

# Huge Rally For Headwaters Forest!

## September 14th - Be There!

by Alicia Littletree

With the end of marbled murrelet nesting season looming, the ancient redwoods of the Headwaters Forest could be vulnerable to cutting by Pacific Lumber/MAXXAM after September 15. This year we've watched the State and Federal Governments scramble to the negotiating table to arrange a sweeter and sweeter deal for Charles Hurwitz, finally agreeing to pay the Houston CEO \$380 million in taxpayer dollars for just two of the six ancient groves on PL's property and a 1500 acre buffer zone of clearcut land. Included in the package for Hurwitz is a license to kill endangered species known as a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The HCP is yet another way for the company to skirt around existing endangered species protection to get at the very last of the ancient forest on their land by determining exactly how many trees they can cut without forcing the marbled murrelet into extinction. What it means on the ground is that some or all of the four groves not protected as part of the Headwaters Deal will likely be on the chopping block as soon as the deal goes through, and beginning September 15 they are open to salvage operations. If Hurwitz somehow rejects the Government's offer, all six ancient groves of the Headwaters Forest could be salvage logged beginning September 15!

We're looking at a dire situation again this year in the redwoods.

The last two years have seen an unprecedented outpouring of public support for the permanent protection of Headwaters. Last year's Rally to Save Headwaters Forest drew over 6,500 people to Humboldt County. 1,033 of them stepped across PL's property line in the largest act of civil disobedience ever in the history of the U.S. forest protection movement. This action helped create the political pressure that drove Hurwitz to the bargaining table. For the next two months, Earth First! staged an unprecedented nonviolent direct action campaign, getting in the way of Hurwitz's salvage operation in every way imaginable. Even so, Hurwitz is a master at manipulating the system for his own personal benefit, and he is still holding Headwaters



The Headwaters Rally and March in 1996

Photo by Kent Reno

hostage until the Government gives him everything he wants.

But this year we are closer than ever to prying the ancient redwoods away from him. The Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) are both currently pursuing claims against Hurwitz for his role in the Savings and Loan scandal. If they rule that he owes the taxpayers for bailing out a Texas S&L that went under as a result of the junk bond takeover of Pacific Lumber, it could pave the way for a debt-for-nature-swap for the forest and possible criminal charges against Hurwitz himself. The California State Teachers Retirement System, MAXXAM's 10th largest stockholder, just divested their shares

of the corporation citing unscrupulous dealings in the redwoods. And third generation PL old-growth faller Stan Chandler recently filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against PL/MAXXAM alleging worker safety and environmental law violations. The tables are turning on MAXXAM and Charlie Hurwitz.

This could actually be the year we achieve permanent protection for all 60,000 acres of the Headwaters Forest. The means are in place, and now it's up to us to create the political will. The Coalition to Save Headwaters Forest is calling for a RALLY TO SAVE HEADWATERS FOREST again this year to be held Sunday, SEPTEMBER 14, 1997, in Humboldt County. We are hoping for the biggest showing of support EVER to push the Headwaters crisis to a resolution, and win permanent protection for all 60,000 acres of Headwaters Forest. Once again, those people who are moved to make their statement with civil disobedience will have a chance to cross Hurwitz's private property line, symbolically taking back the forest that he stole from the taxpayers.

Earth First! is also busy preparing for another season of resistance in the redwoods. Basecamp will open a few days before the big Rally. We're using the lessons from the last two years of actions to make this the most effective effort yet. Last year we did everything we could to halt logging as Hurwitz ruthlessly ripped into all four of the ancient groves not covered in the Headwaters deal. With his seemingly insatiable greed, we expect him to be back again. Our actions this year are neither futile or symbolic! And with the help of huge numbers of courageous, nonviolent activists, we'll be more prepared than ever to stop him this time.

This year's Rally to Save Headwaters Forest is

## Reflections

### An Interview With Betty and Gary Ball

by Lynda McClure and Michael Mishler

Progressive thought is pervasive in Mendocino County. For example, in the last election, Ralph Nader received more votes per capita here than in any county in California. Activists of national status live here. Residents respond to local issues of concern by organizing, publicizing, demonstrating, and generally insisting that business be responsible and public officials be accountable. Direct action and civil disobedience are viable and often applied methods of public input. None of this comes easy. It requires tremendous energy and commitment to the long haul by many people. Mendocino County is indeed unique in the degree of activism we practice, and the Mendocino Environmental Center is the vital core, the hub from which the activity flows.

Betty and Gary Ball are the heart and soul of

the MEC. They rank at the top of special, best-loved Mendocino County people. Gary is always willing to interrupt his work to assist with computer operation or to lend his knowledge and astute perspective to a strategy session. His fierce dedication to environmental issues is juxtaposed by his gentle, soft-spoken nature, making him a real joy to work with. Betty is the essence of the MEC. With her wisdom and sensitivity, she guides the daily MEC activities in a non-directive style. In the model of a true organizer, she creates the space for people to empower themselves.

Betty and Gary have touched Mendocino County in a profound way, and we all are better for the part of their lives they have given to us.

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# Letters To The Editor

## Bear Lincoln Remembers Judi Bari

Dear Editor,

Judi Bari was a lover of the earth, she was a woman whose connection to the land was very strong.

Judi Bari made her stand to defend the forests from destruction by corporate greed; her desire was to save what forests were left for future generations and the benefit of all people.

Her voice was strong throughout Northern California. She made it known that she would defend the environment whatever the cost.

Judi Bari was definitely an environmental revolutionary who took up a worthy cause, and she fought to the end.

The law enforcement of this country tried to silence this strong voice on May 24, 1990, by blowing up her car with a bomb, and then tried to cover it up. It is very clear to the public that there is gross corruption within the F.B.I., and the Oakland police departments and I will be bold, and go as far as to say that law enforcement is corrupt all across america!



If you don't believe that, then just go out and make it public that you love the earth, and you will make a stand to save the forests, and that you will speak out against corporate greed!

Then after making yourself, and your love for the environment known, you better start checking your car for bombs, because your life will be in danger in america!

Who will be the next victims of corrupt law enforcement, and a government with too much power?

We all must continue to seek justice for Judi Bari, because once justice is won for Judi Bari, that is justice and victory for us all! We must see that Judi Bari's lawsuit is not swept under the rug and forgotten, but we must stand strong in solidarity against the FBI and the Oakland police; we must refuse to submit to corrupt law enforcement.

We must let the government know that we will not forget the bombing of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, but we will continue in this struggle against oppression and injustice.

We will remember the courage and strength that continued to exude from Judi Bari even after the bombing; they could not defeat her and they could not keep her from speaking out!

There must be justice for Judi Bari! We must not let the guilty ones go unpunished!

Continue to oppose every assault upon the earth! And remember Judi Bari!

Signed,  
Peaceful Organic  
Vegetable Farmer  
Bear Lincoln

## Hey! What's Happening Here?

Dear Editor,

I recently had the experience of observing the "wheels of justice" turning, but stuck in the mud and running backwards. I was sitting in on the "Bear" Lincoln trial session concerning the jury selection - or rather disqualification. I recall one prospective juror, disqualified, who claimed a quantum of Native American heritage, for his statement quoting the biblical commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (murder). A second prospective juror, also with a percentage of native blood, was disqualified by the content of Christian dogma. Then statements were made that although these two people were the last hope of integrating an all-white jury, they might have been a little biased by relating. This was not a negative issue, but I deduced that being a practicing Christian was. Obeying the biblical commandment of the Hebrew script was. There go Indians off the jury, followed closely by Christians and anyone that maintains biblical integrity - you're out. That book used to be pretty important in a court of law. They don't even have to swear on it in this trial.

This compelled me to further investigate and analyze the theme or body of the allegations. Now I'm really puzzled. I tried but failed to rationalize the possible motives of any two men who were not wanted by law enforcement, were not assumed guilty of any crime, were not even observed doing any illegal activity. Why would two men, not even involved as principals themselves and knowing it, ambush a police roadblock? Did they know that manning the position was an officer who has been described as an experienced, exploit-relating, gung-ho, ex-Navy Seal, armed with a weapon that he was trained to kill with? Did they know that with him was a swat team sniper who shoots at

"shadows," "into bushes" and "at noises," "sheriff's vehicles" and God only knows what else?

Ambushed? I always thought that victims of an ambush were the last to arrive at the ambush scene. What would have been the motive for this premeditated act? I'm trying to recall any incidents concerning an unprovoked, reasonless, suicidal, attack on armed and ready-to-kill public servants, an act which has predictable results. Uzi-toting gangsters won't do that. I couldn't find similar attacks by psychopaths or maniacs.

There's a lot behind all this, going way back. It involves two families feuding, each considering the other an enemy. Neither thought of the sheriff's department as an enemy - until now.

D.R. McKean

There are more letters to the editor on page 19.



## MEC Newsletter

Swimming against the tide, confronting the establishment, and yes, battling pollution, contamination, and Charles Hurwitz can be time consuming and tiring. So much activism leaves one with little time to check in with friends. Still though, we need to hear from you, especially when your mood is ruffled by some grave injustice and you need to vent your cranky attitude. Positivity counts too! We also want to hear from you when you're feeling that something in the world is going well for environmental and social justice. Our Letters to the Editor column is there for you! The MEC's reach is as far as it's membership takes it; the more we all know what the current issues are, the richer and wiser we will all be.

This issue of the MEC Newsletter was earnestly put together in loving service to our communities by the following folks:

### The Mendocino Environmental Center Newsletter

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This newsletter is a publication of the Mendocino Environmental Center, a non-profit organization supported solely by its membership with the purpose of promoting the conservation, restoration, and wise use of the Earth's natural resources and to provide a facility where people can work together to achieve this purpose.

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# Headwaters Rally Sunday September 14th

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dedicated to Judi Bari, who gave her life to protect the Ancient trees in Headwaters. When Judi was diagnosed with breast cancer in the midst of last year's direct action campaign, she told us, "The trees have let me go. They called and called to me, and now they have let me go, to be with my family and do the things I need to do now. But it is so inspiring for me to see that I can pull back from the struggle and you all will carry it on. It gives me hope that we will someday actually save it." Let this year's Rally be a tribute to the spirit and power of this heroic woman!

Judi walks with all of us! Headwaters Forest will stand!!

## Headwaters Action Update

by Tofu

This summer, many Headwaters activists have been busy defending Mother Earth with awesome resistance in Northern California and Oregon watersheds, including Dillon Creek, McCoy Creek, China Left, Sphinx, Growl & Howl, and Jackson State Forest. Since you last heard from us there have been few point of production actions at Headwaters, but activists have been busy elsewhere putting pressure on MAXXAM, the California Department of Forestry (CDF), Congressman Frank Riggs, Senator Barbara Boxer, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, and local law enforcement.



Headwaters Rally September 15, 1996

Photo by Farrell Winter

On May 1-4, Earth First! held a Headwaters Action Training Camp in Humboldt County. More than 175 activists climbed trees, participated in nonviolence trainings, heard the latest legal updates, and watched historical EF! videos from solar charged batteries. We sang and reminisced; networked and planned. A few weeks later, a busload of activists went to Houston and gave Charlie Hurwitz a piece of our collective mind at the MAXXAM shareholders meeting. Meanwhile, all winter

and spring, activists have been monitoring PALCO activities in the woods, as well as tabling, doing mailings and holding bake sales to raise consciousness and money.

At the end of July, activists again came together, this time in Willits, to strategize and focus energies on EF!'s role in the September 14th Rally to Save Headwaters, and the direct action campaign

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## Water Right Complaint Filed

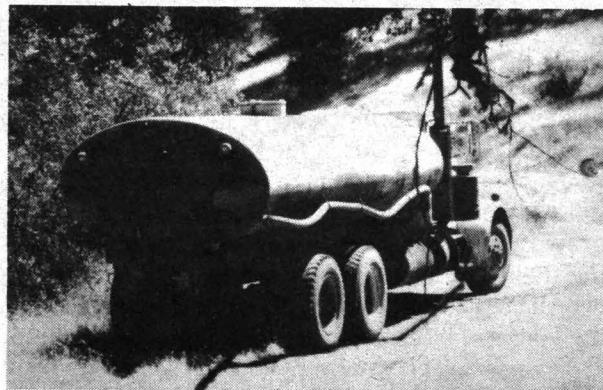
by Mary Goodwin

On August 6 the MEC signed onto a Public Trust Complaint before the California Water Resources Control Board (CWRCB). The Complaint seeks a Cease and Desist order against illegal diversion of water from the Russian River by the Mileck "Cold Creek Compost" Waste Facility in Potter Valley. The complaint also seeks to stop all further appropriation of water from the Russian River and its tributaries in the wake of the listing of the coho and steelhead, and a formal declaration that the Russian River and all its tributaries are fully appropriated.

In early 1995, the Board of Supervisors overturned a decision of the Planning Commission and approved Mileck's application for a Regional Solid Waste Facility Permit. This became the subject of a CEQA lawsuit filed by the MEC and neighbors of the Mileck facility which is still pending.

Mileck's dump site on top of a mountain violates State requirements that Mixed Solid Waste Facilities have on-site water. To circumvent the obvious need for on-site water in such a facility, Mileck has presumed the "right" to pump from 21,000 to 41,000 gallons per day of water from the East Fork Russian River and transport it via tank truck to his leased facility. The County Planning and Environmental Health Departments, and Dennis Slota of the County Water Agency have unethically endorsed and rubber-stamped this as well as every other degradation Mileck has imposed on surrounding neighbors and the environment.

Related to the larger issues of the water rights Complaint, the CWRCB will hold a symposium at the Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa on Sept. 16 at 1:30 pm. They will accept public comment on their staff proposals for what to do about pending water rights applications on the Russian River.



Their "Staff Report" acknowledges that the Russian River is fully appropriated and that appropriations must be curtailed in the face of the coho and steelhead listings. Their proposed "solution" is to grant new appropriations by season, allowing diversion of water from December 15 to March 31 of a given year. This would allow pending applicants for huge water diversions (mostly wineries) to get around seasonal restrictions by constructing ponds. They could freely divert water into their large bulldozed craters during the "wet" season with no one monitoring what they do during the dry season.

Because of the listing of the fish, and because existing appropriations far exceed the natural flow of the Russian River, and because the Eel River-Potter Valley diversion is likely to be curtailed, no further appropriations should be allowed at all on the Russian River or any of its tributaries during any season for any reason. The Russian River is a tragic example of a once-major waterway, riparian habitat and fishery reduced to the function of a pipeline and sewer for insatiable ag and development interests.

### Other Mileck News

In conjunction with the June 5 hearing before

the Planning Commission, a large volume of written public comment was submitted on the Mileck Draft EIR. Approximately 95% of it was opposed to Mileck. The Planning Commission made their own comments which were also negative. An "administrative draft" of the final EIR is due out at the end of August. After County Agencies "review" the draft, the final EIR will be released probably in late September. The EIR will then be scheduled for another hearing before the Planning Commission, possibly between mid-October and late November. If an appeal is filed, the EIR will be scheduled for public hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

A Court hearing took place on the ongoing CEQA lawsuit against Mileck on August 4. Mileck's Regional Solid Waste Facility Permit was suspended many months ago by the State Integrated Waste Management Board due to environmental concerns raised by the CEQA lawsuit. However, the County Dept. of Environmental Health, ever the promoter of Mileck, has allowed his continued operation under a County Use Permit. The Planning and Environmental Health Depts. have changed Mileck's use permit approximately 30 times since 1994 to accommodate Mileck's continuous violations and revisions of his own plans. At the August 4 hearing County Counsel Frank Zotter, whose hair appeared to be pomaded with Fuel Oil #6, assumed his customary role as Mileck's advocate — at public expense. The MEC's attorney, Susan Brandt-Hawley, and Pano Stephens argued cogently that the Court should recognize the revocation of Mileck's State Permit. The Court ruled in our favor. But Mileck continues operation under the dubious County permit. The question of why public agencies should promote, condone, support and legally assist a private polluting corporation like Mileck may never be answered without criminal or grand jury indictment of all of them.

# The Cultural Evolution of Headwaters Forest

by Reverend Fly

If you haven't heard about how a Texas entrepreneur named Charles Hurwitz stole Pacific Lumber Company and is now liquidating the redwood forest to pay the interest on his personal debt from the Savings & Loan scam, you should know about it. It is also good to stay up to date on the lawyers and hard-working citizen groups trying to take the forest back before it's too late. But there's more than that going on in Headwaters Forest.

This is not your average plant community. Redwoods are too tall to stand on their own—they reach out and hold one another. Once mature, a tree will sprout successors from its root base, and so on. When one falls over, vertical branches become trunks and keep going, while the fallen trunk will root where it touches the earth. One cannot measure girth or count rings and know a tree's age. Nothing there is ever "dead." From the soil to the canopy, the old forest is a single woven organism that, until recently, blanketed the hills of the western coastal region.

That this place has a memory is not mysticism. It has experienced ice ages, precessions of the earth's axis, millions of years of weather systems. Through the salmon and the fog, the forest has shared its food and its very breath with the ocean since just after the whales first appeared. Whole families of organisms have evolved and gone extinct within its body, and all these things are contained in living cellular memory. Removal of the forest is erasing this memory. And yet, as the final shreds of the old forest give up their life to a plague of sprawling primates, somehow that vital force is being transferred. New realities are emerging.

