overwhelming majority.

According to a statement released by Judge Conrad Cox, each of the nine "Candidates for Change" received between 562 and 583 votes out of 661 votes cast. The nine incumbent candidates received between 69 and 89 votes each.

Judge Cox certified as well that each of the three amendments to the society's by-laws, which had been proposed by the outgoing board, had been defeated. This included the proposed by-law change that would have allowed the incumbent board to terminate any membership without a hearing.

Judge Cox ruled that "the [election] process was fair and appropriate."

The hope is that the election will bring to

a close a tumultuous five-year period in which the board, then under the control of Lee McGraw, was the target of numerous complaints. During that time, volunteers and staff were physically assaulted, claims of animal abuse and neglect were ongoing, elections were canceled, challenging members had their membership canceled and financial records were removed from the Humane Society office.

According to director-elect Sheila Jenkins, the Humane Society is not out of the woods yet. "We have inherited a very beleaguered organization that is only days away from foreclosure because the property taxes have not been paid. Hopefully, this beautiful 12 acre creekside property in Redwood Valley can now be saved and continue to serve this community."

Because the Humane Society is willing to shelter animals for an extended length of time until loving homes can be found, the shelter offers this community an important alternative to the pound.

"We are very gratified at the results of the Humane Society election and the support from the community. We have a clean slate now with a strong and cohesive team hoping to put our combined energies together to try to salvage this organization and make a difference for the animals in our care. Our goal is to put all these troubles behind us and get on with the work of rebuilding the society."

"But that will not be an easy task," Jenkins said. "We are going to need the help of the community. We all need to join hands now. Our hope is that we can begin to build a shelter that we can all be proud of."

If you would like to help out in any way, make a donation or adopt an animal,

please contact Cheryl Steppe, Volunteer Coordinator, at 485-7839, or Sheila Jenkins, Committee Coordinator, at 463-1747.



An environmental life on the internet: A fable

by *Dale Glaser*

The story of Grassroot

Grassroot has a Mac and internet access and lives in the hills of Mendocino County. She wants to make a difference, and wakes up one day deciding to help save Headwaters forest.

First she needs to get some background on the issue, so she goes to the MEC web site and looks under the "Headwaters" topic in the *Index by Topic* for the newsletter. A friend had told her that the MEC site currently has an across-issue index, organized by topic, for the last dozen issues of the newsletter.

She reads several past newsletter articles and feels like she now has an overview of Headwaters and what activists have been doing in the woods over the last couple of years. She decides to jump right in. She heads up to base camp, takes non-violence training, and spends a couple of weeks cooking, doing actions in the woods, and sitting in on organizing meetings. She gets to know other activists, and appreciates their energy and especially their commitment to non-violence and saving Headwaters.

The MEC asks her to write an article for the next newsletter. She spends a few days writing the article on her computer, occasionally e-mailing questions to some of her new friends up north, asking for specific details of actions they have done. She finishes the article one night at 2 am, and sends it to the MEC as an attached document, along with a photo that she scanned on a friend's computer the day before. The MEC finds the article in the In Box next morning.

It is edited and then sent back for final approval. Grassroot returns the file with a few minor changes and it's ready for layout.

One night, Grassroot wakes up at 5 am in a cold sweat, having just had a nightmare about a marbled murrelet arguing for its life before a jury of loggers, who are all seem very puzzled that they came to be in this courtroom.

The dream gets Grassroot curious about the legal battles EPIC (Environmental Protection and Information Center) has fought to save the murrelet. She can't get back to sleep so she makes a cup of coffee, goes online to the MEC web site, jumps to the Headwaters area, finds the EPIC web site and is enthralled until dawn reading about the great work EPIC has done in court over the last few years.

As the sun peaks over the hills, she starts thinking about her brother who is working in New Zealand as a botanist. She copies parts of what she has been reading from the web, annotates it with some comments about her own growing knowledge of diminishing habitat, and e-mails it off to him. It's been great over the last year to keep more in contact with her older brother using the net.

Now that she is getting more and more interested and involved in the organizing end of Headwaters, she asks to subscribe to the Headwaters listserv. New subscriptions to this listserv are monitored because this is a private on-line discussion group. She is invited in, and now she has access to the very latest ideas, current strategizing, planning for actions, legal updates, etc. as they are being discussed by the main players in-

involved in the Headwaters effort, wherever they happen to live.

