

# Sierra Club Bulletin

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# Sierra Club Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 1976 / VOLUME 61 / NUMBER 8



Cover: Cinder and ash showered Tom Myers as he photographed a California wildfire. In this issue, we take two looks at forest fires. Former fire fighter Art Buck describes life on the line (page 35), and Michael Eaton explains why some forest fires should not be fought at all (page 33).

## Contents

Southeast Alaska—A Portrait	4	Edgar Wayburn
Hope for the Great Whales	6	Patricia Scharlin Rambach
Habitat—United Nations Conference on Human Settlements		
Human Unsettlement	9	Edward P. Morgan
The View from Jericho	11	Alfred Heller
A Conversation with Brant Calkin	21	Frances Gendlin
Guest Opinion:		
A Showdown at the Polls—Land Use in Oregon	27	Bob Straub
A New Look at Forest Fires	33	Michael R. Eaton
Summer on Bald Mountain	35	Art Buck

### COMMENTARY

Q & A on SCCOPE, <i>Staff Report</i>	14
Editorial: Electing a Good Congress, <i>Michael McCloskey</i>	16
Washington Report: Wilderness Politics, <i>Brock Evans</i>	16
The Candidates and Conservation, <i>Staff Report</i>	18
Texas Water Bonds on November Ballot, <i>Kim Alan Goodman</i>	20

### DEPARTMENTS

BOOKS: Carrots and Conservation: <i>School Gardens; Earthcare in the Dooryard Garden</i> , Elizabeth Bernstein	28
OBSERVER: <i>Robert A. Irwin</i>	29
NEWS: CZMA amendments; Ken Bohlig dies; Toxic Substances; Land and Water Conservation Fund; OCS bill; Clearcut decision in Texas; Sierra Club v. Morton; Leaky pipes in Alaska; Coal-leasing; Alpine Lakes; BLM Organic Act	30

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# Southeast Alaska—A Portrait

Text and photos by  
EDGAR WAYBURN

“Never before this had I been embosomed in scenery  
so hopelessly beyond description.” *John Muir*







*(Opposite page)* The peaks of Admiralty Island rise behind the village of Angoon and Kootznahoo Inlet. Comprising more than one million acres, Admiralty supports the largest population of brown bear in the world. More bald eagles live and nest here than in any other place. *(Top)* West Chichagof Island, some 400,000 acres, offers unique wilderness recreation. On its Pacific Coast, hundreds of small islands and bays invite exploration. *(Bottom)* Hasselborg Falls, Admiralty Island. The spruce-hemlock forest of Admiralty has long been coveted by the timber industry.



Southeast Alaska is something of a geographic anomaly—a narrow slice cut by history from the British Columbian coast and separated from the rest of the state by the massive bulk of 18,000-foot Mt. St. Elias. The region's deep, narrow fjords and numerous offshore islands are classic features of a flooded glacial coast. The mountains rising abruptly from the waters of the Inside Passage were first deeply incised by valley glaciers and later invaded by a rising sea. Glaciers still flow down many of the mountain valleys, ending only at the shore. The islands were once the highest ridges of the western foothills of the range. The famed Inside Passage and its subsidiary channels mark ancient stream-courses and glacial paths.

This land is blessed with water. It comes frequently, most often borne in misty clouds, falling as constant, gentle rain, but sometimes pouring in gusty torrents. Overcast is the rule. The light is always soft, even in the sunshine of an occasional blue day. Sometimes the fog layer seems almost to rest on the waters of the Inside Passage; at other times it may be higher and thinner, muting narrow slants of sun through cool gray clouds. It is water that makes Southeast Alaska so extraordinarily green and beautiful—water in the clouds and the sea, water locked up in the ice caps of the mountains, water flowing in the glacial streams that pour into the Inside Passage. Water makes the meadows and the forests lush and alive.

Conservationists have identified forty-five areas in the Tongass National Forest—sixteen million acres administered by the U.S. Forest Service—as worthy of study for wilderness classification. As yet, none are so protected.



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Regulations proposed this year by the IWC  
may herald an end to commercial whaling

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# Hope for the Great Whales

PATRICIA SCHARLIN RAMBACH



*Right whales, mother and calf, off the coast of Patagonia.*

**T**here may be a glimmer of hope for the world's whales. At its June 1976 meeting in London, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) showed signs at last of becoming a responsible international organization, reflecting the views of a majority of its members rather than serving as a pri-

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*Patricia Scharlin Rambach, who heads the Sierra Club International Office, served as a member of the United States delegation to the most recent IWC meeting.*

vate club for the whaling nations. After intensive and often heated discussion, the commission's sixteen members agreed to almost all the quotas recommended by its Scientific Committee as the only hope of maintaining public confidence in the IWC as a management institution set up to ensure sustainable populations of whales.

The total catch for the 1976-77 season was reduced by almost 6,000 from last year's quota of 32,000 animals. This reduction is especially significant

because it includes reductions in quotas for the largest whales, such as the sperm, fin, sei and bryde. Fin whales in the Southern Hemisphere are now totally protected. With respect to sperm whales, the southern oceans were redivided from six to *nine* management regions, thus limiting the whale fleets even more. For the first time, quotas were set for three additional populations: the minke whales in the North Pacific, and the sei and sperm whales in the North Atlantic. The impact of

Juan & Carmelita Munoz/Photo Researchers



all the cuts will be even greater than the numbers indicate because the total tonnage permitted under the quota may drop more than fifty percent from that taken in 1973, partly because of cuts in the take of the larger species of whale.

The groundwork for the IWC's change in policy began last year, when conservation-oriented commissioners, in a major compromise, agreed to a "New Management Procedure" that established three categories of whale stocks. The three categories were (1) "protected" stocks, whose numbers were below the level of maximum sustainable yield (MSY), (2) "initial" stocks, whose numbers were above the MSY level and could therefore be reduced in a controlled manner, and (3) "sustained" stocks, whose numbers were maintained at or near MSY levels. Some stocks were also divided into geographical regions for the purpose of harvesting, thus providing more protection in certain areas.

As a result of the "Procedure," most catch quotas were substantially reduced last year, dealing a severe blow to Russian and Japanese whaling interests, which as a result have apparently cut down their fleets. South Africa has suspended its whaling operations temporarily.

The countries that last year had compromised by agreeing to the New Management Procedure in place of a total moratorium (United States, Mexico, France, Argentina and New Zealand) this year held firmly to the quotas suggested by the Scientific Committee. Japan and the Soviet Union, supported by Denmark and other whaling nations, held out to the end of the meeting on key quotas, particularly those for sei whales, which were further reduced, and sperm whales, which were cut by almost 6,000. If Japan and the Soviet Union, which account for more than eighty-five percent of all whaling, do not formally object to the quotas in the ninety-day period allowed under the Convention, the authority and credibility of the Scientific Committee will be considerably strengthened.

Nevertheless, the committee faces a continuing debate on how it arrives at the quotas. The battle at this year's session, especially over quotas for sei and sperm whales in the Southern Hemisphere, centered on the mathematical model used by the committee to arrive at the quotas. Japan argued most strongly against some of the vari-

ables used in the model. The scientists find it difficult to agree on such variables as the number of young males that should remain in a herd of sperm whales (and therefore not be taken) in order to stimulate the older bulls to



Whaling station, Durban, South Africa.

breed. The economic damage to Japanese and Russian whaling operations by the quota agreements this year will undoubtedly lead both countries to fight harder over the formulas that produce the quotas at next year's meeting.

A crucial issue debated whenever marine life is discussed concerns the use of "maximum sustainable yield" as a criterion for setting catch limits. In the case of whales, some scientists seem to be content to allow stocks never before exploited to drop quickly to MSY levels for economic reasons. This year,

as a result, quotas for minke whales in the Antarctic were increased from 6,810 to 8,900—2,090 more than last year. This would allow stocks to drop quickly to MSY. Many scientists and conservationists are urging that MSY be replaced with a principle based on *optimum populations levels*, which reflects an ecological approach to the establishment of quotas. At the opening of the session this year, almost every statement by the independent observers called for this change, but so far no one has been able to develop formulas based on optimum levels because not enough is known about what must go into such formulas.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) plans to carry out research that could lead to development of a better assessment technique. At a recent meeting of marine-mammal scientists in Bergen, Norway, sponsored by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme and the IUCN, further progress was made toward promoting international research and management techniques not only for whales but for all marine mammals.