Teams of young women who care naught for pop culture, hauling gear on strenuous hikes, fasting, praying, teaching, practicing systems, studying maps, training like Marines, but with love, to gleefully dangle their bodies in the path of huge, deadly machines.

Young men, full of spunk, who think that non-violence is cooler than power over. They want to fill the world with positive images so that today's children won't have to deprogram the same bullshit that they did.

Laid-off mill workers and senior citizens lock-

ing themselves to logging road gates, including a seventy year old woman locked to her own walker.

Pacific Lumber's number one old-growth faller filing suit against the company for hazardous and illegal forest practices.

There are cops hired as armed guards over lawless corporate plunder. But there's the one cop, holding the line with his buddies, who for a brief moment loses his focus to a sea of drumbeats, rainbow colors in sensual movement, righteous laughter—then sees himself a link in a chain of riot gear, feels silly, and wishes silently that he were on the other side. And there is the smiling elf-child, who notices that cop and says respectfully, "Come join us, you will be welcome in our basecamp."

In the courts, wife-beaters are released on their own recognizance while tree huggers are sent back to maximum security—till even the police are changing their minds. To quote one corrections officer, "You guys don't belong here. Humboldt county is f\*\*\*d up."

In the jails are circles of men, holding hands to chant, to praise one another for their wisdom and serenity.

Rabbis are telling corporate bullies to change their ways before they bring about plagues and natural disasters of biblical proportions.

In stone cathedrals, there are Christians praying for trees.

There are circles of witches, reawakened from the ashes of persecution, singing ancient sacred songs, dodging security to return to the forest and offer prayers of love and healing for ALL beings, including the pitiful Mr. Hurwitz....

We think big, because it does not honor this place to ask for small things. This is the rebirth of many ancient worlds, invisible to the eyes of greed and domination, silent behind the wail of industrial machinery, yet more alive than is customarily thought possible. This is the beginning of many futures, because our efforts to protect this place yield massive growth in our own lives. As our tribe grows and strengthens, we see that we are not saving the forest as much as the forest is saving us. In ever-increasing numbers, people are opening to the voices of trees, and the lesson becomes clear:

Come back! Come to see-listen-touch-smell-taste-REMEMBER. It's not your technology that

needs an upgrade, but your consciousness. Evolve! Fear is poisoning you! What you call comfort is cancer. What you call power is insanity. Look within. Open the cages. Dare for a moment to lower your ego and experience oneness with people no matter what their customs or appearance, for you are still one family. Dare just once to learn the language of ALL beings, from the spiny to the slimy, from the ancestors to the aliens. That vibration is your native tongue; when you feel it, you'll be home. There you will find the courage to stop taking life from mother earth, and begin receiving the life she offers.

## Headwaters '97 - Call to Action!

Organizing Video

"A Murder Mystery! A Love Story!

A Horror Show!"

by K. aka J. - Ecotopia News Service,  
Headwaters Action Video Collective

Headwaters Action Video Collective (HAVC), those intrepid activists whose role in the struggle to save the Ancient Forests of Northern California includes recording the Grandeur, the Devastation, and the Action, have released a powerful 30-minute documentary/organizing movie. HEADWATERS '97 - CALL TO ACTION! details the 1996 direct action campaign, from the massive rally on September 15 - featuring Judi Bari's stirring speech, and the arrests of 1033 children, women, and men - to aerial footage of amazing beauty and incredible destruction.

It's all here (or as much as we could fit into 30 minutes), bearing grim witness to MAXXAM's evil moonscape clearcutting of this magnificent ecosystem, which continues to inspire growing multitudes of dedicated forest defenders. Their songs and stories are told from a front line point of view.

Designed as a tool for organizers, this video contains much of what you'll need to turn your neighborhood, dance class, garden club, church choir, scout troop, or random bunch of friends watching TV in your living room into a keenly focused band of ecowarriors. They're great for fundraising, rabble rousing, public access TV, and all-purpose outreach. Call the MEC (707-468-1660) and plan to be at Carlotta on Sunday, September 14!

## Headwaters Rally Sunday September 14th

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afterwards. After the Summit, a delegation of EFlers went to the CDF offices in Fortuna. They demanded a moratorium on all cutting within the 60,000 acres, a complete halt to pesticide use, clear-cutting (and its various disguises), and the continued cutting of old growth. The EFlers also demanded that CDF get the latest cumulative impact analyses, including recent aerial photos, of the North Coast's forests.

The North Coast was visited by Congressman "Rank Piggs" and Senator Boxer this summer. We politely listened to Piggs as he spoke to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. We also listened to a Board Member refer to our rally as a riot, as he asked Piggs for federal money to meet law enforcement needs. In August, we staged a Boxer rebellion, donning mud and raising banners in the Eureka Inn. We called on Senator Boxer to use her power on the Senate Banking Committee to launch an investigation into Charles Hurwitz's failed Texas Savings and Loan.

Law enforcement did not go unnoticed this

summer either. Earth First! held a nonviolence training, and invited all the local law enforcement, including the Humboldt County Sheriffs to attend and learn about our nonviolence code. Officers from the Arcata and Humboldt State University police departments showed their community support by participating in role plays and discussion. Other invited agencies, however, failed to attend.

This summer's actions have built momentum towards what we hope will be the final chapter in the fight for Headwaters. As this edition goes to press, activists are busy preparing for a long season of actions that will become this fall's headlines and inspiration. And with other forests nearby in need of defense, there are endless opportunities for everyone to get involved and stay involved. See you at basecamp!!

### Headwaters Actions Begin!!

An Earth First! blockade at Fisher Gate on August 22 kicked off another season of nonviolent direct action in defense of Headwaters Forest. The action was a commemoration of the Stafford landslide, where seven homes were inundated with

mud as a result of a Pacific Lumber clearcut. Three Earth First!ers locked down amidst a mud splattered collection of furniture and appliances, including the kitchen sink. Cardboard depictions of dead Coho salmon, the victims of siltation from irresponsible logging, completed the scene. All three were consequently removed and hauled off to the Humboldt County Jail.

Carl Anderson, Pacific Lumber Chief of Security, shoved several people out of the road and dragged two women to the ground by their hair. Five of the people assaulted filed police reports which will be forwarded to the District Attorney. He will decide whether or not to file charges. The police refused to honor efforts by the demonstrators to make a citizen's arrest.

The action was intended as fair warning that Earth First! is committed to stopping the destruction of the last unprotected ancient redwoods. We are not leaving until MAXXAM/Pacific Lumber is out of all 60,000 acres of the Headwaters Forest Complex!

# Coho Confusion

by Allen Cooperrider

Are you confused about coho salmon? Wondering why federal bureaucrats are called "nymphs" or what an "ESU" is? Or more importantly, do you question why everyone is talking about "taking" coho instead of catching them. Let's try to sort out some of the confusion.

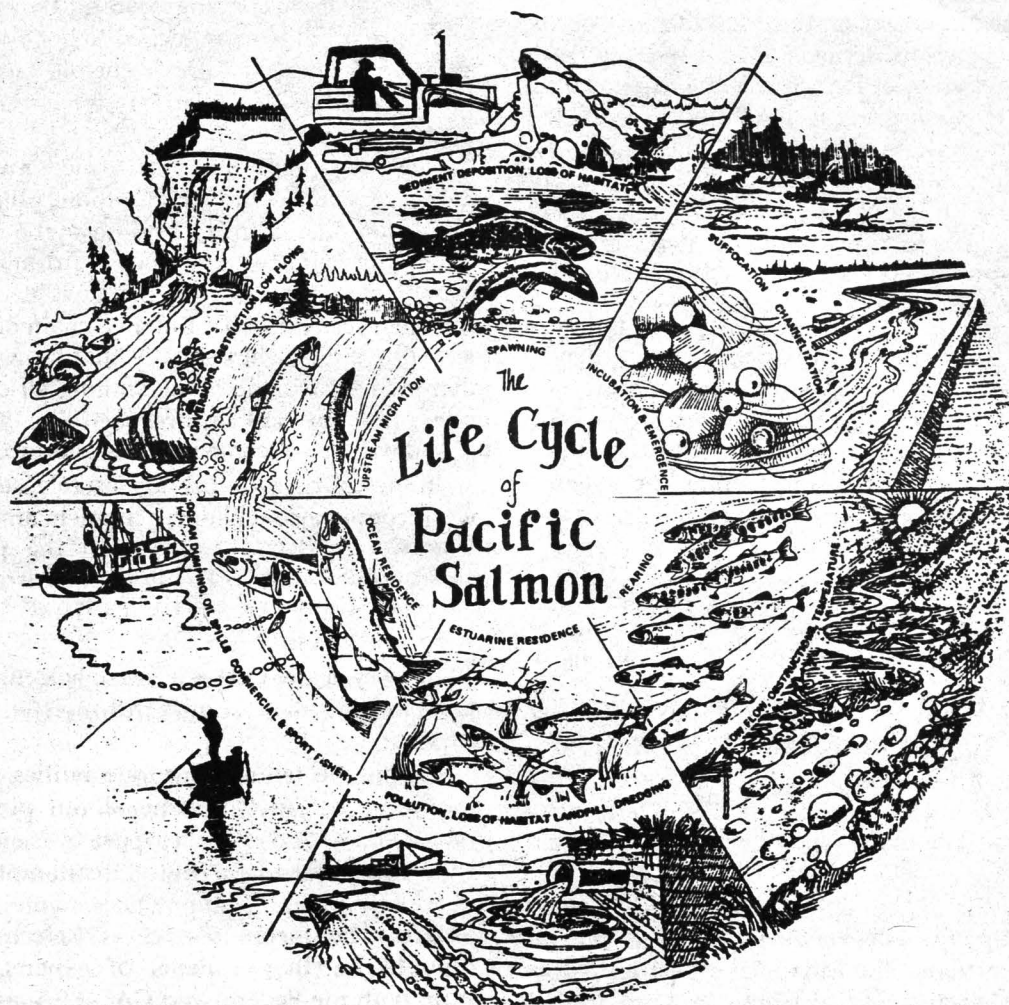
Coho salmon are also known in English as "silver salmon" or "pacific salmon" and by a variety of local names by the Native Americans along our north coast. They are one of three common species of anadromous salmonids in Mendocino County. Anadromous fish are those that are born in freshwater and then migrate to the ocean, returning as adults to spawn in the rivers. Salmonids are members of the trout family—and include all salmon and steelhead as well as all freshwater trout and chars. The other common anadromous salmonids on our north coast are the chinook or "king salmon" and the steelhead trout or "sea-run rainbow". Chinook are found in the bigger river systems such as the Klamath and Eel rivers, whereas steelhead are found in most all of our coastal streams, large and small.

Coho salmon spend one to two years in fresh water, followed by a year or more at sea, generally returning to fresh water to spawn near the end of their third year of life. Coho die after spawning and do not return to the sea as do some steelhead. Thus the myth that has been promoted lately that coho spend more of their time in the ocean than in fresh water (and thus we should look there to find the problems) is not based on fact. Coho spend up to half of their lifetime in freshwater, including the critical stages of juvenile development and the vulnerable period of returning upriver to spawn.

These fish have gone from relative abundance to "threatened" status in a relatively short period of time. In the past, coho were an important commercial fishery with as many as 3 million fish per year being caught in the ocean fishery of Oregon and California during the 1970s. With the decline of coho populations, commercial and recreational fishing for coho was prohibited in 1995, and it is now believed that there are less than 16,000 wild coho spawners in California and southern Oregon. (The number is from material published by the National Marine Fisheries Service; many fishery biologists believe the actual number is much lower). In Mendocino County, coho were once found in most all of the medium and large size streams, including the Eel, Ten Mile, Noyo, Big, Albion, Navarro, Garcia, Gualala, and Russian River. Although few data are available, spawning runs in these rivers are much smaller than in historic times.

The cause of coho decline is complex and multi-faceted and includes habitat degradation from logging, agriculture and road building as well as from dams, diversions and overfishing. These human activities have exacerbated the effect of natural environmental factors such as drought and poor oceanic conditions. In the coastal streams of Mendocino County (from the Gualala River north to the Mattole), logging and associated activity are probably the most important causes of coho decline. These activities put sediment in streams and raise stream temperatures which degrades the habitat for spawning and rearing. Such practices may also alter the timing and duration of river flows. In the Russian and Eel River drainages—water diversion and agricultural practices are additional factors causing habitat deterioration.

Since 1993, the Mendocino Environmental Center, together with 21 other environmental



groups, has been petitioning and suing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to protect the fish under provisions of the Endangered Species Act. This agency, commonly called "nymphs" after its acronym NMFS, has jurisdiction (rather than the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), because coho are an ocean-going species. After a three year delay NMFS began the formal listing process. In October 1996 coho salmon in the Central Coast "Evolutionarily Significant Unit" (ESU) were listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act and the "taking" of coho salmon was prohibited for these watersheds.

Each of these terms, "ESU", "threatened", and "take" has caused much confusion among the interested public trying to follow these activities. The Central Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) consists of all of the watersheds that originate along the coast south of the Mattole River. It thus includes almost all of the river systems in Mendocino County except the Eel, since the latter originates further north in Humboldt County near Ferndale, but has its headwaters in northern Mendocino County in the Willits and Covelo areas. An ESU is so named because the fish in such a region are generally more similar genetically than they are to other populations along the coast.

"Threatened" is one of two formal designations possible under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The act directs that a species be listed as "endangered" if they are "in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range...". Similarly, the act requires that species be designated as "threatened" if they are "likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future...".

"Take" is a term from the Endangered Species Act which means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect". This term was intended to include habitat destruction, and subsequent court rulings have upheld such an

interpretation.

Then in May 1997, NMFS listed as threatened the coho from the Mattole River north to southern Oregon (The Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit better known as the "Transboundary ESU"). This was followed by a "no take" regulation for the California portion of this same ESU in July 1997.

The net result of all of this is that coho salmon are now listed as threatened and "take" of such fish is prohibited in all watersheds of Mendocino County. NMFS has not issued specific guidance on which activities they consider "take". However, in the July, 1997 Federal Register notice, NMFS listed general activities that they consider could "potentially harm, injure or kill" coho salmon. These include:

- "Land-use activities that adversely affect coho salmon habitat (e.g., logging, grazing, farming, road construction in riparian areas, and areas susceptible to mass wasting and surface erosion);"
- "discharges or dumping of toxic chemicals or other pollutants into waters or riparian areas;" and
- "pesticide applications".

Most importantly, NMFS has signalled that they do not consider California Forest Practice Rules as adequate to protect coho habitat from impacts of forestry operations on private lands.

NMFS will be developing final rules in the next few months for protection of coho and coho habitat. This is an important time for citizens to let NMFS know what sort of protection coho need in their watersheds. To date, two groups, Friends of Ten-Mile and Friends of Daugherty Creek and Big River have provided NMFS with draft guidelines for coho protection in their watersheds. Others are expected to do so in the next few months.

# CEQA Lawsuit Follows SNAG Forum on Toxics at Retech

by Dot Brovarney

Just one month after the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors denied SNAG a hearing on illegal toxic activities at Retech and the organization responded by sponsoring its own public forum, the citizen's group has filed a lawsuit against the county's Air Quality Management District. The suit alleges failure on the part of the local agency to enforce California's Environmental Quality Act when it recently permitted two Retech incinerators for toxics testing. Permits were issued for the plasma arc centrifugal treatment incinerator known as the PACT 8 and the plasma arc melter known as the PAM 6 on February 25, 1997 without development review, negative declarations or any notice to the public of CEQA exemptions. According to SNAG's research, since at least 1994, numerous permits for incinerator operations at Retech have been issued illegally by the air district.

The lawsuit is being handled for SNAG by attorney Luke Cole of the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation in San Francisco. According to Jane Williams, executive director of California Communities Against Toxics (CCAT) and lead speaker at SNAG's public forum, Cole, who is also affiliated with the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, is among the best CEQA attorneys currently working in the field of environmental justice.

Besides the SNAG CEQA suit, Retech and its parent company, Lockheed-Martin, face several other legal actions. The Mendocino District Attorney's office is active on two fronts. In April, it filed a criminal misdemeanor suit (with the potential to upgrade to felony) against Lockheed-Martin and other corporate interests based on the identification by CAL-OSHA's Department of Industrial Relations of a number of labor and safety code violations related to the death of a Retech worker in a metal powder explosion at the plant in 1996. The D.A.'s office is also building a civil case against Retech/Lockheed incorporating hazardous waste violations recently identified by the state's Department of Toxic Substances Control with numerous violations related to building and planning codes, air quality, and environmental health concerns. This past spring, the family of Ed Hensley, the Retech worker who died of burns suffered in the explosion, filed a \$10 million lawsuit against divi-



**The Retech Facility South of Ukiah**

*Photo by Liza Saenz courtesy of Sojourn Magazine*

sions of Lockheed-Martin and corporate cohorts alleging negligence, product liability and willful misconduct.

Although the lawsuit should shed some light on the shady activities between our local regulatory agencies and their corporate friends, SNAG sponsored a forum on July 30 in attempt to educate the public about illegal practices involving toxics at Retech. The forum, Toxics at Retech/Lockheed, brought together a panel of experts, observers from both the Federal and CAL-EPA, and an audience of 160 to discuss the incineration of toxics at the Retech plant just south of Ukiah.