The way a listserv works is that whenever anyone on the list sends an e-mail, everyone gets it. It is also possible to get a listserv in digest form, with an entire days or weeks worth of e-mails gathered together into one e-mail.

One day she hears about an interesting program on radio station KMUD in Garberville, but unfortunately she can't get that station on her radio out in the hills. She mentions this to her neighbor. No problem! He shows her how to download an audio/video internet tool called RealPlayer and connect to the net with a program called MacTuner, which lists radio and TV stations offering live broadcasts (called livecasts) around the world. She finds KMUD's live feed over the net, listens to the program and also connects her computer to her music system so she can tape the program for a friend.

A few weeks later she hears there is a benefit concert somewhere on the coast where one of her favorite singers, Alicia Littletree, will be performing. But where and when is it? She goes to the MEC web site to the Calendar of Events page, and finds out the event is that very night! She heads to the coast and has a great time.

She feels very strongly about Headwaters and wants to get the word out to the world about the effort to preserve the last stands of ancient redwood, so she writes some stories about the non-violent actions she has done in Headwaters and posts them to the alt.activism newsgroup.

Newsgroups are a many to many commu-

nication tool on the net whereas e-mail is a one to one tool, and listservs are a one to many tool. Newsgroup are an area of the internet devoted to specific topics. You can read what other people have written, and respond to specific postings or add your own to the pool of messages.

A few days later, she gets several messages back from different parts of the world, with one message that particularly strikes her. A woman named Anne in Canada is involved in a similar effort to preserve ancient forests there. Anne shares her own commitment to activism and her dreams of a sustainable earth. Grassroot likes the passionate way in which Anne expresses herself, and they start up an e-mail correspondence, sharing weekly their personal feelings around working for something greater than themselves and longer than their life span. Someday, she thinks, she will have to meet Anne in person.

Grassroots sits in her sunny window seat one morning reflecting on how valuable the Internet and the MEC web site have been for her budding environmental activism. And how great a tool the internet is for keeping informed and connected with people wherever they are in the world.

She is looking forward to the evening when she and her brother and her parents will set up a live chat. Chat is an internet environment where live "e-mail" communication can take place. They will set up their own private chat "room." With her brother far away in New Zealand and her parents back east, its going to be nice to have a little family get together.

The election, this past November, of a new district attorney and sheriff creates an opportunity for improved relations between law enforcement and the community.

Norm Vroman, newly elected District Attorney of Mendocino County, is interviewed here by Lynda McClure and Bruce Haldane

VROMAN

Norm Vroman was interviewed in December, after he was elected and prior to taking office.

Next issue: An interview Tony Craver, newly elected Sheriff of Mendocino County.

Will the Libertarian resistance to government regulation affect how you will pursue environmental regulation?

I'm not really sure what Libertarians believe in. I'm a registered Libertarian, and many people have tried to put me into a box. I'm a Libertarian because I just couldn't stand either the Republicans or Democrats. That doesn't mean I buy in wholesale to all the Libertarian philosophy. When I get support from the NRA and the Green Party, I've got to be crossing lines. So this business of my Libertarian label is interesting, but not very valid in terms of where I'm going to go. If being a Libertarian is the basis for people thinking I'm not involved in environmental issues, I've lived off the grid for over twenty years.

Libertarians believe that the less government is the best government, and I adhere to that philosophy. If I can do it for myself, I don't want the government doing it for me.

Policies and procedures

Do you have particular plans to change the way policy is applied in the D.A.'s office?

Let me start by saying the DA's office currently has no policies and procedures manual, not for anything. I think that's amazing. That's one of my major endeavors between now and the time I take over. I'm in the process of putting together a policies and procedures manual, not only for the department and lawyers and other people who work there, but I'm going to give a copy to law enforcement so they understand what my policies and procedures are, and so we all have a standardized method of evaluating cases. For example, when we have a case that could be charged as a felony or misdemeanor, I want some objective criteria to make that determination so we have consistency in filing. Not only for the office, but for the bureau of investigation, which is

the law enforcement branch. There are seven sworn law enforcement officers in the DA's office, and yet there are no written procedures for them. The manual I'm preparing will include them.

Should the D.A.'s office get involved when a law enforcement or other agencies don't have policies in place?

I don't really have much control over another agency regarding whether or not they have policies. I question the intelligence of an agency that doesn't have written policies and procedures.