Although such developments are

### International Whaling Commission Results

Region & Species	1975 Quota	1976 Quota	Difference
<b>Antarctic</b>			
Fin	220	Protected	-220
Sei	2,230	1,863	-367
Minke	6,810	8,900	+2,090
Bryde	0	0	0
Sperm (Male)	5,870	3,894	-1,976
Sperm (Female)	4,870	897	-3,973
<b>North Pacific</b>			
Fin	Protected	Protected	0
Sei	Protected	Protected	0
Minke	No Quota	541 <sup>1</sup>	+541*
Bryde	1,363	1,000	-363
Sperm (Male)	5,200	4,320	-880
Sperm (Female)	3,100	2,880	-220
<b>North Atlantic</b>			
Fin	365 <sup>2</sup>	344 <sup>2-3</sup>	-21
Sei	No Quota	132	+132*
Minke	2,550	2,483	-67
Bryde <sup>4</sup>			
Sperm (Male & Female)	No Quota	685	+685*
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,578</b>	<b>27,939</b>	<b>-4,639</b>
		<b>or</b>	<b>or</b>
		<b>26,581</b>	<b>-5,997 (without new stocks)</b>

\*First time under quota

1. Western North Pacific
2. Includes 90 from Newfoundland
3. Rolling block quota applied
4. No catches from area

Source: NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1976



cause for optimism, serious problems remain. First, some conservationists wonder why the whaling nations at the recent IWC meeting did, at the last minute, accept such extreme cuts in quotas on most stocks. Was it perhaps because there are so few whales left that the quotas cannot be met anyway? In examining some recent catches, one finds as often as not that the catch falls well below the actual quotas. For example, for sperm whales in the Southern Hemisphere, the 1973 catch of males was 1,323 below the quota of 8,000 and the catch of females was 503 below the quota of 5,000. Does this mean that whale populations are so reduced that no quota system for catches can prevent their eventual extinction? Or are quotas set by the IWC too high, so that in effect no management is really taking place at all?

As the major whaling nations reduce or end their operations, the possibility arises that countries not members of the IWC, and thus not subject to any controls, may take up whaling. We know already that six countries account for about ten percent of the catch: Portugal, Chile, Spain, Peru, South Korea and Somalia. Some observers believe it is possible that other countries will be interested in buying the old whaling fleets of countries no longer in business. A ready market for whale products will continue to exist. Already, many whaling fleets employ crews from other countries, thereby providing on-the-job training. As the need for food increases throughout the world, more nations may want to take up this industry. But the scarcity of whales would make the endeavor uneconomical for any country.

The transfer of vessels and technology was discussed at this year's IWC, but the resulting resolution was weak, merely urging that vessels not be sold, and avoiding the issue preventing the transfer of whaling technology, a difficult problem to resolve in an open-market economy. So far, Japan appears to be adhering to its own announced policy and regulations against the transfer of vessel equipment and has successfully converted some surplus whaling ships to other uses. But with the suspension this year of operations in South Africa, and with Australia hard pressed to continue, there will be increasing need to ensure that transfers do not occur.

The question of whether to urge IWC membership for nonmember whaling



Sei whale.

Gordon Williamson/Bruce Coleman Inc.

**Like whales we chant  
our ancient history.  
Like whales we leap  
and sing. Like whales  
we play in the tides of change.  
We are old . . . We are old.  
We are nearly as old  
as the whales.**

—*The Whale People*

nations poses some problems for conservationists because an increase in membership could shift the voting majority in favor of whaling interests. This year, sei and sperm whale quotas barely passed and only after intense negotiation to change a few votes. What would have happened if there had been one or two more whaling nations on the commission? Is the answer to add more nonwhaling countries? Certainly that helped this year with the entry of New Zealand, a former whaling nation that now supports conservation. But what about other countries that never have engaged in whaling? Would their desire for a new industry or source of food influence their voting?

The outcome of the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea may have some effect on whaling, especially with the establishment of the economic-resource zone giving coastal states control over fisheries and other resources to 200 miles seaward. The draft treaty contains two articles on migratory species, one of which gives coastal states the right to restrict exploitation within

their territorial waters. Although scientists cannot agree on just where and to what extent whales remain within the 200-mile area, coastal states can be expected to assume some control.

The United States' decision to set a 200-mile limit (effective March 1977), along with that of Canada and Mexico (effective in January 1977 and July 1976, respectively), must have been in the minds of the Soviet and Japanese delegates. Both countries have major long-distance fishing industries and will have to work out new fishing agreements with these coastal states. Some of the independent American observers at the session made it clear that failure to accept the whale quotas could result in the United States' taking strong measures to limit long-distance fishing rights in its waters.

What next for the whales? This year will be a critical one for the management of commercial whaling. First, we must wait out the ninety-day period, which ends October 1, 1976, to see if Japan and the Soviet Union will adhere to the quotas set by the IWC. If they do, their whaling industries will be severely restricted by the cuts in quotas, especially of sei (for Japan) and sperm (for Russia), and may force the early end of their whaling operations. This in turn could create pressures to sell their fleets to nonmember countries, thus encouraging increased whaling outside the management framework.

Conservation organizations in the United States plan to continue various forms of pressure to ensure that the worst will not happen. The boycott against Japanese and Soviet goods may be extended. Public events to keep the whale issue in full view are bound to continue. More effort on the part of conservationists in the whaling countries, as well as in those countries concerned with conservation, will be needed this year to keep the IWC moving in the right direction. Next June, the commission will meet in Canberra, not in London, farther from the public eye and an interested press.

At the last three meetings the Sierra Club has presented a statement at the IWC on behalf of over twenty conservation organizations from around the world. The Club intends to expand this cooperative network so that more organizations can make their views known to their governments, the public and the commission. Only in this way can enough pressure be maintained to save, perhaps, the whales. **SCB**



# HABITAT

The United Nations Conference  
on Human Settlements

## Human Unsettlement

EDWARD P. MORGAN

*And God created man in his own image . . . ; male and female created He them . . . . And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*

Genesis I, 27,28

What God hath wrought, man hath overdone. For it has come to pass that mankind's fruitfulness is multiplying humanity beyond control, is subduing the earth with strip mines, asphalted parking lots and high-rises; is replenishing same with junk heaps, poisoned water and polluted air; and thusly and by other means is exercising such dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens and all living things that the world may well become a barren desert instead of the bountiful habitat the Creator presumably had in mind.

So, before it is too late, we four billion creatures called people are being asked to draft a land-use plan for the planet, a plan husbanding our resources and pooling our knowledge to protect and enhance the biosphere. The rich nations, who can't even dispose of their garbage successfully, are being told they must take the lead in this gigantic operation.

The poor nations, still struggling against the vestiges of colonialism with a sometimes blind surge of nationalism, are being asked to try to avoid the very mistakes by which reckless, greedy and wanton overdevelopment in the industrialized world has brought us all to this perilous verge.

*Edward P. Morgan is a Washington journalist and broadcast commentator with a longtime interest in conservation causes.*

A ridiculous proposition? Given humanity's weaknesses, yes. Frivolous? No. Global planning (by coordination of nations and continents) simply must be done if coming generations aren't to find themselves doomed on a Space-ship Earth no longer navigable.

These stark lessons were spelled out in June at a large gathering called "Habitat," the United Nations Con-



ference on Human Settlements, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Habitat was spawned four years ago in Stockholm at the U.N. Conference on Human Environment. Next came conferences on population (Bucharest); food (Rome); and women (Mexico City). Habitat was to draw all the threads together. "Habitat," one document said, "is about the whole of life."

Its success can't be precisely measured, but if we realize the world is going through an immense learning process, the Vancouver meeting was by no means in vain. It is not inconceivable that if there had been instantaneous global communication during the Black Death or the Spanish Inquisition, exchange of intelligence might have shortened both scourges. Today, facts and figures are flashed in an electronic flood everywhere, yet we are slow to use them. Gatherings like Habitat are the school rooms where knowledge can

be channeled to build up pressure on governments to act.

Habitat produced much for governments to act upon. Some pressure was applied to the 131 nations officially represented by 160 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)—ranging from the League of Women Voters to "right-to-lifers" and environmentalists—plus six national liberation groups and various intergovernmental bodies. In addition, a twenty-four-member "brain trust" called the Vancouver Symposium issued urgent declarations of purpose and goals and how to reach them. The declarations were not glib. They came from months of study by such distinguished experts as Barbara Ward, humanist, economist and author, one of the guiding spirits of the whole affair; anthropologist Margaret Mead; Buckminster Fuller, who invented the geodesic dome and whose solution to the housing problem is an inexpensive collection of blister-like plastic bubbles; Maurice Strong, Canada's new energy minister, who put the Stockholm conference together, and then ran its issue, UNEP, the U.N. Environment Programme, in Nairobi for three years; and a Buenos Aires architect, Jorge Hardoy, who nearly missed the conference because the Argentine police detained him for "questioning."

A world revolution is involved here: to plan for people first. Profit and power are secondary.

Nattering over niggling matters impeded progress. The NGOs were isolated in abandoned, chilly seaplane hangars at Jericho, on the edge of Vancouver harbor, more than four miles from the center of conference action. Jericho was also the site of the Forum, a citizen gathering invented at Stockholm to provide the public with a means of expressing its views. This too was





clumsily handled, yet the public came in droves.

A guard barred a reporter from one Forum session because it was "overcrowded." But the news media, particularly those of the United States, deserve to be flunked for their mishandling, or rather nonhandling, of Habitat. With Canada the host, its press, radio and television coverage was commendable, but south of the border, only the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* gave the conference consistent attention. American broadcast coverage was virtually nonexistent. True, the issues merely dealt with the future of the world.