Retech builds and tests experimental incinerators designed to process hazardous and radioactive waste by converting it into a "non-leachable" slag. Testing of this equipment has involved Retech bringing in and burning such materials as PVC pipe, surrogate chemical warfare weapons, military wastes, pharmaceutical sludges, medical ash and soils contaminated with mixed wastes. This incineration produces emissions which are sporadically monitored and about which there is no data concerning dioxins and radioactivity, among other dangerous products.

The three-hour forum, co-sponsored by the MEC, featured three toxics experts who discussed

some of the ramifications of Retech's activities: Jane Williams, executive director of California Communities Against Toxics; Ernie Goitein, nuclear engineer; and Dr. Marion Moses, president of the Pesticide Education Center in San Francisco. Also in attendance were John McCarroll of the Federal EPA and Ted Rauh and Charlene Williams of CAL-EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control. Noticeably absent were all of Mendocino County's Board of Supervisors and county department heads and staff. Sixteen county representatives had been personally invited by SNAG to attend.

Jane Williams addressed the subject of experimental incineration and its health implications. She noted that Retech's neighbors and Ukiahans in general are the only community in the country to be located next to incinerators engaged in this sort of experimentation. She also made the point that this is being done without the consent of those who may be affected by the toxics at Retech.

Ernie Goitein studied data on radioactivity in substances processed at Retech. He found that combining numbers from Retech's own data on the processing of contaminated soil by incineration, the amount of radioactivity in the slag end-product was less than what would be expected from the amount originally introduced into the incinerator. This raises the important question: where did the rest of the radioactivity go?

Dr. Marion Moses spoke on the subject of pesticides—a number of which are also processed in Retech's incinerators. She discussed the fact that combining pesticides can change the effect these substances have on us—a phenomenon known as aggregate or cumulative exposures. The EPA is only just beginning to acknowledge and study this problem which is implicated in damage to human hormonal systems. We don't yet know what effect the emissions of the combination of toxics at Retech may have.

Written reports by the three panelists and several other scientists and toxics experts are available to you through the Mendocino Environmental Center. Call or stop by to pick up a copy of the packet assembled by SNAG for Toxics at Retech/Lockheed. If you would like to help defray the cost of this litigation, SNAG invites you to contribute by sending a check to SNAG at P.O. Box 340, Hopland, CA 95449.

## Masonite Holds Public Meeting

### Errors Revealed in the Health Risk Assessments for 1989 and 1991

by Ollie Kolkmann

The public was told at the Air Quality Hearing that the health of Ukiah's residents may have been harmed by toxic pollutants released by Masonite in the years 1989 and 1991.

Six years after the fact, Masonite was required by the Mendocino Air Quality Management District (MAQMD) under the California Air Toxic Hot Spots Act (AB2588) to admit that International Paper's Masonite plant in Ukiah exposed citizens of Ukiah to significant toxic emissions in those years, up to 7.5 and 10.5 times beyond what are considered safe levels, creating significant health risks to some citizens.

Contrary to what we residents of Ukiah were told in the early 1990s by Masonite, our health was at risk.

This hearing was held July 24th at the Elks Lodge on Hastings Road. How ironic that all who came to this Air Quality meeting had to pass

through a cigarette smoke-filled bar to get to the meeting hall!

The meeting was part of a public notification process required by the State of California. It featured a panel of Masonite officials and their hired experts plus David Faulkner, the Mendocino County Air Quality District Officer, and Dr. James Collins from the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Cal EPA office). The Masonite officials were David Tucker, Masonite's manager of environmental health and safety, and Carolyn Stein, the plant manager who replaced Bob Andzulis (who moved to Pennsylvania).

Masonite-hired experts were Dr. Ron E. Gots, a pharmacology toxicologist and Dr. Dean Wohlbach, an environmental regulator and organic chemist from San Jose. For the most part, Masonite panel members side-stepped the real issue that the Health Risk Assessments indicated toxic air emission violations by the Masonite plant in 1989 and 1991 and tried to blame the citizens' respiratory health problems on wood smoke and vehicle emissions.

It was pointed out by one member in the audience that the air modeling data in the HRAs was faulty, such as utilizing cloud cover data from Oakland, and not acknowledging or stating that Ukiah has a serious inversion problem. The HRA went on to say "these data do not conform to EPA guidelines." However, the State Air Resources Board granted the MAQMD authority to approve the use of this data. Dr. Wohlbach said they used the best information they had, that Oakland was the nearest station with cloud cover data!

The audience was in disbelief at being told by more than one person on the panel that Masonite production and emissions were constant 24 hours a day everyday of the year. Many members of the "public" present at the meeting stated that they have seen the emissions increase in the night and decrease during the day.

Dr. James Collins of the State Office of Health Risk Assessment may be the first government official to state that the emissions from Masonite may

# HAARP: Striking a Sour Note

by Julie Generic

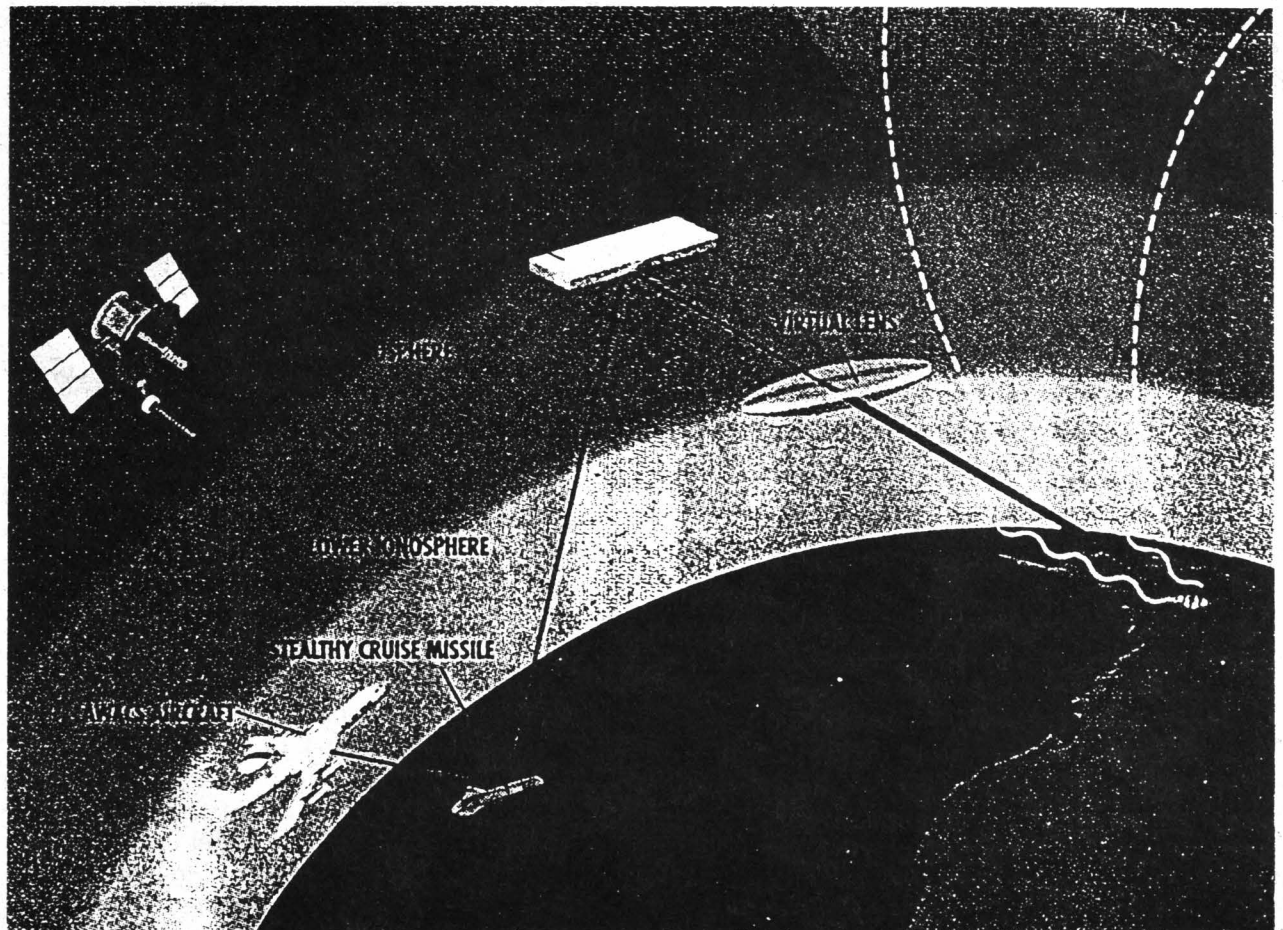
HAARP, the High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program, is the most versatile, and also the largest, radio-frequency-radiation transmitter in the world. It is being constructed on a Department of Defense (DoD)-owned site in Gakona, Alaska, by the U.S. Air Force and Navy. The first phase of the project was completed in December of 1994, since which time it has been undergoing testing. The second phase of construction began in the summer of 1997, and when it has been completed there will be between 4.7 to 10 billion watts of effective radiation power (ERP) emitting from antennas at ground level. The military has scheduled the completion of the project for the year 2002.

The 48 antennas at the HAARP site, surrounded by barbed wire, warnings and "No Trespassing" signs, function in the opposite manner to that of a radio telescope; they send out signals instead of receiving them. The HAARP technology will be used to lift areas of the ionosphere (the crucial global shield upon which life as we know it here on planet earth depends), by focusing a beam of radio-frequency (RF) radiation to those areas and heating them. Electromagnetic waves then bounce back onto earth from the ionosphere and penetrate all animate and inanimate matter. The military's fancy name for this ionospheric heater is "Ionospheric Research Instrument," or IRI.

Why all this highfalutin technology, you may well ask? The military couches their phrases in such rhetorical technological terms that they are rendered practically indecipherable, but thanks to people like Dr. Nick Begich and Jeane Manning, authors of *Angels Don't Play This HAARP - Advances in Tesla Technology*, who have done extensive research into the military's obfuscations, the true capabilities of HAARP are presented in layperson's terms. A simplified summation of HAARP's potential includes the ability to:

- \* Communicate with the U.S. military's submerged submarines by penetrating the oceans with Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) radiations
- \* Penetrate land with ELF in order to search for hidden tunnels or other sites of military interest (a process known as earth-penetrating tomography)
- \* Shield a territory from intercontinental ballistic missiles
- \* Fry satellites
- \* Discriminate between incoming objects (missiles)
- \* Enhance communications
- \* Disrupt communications over a large area of the globe
- \* Change the chemical structure of the upper atmosphere and possibly alter weather
- \* Affect human mental functioning
- \* Impact the health of humans and other biological systems (including migration patterns, etc.).

There is a great deal of concern from citizens and acclaimed scientists alike about the effects of HAARP's activities on the ionosphere, particularly when the risks are already exacerbated by many other factors. Paul Schaefer of Kansas City has a degree in electrical engineering and spent four years building nuclear weapons. He talks about imbalances already caused by the industrial and atomic age, especially by radiation of large numbers of tiny, high-velocity particles "like very small spinning tops in our environment. The unnatural level of motion of highly-energetic particles in the atmosphere and in radiation belts surrounding



earth is the villain in the weather disruptions, according to this model, which describes an earth discharging its buildup of heat, relieving stress and regaining a balanced condition through earthquakes and volcanic action...Unless we desire the death of our planet, we must end the production of unstable particles which are generating the earth's fever. A first priority to prevent this disaster would be to shut down all nuclear power plants and end the testing of atomic weapons, electronic warfare, and 'Star Wars.'" HAARP falls into the "Star Wars" category by virtue of the fact that HAARP is a spin-off of Strategic Defense Initiative, i.e., Star Wars-related projects, which used ionospheric heaters in the 1980's.

The heating of the ionosphere is in itself incredibly risky, and even the military and its scientists lay no claim to knowledge of the consequences of what this type of interference may have. The ionosphere lies between forty and six hundred miles above earth, just above the ozone layer. The ionosphere is alive with electrical activity, so much so that its processes are "non-linear". This means that the ionosphere is dynamic, and its reactions to experiments unpredictable. High-energy experiments in this area where non-linear processes can change suddenly and unexpectedly, or increase in power dramatically, is madness. Some theorists say that a non-linear process can, under certain conditions, tap into the background energy of space, also called "zero-point fluctuations of the vacuum". The ionosphere protects the earth from constant bombardment of high-energy particles from space with the help of earth's magnetic field, and it has an intimate relationship with those forces. HAARP would serve to, in effect, slice into the ionosphere. David Yarrow of Albany, New York, a researcher with a background in electronics, describes possible interactions of HAARP radiations with the ionosphere and earth's magnetic grid:

"HAARP will not burn 'holes' in the ionosphere. That is a dangerous understatement of

what HAARP's giant gigawatt beam will do. Earth is spinning relative to thin electric shells of the multilayer membrane of 'ionospheres' that absorb and shield earth's surface from intense solar radiation, including charged particle storms in solar winds erupting from the sun. Earth's axial spin means that HAARP - in a burst lasting more than a few minutes - will slice through the ionosphere like a microwave knife. This produces not a hole but a long tear - an incision."

Dr. Elizabeth Rauscher, a Ph.D. in particle physics, describes the ionosphere as a soap-bubble-like sphere surrounding earth's atmosphere, with movements swirling over the surface of the bubble. She says that "if you've ever watched a large bubble closely, you see rainbow-like patterns flowing over it. Then you see a black spot where the wavelengths of light are so short that they can't show the bubble. But it hasn't burst yet. Then a hole forms, then it pops."

Barbara Zickuhr, a concerned Alaskan, says "they're like big boys playing with a sharp stick, finding a sleeping bear and poking it in the butt to see what's going to happen."

The implications, both long and short term, of the potential risks on a global scale, affecting all life on this planet, are staggering. It is each person's responsibility to be active and aware regarding HAARP. Earth and the life forms on it vibrate and resonate in harmony, and HAARP is a sour note. For more information, Jeane Manning and Dr. Nick Begich's book *Angel's Don't Play This HAARP - Advances in Tesla Technology* is available from Earthpulse Press, P.O. Box 201393, Anchorage, Alaska, 99520. Also available to the general public is their website, through which you can also access the information being made available to the general public by the military, at: [www.earthpulse.com](http://www.earthpulse.com). Dr. Nick Begich can usually be reached at (907)-694-1277, fax: (907)-696-1277.

Information is also on file at the Mendocino Environmental Center, 106 W. Standley St., Ukiah, CA 95468 (707)-468-1660.

# Worker Sues Pacific Lumber Company

by Craig Michaels

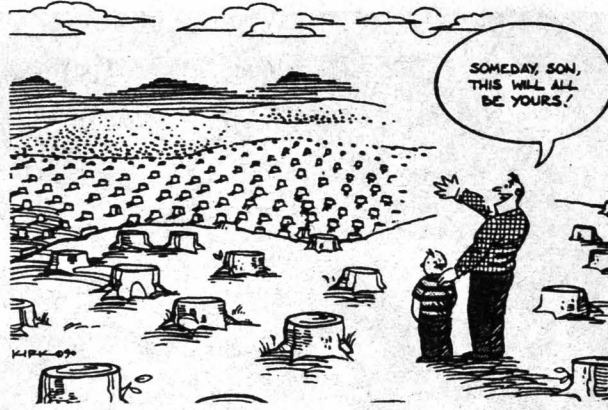
On June 19, 1997, Pacific Lumber and its parent corporation, Maxxam, were sued in U.S. District Court in San Francisco by Stan Chandler, a third generation PL employee who alleges that he was wrongfully fired for speaking out against the dangerous working conditions that have been enforced by PL since its takeover by the Maxxam Corporation.

After learning the profession of tree-falling from his father, Chandler worked for PL for 13 years where he earned himself the reputation as the company's best, most experienced old-growth timber faller. According to the complaint, Chandler always received excellent employee evaluations along with numerous assurances by his supervisors and managers that his job at PL was secure. Not once did he receive any type of negative evaluation, warning notice, or any other written disapproval of his work.

Chandler's suit contends that prior to 1986, PL was a company well-known for its long-term commitment to its employees and their families. The company had traditionally gone to significant lengths to provide its workers with benefits which included a promise that they would have a job for life. Employees were hired, worked for life, and then their children followed them into the work force. Such was the case with Stan Chandler.

However, when PL was taken over by Maxxam in 1986, the new management implemented production procedures which severely jeopardized worker safety. The company cut back on the number of support personnel for the tree fallers, forcing Chandler and other fallers to work alone. The company refused to provide two-way radios for the fallers in case of emergency. Fallers were left alone for hours and oftentimes not accounted for at all before the supervisors went home for the day. Chandler protested such safety violations after being abandoned in the woods one day.

Employees were also directed to cut old-growth trees closer to the ground (instead of at breast height) in order to gain an additional few feet of lumber at the expense of worker safety. Chandler not only questioned the safety of PL's policies during employee meetings but raised his concerns directly to the management.



PL responded by systematically pressuring Chandler to ignore the safety issues and told him not to discuss them with other timber fallers. When Chandler persisted, PL unjustly accused him of reporting more timber than he had cut ("long-thumbing") and disseminated this false allegation throughout the worker community, embarrassing Chandler and his family. On September 13, 1996, Stan Chandler's position at PL was terminated.