What if an agency has a policy, but grossly violates it. Is that something you'd get into?

Not unless it results in a violation of the law. A violation of policies and procedures

How about Bear Lincoln's case. The file is with the State Attorney General's office where Susan Massini sent it. You haven't had an opportunity to look at it yet, is that right?

I was in court when the statement that the file had been shipped to the Attorney General's office was made to Judge Golden. I waited for Judge Golden to say "Why?", but he didn't ask the question; nobody asked the question about what was the legal reason. In fact there is no legal reason. I'm told the file is at the courthouse now. Susan Massini said in court that she'd sent the file to the state, but I talked to a newspaper reporter who had interviewed her, and she told him that the file was in her office and I knew it, and could come look at it at any time. I haven't met with Susan as yet.

(Editor's note: It has been confirmed by

"We have a group of people who are indigenous to the county.... We know the county, we know the people... we have the opportunity of a lifetime. We're coming into the year 2000. That brings an optimistic outlook that things will change. I think we have an excellent opportunity for that."

manual is totally in-house. But if there are policies and procedures that are violated and someone gets hurt as a result, as an administrator of that agency, I'd sure want to know why the violation occurred

Pending cases

Some members of the community feel that the DA's office, and Susan Massini specifically, really white washed the killing of Marvin Noble. Would you have done anything differently?

Who knows. I don't know what information she had at her disposal. I can tell you this: there are several different agencies presently in the process of investigating the matter. So regardless of what she said or did, that doesn't mean it's over. Protection and Advocacy people were in town last week. We have not heard the last of this case.

Nick Wilson of the Albion Monitor that Susan Massini sent Lincoln's file to the State Attorney General's office on 11/15/98. Wilson's comprehensive coverage of this case can be obtained from the Internet at: <http://www.monitor.net/monitor>.)

Susan Massini told KZYX&Z news that the file had been sent to the Attorney General's office because you weren't going to prosecute it.

Well, I have never said I wouldn't prosecute this case. Normally, a prosecutor would not retry a case where you have a jury verdict that comes back 10 - 2 in favor of acquittal unless there was some glaring piece of evidence that wasn't presented, that new evidence is discovered, or there is something in the file that should have been presented and wasn't. Until I see that file, I

can't make that decision, but generally speaking, unless there is something like that in the file, I would not retry the case. That's all I've ever said, every time I've been asked. If Susan Massini interprets that to mean I'm not going to retry the case, maybe she knows there's nothing more in the file.

What do you plan to do with the environmental prosecution staff?

Paul Hagen, the current prosecutor of environmental law violations, is now half time. The other half he is contracted out to the California District Attorney's Association to work with Del Norte, Lake and Humboldt to help with prosecution of environmental crime. I'm going to keep Paul, but my idea is to hire another part time person so I have two half time people doing the environmental work. There is plenty of work for a full time attorney, but if I can have two half time people, I get the benefit of two people, two heads and styles and methods of dealing with cases. I don't intend to limit them only to environmental issues. I want to go into consumer fraud, as well.

Medical marijuana

Let's talk about medical marijuana.

All during the campaign Prop 215 was my focus regarding marijuana. Immediately after taking office that's one thing I want to get straightened out, if I can do it. I'm not sure I can do it; I've got to have cooperation and support from people. Tony Craver and I have talked about this. I've been impressed with what's going on in Oakland, which has a working operation under the auspices of the county. But as we speak we have an operating cannabis club in Mendocino County that hasn't been shut down and it's functioning. One approach is to say, as long as it's functioning, I'm not going to fool with it—just ignore it. That creates kind of a paranoia because they don't know when someone's going to come down on them. I'm sure there are going to be some abuses, but there are a lot of people who are getting it and need it. I would like to create

the situation where they can do that without the fear of being prosecuted.

I've been out to the club a few times and watched the operation. I think it's amazing the people there can put it together and make it work. I'm not so sure the governmental agencies could do as well. But I think we need to look to that operation and I would ask that maybe the cannabis club people could be incorporated into it—to run the program for the county. Once we put it under the umbrella of the county—whether it's under Public Health or however else we do it—when it's a county sponsored program, and the federal government can't say anything about it. The Tenth Amendment reserves for the state all the rights they haven't given up. I don't recall us ever giving up the right to deal with medical situations as a governmental agency. Then rather than fighting just the local citizens, they'd be fighting the county government. My attitude is the Tenth Amendment allows us to do that.