Such news judgment, remarked Dr. Elvis Starr, head of the National Audubon Society and ex-Secretary of the Army, "borders on the disgraceful." Bruce Hutchison, veteran associate editor of the *Vancouver Sun*, was "astounded at such really dreadful coverage. I am disappointed and distressed that the United States press [chooses] to pay no more attention to the human race."

The Palestine Liberation Organization's observer group got headlines, of course. The PLO, with the support of Arab states and other developing countries, succeeded in ramming through an amendment to the conference's Declaration of Principles which, following the precedent of a previous controversial General Assembly resolution, equated Zionism with racism. The United States and several other countries, angered and frustrated, voted nay, but again the have-nots possessed what the haves had not: the votes.

The PLO's appearance, paradoxically, may have been useful. It demonstrated that man's habitat cannot be materially improved until his vicious habits of hatred and violence are broken.

Habitat also failed to emphasize that uncontrolled population growth is a principal obstacle to achieving better, healthier human settlements. The subject was discussed, but when it came to the final documents it was scarcely mentioned.

There also were exciting, positive happenings. Some 2,000 people sat on their haunches one sunny Saturday at Jericho, transfixed as white-haired Buckminster Fuller, eighty-two now, declared that by "getting more from less," it is "highly feasible to take care of all humanity with a higher standard of living than anyone has ever known . . .

"The universe has a great design," he said, and we do not. We have been born ignorant and made an incredible number of mistakes, but "if we're beginning to communicate around the planet, we're really getting somewhere."

Getting more from less means recycling materials, checking unconscionable waste, and detaching ourselves from the concept of scarcity, which holds that some people will always be rich and some poor.

In an interview, Maurice Strong quoted a recent scientific study concluding that with existing technology and without any real sacrifice in living standards, it would be possible to reduce the use of energy in the United States by "more than fifty percent." If so, we're wasting more than half the energy we consume by bad planning, insufficient insulation, and the like. Something has obviously gone wrong with our own communication and absorption of the facts. For example, we now import far more oil than before the OPEC countries quadrupled the price.

Checking waste would, in effect, provide a vast "new" source of energy. But it's harder to break bad habits than to talk about the magic of atomic power. A molten argument on the subject seeped through the conference like a lava flow. Margaret Mead and Barbara Ward called for a moratorium on the production and export of atomic plants, fearing not only weapons proliferation but radioactive wastes.

Strong himself preferred no nuclear development. But "that's obviously not going to happen," he told me. "We've got nuclear capacity and we're going to use it."

The issue, he said, is how to control it and mitigate its dangers. But "if there is a case anywhere for nuclear energy, it surely is to provide for the energy needs for the poor, the developing countries." They should have prior claim.

Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau spoke of "socializing" the world, meaning loving one another with a desire to change ourselves—a "... change more drastic than a major mutation of our species." Then he stoutly defended Canada's exports of nuclear plants (India converted one to explode her bomb), a policy which could change human mutations faster than love.

France and West Germany, eyeing trade, also opposed any moratorium. The U.S. position mixed piety with "realism,"—a synonym to some for

profits. Russell Peterson, head of the Council on Environmental Quality, argued atomic energy should be developed with "proper safeguards" while we intensify research on solar energy and other alternatives. But before those breakthroughs come, the spread of atomic power could add many more governments to the nuclear "club" and make the nonproliferation treaty porous as a sponge, no? Peterson dolefully agreed.

(Even as the debate progressed, the United States was preparing to sell Spain another nuclear reactor—without full safeguards against diversion to military use.)

There was an official warning against proliferation of nuclear weapons, and repeated suggestions—voiced most often by the Russians—to cut the world's annual arms bill of \$300 billion by ten percent and divert the \$30 billion to constructive purposes.

The hope of solar energy shone brightly over Habitat. Its increasing use for cooling and heating seemed to blunt predictions that a breakthrough on conversion to electricity was a long way off. People seemed to say that \$30 billion could speed things up.

Public ownership of land was also stressed at Habitat, and the conference decided that unearned profits from land sale should be recaptured by the community to check reckless exploitation. The U.S. went along, reasoning that the right of eminent domain and capital gains taxes already retrieve much of such profits. The real-estate lobby is yet to be heard from.

The continued surge of rural poor to the cities in most nations is frightening. The Population Crisis Committee estimates some twenty-five million people will make the migration this year. Tokyo by 1985 may count twenty-five million, equaling the total of *all* the world's cities in 1800. And by 1977, the global population of four billion will have grown by seventy million.

Jorge Hardoy told Habitat that in Africa, Asia and Latin America there are almost a billion "rural workers without land . . . peasants who are badly fed, without medical care, without education, without clean water and with bad dwellings." UNEP's director, Egypt's Mostafa Tolba, says "seventy percent of the entire human race is . . . today [without any] sure supplies of safe water." A world conference on water is scheduled in Argentina next March. The World Bank estimates \$3



billion would go a long way toward solving the world's water problem. Hardoy said too many developing nations are following inappropriate and unsuccessful "rich-nation" patterns and he doubted that "many governments of underdeveloped countries are willing to face up to such [inadequate] situations" and are moving instead from disaster to disaster.

"There is no easy and quick exit from misery and injustice," Hardoy cautioned, "and the first step has to be the giving up of positions of privilege by those who hold them."

"Why not liberate and organize the constructive creativity of millions of men and women who, anyway, with or without support and counsel, will themselves build the district of the city in which they have chosen to live?" Hardoy asked.

This will be tried in a Manila slum by a young Wellington architect, Ian Athfield, who, though he had never been out of New Zealand, won first prize in a competition to transform the slum. He will live in it now for two years to see what changes the residents may want made in his prize plan.

What did Habitat produce? Millions of words. Tons of papers. But a fresh awareness too of problems already known and of changes needed, as well as a discovery that some are already being made. Jack Munday, an Australian labor leader, told how his building trades union successfully *blocked* skyscrapers in Sydney and other cities where neighborhoods opposed construction. Try that on the AFL-CIO.

The conference scored a U.N. first: audio-visual presentations. More than 100 nations supplied some 230 short films of their headaches. Delegates, journalists and the public in large numbers saw Tokyo's monumental garbage problem in living color. They learned how smog-choked Stuttgart cleansed itself by widening its streets so air currents could get through, and by prohibiting further construction on the natural bowl in which the city sits. They saw hog manure made into methane gas to heat kitchen stoves in the Fiji Islands.

People *are* doing things. But beyond the communiqués, "Habitat" itself was a warning to the world. Human settlements can't go on being increasingly unsettled. The problems are known. Change is unavoidable. If capitalism, socialism, Marxism and every other governmental ism don't swiftly

show flexibility in changing institutions and systems to give the multitude of mankind the break which is their right, then we've all had it.

"Almost nowhere on the planet today," Aprodicio Laquian, a Filipino,

told the Symposium, "do we have a kind of community we want for the future . . ."

"We have to take care of each other in order to be human."



## The View from Jericho

ALFRED HELLER



Enrique Peñalosa, Habitat's Secretary-General, Maurice Strong and Barbara Ward

The coastal mountains at Vancouver are snow-dusted. Rain washes the city. The nearby villages are a brilliant green. A few late-Victorian brick warehouses are being preserved down by the harbor in a place called Gastown, but mostly Vancouver is twentieth century, the downtown heavy with high-rise, glass, concrete, the badges of "growth." One street has reduced traffic, wide sidewalks, but the busiest new shopping areas are underground, protected from the cold and the rain and the view of the mountains.

The delegates to the U.N. Conference on "Habitat," the official parties, are downtown, bustling around the hotels and auditoriums where the meetings take place. It is all run by the Stockholm formula. "Big-D" Documents have been prepared: a declaration of principles, recommendations

for international cooperation, proposals for national action. The diplomats will sit down with their multilingual earphones and argue over commas and tinker with the numbered paragraphs of the Documents:

There is a wide range of choices in the search for an adequate response to expressed needs in terms of shelter, infrastructure and services. Some of these decisions concern the form, composition and location of the components of human settlements, others relate more specifically to the combinations of inputs required to obtain a given output; but all have a determinant effect on the quality of life in human settlements. (From A/CONF.70/5, Recommendation C.4[a].)

At Jericho Beach, five miles from downtown, Bard McAllister, representing the American Friends Service Committee, wears a badge that says "I am people." Thousands of "people" take part in the semi-official conference at

*Alfred Heller is past president of California Tomorrow and chief author of the California Tomorrow Plan.*





Jericho, which is the parade ground for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). It is inhabited by good-doers, mostly middle-class Canadians and Americans. These people don't have to stay there at night, and the water is pure, but they speak out for those who live in slum cities; and somehow Jericho works as a symbol, a surrogate for the poor and the dispossessed. It is a daytime global village (with its own newspaper, modeled on the *Stockholm Conference Eco*).

This entire business at Vancouver, at Jericho and downtown, is a matter of bearing witness: well over a third of the people in the world's cities are squatters or slum tenants—let's help them build better houses, healthier communities. The nations bear witness through their decimalized paragraphs, their resolutions. Jericho's language is quite different: the essential act of communication is to be with the crowd.