Chandler's complaint also states that the Maxxam-operated PL engaged in unfair business practices by violating state and federal environmental laws, including cutting down virgin old-growth forest during clandestine operations not authorized by law. Chandler was required to re-ribbon timber harvest plan boundaries so that the company could take additional timber which was clearly off-limits and not to be cut under pertinent state and Federal regulatory laws. Furthermore, the company required Chandler and other employees to engage in activities (such as tree falling) in order to obstruct and prevent law enforcement agencies' discovery of these unauthorized timber falling operations. A videotape showing the illegal removal of old-growth trees was filed as an exhibit to the complaint.

Aside from seeking damages for Chandler's wrongful discharge, the suit also seeks an order from the court requiring PL and Maxxam to pay back to the public the value of the trees that have been illegally removed.

The Environmental Protection Information

Center has called on state and federal agencies to immediately launch an independent investigation of these allegations, to halt timber harvest plan operations in sensitive residual ancient groves, and to halt salvage exemption operations in old-growth and residual stands. Agencies must investigate these potential violations of law before any long-term plans affecting the future of Headwaters Forest are adopted.

Please contact the following agency people and ask them to conduct an independent investigation of Pacific Lumber:

Ross Johnson  
California Dept. of Forestry  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-653-4995, fax: 653-8957  
ross\_johnson@fire.ca.gov

Jacqueline Schafer  
California Dept. of Fish & Game  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-653-7664, fax: 653-1856

John Garamendi  
Deputy Sec. of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20429  
202-208-6291, fax: 208-1873

Michael Spear  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232  
503-231-6118, fax: 872-2716  
mike\_spear@mail.fws.gov

The information in this article is based on the complaint filed by Chandler's attorneys: Mark Harris at 707-822-9506, Bill Bertain at 707-443-5078, Dave Williams and Kirk Boyd at 510-841-0707 and Thomas Petersen at 916-629-2557. For more information on the independent investigation of the charges in the suit, contact EPIC at 707-923-2931.

## Masonite Holds Public Meeting

*concluded from page 6*

have affected some people in Ukiah.

Mendocino County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Marvin Trotter spoke of the increased respiratory health problems in those years documented and reported by his predecessor, Dr. Miriam Shipp.

Some 50 citizens attended the hearing and many spoke concerning their trauma as a result of health problems caused by Masonite's toxic emissions, including Mary Bowen, whose husband Bruce died at age 47 of respiratory failure after riding his bicycle near Masonite the night of January 18, 1991. Loni Bauer stated she had an acute asthma attack that same day. Also, David Faulkner stated that there was a large number of complaints that same day. At that time, before the temporary pollution control device was on line, the exposure levels were around 300 times above safe levels.

Esther Faber told her story of how she was forced to move her counseling practice and her family out of Ukiah in order to escape her health

problems caused by Masonite's toxic air emissions. Her symptoms included having a runny nose and sore throat all the time in Ukiah, coughing spasms, and nosebleeds for the first time in her life. When she left Ukiah, these symptoms would virtually vanish, but would come back in full force upon returning to Ukiah. She stated that she is glad she no longer lives in Ukiah.

Antonio Andrade pointed out that the HRAs didn't even include PM 10s (minute pollution particles we breathe and collect in our lungs and do not get expelled). He stated that Masonite emits a minimum of 230 tons of PM 10s per year. These minute particles are not even tested or regulated.

I was forced to move out of Ukiah after severe coughing, nosebleeds, a series of asthma attacks (I never had asthma before this period and none since I've moved out), and even discovering the presence of lesions in my larynx despite the fact that I've never smoked or chewed any form of tobacco in my life. I asked if it was safe for me to

move back to Ukiah and my question was left unanswered.

David Faulkner said we couldn't get the HRA information from the Air District sooner because the district was understaffed!

There was some consolation in finding out what we already know: that Masonite emissions really did cause many of us serious health problems; the HRAs confirmed that fact. But this is the first time it has been admitted publically...however, it's 6 years too late for many of us.

It was good to hear this information revealed by these HRAs after being told by local physicians that I was the cause of my own health problems, that my asthma attacks were caused by unresolved stress in my life, or that my cough was a habit cough or that the lesions in my voice box were caused by my secretly smoking cigars.

It certainly is too bad we didn't have this HRA information when we needed it!

## Bari Lawsuit Update

by Alicia Littletree

(Note: This update assumes that you already know the basics of the May 24, 1990 car-bombing of Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, of the resulting lawsuit against the FBI, and of the FBI's COINTELPRO program. If you don't, please write or call us for a copy of the brochure, "Who Bombed Judi Bari?")

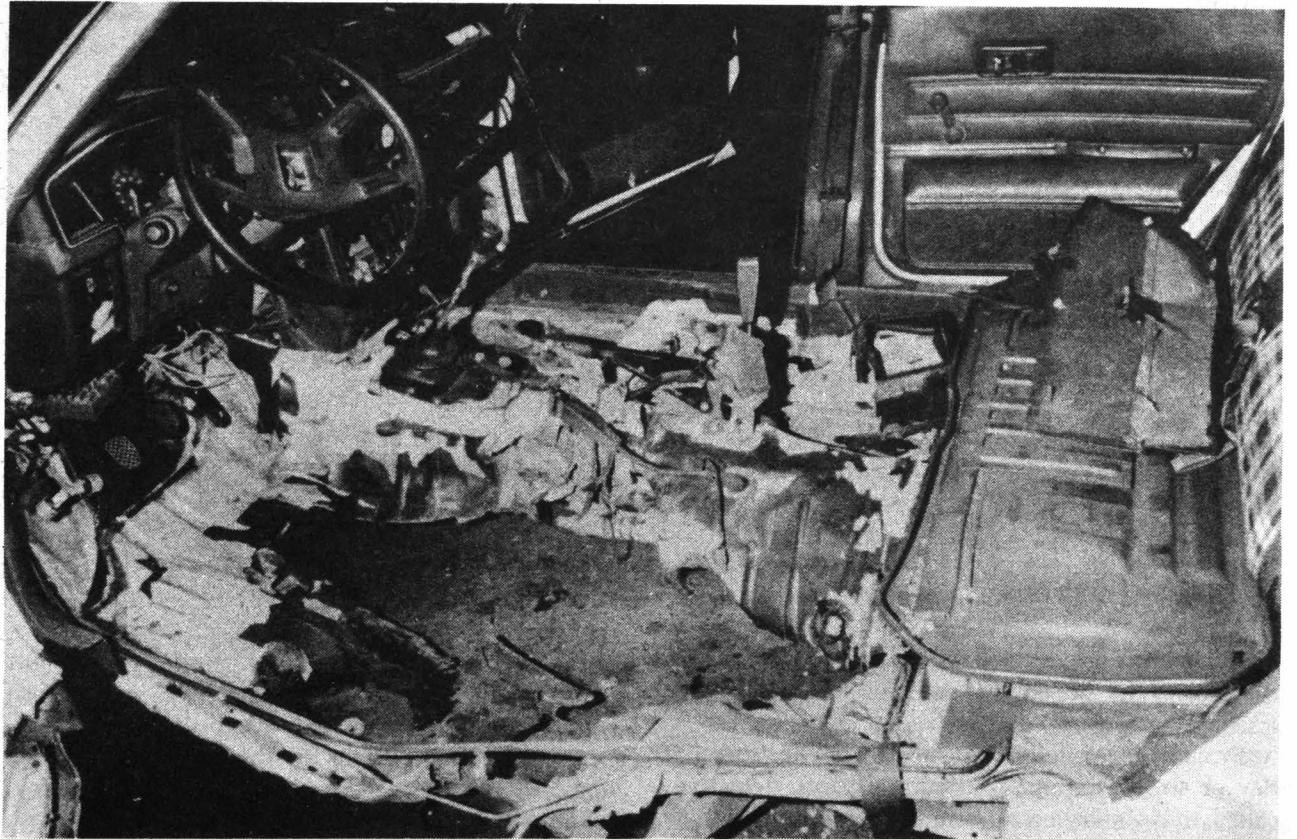
The first hearing in Bari vs. the United States of America since Judi Bari's devastating death from breast cancer on March 2, 1997, took place Friday, August 1st, at the Oakland Federal Building before Judge Claudia Wilken. That morning, the courtroom was packed with supporters from the Bay Area and up north, who waited expectantly to hear oral arguments pertaining to the motion filed March 18 by Judi's lead attorney, Dennis Cunningham. The motion itself is a compilation of all the key evidence turned up since Judi and Darryl filed the lawsuit back against the FBI and Oakland Police Department for their mishandling of the 1990 car bombing that almost killed Judi and injured Darryl. Dennis asks the judge to rule once and for all that the FBI and OPD do not have immunity from prosecution in this case, contrary to their claims that their actions back in 1990 were reasonable and therefore they cannot be sued. The goal is to cut through endless FBI stalling and take this historic case, now entering its seventh year, to trial.

Less than a week before the hearing, the judge read the FBI's brief responding to our motion, only to discover that they were continuing their duplicitous stalling tactics and had only answered one of the four charges made by the plaintiffs, that of illegal search and seizure. Not wanting to put off oral arguments, Judge Claudia ordered the FBI to submit a complete response, but left the date of the hearing the same. We entered the courtroom not really knowing what to expect.

As the hearing began, Dennis pointed out that the fourth amendment claims of illegal search and seizure are inseparable from our other claims in the case, and cannot be isolated by the FBI from the claims of false arrest, unequal protection of the law, and conspiracy to violate Judi and Darryl's first amendment rights. "I don't know what we can really talk about here today, Judge," Dennis said. But, given the volume of information with which she'd been presented, the Judge had some questions of her own.

Back on May 24, 1990, the FBI and OPD arrived just minutes after a motion-triggered pipe bomb exploded beneath Judi Bari as she drove through Oakland with passenger Darryl Cherney. According to the police's deposition testimony, the FBI quickly took control of the scene, muscling its way into a leading position in the on-site investigation. It was the FBI who fabricated the lie that the bomb was on the back seat floorboard, therefore Judi and Darryl could see it and knew they were carrying it. They also concocted the story that nails found in Judi's car were identical with nails that had been taped to the bomb for "shrapnel effect." Yet, even though bombing cases are within the jurisdiction of the FBI, it was the Oakland Police who made the false arrest.

"So what did Oakland do wrong?" inquired Judge Wilken, before an astonished audience. She pointed out that the OPD has every right to believe the FBI, and it's not the fault of the police if the FBI turns out to be lying. Accountability falls somewhere in between the two agencies. Anyone familiar with the FBI's notorious COINTELPRO, counterintelligence program, knows they have a long



The floorboard of Bari's car shows the bomb was directly beneath the driver's seat.

Photo by the FBI

history of using local police to do the "dirty work" of arresting their political targets in order to dodge scrutiny for rights violations.

What the Oakland Police did wrong in Judi's case, however, was to ignore the obvious physical evidence in front of them that Judi and Darryl were the victims of the bombing, not the perpetrators. They swallowed the FBI's lies "with a big spoon" said Dennis, in defiance of what they were seeing with their own eyes. Everyone at the scene, FBI and OPD alike, would have observed the same gaping hole beneath the driver's seat, yet the OPD went along with the FBI's fabrication that the bomb had been in the back. This is also true of the nails that they would have known were not even similar when they used them as grounds for arrest.

At this point, FBI lawyer Joe Sher objected. He said a determination about the nails required an expert opinion. "You don't need an expert to tell you about something that Ray Charles could see!" exclaimed Dennis.

"I don't know much about nails," said Judge Claudia, "but I know a finishing nail is different than other nails." No honest observer who compared the finishing nails from the bomb and the roofing nails and sinkers found in bags in Judi's car could ever mistake them as "identical."

"Well, how can the plaintiffs prove that the FBI was unreasonable in their assertion as to the location of the bomb?" the Judge wanted to know. Dennis launched into one of his trademark impassioned and eloquent arguments. He cited the physical evidence, including the location of Judi's injuries, that the bomb had been hidden under and not behind Judi's seat. He pointed out that some of the responding agents at the scene were highly experienced bomb experts who would have known how to precisely place a bomb of this nature using a number of methods, and that another FBI bomb expert had testified to that fact. And he argued that the FBI had arrived at the Oakland bombing scene with a malicious predisposition towards Judi and Darryl because of prior and continuing FBI opera-

tions against Earth First! In fact, the goal of the FBI's assault against Arizona Earth First!— the Bureau's own name for it was THERMCON or "thermite conspiracy"— had been to falsely connect Earth First!ers with explosives in order to brand Earth First! a terrorist organization. What's more, when the FBI arrived just minutes after the explosion in Oakland, they told responding OPD officers that Judi and Darryl, two prominent non-violent EF! organizers, were already subjects of an investigation "in the terrorist department."

The Judge then turned toward the FBI's lawyer for a response. "The Plaintiffs are DEAD wrong," boomed Joe Sher, using a line he'd surely been rehearsing since Judi's tragic passing. He restated the FBI's claims of immunity. The FBI had made reasonable mistakes about the location of the bomb and about the nails. The law protects them from being sued for any mistakes they make in the course of their duties.

At one point, Oakland's lawyer Karen Rodrigue joined the discussion. Picking up the Judge's cue, Rodrigue unabashedly broke ranks with the FBI and argued that Oakland had done nothing wrong when they believed the FBI's lies and therefore should be dismissed from the case.

For about 30 minutes the Judge continued to ask questions of both plaintiffs and defendants. Much of the proceedings touched on subtle legal concepts that came across as abstractions to a room full of people who were there out of a desire to know who bombed Judi Bari. This kind of lengthy back and forth is unusual for a pre-trial hearing in this case, and as the attorneys made their arguments, the audience got a hint of foreshadowing of the trial of Bari vs. USA. Even so, the August 1st hearing did not bring us any closer to that day. As of September, the FBI has finally filed a complete response to our motion, and Dennis Cunningham has filed his answer to it. There may be another hearing before the Judge issues her decision on the immunity question. Because of the enormous

continued on page 10

## Bear Lincoln Trial Update:

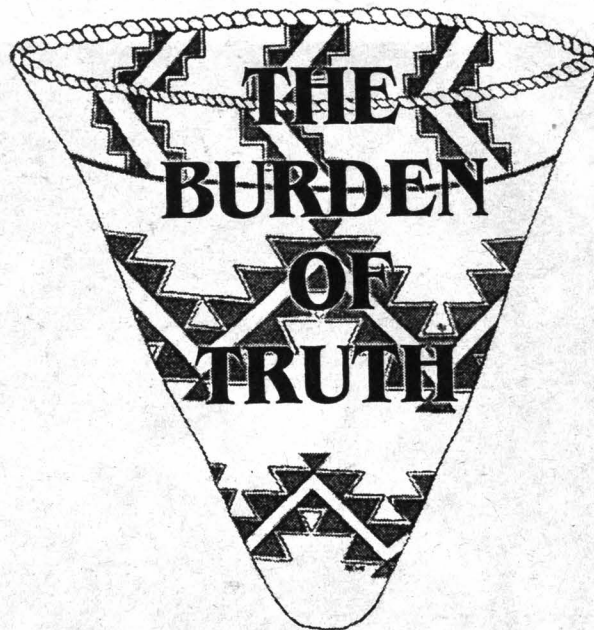
### The Prosecution Rests Its Case

by Lynda McClure

On Tuesday, July 29th, the evidentiary phase of the Eugene "Bear" Lincoln trial began. Of the 135 witnesses on the prosecution's list, only 20 were called before the case was rested on August 25th. Over that time, expert witnesses, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department detectives, an FBI special agent, and a dispatcher have been among the people taking the witness stand.

Deputy Dennis Miller, the only other eyewitness besides Bear to the events on the ridge in Covelo on April 14th, also testified for the prosecution. He told of remembering a few days after the shootings that he saw two shadows walking up the road. In his interview taken hours after the incident, he'd reported seeing only one person initially, seeing him clearly in the beam of Davis' flashlight, seeing him clearly raise his gun and shoot before the deputies opened fire and killed Leonard "Acorn" Peters. Miller claimed no one told him about the forensic test showing Acorn hadn't fired a gun that night when the memory of the second person on the road came back. He also testified he did not talk to anyone about his recall nor was he informed about the forensic test until a day or so later when a Sonoma County detective called to re-interview him in light of the new evidence. On the stand, he recounted that night - the tension, the strategies, the fear, the torment of listening to his fellow officer take his last breaths, the ongoing trauma of reliving it all.

Bear's mother, Lucille Lincoln, was also called by the prosecution. She told about that night, coming back from Ukiah with other family, seeing the commotion at the high school and stopping, being approached by Neil Britton who threatened to kill them all in retaliation for the murder of his father that evening. After going home and going to bed, she was awakened by her daughter-in-law who told her there was much gunfire on the ridge. Fearing for their lives, they left in a pick-up filled with



family, but just before they did, Bear appeared, out of breath and shaken, saying they'd shot Acorn right in front of him. There was no mention of police. She assumed it was the Brittons, and that they had left. She proceeded to drive out of the valley, where she encountered Acorn's body in the road. The pick-up was quickly surrounded by police and all were ordered out among shouts, cursing and drawn guns. One of the children, a two year old, asked a deputy if he was going to kill them. Mrs. Lincoln, who suffers from arthritis, was ordered to the ground by a CHP officer, and when she said she couldn't, he knocked her down and tightly handcuffed her.