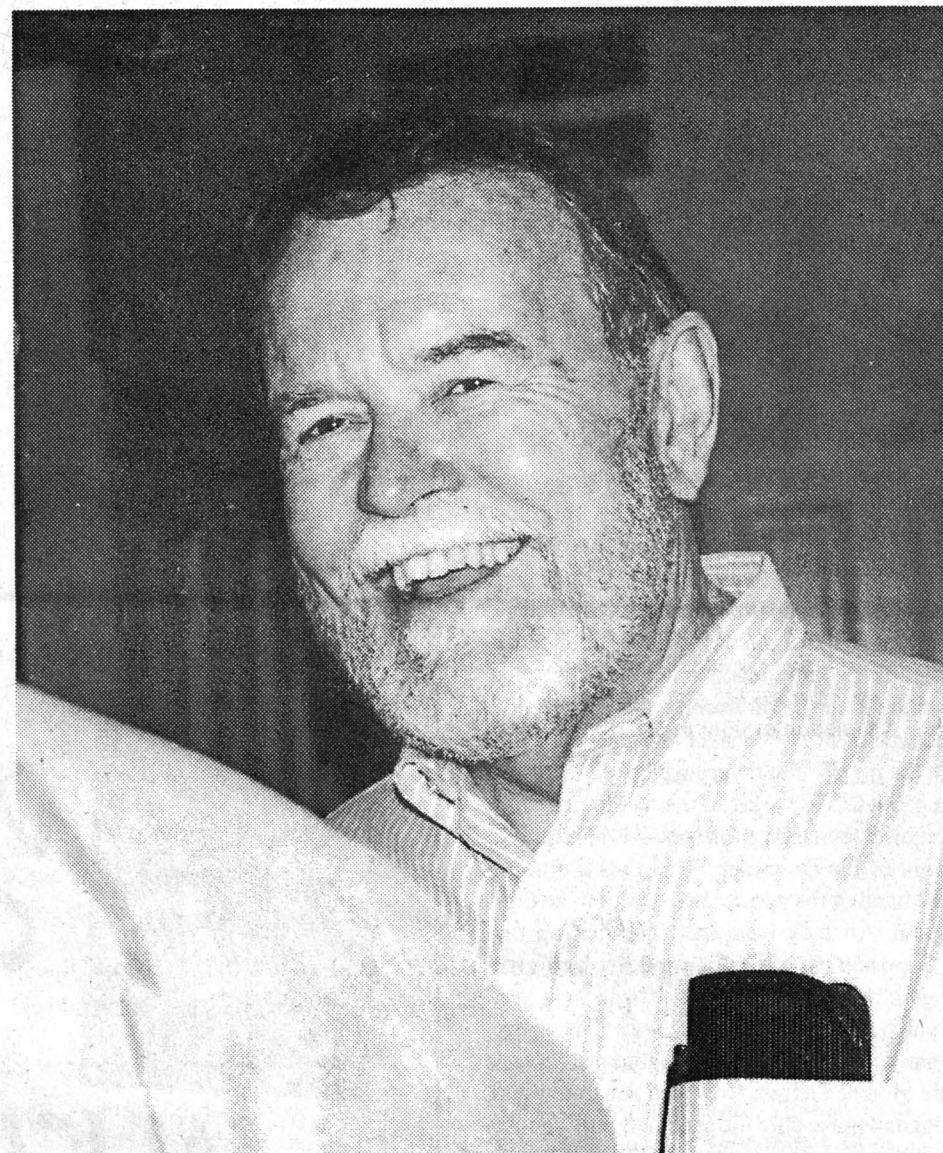
What's your position on decriminalization of marijuana?

It never came up during the election about my position on decriminalization of marijuana, although that is what the media is focusing on now. After the election they asked Tony and I if we favored decriminalization, and when we said yes they took that and ran with it. I told them it wasn't a campaign issue, but they said "This is news!". Some people translated that into my favoring the legalization of marijuana, but I never said that. I'm in favor of decriminalization of marijuana, and it should be handled like prohibition. The only problem is, what are we going to do with all those federal employees who work for the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency)? During prohibition they just took them out of there and put them in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Then they started focusing on guns, and now we've gone crazy on guns. The DEA could change their focus to synthetic drugs and dangerous drugs, but that's not nearly as easy to do as going out and taking out someone's pot plants.