From Jericho Beach you look across English Bay to the towers of Vancouver, and Grouse Mountain. Jericho is a recycled military facility—big old seaplane hangars, expanses of tarmac between them. Now the ends of the hangars are covered with Haida paintings. Inside there are new amphitheatres built out of rough sawn timber, huge ones in central spaces and small ones in rooms along the walls. The hangars always have a clean wood smell. There are banners inside the hangars, and flags outside and stumps to sit on.

Jericho may be the people's conference, but it is paid for by governments. The Forum at Stockholm was supported by Sweden. The Forum at Vancouver, at Jericho, gets most of its help from Canada. Why? It is a safety valve. Miles from the official center of action, people with no official conference status but who want to join the discussion can make the most outrageous, revolutionary statements, shout their heads off, even start a riot (they don't), and they can be controlled, isolated from the honorable delegates. But Jericho is more than a security man's dream. It takes on a life of its own. People from many villages meet there and discover they share interests that seem urgent, but that are ignored or swept aside by governments. They gain strength by coming together. Their idealism may spread, sooner or later, to governing councils.

Nuclear technology is a central issue. It dominates many of the seminars. People at Jericho are outraged that the

United States, Canada, France and other industrial nations insist on selling bomb-making kits in the form of nuclear-power know-how and fuel to the developing nations. Margaret Mead speaks out on this subject as do Mike McCloskey, Arjun Makhijani of India, Dave Brower. Nuclear export is a form of colonialism, says Makhijani, because the client state becomes dependent on the country which supplies it with nuclear equipment. Every other energy alternative is cheaper, easier and safer than the nuclear one, the critics insist. But you can't expect the leaders of the "Third World," desperately in need of energy, to resist the Faustian bargain. The answer, says Makhijani, is that the rich countries must decide to phase down their production of nuclear gadgetry so that they are "out of stock" when Third World leaders come calling. Although the official conference refuses to condemn power by nuclear fission, at Jericho there are new legions ready to return to the corners of the earth to do battle with nuclear sprawl.

On the morning of June 1, 500 people fill the amphitheater of Hangar 3, in biting cold, to hear John F.C. Turner on the subject, "Self-Help and Low-Cost Housing." This is the first of literally dozens of meetings on this single topic scheduled for Jericho during the ten days of the conference. The organizers of the self-help housing symposium are two young Canadians, Charles Haynes and Bruce Fairbairn. They have been working on their program for over a year, written to dozens of authorities on this subject throughout the world, cajoled many into coming to Vancouver. They and a group of students have built an inexpensive self-help "model" house on a rise above the beach. The house comes with a hot-house sun porch and a Clivus toilet. A self-help housing movement has existed for some years. What has been a small and dedicated group of believers and practitioners opens up to a large audience at Vancouver.

Turner, an English architect and university instructor, is generally accepted as the leading theoretician of the movement. He believes that governments of both rich and poor nations should stay pretty well out of the planning and building of housing. So should big manufacturers; Turner is an advocate of "appropriate technologies" in the E. F. Schumacher tradition. He tells the crowd at Jericho, "The more cen-

trally administered housing there is, the less housing there will be for the poor in the short run, and for all of us in the long run." Government's responsibility is simply to "ensure personal and local access to essential resources." Without "housing by people," he says, the public housing bureaucracy will drain away resources and people will end up with homes and communities they don't understand or enjoy, no matter how splendid they may appear.

Part of the self-help group demonstrates to protest how the Philippine government has gone about planning a new city for residents of the Tondo slum in Manila. There has been an international architectural contest for this new city. A New Zealander, Ian Athfield, has won the \$35,000 prize. But he has prepared his scheme without consulting the Tondo people about their "new home." When Madame Marcos speaks before the conference downtown, the protesters are marching outside the Queen Elizabeth Theater—architects, builders, young thinkers from many nations, American Indians, Philippine exiles in Vancouver.

Do not doubt the growing fellowship and influence of the self-help forces. The Town and Country Planning Association of the United Kingdom (TCPA) has been the most effective national planning advocacy group in the world. It was founded in 1899, the year after Ebenezer Howard published *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*. Howard was the great advocate of attractive suburban communities, and green belts around cities. The TCPA had a good deal to do with Britain's decision to build a circle of new towns outside London after World War II. Some of these towns are forbidding. They seem planned by bureaucrats rather than by people who might want to live in them. But now Turner himself writes for TCPA publications, and David Hall, the director of the organization, speaks to a morning session at Jericho Beach, not on new towns or green belts or national or town planning, but on "People's Participation in Planning and Implementation."

To some conservationists—there are many of them at Vancouver—the self-help housing symposium has a certain urgency and appeal, for environmental quality is not always a high-priority item, either downtown or at Jericho. But conservationists find their concerns are shared by those who take part in the earnest discussions of the symposium. The emphasis is not on sprawl-



ing, manufactured subdivisions, it is on making do with what resources you have at hand; on recycling existing cities, not spreading out and building new ones; on people power, not nuclear power; on survival with amenity.

David Satterthwaite, a protégé of Barbara Ward, has booked the speakers for most of the important sessions at Jericho, but anyone can arrange for a meeting room and have at it. The discussions go on day after day about nuclear power, self-help housing, population and human settlements, land use and ownership, mercury pollution, housing for the poorest, women: the neglected resource, China and many other items. China's remarkable experience in ridding its settlements of filth and disease and hunger is addressed only at Jericho. The People's Republic does not send delegates to the official conference. Yet some people at Jericho feel they have been completely cut off from the "real world" downtown. They complain about how hard it is to obtain the official conference Documents. But anyone who has seen the

## The Sierra Club at Habitat

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played an important role at Habitat by focusing attention on the relationship between human settlements and the environment. The Sierra Club concentrated on a number of important environmental articles included in the conference's National Action Plan. One article called for protection and enhancement of sensitive areas such as coastal regions; another recommended the development and use of environmental impact assessment; a third called for "consideration of land use characteristics, including ecological tolerances and optimum utilization of land so as to minimize pollution, conserve energy, and protect and recover resources."

In its official observer status, the Club monitored the preparatory meetings for Habitat, which were held in 1975 and early 1976. Last January, it held a meeting on coastal-zone issues for Caribbean delegates to the conference.

At Habitat Forum, volunteers from the Club's Western Canada Chapter staffed an exhibit and information booth. Club representatives also participated in panel discussions and in drafting an NGO declaration on human settlements for presentation to the official conference.

Documents or heard the delegates discussing them knows that Jericho itself has its own hold on reality; and the relationship between this village and the wielders of power downtown is complex, difficult.

For example, there is a group of international leaders in housing, planning and environmental protection calling itself the Vancouver Symposium. These are people of recognized stature and authority: Maurice Strong, Barbara Ward, Margaret Mead, Buckminster Fuller, Lester Brown, Jorge Hardoy, Charles Correa, et al. This group has issued a declaration urging nations at the conference to make "concrete commitments to basic human needs." Its members present themselves and the declaration to a large gathering at Jericho. Not many could object to this document with its high moral tone demanding, among other things, that clean water be available to everyone in the world by the year 1990. Barbara Ward insists that she has come not so much to talk to this audience as to engage in a dialog with it. But this intended "dialog" between the visiting giants from across the bay and the people at Jericho ends before it begins; it is simply another lecture, experts talking down to the rest of us. There will be no army from this quarter to march upon the delegates' lounges, behind the banner of the Vancouver Symposium.

The official United States delegation takes what appears to be an encouraging approach to Jericho. Carla Hills, Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, who chairs the delegation, and the number two person, Russell Peterson, who is chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, meet several times with the NGOs at Jericho. At one of these meetings in Hangar 6, Peterson goes so far as to invite everyone present to a reception that evening sponsored by the U.S. delegation at their downtown hotel. Nevertheless the gap between Jericho and "downtown," between ordinary people and government, becomes obvious at these meetings. Someone asks Hills (wrapped in an elegant sealskin coat) how the U.S. government can encourage self-help low-cost housing. Her reply is that her agency has a rule that no federal assistance for housing can take place without public participation. But she is not really talking about the kind of full-scale local participation that Turner and his group advocate. She is talking,

one guesses, about getting the pro forma approval of some kind of local committee, before already-planned housing is manufactured and slapped into place. The questioner shakes her head and sits down. How can you explain to Madame Secretary?

Peterson's responses to questions about nuclear power and about land-use regulation are frustrating to the audience in the same way. He is confident that "we can cope with nuclear-fuel wastes on a twenty to twenty-five year basis"—even though no acceptable system for coping with them has been designed, much less instituted. He supports a conference resolution requiring that the public recapture the "unearned increment" from land sales. But it turns out that the reason he supports this departure from standard practice in the United States is that "in the United States we already take part of this increment through the capital gains tax and the income tax. Then you have to leave something for the investor." How's that again? The U.S., it seems, supports turning over the unearned increment to the public because that's what we already do! Well, hardly in full measure. As Barbara Ward pointed out some years ago, the entire billion dollar Bay Area Rapid Transit system could have been paid for out of profits on the sale of land around the terminals, if the public had bought the land in the first place. The public had not. The going practice in the planning of public facilities of any kind is that the public pays for the facilities and the land speculators make money when the price goes up on the surrounding property. And capital gains taxes, income taxes and reasonable profits all added together are only a fraction of the windfall profits.