Mrs. Lincoln admitted to lying during one interview with Sonoma County Detective Gourley during the investigation when she told him she hadn't seen her son that night. She said she'd heard of the "shoot to kill" order on Bear, and was not cooperating with the investigation. In a second interview a week or so later, she told Gourley she'd seen Bear twice that night; at her home and at her sister's later that night. When Detective Gourley took the stand, he testified that Mrs. Lincoln had never told him she'd seen Bear that night. He testified under questioning by Deputy DA Williams and defense attorney Tony Serra to this fact. However, Serra produced Gourley's written report of the second interview in which it clearly states she did indeed tell him. Gourley said he forgot.

Perhaps Bear put it best after the fourth day of

## Bari Lawsuit Update

*concluded from page 9*

volume of information she's got to pore over and sort out, and due to the certainty of appeal, the decision is bound to be long and detailed. We expect her to take anywhere from 6 to 8 months to deliver her answer. If she grants our motion and decides that we made an adequate showing that the FBI and OPD knowingly and maliciously lied, the next step is to set a schedule to finish discovery and go to trial. If she rules against us, then all of our claims will be thrown out. In either event, one can certainly expect the losing side to appeal. But for now, this window gives us a few precious months to focus on saving Headwaters before we have to be back in court this spring to face down the FBI.

the trial. He said that every day had been a victory - and it was the prosecution putting on its case. It is not disputed that Bear was at the scene, and that he fired a gun. However, inconsistent and disputed testimony, questionable investigation procedures, and the mysterious trail of blood drips leading down the road from the scene of the shootings - thought to be Bear's but proven not to be - leave no clear picture of the actual events that night.

The defense expects its presentation to last two to four weeks, probably finishing sometime in late September. If so, the evidentiary phase of the trial will have lasted less time than it took to select a jury. The decision on Bear's guilt or innocence, his life or death, will then be up to that jury.

I have been close to this case from the beginning, attending the first public meeting held by the Indians in Covelo. I've come to know and care about many members of the families and other Covelo residents, and have been fortunate to be part of an active, committed county-wide and beyond support group for Bear, his family, and for Peters family members. I feel confident Bear will be found not guilty.

My most heartfelt wish, though, is for more. Two men died on the ridge that night. Their deaths tore apart many lives. I believe it was a terrible accident, precipitated by apprehension and the cold terror only those who have experienced combat can fully understand. The deputies did not intend to kill an innocent man. Bear, if it was indeed his bullet which killed Deputy Davis, did not intend to take a life. But in a burst of fire it was done and they were dead. I wish we didn't need to find fault or blame. The widowed partners sit in the courtroom each day, across the aisle, listening to the stories again and again, sometimes weeping. I wish they could console each other in their mutual loss. I wish Deputy Miller could find comfort rather than scrutiny and judgment. I wish there were no sides, only forgiveness and a strengthened resolve to learn how to live together in peace.



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# Jackson State Demonstration Forest

by Linda Perkins

## Public Protest

Public dissatisfaction with the management of Jackson State Forest has festered and flared for years.

In early 1995, rallied by Caspar residents, activists protested the all but unpronounceable- and, in the event, impractical- Blendersaumsaug timber harvest plan. This one called for Garlon use on many acres of eucalyptus trees in the area. As a result of public protest, the eastern end of the plan containing the eucalyptus was withdrawn and a new plan, aptly named the Nettle (so named because we were nettled or CDF was, or both, we don't know) was submitted in its place.

## Where is CDF Staff When They're Needed?

Unfortunately, the resources of the locals leading the way in Jackson State were exhausted at this point. A lapse of public attention to the forest occurred until Tomas Fiore discovered in early 1996, that on another plan in the Caspar watershed that was being helicopter logged, some areas of the stream zone had been illegally cut by the logging company. That this plan, presumably set up in part for Jackson State to "study" helicopter logging (a technique that had already been amply "demonstrated" by corporate timber) should have received such lax supervision by CDF, and the inspection of the plan and discovery of the violations left to a private citizen, tells you all you need to know about the reason for public concerns for our public lands.

## They're Building Stone Walls

Then, in the fall of 1996, this time on a plan out on Little Lake Road in Mendocino near the Woodlands and near the popular swimming spot on Big River called "Lilies", the public again swung into action. This plan was dubbed Mushroom Corners by the public. Dozens of comment letters were written, issues defined, meetings held, and communications with CDF sought. This time almost no response from CDF. The word from them seemed to be, "We won't budge an inch." Plan approved. The public became silent and increasingly resentful. This one festered.

## Uh, Where Did You Say They Are?

Finally, this year- once again informed and rallied by Tomas Fiore who was continuing his hikes and inspections of Jackson State- the public focused on the Camp 8 sale on the Noyo River. Seems CDF had goofed again. While touting a policy of no cutting of old growth, they had marked old growth trees for cut. A meeting was held on site of CDF, and activists confirmed the mark. Trees got unmarked, and in addition, got a no-cut protective buffer. And- double goof. CDF had included in this plan the spraying of 76 miles of forest roads with herbicides. As with the Blender plan, in the face of public outrage, CDF had to delete the use of herbicides. Then- triple goof. The road lying along a stream, to be used for accessing Camp 8, was discovered by another activist, Sal Eggleston (trained to do road surveys), to be built in one section on a foundation of rotting logs. CDF and Water Quality, both of whom had inspected the plan before approval, hadn't noticed. Visions of loaded logging trucks crashing into the creek knocked the CDF inspector to his knees, head in hands.

## We've Had Enough!

"Enough!" cried the activists. "We're done with playing a reactive role THP by THP on our



A view from the air of Jackson State Demonstration Forest

Photo by Bigfoot

own land. Done with not enough forestry staff to take care of our forest. Jackson State is preparing a new management plan, a sustained yield plan, and a habitat conservation plan. We want a place at the planning table. And we want to look at the funding."

## CDF is Mum; Activists Aren't

But not easily done. Weeks of work by the activists went into a fax campaign to Richard Wilson, director of CDF, and to Redwood Empire, the logging company who bought our Camp 8 trees. Actions continued with a confrontation with Redwood Empire at their Cloverdale mill site. Next came a presentation to Virginia Strom-Martin, and then a raucous reception sponsored by 40 activists at the Mendocino Forest Council for Jon Rea of CDF Sacramento, in town to do a presentation to the council on Jackson State's sustained yield plan. Further actions continued with a meeting with Richard Wilson in Santa Rosa, and back to Mushroom Corners with the discovery of old growth trees being cut to clear for roads. Protests there included a 100 person procession down the road through the active THP. Protesters were joined by instrument-playing campers from the Woodlands. Following this was a day of nonviolence training with sheriff and CDF personnel, and conversations with the newly-appointed manager of Jackson State, Marc Jameson.

## CDF Does Damage Control

Richard Wilson, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), has formed a 10 member Citizen's Advisory Committee to "advise the department during the development of a new management plan for the forest coincident to work upon a habitat conservation plan (HCP) and a sustained yield plan (SYP) for JDSF."

The first meeting of the committee, open to the public, was held at the forestry office in Fort Bragg on August 18. Richard Wilson and a number of other forestry officials, including two members from forestry's "Information and Education" - a department of which veteran forestry watchers had never heard - came to kick off the first meeting.

Also present were 20 members of the skeptical public.

The public, awaiting the arrival of Wilson, were first into the meeting room. They eyed the set-up: a U-shaped arrangement of tables in front of the room for Wilson and the committee, rows of chairs facing the table for the public. Activists quickly rearranged the furniture, placing the chairs to connect in a large square with the ends of the U. Now, symbolically at least, all in the audience were "at the table".

Wilson arrived and following introductions and the obligatory "overview and history" of the forest, a formality largely wasted on an already well-informed public, a round robin of public "concerns" was heard. People again aired their views on subjects as varied, but related, as funding issues and the need to manage Jackson State from an ecosystem perspective. A major concern regarding funding is that revenue from timber sales at Jackson State funds the review of THPs, subsidizing industry cutting on private lands with public money.

## Where Are The Women?

But the foremost concern of the audience- the fact that the committee was hand picked by Wilson with no input from the public- found its expression in an attack on the gender balance of the committee. Wilson had appointed nine men and one woman. The audience quickly nominated five additional women (all knowledgeable in different aspects of forestry, wildlife and recreation, three of them long involved as forestry activists), and another man (who has done salvage removal on Jackson State). Next from the audience was a request for a labor union seat and a seat for a Native American.

Wilson dutifully noted names and concerns, promising as he did so that he would take all under consideration. The audience, however, was unwilling to defer the decision to Wilson and continued to insist on its right to name members to the committee. Wilson at last relented, turning over the decision to the advisory group already appointed. He then left the room to allow the committee to make its decision unconstrained by his presence.

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## Guacamole Saves Trees

### Along With Whippoorwill

by Michael J. Mishler

Even as local environmentalists gear up for the huge Sept. 14 Rally in Carlotta to Save Headwaters Forest, several activists are carrying on the struggle against government bureaucracy and corporate interests throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Last month, I visited the base camp of one group, the Dillon Creek Forest Defenders, as members planned a direct action, blockading the roads to one area where "salvage logging" was underway. In the event, the group was able to stop logging for two days, because the action took place on a Friday (Aug. 1) and resulted in cancellation of work planned for Saturday as well.

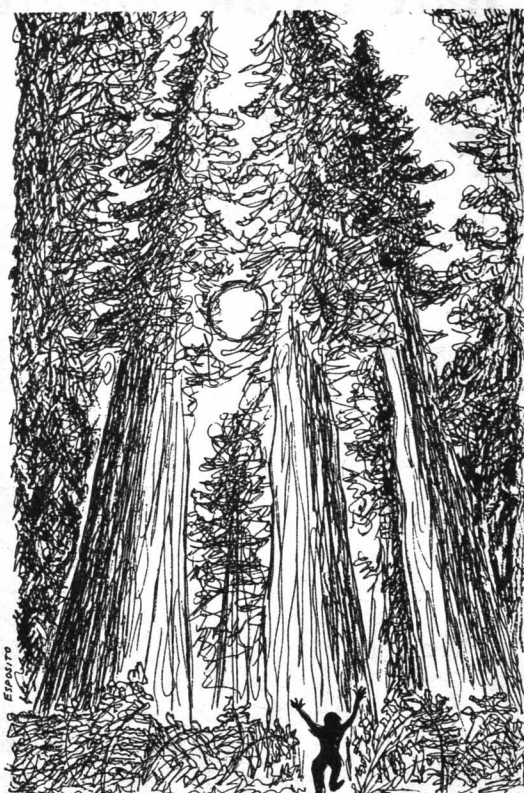
It was high adventure when I arrived with "Crazy Owl" (his "forest name" — all participants in this story are identified by their self-chosen forest names, at their request) and his video camera, late Thursday afternoon, July 31, and found that there was about to be — and, eventually, within an hour, there was — a nonviolence training session. We were soon sitting in the camp's open-air kitchen, sipping apple juice and eating a dinner of stir-fry veggies over rice, while chatting about definitions of violence. Those definitions included body language, tones of voice such as sarcasm, raising one's voice and defensiveness, as well as obvious violent acts such as brandishing a gun or knife — or stick — and assault.

Right after the nonviolence training ended, the entire group convened a circle, whose purpose was to plan the direct action, to begin within a few hours, at 2 a.m., Aug. 1. So, we were about to cover an action before we had a chance to catch our breath!

At first light, two men, Guacamole and Whippoorwill, locked themselves to the axle of a Volkswagen van, which was set up as a barricade, blocking access for loggers' trucks to the area being logged. The van was covered with slogans and colorful artwork. One slogan, "Guacamole saves trees," proved prophetic!

The rest of the group also set up makeshift blockades on the road. Meanwhile, another group was already on its way to the back woods, blockading roads as it went with rocks and debris. One member of the back woods group, Spring, locked herself to a loader, a huge crane-like piece of heavy equipment. A loader helps loggers move the huge logs being ripped out of the soil, which are then sent to Scott Timber Co., the southern Oregon corporation which won the Dillon timber harvesting contract from the Forest Service.

Forest Service law enforcement officers arrived



on the scene at about 7 a.m. and a stand-off ensued. Owl and I introduced ourselves as the media, he as a videographer, I as a free-lance writer. Owl's camera was a powerful talisman, strengthening his performance and sweeping me up in its train. By mid-afternoon, the cops were negotiating with Guacamole and Whippoorwill, and Crazy Owl and I were able to have continued access to Guacamole and Whippoorwill after the cops had declared the area a crime scene and removed everyone else from the immediate vicinity of the barricade. Perhaps all those who plan to write about the Headwaters actions should think about applying for press credentials now!

Around 4 p.m., the pair was released with a ticket for blocking the roadway. Later that night, Spring also received a similar ticket and returned to base camp, walking seven miles through the woods.

Dillon Creek, in the Klamath National Forest, about 12 miles northwest of the town of Orleans on the California side of the Siskiyou Mountains, is sacred to the Yurok people and is one of the wildest watersheds remaining in the lower 48 states. Dillon is part of an even larger concentration of wild forest habitat called the Salmon Divide area, which extends from the Siskiyou Wilderness southeastward to the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Based on analysis of infrared Landsatellite imagery, the Salmon Divide area appears to be the largest block of

relatively intact ancient forest remaining in Northern California. Even President Clinton's Northwest Forest Plan designated Dillon Creek a "key watershed."

The Klamath Forest ecosystem is a widely recognized center of plant biodiversity, with its wealth of conifer species. In the Russian Mountain Wilderness Area (located within the Klamath Forest ecosystem), 17 different conifers grow within one square mile, including Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, Pacific yew and spruce.

Dillon Creek is home to several rare and sensitive species of wildlife, providing critical habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet and Northern spotted owl. Research by biologist Reed Noss and others has indicated that the area contains some of the Pacific states' healthiest populations of fishers, martens and other predatory bird species. Wolverines have also been sighted.

Dillon Creek has seen some past logging and road-building on portions of its boundary ridges, but the heart of the watershed has remained wild. Now, however, Dillon is under attack by chain-saws.

The Dillon timber sale was promoted as an emergency measure to avert a "forest health" crisis, an alleged threat of "catastrophic fire." The claim is not supported by the US Forest Service's own data. After Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman instructed the Forest Service not to proceed with "salvage" sales in roadless areas, Dillon received a temporary reprieve. But local managers soon drew a new map, readjusting the roadless area and dubbing the reconfigured timber sale as an "outside" sale, claiming it was outside the inventoried roadless area.

On Dec. 31, 1996, just hours before the "salvage rider" expired, the outside sale was completed. When the salvage rider expired, environmental laws and citizen appeal rights were restored; but with the outside sale completed, logging in Dillon Creek began in April, in Dillon's "adjusted" roadless area.

Members of the Dillon Creek Forest Defenders plan to keep their base camp open for ongoing actions. For more information, or to get directions to the base camp, call (707) 825-8911.

Logging in a precious wilderness area was stopped for two days because a few folks cared enough to do what it takes.

We can make the same kind of difference at Headwaters if we all participate. Please call the MEC at 468-1660 and find out how to be a part of saving the ancient forests, and our fellow creatures, before it's too late.

## Jackson State Demonstration Forest

*concluded from page 11*

What had been wrangled over for more than an hour was then decided within two minutes. A motion was made to accept the nominations, it was seconded (and thirded), some concerns of the committee aired ("I don't even know these people or what their expertise is"), and a vote taken with a majority of the committee (who did know "these people") approving the new members.

Wilson was then called back into the room. He seemingly accepted the decision and the meeting was completed with a date and agenda being set for the next session of the expanded committee. It's a public meeting- to be held at the forestry offices at 802 N. Main Street in Fort Bragg at 6 P.M. on

September 22.

### A First Step? We'll See

Whether the advice of the committee on management of the forest will be taken seriously or whether the committee will be window dressing for a CDF public relations campaign remains to be seen.

Certainly, CDF and the committee have a common interest in changing the present economic demand on the forest. Jackson State is now mandated by the legislature to produce annually a given level of revenue to the state. This money is then used to support, as noted above, CDF's processing of private industry's timber harvest plans. CDF has no control over the percentage of this money that

comes back to Jackson State for the good management of the forest. Jackson State is understaffed and funds are sorely lacking for rehabilitation and restoration work. This is a funding system not only at odds with both good forestry and wise ecosystem management, but one that is economically short-sighted as well.

In the meantime, the Camp 8 sale is still being disputed. Activists have long called for a moratorium on this plan until public concerns have been addressed, particularly the proposal for set-asides and the objection to further road building. But as far as we know CDF, is moving ahead. By the time you receive your newsletter, a rally will have been held in protest on Labor Day at the Jackson State Forest Camp 8 site.