There are three issues around medical marijuana: possession, cultivation, and distribution. The weakest link in the whole thing is cultivation. If this was under the county, we could circumvent that entirely. We've got law enforcement out there ripping up pot all the time and destroying it. What's to say they couldn't just bring it in and process it for medical use, and the county would distribute it. The flip side is, if a county agency is distributing medical marijuana and they get a bad batch, or someone suffers because of it, then the county is liable for it. That's where the county is coming from. But my approach is to take the growing element out of medical marijuana so that it's supplied by a governmental agency. That does away with the issue of whether or not someone is growing for medical purposes. Then we are only dealing with if and why this person is entitled to have it. That seems to be an easier issue to deal with.

Susan Massini has stated that a letter of recommendation from a doctor is an affirmative defense for possession of marijuana, but she rejected the idea of carrying a card with them to show the police and avoid being arrested and charged. Her reasoning was that because someone has a prescription doesn't necessarily mean they will always use it legally, for example while driving, and that it would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis in court. Do you think a card like that would be a good idea, to avoid being arrested and taken to jail and going through the court process?

We still have laws that say you can't drive under the influence of anything that impairs your ability. That goes for medical mari-



juana, Valium, Prozac, or for anything else. Just because you have a prescription for it doesn't mean you can go out and drive a car under the influence of it. If that is what she's referring to, I understand. But if someone is certified as being in need of medical marijuana and they have that card with them, and they are stopped and have marijuana with them, they should be able to show that card to the officer.

What is your opinion on the asset forfeiture situation here?

I can't really talk intelligently about it because I don't know what's been happening in Mendocino County up to now. Those cases are handled in Willits by Kevin

Maloney. I know what the law says and what the law requires to exercise the forfeiture law. It has to do only with the commercial manufacture and sale of dangerous drugs. You have to show some nexus between the property you want to take and the crime being committed. If you don't have that nexus, you can't do it. The law requires—at least in real property forfeitures—that you must have a conviction before you can proceed against the property. There are some aspects of the law that say you can do the forfeiture automatically without going to court, in certain types of cases. For instance, if you get someone who's cooking meth, it's obvious that whatever they were using to cook it with is an instrumentality of the

use it to supplement budgetary needs. It can be used only for acquisition of property that they couldn't get otherwise.

Current situation

How do you evaluate the current law enforcement situation in Mendocino County?

We are in a very unique situation. There are fairly new police chiefs in Ft. Bragg and Ukiah. Willits is considering doing away with their department and contracting with the Sheriff's office for police services. They've had a lot of problems attracting officers due to the pay. So that means you have a whole new crew of people in charge of law enforcement in Mendocino County. That doesn't happen, ever!

Is there something you'd like to do to nurture cooperation among the new law enforcement personnel?

I've already met with Rich Wiseman, Chief in Ft. Bragg. Tony and I talk every other day. We've been talking for the last year and a half; why would we stop now? I've talked on the phone with (Ukiah Police Chief) John Williams. We'll be meeting before I take office. Yes! I see a real potential for some concerted effort in changing the manner in which criminal justice is administered in Mendocino County.

What kinds of changes would you like to see?

I would like to see my being able to create a situation where the Human Rights Monitoring Project has no business to deal with. My attitude is that our law enforcement personnel have tremendous authority, tremendous power over the people of Mendocino County. They've been given that power, but along with the power goes an equal responsibility of making sure it's not abused. What I've told all of them is that my main focus is to be sure our authority is not abused. I don't want anybody abusing their authority. In talking with them, I think they all feel that way as well, so in feeling that way and doing something about it, I think there's going to be some very positive changes. All those people I've named, we came to power in the county by working with each other. When I was a public defender, they were patrolmen. Here we have a group of people who are indigenous to the county—we're not outsiders. We know the county, we know the people and I think we have the opportunity of a lifetime. We're coming into the year 2000. That brings an optimistic outlook that things will change. I think we have an excellent opportunity for that.

What would you like to see the county residents do to improve relations with law enforcement?

First of all we've got to have good communication, and I believe there has been poor communication with the community from the District Attorney. That's been made abundantly clear.

crime. You don't have to go through court to do that.

I have some questions of my own about what's going on here. My attitude is you don't take property without due process of law. You must follow the rules. If the rules say this is what can be done, then fine. There's a certain amount of discretion. It's a subjective thing to determine whether a garden hose is an instrumentality of the crime if you water the pot with it.