Peterson fades out of this scene. Six Indians from the American Indian Movement sit in a circle beating on their sacred drum on the sawdust between the hangars. The drumbeat goes on at Jericho and other villages. There is dancing. The Vancouver Symphony comes out to play in the "social centre" at noontime. Young men and women tell about how good it is when people build their homes and communities with their own hands, and they brag about the work they have done, helping others to transform inhuman places into cities for people. At Jericho they have grown in self-confidence, inspiring others to follow them. Some day they may have power. **SCB**





# Q & A on SCCOPE

## Staff Report

Q: What is SCCOPE?

A: SCCOPE stands for the Sierra Club Committee on Political Education. It oversees all Sierra Club activities involving the preparation of educational materials about political candidates. It establishes and enforces guidelines for the political-education activities of Club chapters, groups and regional conservation committees (RCC), and ensures that federal tax and campaign laws governing such activities are followed. It also reviews the Club's political-education materials on candidates for Congress and the presidency.

Q: Why was SCCOPE established?

A: Prior to 1975, tax law prohibited the Sierra Club from engaging in activities relating to political candidates, but in 1975, this situation changed. The Club had been frustrated in efforts to gain support for its programs from elected officials who simply did not care about conservation. In some cases there was no point in trying even to lobby them, and Club members and the general public often did not know these officials were anti-conservation. This suggested that the Club should publicize the records of various public officials on conservation issues.

Q: Doesn't the press report what candidates have done on conservation?

A: Only rarely. The media usually report only those issues raised by candidates, and candidates with bad records on conservation usually don't raise such issues. In fact, two-thirds of the coverage of environmental issues during the recent primaries stemmed from materials prepared by the National League of Conservation Voters (LCV), not by the press or the candidates.

Q: But why establish a separate committee like SCCOPE? Why not let each chapter and group do whatever political education it chooses on its own?

A: Although tax laws now permit the Sierra Club to engage in political-education activities, they also require that many of these be conducted with specially raised funds, which are kept separate from the regular Club or chapter treasury. SCCOPE is the vehicle for maintaining this so-called "segregated fund." Further, because political education has been a controversial issue within the Sierra Club, a central place for the development and implementation of

general guidelines seemed desirable.

However, the basic initiative and control of political education remains at the local level. Proposals must be approved first by a two-thirds vote of the chapter or group executive committee, and only then are they reviewed by the five members of SCCOPE for compliance with legal requirements and Club guidelines. If they involve national officials, they are also reviewed by the Washington office, and in the case of candidates for the presidency, by the Board of Directors.

Q: What are examples of typical political-education activities?

A: First, there are the strictly educational activities, which involve gathering information on the votes or positions of candidates, or asking them to appear at a meeting to discuss their stands. These are called Class I activities and can be funded with regular Sierra Club funds. Unless they involve national officials, they can be conducted by a chapter or group without permission from SCCOPE, although they must be reported to SCCOPE so that we can keep track of them for tax purposes. Examples of such educational activities are charts indicating how the members of a city council or legislative or congressional delegation have voted on issues of concern to conservationists, and questionnaires in which candidates give their positions on issues of concern to the Club.

Q: What other kinds of activities are permissible under the new tax laws?

A: The chapter, group or RCC can also use separate funds to prepare and distribute materials that give opinions about the environmental stands and records of candidates and public officials. In some cases, candidates with bad conservation records attempt to conceal them in environmental rhetoric, which can confuse the voter. But if a solidly established environmental organization like the Sierra Club makes it clear, for example, that "Assemblyman Jones has consistently worked with land developers and against conservationists; he has sided with auto companies on air-pollution issues; and he has tried to push environmentally damaging dam projects in his district," then it is much harder for Jones to put out television spots saying, "Assemblyman Jones shares your concern about our natural heritage." These opinion pieces are called "Class II" activities

and must be paid for with special funds raised for the purpose. If, say, a chapter wishes to run such a piece in its newsletter, it must find a donor willing to make a contribution to SCCOPE to cover the costs of that newsletter space. SCCOPE then reimburses the chapter for the costs. For this reason, these activities must be approved by SCCOPE in advance.

Q: Other than through chapter newsletters, how can information prepared on a candidate reach the public?

A: The chapter or group is permitted to mail a press release to the local press. If funds are available, materials can be mailed to the membership. A candidate who scored well on a Sierra Club voting chart could reprint that chart as part of his own campaign materials.

Q: Can the chapter endorse a candidate as a Class II activity?

A: No. This would be legal, but the Board of Directors felt it was not wise for the Sierra Club to endorse political candidates.

Q: Why not?

A: Many Club members oppose endorsements because they feel that there are important issues other than conservation that ought to influence how voters cast their ballots. They also feel that outright endorsements would be more divisive among the Club membership than materials describing a candidate's position, even though such materials might well influence how people finally vote.

Q: How does SCCOPE relate to the League of Conservation Voters?

A: First, if the league, or a local affiliate, has prepared materials on a candidate, SCCOPE encourages using them in Sierra Club publications rather than preparing separate materials. Second, if LCV materials are perhaps too lengthy, or do not qualify for publication in a chapter newsletter, a chapter can authorize the LCV to use its mailing list. (This is a Class II activity.) Finally, if the chapter wishes, it can raise segregated funds to be given to an LCV to help pay its overhead expenses, but not to be given to individual candidates.

Q: But if SCCOPE and a chapter allow LCV to mail materials to Club members, isn't this the same thing as if the Sierra Club mailed the materials?

A: Some Club members think so. But while the Sierra Club keeps tight control over who uses its lists, such control is to ensure that only material of interest to



the members is sent, not that all the material sent is to be Sierra Club material. For example, the Club exchanges lists with other conservation groups. In permitting, say, the National Resource Defense Council to mail a membership solicitation to members, the Club is not saying, "We urge all our members to join NRDC." It is saying: "We think this material will be of particular interest to you and that it is of service to the conservation cause." So, while use of mailing lists is allowed by the guidelines, all such uses will be carefully reviewed both by SCCOPE and by the Sierra Club entity whose list is involved.

Q: Doesn't this involve a lot of cumbersome procedures?

A: Yes. The rules for political-education activities are much more stringent and restrictive than for anything else the Club does—for example, all activities have to be approved by two-thirds votes; political-education material appearing in newsletters is the only such material that must be approved by the whole chapter "ExCom" and in some cases by the full Club board, or by SCCOPE. But this is a new area for the Club, and it was felt that restrictive guidelines would help avoid mistakes. The procedures are workable, if chapters interested in conducting political education start early. Certainly, any chapter that wishes to use the political-education tool in the November election should begin to decide what it wants to do fairly soon in order to get the necessary funds and approval.

Q: Isn't there the danger that if SCCOPE publishes materials showing that a public official has a bad conservation record, that official will be angry with the Sierra Club and be even less cooperative in the future?

A: This is a common fear. The best way to avoid this danger is to make sure that materials prepared are fair and factual. This does not mean they have to avoid evaluating a candidate; but the evaluation, good or bad, should be solidly based on all the available evidence, which itself should be presented or summarized. Some officials will be angry, but at the same time they will feel strong pressure to do better in the future. For example, when SCCOPE approved the publication of material in *Perspectives* (a Club publication included in most newsletters in California) describing Governor Brown's conservation record as only "fair" (Jimmy Carter and Morris Udall had "excellent" ratings from the national LCV), the Brown Administration was quite angry. But in the month after the material appeared, Brown endorsed the California coastal legislation, supported three nuclear-safety bills before the legislature, appointed two people to the State Forest

Practices Board whom conservationists had been supporting for months, and appointed a conservationist to the San Diego Regional Coastal Commission. In fact, the Brown Administration responded so well to this material that the National LCV changed Brown's rating from "fair" to "good."

Q: This all sounds difficult and controversial. Is it really worth it?

A: There are some pretty good reasons for thinking that it is. For example, the Club's adversaries in the legislative process have been busy setting up their own political-action committees, which in addition to putting out materials actually endorse and make contributions. The number of corporate political-action committees has more than doubled since the 1975 amendments to the tax law. Many of the Club's best friends in Congress and state legislatures have urged the Club to enter this field, often suggesting that we go farther than we have and make endorsements and contributions. SCCOPE is an attempt, a limited attempt admittedly, to encourage the election of public officials who will listen to conservationists, and to make it harder for other officials to vote against conservation under the blandishments of campaign contributions from vested interests.

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## EDITORIAL

### Electing a Good Congress

Michael McCloskey

Will protecting the environment be a major issue in this fall's elections? Probably not. Most candidates, reacting to public disenchantment with politicians, are likely to avoid issues whenever they can. Presidential candidates, however, cannot escape scrutiny, and the contrast in their environmental stands is likely to be striking. But, what about the candidates for Congress?