## NASA's Cassini Space Probe Plays Nuclear Roulette

by Rebecca Grant

On October 6, 1997, NASA plans to launch the Cassini space probe, carrying 72.3 pounds of deadly plutonium-238 fuel, to power the probe's electrical instruments during its voyage to Saturn. The space probe will ride on top of a Lockheed-Martin built Titan IV rocket (a number of which have exploded in the atmosphere) and will be launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

Michio Kaku, a nuclear physics professor at City University of New York, warns that a rocket malfunction within the Earth's atmosphere could cause the "most toxic chemical known to science" to "shower down with a tremendous tragedy for the people of the Earth." Dr. Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, notes that plutonium "is so toxic that less than one-millionth of a gram, an invisible particle, is a carcinogenic dose. One pound, if uniformly distributed, could hypothetically induce lung cancer in every person on Earth." Although NASA claims that there is little chance that Cassini's plutonium will contaminate the Earth's atmosphere, there are two high-risk periods in the Cassini mission: the launch and the subsequent Earth flyby.

The odds of Titan IV rocket failure during

## Plutonium Rain:



launch are "between one in 10 and one in 20," says John Pike, head of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists. NASA estimates a one in 900 chance of an accident at launch. Before the 1996 Challenger mission disaster, experts calculated the odds on a launch accident at one in 100,000. In 1993, a Titan IV rocket blew up 101 seconds after launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

In addition, NASA plans to send Cassini hurtling back to Earth at 42,300 mph for a "swingby," to give it the velocity to travel to Saturn. The projected time for this event is August 1999, bringing the probe to a height of 312 miles above the Earth's surface. But if a miscalculation (or a collision with a piece of orbiting debris) occurs, the space probe could break up in the Earth's atmosphere, raining

plutonium back down on the Earth's surface.

Why play "nuclear roulette" with 72.3 pounds of plutonium?

### Resources:

NASA's Cassini Probe Will Play Nuclear Roulette with the Planet; Earth Island Journal, Summer 1997

Space shot with plutonium might turn into big tragedy; Karl Grossman, Scripps Howard News Service.

### What you can do:

Write President Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington D.C. 20500. Ask him to cancel the Cassini launch and order NASA to develop non-nuclear power sources for space missions. Contact the MEC or the WEC for a copy of a "pre-fabricated" letter.

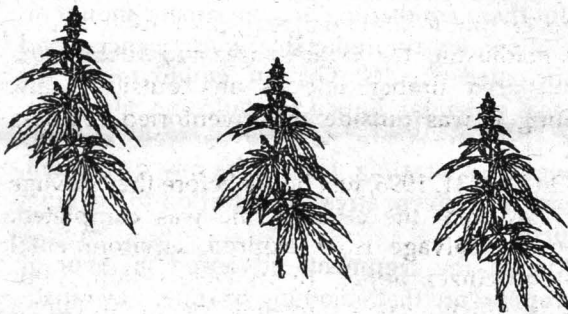
### Contacts:

Global Response Action, PO Box 7490, Boulder, CO 80306, (303)444-0306, [www.globalresponse.org](http://www.globalresponse.org)

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, PO Box 90035, Gainesville, FL 32607, (904) 468-3295

Peace Action Education Fund, 1819 H. St. NW, #425, Washington, DC 20006 (202) 862-9740, ext. 3044

Another website with Cassini information: [www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/index.htm](http://www.animatedsoftware.com/cassini/index.htm)



by Vicki Oldham

On April 30, 1997, U.S. District Judge Fern Smith issued a preliminary injunction barring the Justice Department from taking any punitive actions against physicians who prescribed medical marijuana. According to Ukiah Cannabis Buyers Club (UCBC) director, Cherrie Lovett, since the injunction, several Mendocino county physicians have begun to prescribe or recommend marijuana to their patients. Lovett said there are five local attorneys who have offered their services free to UCBC, their physicians, clients and their providers. UCBC is considered the care-giver for their clients and the herb growers are considered the care-givers for UCBC. Many growers have approached UCBC including several people who have never grown before. The Buyer's Club has so far signed only two contracts with growers. They prefer experienced, indoor, organic growers whose crop will be tested for pesticides and mold. They expect to sign 5 contracts this season. When I asked Cherrie how much she pays for a pound she answered, "Way too much!" She hopes to have the price down to \$500 a pound by next year. She explained that many of her clients are on Social Security or SSI and can't afford the expensive medicine.

UCBC is located inside the Forks Theater, 40A Pallini Lane, Ukiah, phone 462-0691. Their hours are Monday and Thursday 11:00-3:00, Tuesday and Friday 10:00-4:00 and Wednesday 3:00-7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to come check it out. They are working hard to make their facility comfortable and secure. The Community Garden Project has be-

## Medical Marijuana

gun planting a wheel chair accessible meditation and community food garden. Operating on a hemp-string budget the UCBC is in need of donations. Items on their wish list are: a computer and printer, office phones, office supplies, chairs, couches, bean bag chairs, money and marijuana. They had an information table and a very educational display at MEC's birthday party where they sold non-medicinal brownies.

With everything coming up buds here on the home front, it has given the Feds a bad reaction. Congressional conservatives are backing several bills that would punish doctors who recommend the use of marijuana to seriously ill patients. According to NORMAL, Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) is leading a Republican-backed coalition of 27 senators who have endorsed an anti-crime bill that includes language punishing physicians who recommend or prescribe marijuana to a patient. Section 1002 of Senate Bill 3 requires hospitals and HMOs

that receive federal funds to certify that no professional at that hospital has or will prescribe or recommend a Schedule I substance - including marijuana - to any person. Physicians who do not comply will lose their federal license to prescribe controlled substances. A second, potentially worse bill targeting doctors, Senate Bill 40, would punish physicians who "administer, dispense, or recommend the use of marijuana." Doctors who violate S.40 may be sentenced to up to eight years in prison and/or fined \$60,000. Both Bills are currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee which is chaired by Senator Hatch. At hearings called by Hatch earlier this year, he blasted the drug reform propositions that were approved by the voters in California and Arizona. Hatch said the new state laws were the results of "pothead doctors... who want to legalize drugs." Write to Riggs, ask him to show some backbone and stand up to his lunatic, Republican brothers.

## A Lesson From Chernobyl

by Bruce Haldane

Scientists studying the aftermath of the 1986 nuclear meltdown at Chernobyl in the Ukraine were surprised at what they found. Instead of the expected nuclear desert, they were looking at an area apparently in recovery. "There were some dead trees, but the grass was coming back. Within the 10 km zone there are areas that are strikingly beautiful," reports Robert Baker of the Wildlife Ecology and Toxicology Division of the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

Baker studied the flora and fauna of the area impacted by the "incident," looking mainly at mouse populations. He trapped mice from the areas of highest contamination to areas beyond the established "exclusion zones," areas where humans

are only rarely allowed because of the radiation danger. The 10 km exclusion zone mentioned above is an area immediately surrounding the ruins of the nuclear reactor. A 30 km zone of less intense radiation surrounds that central area.

Scientists wear protective clothing while working in the exclusion zones, but they note that the plants and animals seem to be thriving. Mice that Baker tested showed some abnormalities but most mice were normal. The interesting finding was that there are significantly more mice inside the exclusion zone than outside of it. This circumstance was true for larger animals as well, from otters and rabbits, bees and hawks to moose, gray wolf, deer and wild boar, almost totally absent outside the unin-

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## Moose Milk and Wild Honey

by Doug Strong

The prosperity associated with the thriving economy the country is enjoying may well transform Mendocino County into a land of milk and honey, but there will be precious little money for some of our less fortunate citizens because of a decision made a while back by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. On July 15th the board voted unanimously to limit General Assistance benefits to no more than three months in any twelve month period for persons deemed "employable."

Now, were this the Great North Woods, teeming with nature's abundance, the prospective description of the county might still be apt, considering these folks could forage for moose milk and wild honey for the remaining nine months of the year, after their three month ration of General Assistance had been exhausted - and they were still unemployed. However, it's not, and they can't!

### The Great Divide

Upon expressing concern to several persons of good standing in the community, I was assured I was on the wrong side of the social divide, that a majority of my fellow citizens profess scant sympathy for those receiving any form of public assistance, considering them creatures living off the county bounty while contributing little in return. A "lucky-to-get-anything" attitude is clearly in the ascendant.

## MEC Board Elections & Open House

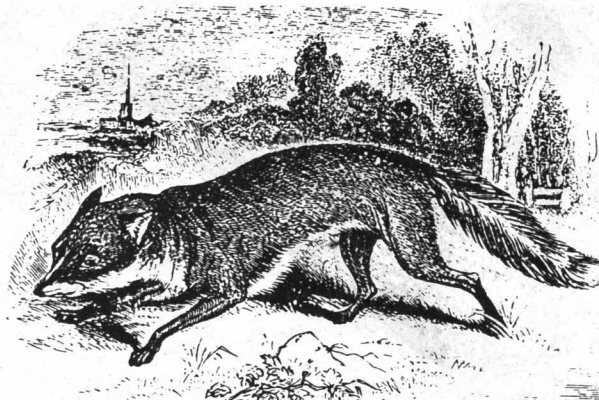
Harvest time, time for gathering in and time for reflection in preparation for carrying on! In spirit with that, the MEC announces its annual meeting, election of Board of Directors - and an open house.

### Board of Directors Election / Annual Meeting

Any MEC member may run for the Board of Directors. There are three positions up for election on the seven-member board. Nominations and ballot statements must be submitted to the MEC in writing no later than Friday, October 24th. Ballots will be mailed to members on November 10th, and the Election and Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, December 6th. So mark your calendars - and call the MEC if you have questions.

### Open House to Meet the New and Continuing MEC Staff

On Thursday, October 9th, from 5 to 8 P.M., folks will have the opportunity to meet and visit with the MEC staff. Continuing staff members Els



What is General Assistance? It is a program of public relief administered by the Department of Social Services, for childless adults and couples, who are destitute and not eligible for other federal or state assistance programs. The maximum amount a recipient may receive is \$297 per month, consisting of vouchers and cash, although the sum actually authorized is frequently less. It is funded entirely by the county and generally considered the aid program of last resort.

If the dependent underclass indeed qualify as legitimate objects of scorn, some of the salient characteristics of the General Assistance program will come as a pleasant surprise to those sharing that view. Although administered by county personnel of integrity and competence, it is nevertheless, a humiliating admixture of forms, vouchers, verifica-

tions, a minuscule grant (actually loan) level, interrogations, waiting rooms and the inevitable 3 R's (rules, regulations, requirements). It is well that many General Assistance recipients have already been reduced to a point where they retain very little self-respect, so that the program's impositions are often perceived as minor inconveniences in a downward spiral of futility, repeated failure, and even despair.

### The Great Experiment

There are those that would describe my political orientation as tending toward the liberal end of the spectrum. (I prefer the more FDR'ish "progressive"). As with many LIBS, I harbor a secret preference to be ruled by conservatives - because of the intoxicating, creative tension induced by dissent and debate. I therefore appreciate the conservative tenor of our current board and consider it decidedly bad form when they refuse to stay in role.

For example, we LIBERALS are always being hammered for engaging in social tinkering and experimentation. However, for the board to remove all possibility of support from a segment of our population, with no other recourse, for nine months of the year, in a county of high, seasonal unemployment, strikes me as a decidedly dicey proposition; rather experimental in fact.

Certainly the time limit may serve its stated and unstated purposes: to drive this hated rabble into employment, or southern Humboldt County, or oblivion!

But those conducting an experiment should always allow for unpredictable consequences, and unanticipated results. Gainful employment, it's true, is a potential, hoped for outcome. However, other alternatives are possible as well, such as homelessness, stealing, hunger, family disruption, violence and severe stress. In addition to begging, of course.

Among the arguments advanced in favor of the proposal are that adjoining counties have instituted a three month time limit, and that the time limit is necessary because of projected growth in the General Assistance case load, due to recently enacted legislation at the federal level, that has resulted in termination of SSI benefits for alcoholics and drug addicts. The Wilson administration would prefer abolishing the General Assistance program altogether.

And lest I be accused of being an alarmist, let me acknowledge the board was assured by staff of the Department of Social Services, there are numerous exemptions from the time limit. Allowance is made for clients involved in drug and alcohol therapy, for seniors, for those participating in training programs, and those who are ill or incapacitated. It is anticipated the three month time limit will apply to less than half the 300 persons now receiving General Assistance. However, a reliable estimate of the number potentially affected could not be given. It leads one to wonder: are we dealing with a dozen, two dozen, or perhaps several score individuals? Essential information, I would suggest, to those experimenting ... with peoples' lives!

I hope it's apparent my intent is to be protective of our board and that I have a vested interest in assuring they maintain their conservative credentials. However, when they behave irresponsibly, without fully appreciating the consequences of their actions, it becomes difficult to shield them from the taint of liberalism and all its excesses!

Thus the curtain rises on welfare "reform" in Mendocino County. One awaits further developments with decidedly muted expectations.



Cooperrider and Linda Perkins - and our new staff Kirsten Johnsen and Lynda McClure - invite you to come and talk with them about how you can plug in and help the MEC carry on and be even more effective, vibrant and relevant as we edge ever closer to the millenium.

## A Lesson From Chernobyl

*concluded from page 13*

habited areas.

So what gives? Well, scientists finally managed to figure out that these intensely disturbed areas still thrived due to the absence of humans presence! Charles Leroux, reporting in the Chicago Tribune: "Spared the industrialization, overgrazing, deforestation and other byproducts of human habitation, the flora and fauna within the zones flourished. The speedy reproduction of small mammals overcame any negative effects of radiation (not an acceptable solution for exposed human populations)." Struck by their observations, Baker

teamed up with Ronald Chesser, another scientist, and wrote a paper entitled, "How to Create a Wildlife Preserve: the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster."

In the paper they wrote, "The observation that normal human activity is so much more devastating to biodiversity and abundance of individuals of the local flora and fauna than is the worst nuclear power plant disaster, obviates the significance of the exponential growth of the human population."

As if to obviate the problem, Baker told Leroux, "If the authorities would allow it, I could get into hunting those boar." But he wouldn't eat them. "Just run a Geiger counter over one and you'll see why," he said.

# Kid's Page

Dear MEC Newsletter, July 24, 1997

I wish water was cleaner than it is now because when I'm hot, I drink water and like to swim in it. The animals drink water and get sick or die if there is oil, gas, or poisons in it. I hope everyone would try to clean it up.

Your friend,  
Kristin Love, age 11

Dear Earth, July 23, 1997

Thank you for the trees, the birds and the butterflies. You are so kind and pretty Earth. Earth, I'm so sorry because there are people who don't keep you clean, and there are gangs. Earth, I will help clean you.

Sarah, age 10

Dear Friends of the Earth, July 22, 1997

The spiders are great use to the Earth. They keep insects from taking over the Earth and destroying it. Some spiders are intelligent like the black widow. They supply sticky webs so that the prey can't get away. Then it wraps it up and saves it for later.

Josh W. Mcintosh, age 11

Dear MEC Newsletter, July 24, 1997

I love trees. Trees give oxygen. Oxygen makes us able to live. Carbon dioxide makes trees grow and it comes from us. So let's save people and trees.

by Daniel Hair, age 10

Dear Friends, July 24, 1997

Hi, my name is Cristian. I think that the water is important because we need something to drink. Also plants need water to grow. We need fruit so we can have vitamins. I hope our fruit does not get poisons from the water, because then they go into our bodies. Well, I have to go clean the ocean!

Your friend,  
Cristian Alvarez, age 12

Dear Earth, July 22, 1997

I think trees and clean air are important. I think we will use trees forever. We need clean water for drinking. If we did not have water, we could not live. Water is always fun to go swimming in.

Dustin, age 11

## Simple Things KIDS Can Do To Save The Earth!

*This issue's theme: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!*

- If you take your lunch to school, bring it in a lunchbox or reusable sack!
- Use cloth towels instead of paper towels after you wash your hands!
- Encourage your parents to bring reusable bags with them to the grocery store!
- Recycle kitchen, yard, and food waste by building a compost pile! Plant a garden! Plant trees!
- Avoid styrofoam. Such plastic is often made with chemicals that make the ozone hole bigger!
- Start recycling in your home and school! You can recycle glass, aluminum, paper, brown paper bags, cardboard, and newspaper.