I think there have been some abuses. I'll know better when I get in there and take a look. There are specific limits to what money from asset forfeiture can be used for. It can't be used to pay for salaries in the DA's office. The police departments cannot

Are you inclined to prosecute police officers who abuse their authority?

The simple answer to that is of course. I will back a police officer all the way as long as he or she is going by the rules. If they don't go by the rules, I'll be all over them. The hard thing is how do you document police violence. Most of the time it's one-on-one, an officer and a defendant. You can get a clue to it when you get a bunch of reports coming across your desk with one officer having "resisting arrest" on everybody he arrests. That's a sign to me that there is some problem. Normally you can arrest people with a certain amount of problems, but if you get one officer coming along consistently reporting resisting or obstructing or delaying an officer whenever he writes up someone for disturbing the peace or shoplifting or whatever, and he always adds on a "148", that's a clue there's a problem. In the past we've had several instances of law enforcement officers violating that trust, and they've been prosecuted and drummed out of the business.

How about welfare fraud? Some of us are concerned about prosecutions where a woman has already repaid the amount wrongfully taken, yet she is arrested, spends time in jail, pays a fine and is on probation. That seems very harsh. These women are not a threat to public safety. I question the use of county money on court and probation costs.

Based on what you've said, there are a number of ways a case like this can be handled differently. First of all, she should not be arrested. That's strictly a power trip—I can do this to you so I will. In cases of crime against people or property we may have to arrest. But this is not that kind of case and I wouldn't want to handle it that way. We can send them a letter and request they come into the office to talk. One way to handle these kinds of cases is through a DA diversion, or site hearing, or DA hearing. We can ask her to come in and bring a lawyer if she wants, and we'll sit down and talk about what's happened. The DA has the power to say—OK, you made a mistake. You paid the money back. We don't want to see this happen again. We're not going to file this case, but we want you to report to us. I would also want to know if she's getting child support and if it's current. If she wasn't getting active payments for child support, I would take the DA diversion route, and she would never get into the court system. As the DA I can handle a lot of cases this way. That keeps the courts from getting clogged with cases that shouldn't be there. That's not utilized now, though it was in the past. It's used in other counties, and it will be reinstituted. It does several things: It allows us to use our discretion in keeping people out of the criminal justice system who don't belong there, and it frees up the court from cases that are questionable, that they don't need to deal with.

What about domestic violence. Do you see it being a different kind of assault than other

assaults?

Yes and no. Its been around for a long, long time, and it's a highly emotionally charged issue. It's like abortion or politics or guns. Most people approach it with their minds made up as to what they want to see happen. Domestic violence is a crime against a person, which I'm very interested in prosecuting. There are abuses on both sides of this. When you have two people living together, there are always two sides to a story. I've seen situations where the man mouths off and gets pummeled by the woman. Very seldom does anything get filed against the woman. You could count on one hand the number of spousal abuse cases by women against men. On the other hand, you get the woman mouthing off. Usually there's alcohol or drugs involved; both people are under the influence, and the situation deteriorates and somebody gets hit. That's one of the reasons I'm putting into place my policies & procedures manual. We set forth a very succinct, distinct way that we determine whether we file, and whether it's a felony or misdemeanor. There are a lot of factors that go into it. First and foremost is the extent of the injury, and how the injury is inflicted. Do they use their hands or a dangerous weapon? What kind of medical treatment is required? What is the personal history and has it happened before?

Domestic violence is obviously something we have to deal with. I see every policeman driving around with a bumper sticker saying "There's no excuse for domestic violence". Immediately I think that all other violence is excusable. When you're dealing with people who live together or are friends or know each other, you have to handle it a little differently. One difference between that and stranger assault is that both of the people could very well need counseling, but unless we arrest them both, we can't require counseling for both—it is required only of the defendant. This puts a club in the hand of the partner who isn't on the program. All they have to do is pick up the phone and call the police and say he hit me again and off he's taken. It's an area you really have to be careful with. There are many justifiable, honest, righteous domestic violence cases. How you separate them out and make sure the system doesn't abuse people is a good question. I'm not sure I have the answer. It's on everybody's mind at this point. I'm sure I'm going to get criticisms on this—some people will think I'm doing the right thing and other people will think I'm not.

How will you address white collar crime?