Though members of Congress may gravitate toward generalities, their constituents should ask them hard questions about their environmental records. If they are incumbents, you can get the scores on their voting records from the League of Conservation Voters (612 "C" Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003) or from the Sierra Club Committee on Political Education (SCCOPE).

Steady voter pressure seems to be gradually upgrading the environmental caliber of the Congress. In the 1974 election, the average score of House members who were defeated was thirty-eight (scored on a scale of zero to 100), while the freshmen who succeeded them

earned an average score of sixty-six the following year. In 1974, thirteen of the seventeen candidates endorsed by the League were elected. They came from both parties.

Over the years, the average voting score of Congress seems to be improving. In 1970, the average for the House of Representatives was forty, but it was forty-nine in 1975. The Senate average in the last full Congress (1973-74) was fifty, in contrast to forty-one in 1970.

The progression in improvement can be seen particularly in comparing scores for the first sessions. These scores are generally lower than second sessions (perhaps because the members are not so close to having to face the voters). First-session scores in the House have moved from forty in 1971 to forty-three in 1973 and forty-nine in 1975. Another measure of improvement can be found in a comparison of those who score the best and the worst. The number of House members earning scores of ninety or better has moved from fourteen in 1971 to forty-one in 1975. Conversely, the number of members compiling scores of ten or less dropped from sixty-three in 1971 to twenty in 1975.

Actually, the improvement in voting performance is probably greater than these comparisons suggest. The League only examines recorded floor votes. Some questions that were once controversial no longer engender contests there. Traditional issues involving establishment of parks and wilderness areas rarely show up any more in recorded floor votes. While these issues are still often hard-

fought in some committees, they tend to enjoy strong floor support.

Moreover, the League tends to pick close votes because they are most revealing. By doing so, however, the League may be making the scoring criteria a bit more rigorous each year. The scoring always focuses on the cutting edge of controversy where the process of consensus-building has made the least headway. In recent years, the scoring has been heavily directed toward emerging issues in the fields of energy, transportation, pollution, planning and growth. These issues often come to a head in ways that involve more than simple environmental choices. If one were able now to submit to floor votes questions that were terribly controversial in 1971, it would be revealing to see how high the scores would be.

The improvement in congressional performance probably mirrors basic changes in public opinion. In a poll released by EPA a year ago, sixty percent of the respondents felt it was "more important to pay the costs involved in protecting the environment than to keep prices and taxes down and run the risks of more pollution." While environmental issues may no longer enjoy the drama with which they were rediscovered six years ago, they have become an integral part of America's public values. As the environmental movement becomes institutionalized in so many federal programs, it is crucial that we send more and more members to Congress who are really committed to advancing such programs. Now is the time to do it.

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## WASHINGTON REPORT

### Wilderness Politics

Brock Evans

A breathtaking backpacking and climbing trip in July through the wild mountains of Washington state's North Cascades gave me time to think about many things, but particularly about the value and meaning of the wilderness legislation we are working on in Washington, D.C. For eight days, we wandered through deep forests, stood high in the sun, in meadows full of flowers, and listened to the wind and cascading streams far off. Each night was drenched with a shower of stars, with no city-glow to dilute their brilliance. Each day, we moved beneath the towering silence of the great peaks. Gradually, the rushed city-sense of time was replaced with an easier and deeper rhythm.

But although the trip was a great heal-

ing experience, we knew at the same time that where we were—the Chelan Mountains just east of the North Cascades National Park—was a wilderness in danger. Although as magnificent as anything inside the park itself, the area is simply "de facto wilderness" within two National Forests. The Forest Service does not plan strong protection for the area, favoring instead a comparatively weak "scenic area" classification for part of it and logging for the rest.

To save such areas we must fight for them—that's the way it has been for wilderness ever since the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964. The final decisions—whether a place like the Chelans shall be set aside or not—are made not in the wilderness itself, but in Washington, D.C., where the interplay of forces is far different. And though wilderness preservation is generally lost in the spotlight of attention given to the more "cosmic" issues of energy and pollution, it is among the most important work we do.

The first thing one learns about the politics of wilderness is that what local congressmen want, they get. Unlike most other issues, a wilderness bill, by definition, is attached to a particular place, and by long tradition, if a local member of Congress is opposed to a proposed wilderness area in his district, that ends the discussion. So the first thing we must do to assure that a wilderness bill is even considered (much less approved) is to organize the politics of affected congressional districts so that their incumbents will at least not oppose the measure.

In Missouri, for example, several wilderness proposals included originally in the Eastern Wilderness Bill of 1974 were dropped because Missouri congressmen were then opposed to any wilderness in the state. Missouri conservationists went to work, and after a two-year campaign were able to convince their representatives to reconsider. As a result, hearings are now being held on four additions to the wilderness system in Missouri.



The second problem with wilderness politics is that even when local congressmen favor a wilderness bill, it must still pass the House and Senate Interior committees, traditionally dominated by Western and rural members, who tend to favor automatically the interests of local timber, mining and grazing interests. Since most wilderness bills are adamantly opposed by these same interests, we often have to "write off" anywhere from one-third to one-half of the members of the Interior committees even before the bill is brought up for a vote. The struggle to report a bill out of these committees, then, is usually focused on the handful of members who sometimes vote one way and sometimes another.

The irony is that wilderness bills, once reported out of committee, are rarely controversial on the floor of the House or Senate, almost always passing by voice vote or overwhelming majorities. But the subterranean struggle that goes on prior to a crucial committee vote on a wilderness bill is very intense indeed.

We still do well in spite of all this. In the last four or five years, we have faced opposition, overcome it, and secured protection for well over a million acres of heavily contested "de facto" wilderness:

six hundred thousand acres of protected and study areas in the Eastern Wilderness Bill of 1974; 240,000 acres of the Lincoln Backcountry in Montana and 100,000 more in the Minnam River country in 1972; more than 300,000 acres of "instant" and "study" wilderness in Hells Canyon in 1975; and most recently, 391,000 acres in the Alpine Lakes of Washington.

This is just the beginning of a struggle that will not end until the fate of all the beautiful places, such as the Chelan wilderness, is finally decided. A bill just passed the Senate adding more than one million acres in ten new wilderness-study areas in Montana. Conservationists in Minnesota are working hard on similar proposals to give expanded protection to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Conservationists in other states, such as Missouri, are working on similar proposals. Recently, Senator Frank Church of Idaho and Congressman Morris Udall of Arizona have introduced an "Omni-bus Endangered Wilderness Area" bill, which would add well over a million more acres to the wilderness system.

Not all these bills will pass this Congress, but the process has begun. Many others are waiting in line. It will not be

easy—but then it never has been.

If only there was some way, I thought to myself as I stood in the high meadows of the Chelans, to get congressmen out in the wilderness to see and feel it the way I and so many others do. Hearings and votes to save wilderness should not be held in crowded rooms in hot Washington, D.C., where too much of the talk is of board feet and kilowatt-hours. Committee members should be required to take their votes down by the river, with the murmur of the wind in the grass, or deep in a forest of great trees proposed for cutting. If only there was some way to do this, much more of the magnificent, healing wilderness would be saved.

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# The Candidates and Conservation

Staff Report

Information on the candidates' positions was drawn from public statements, official Administration positions (state and federal) and candidate questionnaires prepared by the National League of Conservation Voters. The photographs were supplied by the candidates. Documentation for specific positions can be obtained by writing to SCCOPE, Sierra Club, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108.



Gerald Ford



Jimmy Carter

Alaska public interest lands	Supports only 64 million acres in the National Park Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Systems.	
Redwoods	Has so far refused to let the Department of the Interior submit legislation to expand the park by acquiring critical watershed areas.	
National park expansion	As president, has opposed the creation of new parks and recreation areas; opposes legislation to place a moratorium on further surface mining in national parks; the Ford administration's Office of Management and Budget recommended elimination of the \$300-million appropriation for 1977 under the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but the President did not support this proposal; did oppose increasing the fund from \$300 million to \$1 billion.	As governor, strongly advocated expansion of Georgia's limited park system; pushed through \$10 million park-acquisition program; defended the principle that watershed areas critical for the ecological integrity of park areas should be included; supported the Eastern Wilderness Bill.
Auto efficiency standards	Opposed both mandatory fuel economy standards and economic penalties on cars with poor fuel consumption; favored voluntary standards.	Favors both mandatory mileage standards and economic penalties for cars with poor fuel consumption.
Strip mining	Vetoed strip-mining legislation twice; favors expansion of Western, strip-mined coal production as a key to increased domestic energy production.	Favors the bill passed by the Congress; favors a national commitment to Eastern deep-mined coal as the principal source of expanded coal production.
Outer-Continental-Shelf oil	Has consulted with states but rejected state efforts to delay or limit lease sales; has accelerated leasing program; opposed federal exploration program.	Favors strong state role in lease decisions, but not outright veto in all cases; supports an independent federal exploration program combined with private exploitation and development.
Coal leasing	Favors accelerated coal leasing on federal lands in the West; lifted the leasing moratorium.	Opposes expanded federal coal leasing on public lands in the West.
Synthetic fuels	Favors six billion dollar subsidy program for synthetic fuels development.	Would deny federal subsidies for synthetic fuel production; limit the federal role to research and development.