Source: 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do To Save The Earth!  
by The EarthWorks Group, Andrews and McMeel

## California's Endangered...

A M L X F K Y Y L F R E T T U B T O P S R E K C E H C Y A B  
 Z X O V K B E W P C A Z F C S Q H Y G R I J D A L N A E X K  
 A G M U P I L H T O M X N I H P S E S O R M I R P N R E K B  
 Y J W H N Q E S D R B P B T D C P L S A Z Y O M A Y M C Q D  
 A O N U T T K O J D Q Q C G E U L T O F B M T P L U F P N V  
 N U U N M R H V I Z H O F K G Q C E S R E N B I O W L G O Y  
 T A N M W L J E V A V I N D E J H E D F L S J E S H R X Z L  
 E Y M W T I B X R C E G I U V Z R B A U C T R K V T D U W F  
 B X K O J B V C K M T H Z F G W Y D H D B A K O E S V L E R  
 A Q M A H I D U N G A L F W F X E N W U I T F S R C G X M E  
 N B K L N P S T C E S N I O N P A U X Q T B N Z D Y H Z Q T  
 D L P S J O C R H G E S J M F B H O E M Q Y J P E R J S Z T  
 W H M G R S L D I F Q P J U C K D R S Z V A R L S Y O K P U  
 I N I O J W Z Q T M I S S O N T O G G B J Q G V B M L E F B  
 N U A K G R V T X C K E M U P E U N C X I F R H L C G J N N  
 G H P Y B J N S D O W O L F D V B E N E W A I B U H U D F I  
 E L S E G U N D O B L U E B U T T E R F L Y M W E T I A K F  
 D Q T M Z C R I B F W X T R Y S O R E P O L O N B P X G E L  
 G K W A U M D Z V J N Q A H U H I G Y T Q S D V U Z B Y C E  
 R T L M X B V E S V D G L X I F X A I R L T K Q T M A C O O  
 A Z C P R N L U N Y M W E P G K I T J W L E E R T G D N B N  
 S A N T A C R U Z R A I N B E E T L E A H S B K E P T Y F U  
 S E U O H T C G Y O S L D K H Q J E X J O A V D R Z C F U R  
 H W F H V B X I G Z J M A M Q N P D B P L H Q J F G V E T B  
 O D K C S E I L Y P O R R N W O Y M Y I X A K R L U B S W N  
 P L A N G E S M E T A L M A R K B U T T E R F L Y Z K C D A  
 P T F J J H U F A V N Q E X U Z N B M H R N R V G W L C X S  
 E I H G B K Q D I P O M S O T K P V M W L D Z O A V Z E T O  
 R C I J A E G R L F J S V N T Q L X U Q M A R Y P S Y W U F  
 E L T E E B N R O H G N O L Y R R E B R E D L E Y E L L A V

Find the following insect names in the puzzle. You can look for them horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. Fun with the Newsletter Word Search can't be beetled!

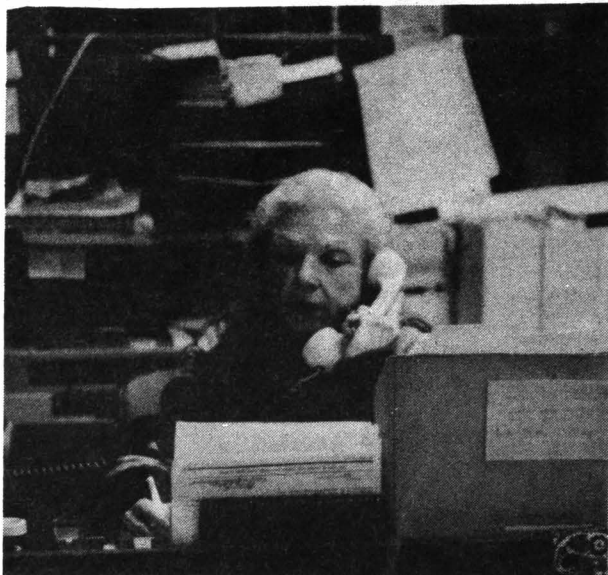
- ZAYANTE BAND-WINGED GRASSHOPPER
- SANTA CRUZ RAIN BEETLE
- MOUNT HERMAN JUNE BEETLE
- DELTA GREEN GROUND BEETLE
- VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE
- KERN PRIMROSE SPHINX MOTH
- PALOS VERDES BLUE BUTTERFLY
- EL SEGUNDO BLUE BUTTERFLY
- SAN BRUNO ELFIN BUTTERFLY
- LANGE'S METALMARK BUTTERFLY
- BAY CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY

## \*\* ATTENTION KIDS! \*\*

Are you concerned about our environment? Would you like an opportunity to tell other people about your thoughts and ideas?

The MEC Newsletter is looking for art, poetry, stories, essays, and other fun stuff to put on our Kid's Page. If you have something you would like to contribute, you can either drop it off at the MEC or send it to us (106 W. Stanley). Remember to write "Kid's Page" at the top!

## Reflections



**Betty Ball**

*Photo by Annie Esposito*

*continued from page 1*

### Interview

**Q:** *What brought you to Mendocino County?*

**Gary:** We were bobbing like corks on the ocean, traveling all over California doing an environmental booth on week-ends any place we could. We thought we could do more environmental work if we had a place to be during the week. At a fair, someone said "You should go to Ukiah. Some folks are planning to open a store-front there that might be interested in having an environmental component." So we came here, met the people, and opened Between the Worlds and the Green Mac with them. Worlds didn't work out to be a going environmental center, but while we were there, we got to meet the local activists, and eventually we were asked by John McCowen if we would help run an environmental center if he made the building available to do so. We ended up in the right place at the right time, somehow.

**Betty:** We were camping at Usal with some friends in the summer of 1984, and while we were there, Gary and I both were inspired to say "Why don't we move to California!" We'd been coming here for years on vacation and thought maybe if we moved here, we'd go somewhere else for vacation. Once we decided to move to California, both of us started having strong fantasies about having an environmental center. We saw all these groups working on environmental issues, but rather than pooling resources and working together, they seemed to be competing with each other or vying for the same pool of resources instead pulling together and sharing. So it was my vision to have a center where all those groups could come together, share resources, work together, brainstorm with one another, build on each other's efforts, and make more of an impact.

Upon arriving in California, we did the environmental booth that Gary mentioned at fairs and festivals all over the state. We realized we needed a more permanent base of operation. We were working at a fair in Santa Rosa before Christmas in 1985, and met Jack & Felice Cohen-Joppa who do the newspaper *The Nuclear Resister*. They were living in Ukiah at the time. We told them what we were doing and that we were looking for a place to be on a permanent basis, and they said "Oh, you've got to come to Ukiah! Some friends of ours are opening a store that sounds exactly like what you're talking about." We were coming to Ukiah

to visit friends, anyway, so we did indeed meet the people at Between the Worlds and Green Mac, and got involved with them. Then we got involved with Earth First! and other environmental groups in the area. Activist groups and individuals were working out of their kitchens, their garages, whatever. Then John McCowen came and said that he had this building he wanted to be an environmental center, and we asked if Gary and I could come play, too. So here we are.

Now I feel just as compelled to return to the mountains as I felt compelled to come here.

**Q:** *You already mentioned one issue about people working together and pooling rather than competing, but what were some of the other important issues when you started, and how have they changed, if they have?*

**Betty:** Forestry, ocean protection, herbicides.

**Gary:** Toxins, water quality, land use. All the issues were there ten years ago that are still here now. With some, we're better off, ocean protection being one of them. The ocean was more endangered by off-shore oil drilling when we came ten years ago than it is presently. That's not a permanent solution. Unfortunately, I expect as oil supplies get lower, as they are bound to do, the pressure to drill off the Northern California coast will be back. It may be back again and again and again, so there's never a permanent solution it seems like.

Forestry - we came here just after the battle for the Sally Bell Grove and the beginning of the Hurwitz take-over of Pacific Lumber and the whole Headwaters campaign. Relatively little attention was being paid to what L-P and G-P were doing on their private lands, but there was a lot of interest in the Mendocino National Forest. We've seen some shifts. Now there's a lot more concern and interest in what's happening on private lands, and unfortunately, less attention is being paid to the Mendocino National Forest. I think we're worse off now in forestry because, in spite of our best efforts, the forests have basically continued to be depleted during the ten years we've been here, and we've arrived at the point that L-P is finally willing to admit that its inland holdings are so depleted they can no longer manage them for timber production at all. That's a very sad thing that everybody is going to have to live with, forever.

**Betty:** As someone so aptly put it, - with the environment, no victory is permanent and every loss is final. A great example of that is Trout Creek. Trout Creek was one of the first issues we dealt with. PG&E was proposing to log their holdings on Trout Creek. Through a multi-faceted approach, we were able to save Trout Creek - then. But just last week, a new Timber Harvest Plan (THP) was filed to log the property just above PG & E's holdings on Trout Creek. So, as we entered, we were fighting for Trout Creek, and as we leave, we are fighting for Trout Creek.

**Q:** *You talked a little about your original concept for the center and why you came here. In setting up the Environmental Center, have your original concepts changed or evolved?*

**Gary:** Well, they've evolved certainly, but the concept hasn't changed. We watched for many years and were sort of part-time activists with environmental issues for many years, but the urge became overwhelming to get out there and fight to stop this death of a million cuts, or death of a billion cuts, that the Earth is going through. We got to the point we wanted to do that full time. We didn't want any longer to get a magazine that said write a letter to somebody, and then write a letter,

and try to feel like we did something. But the next magazine would come and have all these horror stories about another part of the Earth that just got slaughtered, and another part of the Earth that will never be a normally functioning ecosystem again. One big question was - why doesn't somebody stop this? How is this madness able to persist? So now, after ten years of fighting it full time, I at least have a better understanding of why that madness continues, why it doesn't stop. Of course, there is no simple answer to that, but at least I have a better understanding of what's going on, and it makes me just want to get in there and fight all the harder.

**Q:** *What is that understanding of what's going on?*

**Gary:** I now understand the pressure from big money, especially big corporations, but I now also understand that the public in general is basically ignorant about what's happening on a global scale, and even if they're not ignorant, they're fairly apathetic in terms of wanting to dedicate large portions of their time and energy to do something about it. I think what we have altogether is the perfect recipe for global disaster. I think even if the public were mobilized, we'd still be looking at a corporate dominated system which shows very little sign of being able to change fast enough, even if it wanted to, to actually prevent global catastrophe at this point. But we have the compounded issues that there are really very few of us making that push to try to change what's going on in the first place, so we have a big problem.

**Q:** *How has the level of environmental consciousness in Mendocino County and in this region changed in the last decade?*

**Betty:** Mendocino County is a phenomenal place, and the level and effectiveness of activism here is unique. Actually, it's awesome. The people who are involved here ought to feel really good about what they have been able to accomplish over the last decade. When the MEC opened, there were lots of activist efforts going on, but they were scattered all over the county, and had little opportunity to connect and pull together.

Judi Bari arrived on the scene at almost the exact same time as the MEC opened. She really breathed life into the movement with her dynamic personality, her strategic brilliance, and her multitude of abilities. Her in-depth knowledge of movement and labor history enabled her to know exactly what move(s) or actions were needed at any given time in a campaign to move it forward. She truly inspired and mobilized people and helped the movement activists see how they were erring by alienating the workers. Judi was a phenomenal being who achieved so much. I think probably none of us realize the extent of what we learned from Judi over the last decade. I am just so glad that the MEC was here to be, as Judi put it, the glue that holds the movement together. She was able to mobilize people, and the MEC provided a place for people to connect, plug in, work out of, get messages, network from. I think it's been a dynamic combination that has assisted everybody's efforts.

**Gary:** I think the consciousness of the movement community here has just evolved naturally and hasn't had that dramatic of a change. The Center has provided a nice vortex for people to come together, but I don't think that consciousness has changed. I see the change here in the timber industry people, the big corporate money, the old guard power structure now has not only learned that we're here, but in spite of themselves they've learned why, at least some of the why, we are con-

cerned about what they are doing to the Earth, and changing it to a more Earth friendly practice and procedure. I see that as the major change as we've gone from - you are just outsiders coming in here trying to tell us how to make our living as we've done for generations and you don't know anything about it, to - oh my God! Yes. There aren't a lot of trees left and where are we going to work when the trees are gone? Seeing that we weren't altogether ignorant about what was going on out there. I think there is still a lot of resentment and polarity, but I don't feel like just because you walk down the street and you're known as an environmentalist that you're in danger anymore. You might not be all that popular, but it doesn't feel like you're just targets for isolation or worse at this point.

**Betty:** The industry's no longer able to rally the troops like they were, even in 1990. Now where there's a demonstration or there's another event where the industry says they're going to pack the place with opposition, they can't do it.

**Gary:** That's the industry's own doing, not so much our doing. The lay-offs and shipping the mills away had a very dramatic effect on the work force here and they just can't command the kind of worker loyalty that they were commanding, and continue the depletion and lay-offs and shipping the mills away - basically looking like they're in a cut-and-run mode. They can't do that and maintain that solid, loyal worker base that they had when we first got here. We probably owe that part of the consciousness change to the industry's own practices.

**Q:** What are some of your most vivid memories of the last ten years? What achievements stand out as you look back?

**Gary:** Boy, that's a big one. Just keeping the Center going for ten years is our major achievement. We really can't take credit for any issue. We're too thinly spread to have done much on any issue, but there are a number of things that stand out. Off-shore oil hearings were a major landmark in Mendocino County history, and we really have been playing ever since then off the momentum that those hearings generated. People looked around and said - Yeah, we really did it and we can do it again, and that spirit has never been lost.

**Betty:** And we will, and the oil industry knows it.

**Gary:** And all the other industries know it too. They saw this county rise up in mass. It was a wonderful thing, and I don't think anybody who was around has forgotten that experience. Nobody's lost the knowledge that we can do it again. We can have an issue that gels people together like that, that power is always at our beck and call. That was a wonderful thing.

**Betty:** That was in Ft. Bragg in 1988, and then, in the summer of 1990, in Ft. Bragg once again, we had Redwood Summer with 3000 people. Those were two massive events, both of which occurred in Ft. Bragg. I think that's done a lot for the consciousness of Ft. Bragg, and I think it will never be the same again, because of those two events.

**Q:** What about the frustrations you've had to deal with?

**Gary:** Those are very many. For one thing, the in-fighting amongst the movement people. I think it's something that's unavoidable. We have to learn to embrace our diversity, and that's part of the process, as painful and ugly as it might be, we have to go through that. But the real frustrating thing, for both of us, is just seeing that we have a whole world culture right now, practicing the perfect recipe for global catastrophe, and that's not changing. People aren't getting it, and we don't seem to be

able to make changes anywhere near fast enough to prevent the catastrophe. We have a human population that is simply growing by exponential leaps and bounds, requiring more and more resources, more and more of the Earth being put to uses which are to the benefit of humans at the detriment of every other living thing, and at the same time we need all those other living things to maintain the viable ecosystems that we are depending on to get our basic resources. We can't keep going that direction. Something has to give. There has to be a break in the population growth. We have to reduce the demands we're putting on the Earth. There's got to be a break in the ecosystem destruction we're carrying out, or sooner or later, and I think at this point sooner, we're going to get to the point where we see system collapse, where we see ecosystems quit functioning, and resulting in major portions of the population displaced and essentially doubled up in some other area where you will see another system collapse just that much faster.

That's the real frustrating thing right now. How do we speed up our work? Right now we're fighting THP by THP, bill by bill in the legislature, and we're fighting each of the billion cuts that will kill the Earth one by one. We really need to change the things we do. We really need to take this to a much greater level if we have any chance right now of staving off the inevitable. We need to work on a much bigger scale to stop a million cuts at once instead of trying to stop them one at a time.

**Betty:** Judi addresses this very well, and I'd like to refer people to the article that was in the last edition of the newsletter - Judi's Revolutionary Ecology article. It's so right on in pointing out that Marx didn't go far enough and we have to be more radical than that because it's not a matter of redistributing the wealth and the resources. We have to stop the demand on the resources. That means that as we try to bring democracy and a better life to other people in our culture and in other cultures as well, it doesn't mean that they get to have two refrigerators and a hair dryer and a toaster and two cars and a boat and three TVs and two computers, just as we shouldn't. We also have to embrace other people with whom we're not familiar. We live in a very classist society and we're all products of whatever class we were raised in. We've got to break through that and unite. Judi points out that the toxics organizing is largest in the cities because the toxics issue effects low income neighborhoods, minority neighborhoods and Indian reservations mostly. However, in spite of the fact that these would be natural people to ally with, we do not. It is the same situation with workers. It's going to take the workers being truly involved and us involved with them to turn this around, because they are the ones with their hands on the machinery, they are the ones producing the chemicals, they are the ones running the chain saws. And while they're in no way to blame, we've got to be with them and understand we are all together in this, or it ain't gonna change.

**Q:** What in the past decade would you do differently, if anything?

**Gary:** I'd like to have a chance to go back and do it all better. I'd probably do everything different, knowing what I know now. We sort of bungled and staggered our way through the whole ten years and probably will continue on that same pattern the rest of our lives. If there was a chance to go back and try things again, knowing what I know now, I would relish the opportunity to try to do better the second time around.

**Q:** I heard someone say recently that Headwaters is the next big thing that everybody wants to get involved with. What influence do you think

Headwaters has had, and will have, on Mendocino County residents who are not necessarily environmentalists?

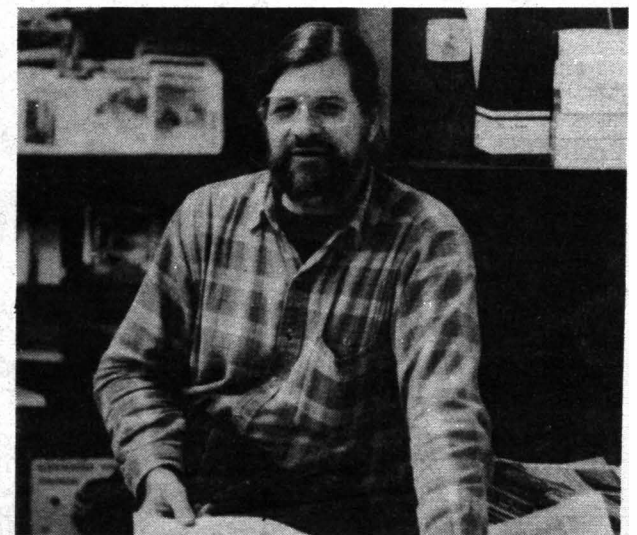
**Betty:** In both Mendocino and Humboldt counties, it's having a big impact. Little by little we're witnessing change. There's now a group called Taxpayers for Headwaters, people who were never before involved. They had concerns, but now they are actively involved. There are numerous other groups like that which are surfacing and organizing themselves: clergy, religious communities, Jewish rabbis. It's just happening by leaps and bounds. I think that we're very soon going to see Headwaters saved. I really believe that's going to happen, we're going to be victorious, albeit with very damaged, hurt lands. EPIC's law suits and Earth First!'s holding patterns have gone a long way in keeping the forest standing, but MAXXAM has sure nibbled around the edges and done a lot of damage that was not able to be prevented. So the time is now. People need to remember September 14th and start organizing where ever you are now, in your own community. Bring your affinity group along and come on September 14th ready to stay for however long it takes to realize this victory.