It hasn't been addressed in the county for a number of years. I would address it vigorously and directly. There again its a matter of uncovering it and putting the case together. You have to have investigators who are something other than law enforcement investigators, who know something about accounting and so on. And there are several areas that I've become aware of that certainly need attention, such as public entities. And I expect to get significant input

from the grand jury. They pick up a lot of information about things going on that people would hesitate to bring to the DA. I intend to use the grand jury to investigate these things, and I'll help them however I can. That certainly will be a change. They haven't had much help from the DA's office.

Are you going to change the physical layout of the DA's office?

Yes, as much as I can. I'm meeting with Buildings and Grounds to look at the office. We're in the basement, although there is another basement that's lower. I don't know how many of the walls can be moved around, but I definitely want an area where you open the door and walk into the DA's office, and you have a place you can sit down and read a magazine or wait for someone to talk with. You don't have that now. I can't hear through that glass now, so when someone comes in, we can't have a conversation. Every other DA's office I've been in has a nice reception area, and it creates an atmosphere of it being a public office. Right now the D.A.'s office looks like the IRS or jail.

Would you support a citizens' advisory committee?

Oh no! Not another committee! I figure every citizen in Mendocino County is an advisory committee to me. I will return calls and I will answer correspondence. If somebody has a gripe I want to hear about it.

Is there anything you'd like to say in closing?

Just that this is part of my campaign promise—that I will be accessible. That's what I'm doing now, being accessible. I like the feedback. I like to have positive support when I've done something positive and I expect people will rag on me when they feel I've done something wrong.

Bear Lincoln case update

by Lincoln-Peters Defense Alliance

Deputy Attorney General Michael O'Reilly was in court January 15th for the hearing Bear Lincoln supporters hoped would result in the remaining manslaughter charges being dropped. Instead, State Deputy AG O'Reilly determined to retain the file for further review. A hearing is set for April 23rd, when he is expected to state whether or not he intends to prosecute Lincoln.

The Lincoln-Peters Defense Alliance asks people to contact State Attorney General Bill Lockyer with comments about the case and the political, not factual, nature of its referral to his office. Write him at 1300 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; call at (916) 445-9555.

Earth First! Musicians

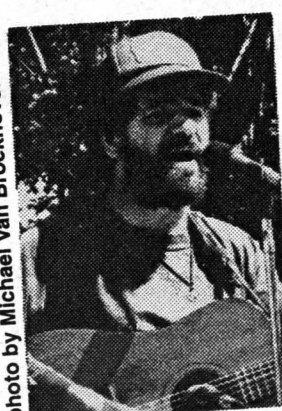


photo by Michael Van Broekhoven

**DARRYL
CHERNEY**

and




photo by Geoff Bugbee

**ALICIA
LITTLETREE**

In Concert!

January 27 Berkeley, The Freight & Salvage
1111 Addison Street, Call (510) 548-7603

January 28 Cotati, The Inn of the Beginning
8201 Old Redwood Highway, Call (707) 664-1100

January 29 Bolinas, The Bolinas Community Center
14 Wharf Road, Call (415) 927-1645

Give Charlie the Moon

by Dan Roberts

I pledge resistance
to the mask
of the United States
of Somnambulism,
and to the Corporations
who are destroying the Land
One nation, under Grid,
with liberal injustice for all

Oh say can you see?
Man, can't you see
manufactured mountains
from sea to polluted sea?
We cut spray
hack squirt
drag burn
make extinct
and earn
Money!
Money! Money! Money!
so we can rent
lease buy
Distraction
while waiting for the Guy
who'll put it all
back together

What if
He don't come back
what if
He forgot
what if
He liked those Trees
and Salmon
and Spotted Owl
and Pomo
and Yuki
what if
He can't get anymore
what if
it took a few millennia to create

No problem!
He'll find something!
we treated Him so
special
last time

What if
just desserts
He just deserts us
it's just a desert
40 days in the desert
divided by
40 days and nights of rain
equals one World
on standby
for the next available
flight to the moon

What if
we give Hurwitz the moon;
we've got a flag and a car
up there
build him a wafer board mansion
at the edge of the lake;
a color xerox
so he can print up
all the money
and junk bonds he wants;
a deluxe edition
of the latest Monopoly game,
leather bound
with all the "get out of jail free" cards
removed;
so lets all turn around
and give Charlie the moon

What if
the Light
inside everybody's head
went on at the same time—
and the Fabric of
Standing Deadwood
Intact Watershed
and Dependent Species
were all known Essential—
more Essential than
all the money ever printed

I pledge allegiance
to the Earth (First!)
and Her various stages of evolution
And to the Four Elements
through which we stand
One Planet,
whirling through Space,
with liberty and justice
for All (species)

1999 2000 Calender 2001 2002

JANUARY 1999

22-24 Friday-Sunday

Why Do Corporations Have More Rights Than You?