## Gerald Ford

## Jimmy Carter

Renewal of the Price-Anderson Act limiting liability for nuclear accidents.	Favored.	Opposed.
Nuclear safety	Actively employed the Federal Energy Administration to oppose all the nuclear safety initiatives. Favored creation of independent nuclear regulatory commission.	Opposed the California initiative, but favored the somewhat less restrictive Oregon initiative.
Congaree Swamp	Has not submitted legislation to protect the swamp.	Favors immediate passage of bill to protect the swamp with \$20-30 million in funds for this purpose.
Water pollution	Has submitted several sets of weakening amendments to the Water Pollution Act to the Congress; has suspended Phase II of the Corps of Engineers program to protect wetlands, but opposed deletion of the program.	Favors leaving the 1983 best available control technology standard in the Water Pollution Control Act; appointed strong enforcers to head the Georgia water pollution program when Governor.
Toxic substances	Favors limited pre-market screening of just those chemicals for which there is particular reason to fear toxic characteristics.	Favors strict pre-market screening of all new chemicals.
Auto emission standards	Supports the auto industry's request for a five-year moratorium on statutory auto emission standards.	Favors compliance as rapidly as lead times permit; opposes the industry-requested five-year moratorium.
Prevention of air quality deterioration in clean-air regions	Favors elimination of the prohibition against significant deterioration of air quality from the federal Clean Air Act.	Favors strict control of the requirement for prevention of such deterioration as set forth in the Clean Air Act.
Land-use planning	Opposed federal land-use planning grants on budgetary grounds.	Favors federal land-use planning assistance to states which show that their plans will be implemented and will be protecting critical environmental areas within three years.
Forestry	Has permitted the Forest Service to proceed with clear-cutting, even-age management, conversion of monoculture and logging of de facto wilderness areas.	Favors preservation of diversity of species in forests, and opposes conversions of even-aged monoculture; supports logging moratorium on the 44 million acres of de facto wilderness; favors more stringent insistence on the sustained yield principle.
Water resources projects	As a Congressman, often voted against dam projects; as President, permitted restoration of funding for such controversial projects as Dickey-Lincoln Dam and the Tennessee-Tombigbee; signed legislation protecting Hells Canyon and placed the New River in the Wild and Scenic River system.	Favors a ten percent discount rate on such projects, and favors elimination of projects like the Red River Gorge, Cross-Florida Barge Canal; has said he would get the Corps of Engineers out of the dam-building business; would severely limit new projects; as Governor, fought the Sprewell Bluff dam; favors protection of the New River from the proposed hydroelectric plant.
Grazing fees on public lands	Ordered and then lifted a moratorium on legislatively mandated increases in grazing fees.	Favors gradual increase of fees to level of fair market value.
Whaling moratorium	Favors.	Favors.
Population	Has held federal funding for family planning program constant in spite of inflation; favors constitutional amendment permitting the states to regulate or prohibit abortion.	Supports increased federal funding for family planning programs; opposes constitutional amendments to overturn the Supreme Court decision on abortion.



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**Texas Water Bonds on November Ballot**

Kim Alan Goodman

This November, Texas voters will be asked to vote on SJR 49, a controversial bond issue that will allow the State of Texas to sell \$400 million in water-development bonds to help fund the controversial Texas Water Plan (TWP). Announced in 1968, the TWP was described by John Graves in *The Water Hustlers* (Sierra Club, 1971) as "a grand design to move water from wet East Texas to the semi-arid areas of the lower Gulf Coast and the High Plains. In the process, the hustlers would dam virtually every free-flowing stream in the state and pinch off natural drainage to the Gulf estuaries by constructing a giant aqueduct along the Coast. The scheme also entails tapping the Mississippi River. Louisiana is less than enthusiastic about that."

Called one of the "biggest economic boondoggles of all time," the TWP has faced funding problems from the outset and was declared economically infeasible in a 1973 federal study. In 1969, voters turned down a \$3.5-billion bond issue that would have funded full-scale work on the plan. Even so, the Texas Water Development Board has again succeeded in placing the issue before the voters. If the plan were fully implemented, the total cost would exceed \$20 billion, the greatest share funded by the federal government.

The ballot measure, if passed, would add another \$400 million in bonds to \$400 million currently authorized (\$175 million of which remain unsold). The funds would be used to build twenty-seven dams and reservoirs in East and Central Texas to provide water for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses in West Texas. Eleven of the proposed reservoirs were included in the 1968 TWP. Were the issue to pass, a total of \$1.77 billion would be generated for the twenty-seven projects: \$800 million in state funds and \$970 million in local and federal matching funds. The plan to move Mississippi River water to West Texas will probably be dropped from the plan.

Citizens Against Water Taxes (CA-

WT); a coalition of groups opposing the bond issue, is running its campaign against the measure on a \$25,000 budget, while the proponents of the bond issue are working with over \$100,000. CAWT is drawing together a broad base of support from conservation organizations (such as the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter), liberals, fiscal conservatives, and citizens groups. The theme of the campaign is "your money, their water." A major concern voiced by CAWT is that should financial returns from sale of water provided by the projects not be forthcoming after their completion, Texas taxpayers would be saddled with the expense of paying off the bonds. Under the TWP, it was estimated that rates for providing water would amount to approximately \$168 per acre-foot, in a situation where most agricultural users could not afford to pay much more than \$15 per acre-foot, even when provided with the benefits of higher crop yields resulting from increased water supply.

Environmental problems are also at issue. If the reservoirs were built, they could inundate more good East Texas cropland, which requires no irrigation, than would be irrigated in West Texas, decrease the flow of fresh water to critical estuarine environments along the Gulf Coast, and also impound many of the free-flowing rivers remaining in Texas. Opponents also argue that there has been as yet no demonstration of real need for most of the water, since requirements were based on inaccurate projections. In Texas, environmental impact statements are not required for projects of this type, and residents have no legal standing or intervenor mechanism for expressing their environmental concerns.

Alternatives to the TWP and similar, smaller projects are being studied by state and federal researchers, such as recharging the depleted aquifers, water desalinization, reuse and recycling of water, and more efficient means of using available water.

Citizens Against Water Taxes can be contacted through P.O. Box 5354, Austin, Texas 78763, or by phone, (515) 476-5977. They need your help to fight another unnecessary attack on water resources.

*Kim Goodman is an environmental journalism major in his senior year at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and an intern at the Sierra Club.*



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“There’s never been a healthy economy  
built on a sick environment.”

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## A Conversation with Brant Calkin

Frances Gendlin

**FG:** Congratulations, Brant, on your election as president of the Sierra Club. It must have been a long road from your first environmental concerns. It would be interesting to know how you came to be a conservationist. Do you come from an outdoors family, or did you become involved in a specific conservation issue?

**BC:** No, out-of-doors activity generally was not a part of my upbringing. It was something which I began almost independently because I happened to live in the Southwest, where there were a lot of outdoor opportunities. I had a general concern about environmental things, though not focused or very profound. Then I began to hear about the dams proposed in the Grand Canyon at a time when I was becoming concerned about the decline of environmental quality within the area I used for recreation.

**FG:** Then you yourself are a backpacker and an outdoors person.

**BC:** Yes, I am. And as I began to hear about the dams in the Grand Canyon a relative asked me what I’d like for Christmas. I answered: “Well, I guess I’d like a membership in the Sierra Club.”

**FG:** When was it that you got this unusual Christmas present?

**BC:** Around 1965. At first we had no local Sierra Club entity in the traditional sense in New Mexico. We had a chapter that existed on paper, but had no officers. It was waiting for someone to pump it up, so a bunch of us got together and began to work a little on the chapter organization while we worked on the Grand Canyon issue. Then we just stayed with it.

**FG:** And now you’re president of the Club. Just how do you see your role as president, or your function?

**BC:** It’s not clearly defined. There are



Gerry Gendlin

some obvious things you have to do like preside at meetings and sign signature cards. More than that, though, the president has to do several things which become different from president to president. First, you really have to focus some of the Club’s activities. We have no priority-setting mechanism and I don’t think we’re ever going to have one—I mean a true mechanical process where you simply drop subject matter in at one end, turn a crank and watch neat numbers come out in a priority rating. That’s not going to happen. So, as the board and the Club move into areas of environmental interest, I think it’s the president’s job to ensure that all our resources within the volunteer and staff structures focus on those things we collectively decide are important. So, if you will, I’m a lens through which . . .