**Gary:** That's a hard one. It's developing into a big issue as far as getting a lot of people to come up there in September every year for the big rally. Base camp is a fairly big thing with people helping get supplies up there to keep it going. But I don't know that it's been a real pivotal issue in Mendocino County, no more than Enchanted Meadow, or watching LP deplete its lands, or GP deplete its lands, or going through the Prop 130 campaign, or the FAC rules process. I guess Headwaters is one more educational tool that perhaps is appealing, if nothing else, to the younger people who maybe have missed all the history and are just now coming into the movement. Maybe Headwaters will help educate them and bring them into the movement. I think Mendocino County, in general, has a pretty large segment of the population with a very high environmental awareness. I don't know just how important Headwaters alone will be, but I think Mendocino County is a great place to grow up because you are exposed to environmental issues at a very early age, as soon as you're ready to start being interested in such things.

**Q:** What draws you back to Colorado?

**Betty:** About a year and a half ago, I started being pulled back home to the mountains. What the Universe wants us to do when we get back there isn't totally clear yet, but it wasn't totally clear when we came here either. I know it will be

*continued on page 18*



**Gary Ball**

*Photo by Annie Esposito*

# Bits & Bytes From The Editor's Computer

## Wants And Needs

Let's hear it from the Stones:

*You can't always get what you want,  
But if you try sometimes, you just might find,  
You get what you need.*

As environmentalists, we need to consider the difference between wants and needs. For example, we all need food, but do we need high-fat, processed, sugar-laced snacks that come to us in petroleum-based plastic wrapping, or in energy-gobbling aluminum foil? Do we need exotic fruits and vegetables brought from thousands of miles away, halfway around the world even? We all need housing, but do we need housing constructed from rapidly diminishing stocks of Redwood and Douglas Fir? We all need transportation, but do we need to drive the heavy gas-guzzling automobiles, pickups, RV's and the like that fill up our highways? Do we need to suck from the bowels of the earth the carbon that we use to fuel those mon-

sters, thus transferring that carbon to the atmosphere at a rate which will undoubtedly suffocate us all within a century? Of course we don't need those things. We want them.

If we are to have any hope of reversing the downward spiral of the life-support system on spaceship Earth, we're going to have to clear up the industry-induced confusion between what we want and what we really need and we're going to have to get real about fulfilling our real needs and trimming back our wants.

We hear a lot about "quality of life," and issues connected thereto. But for most of us that seems to mean the ability to drive two blocks for a pack of gum or a bar of soap, to hang around the house in a t-shirt on a freezing day, to take our refrigerators and our telephones and our television sets and our cooling fans with us when we go camping in the "wild." Can we rethink that?

Instead of requiring three-car garages and sea bass from Chile, cannot "quality of life" mean the adequacy for everybody of the kinds of things we really need?

Can we not fulfill our "quality of life" needs by ensuring that all children have diets adequate for full growth; that there are no more homeless on our streets because there is adequate housing for all; that we can get health care at a cost which we as a society and as individuals can afford; that we are clothed in ways which don't involve the super-exploitation of children in faraway places; and that we can get from one place to another without paving the universe and filling our atmosphere with greenhouse gases?

Yes, we can do that. But we won't, unless a lot more people learn to make the distinction between what they want and what they need.

The environmental struggle involves many fronts: cleaning up the air, cleaning up the water, preserving the forests and lakes and rivers and fields that sustain us, protecting the wild from the encroachments of "civilization;" the list goes on and on. But behind almost all of those issues lurk the basic questions: what do we really need and how can we bring what we want into closer association with what we really need? And that applies from the local to the global.

## Reflections



Betty and Gary at the '96 Headwaters Rally

Photo by Anita Martin

concluded from page 17

clear when we came here either. I know it will be working with the environmental and social justice movement, but in what form or venue is not yet determined.

**Q:** Do you have other thoughts about what Colorado holds for you?

**Betty:** The Colorado mountains are home. And just like everywhere else on Earth, the mountains and the foothills, and the whole area along the front range of the Rockies is being decimated. We have learned so much in the time we've been here. I can't even comprehend how much we have learned. We will take that knowledge with us and apply it to try to stop the ravaging going on there. Again, what form that will take remains to be seen.

**Gary:** It's just home with all kinds of fond memories that go with it. My family is there, I was born and raised there, my mountains are there, life-long friends are there. That's what it holds for me. In terms of what our plans and directions are, I don't know.

**Q:** What about you - a more personal side of

you. What kind of things do you like to read?

**Gary:** I read a lot of environmental books and I also read a lot of what people might call spirituality books. I'm into Buddhism, so I read a lot of Buddhist things. I've read everything I can get my hands on by Farley Mowat, just an excellent writer. I just finished *The Collapse of Culture; The Final Empire* by William Kotzke. That was great - very interesting. I've read *Ishmael* and *The Story of B* by Daniel Quinn, *The Grizzly Years* by Doug Peacock, *Game Wars* - I can't remember who wrote that, but it was a wonderful book. Another book called *Racks*, about antlered species. I've read the all *Milagro Beanfield War* trilogy, which is semi-fantasy about New Mexico. I have to read all the subscription material the MEC receives, which is quite a bit. I read *Toxic Sludge Is Good For You* very recently. Excellent, excellent, excellent book. Everybody should read it; it should be standard fare and everybody should be required to know what's in that book as a basis for continuing on in the world.

**Betty:** I read spirituality of various forms, books by Native people, political books, environmental books. At the moment I'm reading Daniel

Quinn's *Providence*, and also *The Final Empire* which is about the devastation of the Earth in very graphic and specific details. I just recently finished *Milagro Beanfield War*. I just read *Mother Jones*.

**Q:** It has the same flavor as your work. No trashy novels it sounds like.

**Betty:** This is my life.

**Q:** What about music? What do you like?

**Betty:** I love environmental folk music and folk music of all kinds. Celtic music, bluegrass, some country.

**Gary:** I'm an old folkie, I like folk music. I play the guitar and I play a little banjo, and very little mandolin. I listen to a full range of music, from original old-timey folk to other folk music, which sometimes is even called rock-and-roll.

**Q:** What do you do for fun? What's your idea of a good time?

**Betty:** Listen to music, read, hang out with friends.

**Gary:** Before I became a full time environmentalist I had time to be a bird watcher and bird photographer which consumed endless hours. Just going out, finding a good spot, building a blind and sitting there with cameras ready for the birds to show up so I could take their pictures was something I could do from sun up to sun down without ever getting tired of it. I like camping, I like kayaking. Getting together with friends. I spend a lot of time reading.

**Q:** Is there anything else you want to say?

**Betty:** Just carry on, folks! There are truly incredible activists here in this community. Just continue what you're doing. Remember, our spirits are always with you, as yours are with us. We'll take your energy and effectiveness with us back to our mountains.

**Gary:** I would say in parting thoughts, I've watched how hard it is to change the overall destructive course that our culture is on. I'm very worried now that it cannot continue that much longer. That's another reason that I'm anxious to get home and be with family because I think hard times are coming. However, I will sorely miss the friends we have here and we're certainly going to stay in touch. We'll probably be back from time to time to check in on things too.

## Letters To The Editor

### We Need A Change!

Dear Editor and Readers:

The Republican Congress is presently pushing for more tax cuts for the rich, in the form of reduced inheritance and capital gains taxes. Ninety percent of those tax cuts benefit just the wealthiest 5% of the population. This follows years of reduced spending for the rest of us on education, welfare, infrastructure, environmental protection, etc. Why increase the wealth gap?

The US already has the most unfair distribution of wealth of all industrialized nations in the world, and the biggest gap between the rich and the poor. Does this make you proud? Why do they make the gap bigger, further crushing the poor and rewarding the already obscenely rich?

The only answer I can see is that the rich run this country, for their own benefit. How? They own 95% of the mass media (to convince us, e.g. that taxes and "Big Government" regulations on corporations are bad) and control 95% of the politicians (by paying for their campaigns and rewarding them with jobs after they leave office).

The rich have convinced Congress to reduce corporations' share of taxes from 23% in the 1950s to just 9% today, which means we citizens have had to make up the difference. No wonder we're angry at our tax bills. Notice, though, that instead of shifting the tax load back to corporations, Congress takes it out on society's weakest: poor children and elders.

Since Reagan's days, Republicans have proudly led this class war for the rich against the rest of us, but the Democrats are fully on board too; they all know who pays for their elections and who they'll work for next.

This awful corruption will continue until we citizens reclaim our democracy and our country. People are stirring; three nationwide progressive parties have been formed valuing people over profits and community over consuming: the Labor Party, the New Party, and the Greens (which got over 10% of the '96 vote in six North Coast counties).

If you'd like to meet with like-minded folks to discuss this situation and what we can do to change it, call me at 937-1113 or write 31901 Middle Ridge Road, Albion 95410 or tw@mcn.org.

Tom Wodetzki

### Help Save The Eel River

Dear Supporters of the Eel River Watershed,

We are facing the demise of the wild and scenic Eel River watershed and its once-abundant fisheries, now almost extinct. After seeing the politicians walk all over the Endangered Species Act, can you relax and count on them to rectify the ills wrought upon this watershed? The challenge and opportunity are ours! Please join this historic grassroots movement to return our diverted Eel River headwaters to their rightful course.

The Eel River Watershed is the third largest watershed in California. Once it was abundant with life, with a rich, balanced ecosystem. Its legendary fish played a major role in the economies of Mendocino and Humboldt. Both counties have experienced great financial losses with the demise of the fish. The toll on the food chain is drastic—a major food source for humans and wildlife has just about disappeared. This is a very important indicator that whole watersheds are in danger. Like the threatened jungles in South America, our own hab-

itats are in dramatic decline. It is imperative that we all join together, do our collective part, and restore this watershed. Communities across America have been joining together to bring dams down and restore their watersheds/habitats. We must do the same here.

In 1908 it was an innovative idea to take Eel River water from high in the mountains, shunt it through a tunnel filled with turbines, and drop the water into the next valley and the Russian River. This produced electricity for Ukiah and even as far south as the 1912 World's Fair in San Francisco. Now the plant is no longer cost-effective, and since no one down south pays for the diverted water from the Eel River, PG&E has decided to sell the project. In addition, new deregulation laws required PG&E to sell its power plants. This is our opportunity! We will be requesting that the Federal Electrical Regulatory Commission (FERC, which governs PG&E's operations) consider closure of the facility based on issues of public trust, the age of the dams, and environmental necessities. Once FERC issues a license, it is valid for 50 years and nearly impossible to terminate. However, any change in operations opens up the licensing to environmental impact reports and public comment. Now is that time.

We have a small but very significant window in time where we as citizens can be heard. We can't trust the politicians to take care of us; please join FER in taking legal action to make these changes possible. A lawsuit will be filed against PG&E requesting that the sale of the Potter Valley Project be stopped and that the headwaters of the Eel River be returned to her natural course. Noted attorney and respected water rights expert Michael Jackson has agreed to represent us. Michael Jackson was one of the attorneys in the historic case, Mono Lake Water Return vs. the LA Water Company. Our suit is based on the same violation of public trust law used in that victory. This law goes back to Roman times and states that: "No one person can block or divert a waterway or use their land to the detriment of all" (a loose translation).

There is a \$15,000 fee to cover initial expenses in order to file this action. (Mr. Jackson may pursue a fee award petition to cover additional expenses.) This is a very low price indeed to keep the mighty Eel River watershed and her fisheries from becoming history.

Our timing and your support are vital. The opposition has begun to gather. In 1995 Marin County paid Sonoma County \$5 million to join forces in securing the continued flow of Eel River water to the south. Sonoma County is filling up with development and vineyards, with many residents/developers posturing as farmers to get water rights. Once these rights are obtained in California, the land often becomes a subdivision. Did you know there is a new town planned between Healdsburg and Cloverdale? Where are they planning to get the water? Mendocino County also is seeking diverted Eel River water. They have just created the Inland Water District, headed up by the Potter Valley Irrigation District. Is this an attempt to be in receivership of the project? Can Mendocino County afford the upkeep of an endeavor such as the Potter Valley Project without selling the Eel River water south?

A major fundraising/membership drive and coalition-building effort is underway. As of June 1997, Friends of the Eel River's efforts have been endorsed by the California Wilderness Coalition,

Trees Foundation, the Mendocino Environmental Center, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), the California Cultural Conservancy, which makes sure Indian treaties are respected, the Northern California River Guides Association, and the California Sport Fishing Alliance. More are joining us every week. Thank you for joining us too!

September 1997 update. We have almost reached our \$15,000 goal. This is mostly from small donations representing a lot of people, which is significant in the numbers of people who support this effort. The legal ball has started rolling, the paper work is in process and we will file our suit before January! Friends of the Eel River is now beginning to turn its attention to the garnering of public support in as large numbers as possible. Along with this continuing effort is also the development of the Eel River Council which will work to unite the restoration efforts in the watershed as a whole. This will be done by smaller watershed councils with representation on the larger watershed council. We do not want to create a hierarchical situation but to foster an area wide participatory process. We need to gather habitat information from you and in turn support restoration efforts as each council identifies its particular needs. Please attend upcoming community information meetings. Currently there is one scheduled for September 11th at 7 pm hosted by the Willits Grange in their building on School St, in Willits. There is also one scheduled on September 17th at 7pm at the Alderpoint Community Center. We would like to schedule more meetings, large and small, so please call or write us. Our phone is 459-9278, PO Box 1834 Willits, 95490 and our email is: frndeelr@zapcom.net. We look forward to meeting with you and thank you for your continuing support.

For the Rivers!  
Nadananda

### Join The MEC Today!

by Kirsten Johnsen

The Mendocino Environmental Center serves vitally important functions for the environmental and social justice movements in Mendocino County. Access to current information, an in-depth knowledge of local, regional and national issues, as-needed immediate activist networking, continuing intercultural alliance building, an available working space for many citizen's groups and the long term maintenance of an increasingly powerful and reliable clearinghouse for regional community organizing are examples of the multifaceted resources that the MEC provides for the North Coast region.

Our Environmental Center is facing a tremendous challenge this year as two of the co-founders, Gary and Betty Ball, pass on their wealth of experiential wisdom to the next set of coordinated employees and volunteers. For ten years the operation of the MEC has depended on the direct financial support of its membership. As a grassroots organizing center, the connection between political effectiveness and personal monetary commitment is immediate. The MEC needs your membership support now more than ever. Make known your appreciation and commitment by backing for this irreplaceable community resource by joining the Center immediately!

# MEC Newsletter

Mendocino Environmental Center

106 W. Standley St., Ukiah, CA 95482  
 (707) 468-1660  
 http://www.pacific.net/~mec  
 Supported by Members!  
 Fall, 1997



Dedicated to Judi Bari

## RALLY TO SAVE HEADWATERS FOREST

**Sunday, September 14  
NOON  
Carlotta, CA**

March & Nonviolent Civil Disobedience  
to follow Rally

LOGGING in the ANCIENT REDWOODS  
could begin again SEPTEMBER 16!

Rally Sponsored by the Coalition to Save Headwaters  
Civil Disobedience Sponsored by Earth First!

**SIX  
ANCIENT  
GROVES**

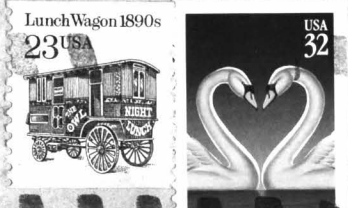
**ALL  
60,000  
ACRES**

For information call:  
 (707) 468-1660  
 or (510) 835-6303

Directions: Hwy 101 to Humboldt County ~ East on Hwy 36 to Carlotta!

Mendocino Environmental Center  
 06 West Standley Street  
 Ukiah, CA 95482

NORTH BAY 149 SEP



*Mendocino Environmental Center*

You've heard the name. Whether its the struggle to save the ocean, forest, desert, air quality, fresh water, wildlife, or world peace; the Mendocino Environmental Center is there. We are a grassroots, membership organization located in the heart of Northern California. Our support comes entirely from our members. In these trying times, we need members more than ever. **Memberships\* cost a minimum of \$1 per year, but we ask that you give \$20 or more per year if you can.** Clip out this ad and use it to become a member today. PLEASE PRINT.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail To: MEC; Attn.: Membership; 106 West Standley; Ukiah, CA 95482.  
 Members will receive our quarterly newsletter. The MEC is a non-profit, politically active, 501-C4 organization.  
 \*Contributions are NOT tax deductible.

**Mendocino Environmental Center**

Dr. Bear & Dr. Earth Care  
 990  
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