WHERE: Ukiah Methodist Church;
INFO: How corporate rule has replaced
democracy & what to do. Friday evening
7-9 pm Presentation by Democracy
Unlimited. Saturday 9:30-5:30 Workshop,
in-depth study of issue. Sunday: (if
sufficient sign up) Workshop on local
planning. MEC event. Make reservations

FEBRUARY

1 Monday

Headwaters Roadshow

WHEN: 8 PM; WHERE: Mendocino
Community Center in Mendocino; INFO:
Music and discussion about the current
situation with Headwaters Forest: the
"Deal", David "Gypsy" Chain's death,
and the future of the Save Headwaters
Forest campaign.

2 Tuesday

Headwaters Roadshow

WHEN: 8 PM; WHERE: Willits
Environmental Center; INFO: See
February 1 program description

19 Friday

Potluck & Video/Discussion

WHEN: 6:30 pm; WHERE: Forks
Theater, 40 A Pallini Lane, Ukiah; INFO:
"Who's Counting? - Marilyn Waring on
Sex, Lies, and Global Economics" is a
video you won't want to miss. It is a
unique analysis, demystifying the language
of economics and offering an alternative
vision that changes the way we live on
this planet. Bring food to share and be
ready to chew on the topic, as well. Call
the MEC for more information.

19-21 Friday-Sunday

Friends of the River's 19th Annual Rivers Festival

WHERE: Fort Mason Center, San
Francisco; INFO: Fighting for Rivers:
Stopping Dams in the 21st Century. Over
2000 members of the river community -
river conservationists and paddlesport
enthusiasts - will be attending the festival
and conference. For more info call 916-
442-3155. Web:
www.friendsoftheriver.org

27 Saturday

Speaking Engagement by Ramona Africa

WHEN: to be announced; WHERE:
Ukiah, location to be announced; INFO:
Ramona Africa was a member of MOVE

and was in Philadelphia when their
building was bombed by law enforcement
in the 1970's. One of the few MOVE
members who is still alive and not in
prison, Africa is a powerful speaker.
Don't miss her! Call the MEC for more
information. Program is sponsored by
Earth First!

MARCH

5-6 Friday-Saturday

Community Forum on Y2K

WHEN: to be announced; WHERE: to be
announced; INFO: Learn what Y2K is,
what it means to you, and explore how we
can use the situation to build a better
future for our communities. Sponsored by
the MEC.

6 Saturday

Western Regional Conference to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

WHEN: all day; WHERE: UC Berkeley,
Pauley Ballroom, ASUC Bldg.; INFO:
Workshops on subjects including: the
death penalty, prison industrial complex,
criminalization of youth, police brutality,
human rights abuse in prison, political
prisoners, racism in the criminal justice
system, legal & constitutional issues. 415
821-0459 for info.

APRIL

23 Friday

Hearing for Bear Lincoln

WHERE: Ukiah Courthouse. INFO: State
Deputy Attorney General to announce if
that office will retry the manslaughter
charge. Call MEC to confirm.

24 Saturday

Millions for Mumia

WHEN: TBA; WHERE: San Francisco,
location TBA; INFO: National mass
demonstration sponsored by the
Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

MAY

8-11 Sat-Tuesday

Spring Gathering at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site

WHERE: Nevada Nuclear Test Site, North
of Las Vegas; INFO: Possible bus from
Ukiah.



MEC Newsletter

Mendocino Environmental Center

106 W. Standley St., Ukiah, CA 95482 Phone (707) 468-1660, Fax 462-2370 www.pacific.net/~mec

Issue 30

Supported by Members!

Winter 1999

1999— A Time for Change

*And from our ruin
rises our future,
Ours to shape
By how we choose to be,
What we choose to value,
The regard we hold
for each other.*

by Lynda McClure

Mendocino Environmental Center

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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. Thank you. It's your help that keeps us going!

Please join us in working for a sustainable earth!

Name: _____ Amount enclosed: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
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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.