**FG:** Like a liaison, perhaps, or a catalyst?

**BC:** Those words are a little too passive. The president can be a catalyst, yes, but in addition there’s some pre-existing energy which you actively have to focus. So, that’s one thing to do—to try to get the Club’s entities all working on some common goals, in some reasonably comprehensive fashion. The Club is growing, and now has more levels of internal organization than before. We now have Regional Conservation Committees, for example, which didn’t exist when I first joined the Club. And, quite frankly, Club members who work on grassroots issues are finding them to be as consuming as national issues used to be. It’s the president’s role to keep a balance and perspective for Club members, not only on national issues, but also on grassroots issues—a balance which allows us to be



something more than a loose federation of local issues. There's nothing in the bylaws about that, and there's no way of achieving it except by simply going around and talking to people, reminding them that the SST and Alaska, for instance, may be a long way from home, but they count.

**FG:** What do you think the Club's goals are for the next few years?

**BC:** Fortunately, the Club is not restricted in what it can do. Our goals are as changeable and flexible as the most contemporary demands. I would say that it's been one of the Club's strengths that it can move into areas outside its traditional concerns without diminishing those concerns. We're concerned about toxic chemicals, for example, and as public awareness and medical evidence mount, we're going to have a growing interest. So, if I look at the future, what we're going to do is pick up some new areas outside traditional wilderness values. And I'd say that if there's anything that's going to characterize our approach in the next few years, in addition to the traditional goals of wilderness preservation, it's going to be a reform-oriented approach. For example, we want to reform forestry practices. We want to reform the 1872 mining law. We want to reform some of the regulatory and statutory powers concerning public lands. Now, these are cases where there is already statutory law to some degree, and we're not going in with the idea that it's a totally new subject area in which we have to establish an environmental program. What we have to do is take existing laws, which may have been appropriate many years ago, and modify them to meet our current, more intense, demands.

**FG:** Some people say we have too many priorities, but you think we should have as many as possible and let them come to the fore or lag behind in response to ever changing conditions. And you're saying that precisely because the grassroot element deals with so many issues, we're in a position to recognize and focus on the most important ones as they arise.

**BC:** I think that's right. Flexibility doesn't mean we can have an unlimited number of priorities, though. What it means is that from year to year they can change as society affects the environment and vice versa. It doesn't mean that we can be in land-use planning, toxic chemicals, wilderness and marine life, all at once to the same degree. But when the opportunity is there to move and make a difference, we have to do it. I think if we were to set priorities, we should do it on a short-term basis, if we're talking about issues, that is. If we're talking about vast regulatory reforms, we can only pick up one or two of those and work on them

steadily over a course of time. Flexibility is the key. One thing I've noticed is that some people think that if we have to restrict ourselves to a few things, they should be the same things we were doing seventy-five years ago. Unfortunately, threats to traditional values exist today that didn't exist then.



**FG:** Yes, you were talking about going beyond the traditional wilderness concerns. Do you see us heading into new areas, urban problems, for instance?

**BC:** We already are, to some extent. There's a lot of strength in urban areas which we haven't yet made most effective through our membership. Our power to affect Congress, for example, will be drastically improved if we can gain additional urban members. We're going to worry more about things like transportation; we are already concerned about it. Energy is to some extent an urban, as well as a land-use, issue. So our approach will take us into urban involvements. And those involvements are going to bring us members who realize there is a way they can affect their own environments. People tend to separate urban environments when they discuss environmental problems, but as a practical matter it's part of the human environment. We've already had an enormous impact on national policy, given our size, but urban problems are becoming more pronounced, and it would be a mistake not to become involved in those concerns.

**FG:** I recently returned from the U.N. Habitat Conference in Vancouver. People asked me questions like "When there's hunger and poverty throughout the world, and people are fighting for their homelands, how can the Sierra Club justify its concern with wilderness?" I told about our broader concerns and said that if there's not clean water for people, political concerns won't make any difference. Is that something you would agree with, or do you want to go further on this?

**BC:** In my opinion, the well-being of the planet—as basic as that—depends on having areas which operate in as totally near a natural system as we can preserve. Wilderness is not the immediate

issue in a ghetto, where people worry about living from day to day. And I wouldn't suggest that those people mount any wilderness battles. They have a priority which is more immediate and that's as it should be. I hope we can indicate some support and sympathy for those people. In the long run, though, the human race depends on having a planet which functions effectively and in accordance with "natural" law. I cannot look upon wilderness preservation as being an add-on to planetary well-being. It's not just a fringe benefit. It's as necessary for our physical and mental well-being as medicine and science. We can't live by strictly artificial means, and we're losing track of the natural means.

**FG:** So you favor a broader approach than do people who think we want to save trees just because we like to go backpacking. It has to do instead with surviving for thousands and thousands of years without using up our resources.

**BC:** Wilderness is not the environmental ethic. It's part of it—and a necessary part. Any wilderness, as one example, begins to bring in wildlife issues. Consider the armadillo. What would happen if it were gone? I am sure some people think the armadillo is one animal which might be dispensed with. Yet the armadillo turns out, for all its other wildlife values, to be unique for leprosy research. Who knows why? But there it is. In addition to its inherent value in the wildlife system, it's directly valuable to human beings. And if we decided that its habitat is not worth preserving, that means leprosy research is not worth pursuing in the most effective manner we can. Suppose decades ago we had eliminated or degraded the habitat of an obscure monkey with no apparent distinction, and that monkey had quietly passed into oblivion. Well, if the rhesus monkey had really been eliminated, so would the ability to detect the Rh factor in human blood. "Rh" are the first two letters in the word "rhesus," and from that monkey, we got the ability to measure a human characteristic. So in wilderness, and in various kinds of natural habitats, systems and animals exist that we have rarely fully appreciated. But they present to us very concrete opportunities to enhance human well-being.

**FG:** I'd like to get back to the poor people for a moment. Granted they have to worry from day to day about whether they're going to get food. Yet they're living in ghettos near freeways, for instance, and their children are playing under those freeways and getting lead poisoning. Mustn't we try to involve these people?

**BC:** I quite frankly don't think we should try to involve them right now in issues which go beyond their immediate personal needs. There's a chart in an old



CEQ annual report—1971, page 195—which plots family income against exposure to several different pollutants. The outcome is predictable: the poor breathe the dirtiest air. That's a health issue which has a direct and immediate importance to them especially—and we are involved. We ought to help them in

When you get right down to it, the ecological integrity, the environmental integrity of the planet is what is at stake. Things we do to jeopardize or decrease that integrity will have to be accounted for someday. And much of what we've done under the guise of economic development is mortgage the future. That's



Gerry Gendlin

their own environment. Over the course of time, as humanity learns how to build cities that are worth living in, that are healthy to live in, these people will seek the next step of their environmental well-being, and that's when I think they may turn to the vast natural system which supports us all. But their immediate perspective is to stay alive from day to day. Against those pressures I don't think we ought to expect them to become involved in wilderness preservation.

**FG:** There are a lot of people who think that environmental concern is not compatible with a healthy economy.

**BC:** There's never been a healthy economy built on a sick environment. People have tried, though. Some forty or fifty years ago, the nation took coal from Appalachia in an irresponsible manner because it was economically beneficial at the time. But look at the budgets in Congress now. The last time I looked at the Appalachian Regional Development Commission, for instance, the taxpayer was spending \$320 million a year trying to rebuild that part of the country, which already had some "economic development." When we talk about the difference between the environment and the economy, often what we're really asking is how long can we put off paying the piper. I think Appalachia is a case where fifty years ago they said, "Well, we'll let someone else worry about it," and now we're paying for it.

not economic progress. The kind of economic development we'd like to see would realize the limitations of the resources we have. In addition to that, if you look even in the traditional narrow contemporary view, there are over a million people today with jobs as a result of environmental programs.

These people construct, maintain and operate sewage plants, for example. In 1971 a man wrote a hate letter to me. He said "you darn people want to shut down the Four Corners Power Plant. Don't you know what you're doing? After all, we do have to live." And do you know what his job was? He was a pipe-fitter on the pollution control equipment. He was making his living on something which, if you will, was created by environmental concerns. It turns out that the reforms of environmental mismanagement are an opportunity, a job opportunity, and they're producing jobs today.

**FG:** Let's take the Teton Dam as an example. Environmentalists cautioned against building the dam there, yet it was built. Now there have been millions of dollars lost, crops and livestock wiped out. How do you think the Club can bring about a greater environmental commitment from business operations, including those of the government?

**BC:** The Teton Dam is a good example where we had the facts, or at least concerns, that were swept under the rug. The dam was built and it failed. I sup-

pose we are legitimately entitled to say "I told you so," yet I don't think we really want to say that. When people have lost their lives and there's been a lot of destruction, I don't think it would be good for us to stand amid the wreckage and say "I told you so." We must be more convincing the first time. The Teton Dam was an example of where we had something to say, and we weren't listened to. Unfortunately, there is the distinct effort by some people to holler, "Kill the messenger!"

**FG:** Yes, that's like people who shoot the process servers who are only bringing the bad news.

**BC:** Right. The Teton Dam may be the most egregious example of our message coming through too late. But one of the things which results is that we can enhance our future effectiveness by gracefully pointing out where we were right the first time. We may have been right on the SST. We're certainly right on the wilderness natural area preservation systems. We were right on energy matters. In 1971 the Senate Interior Committee had five hearings around the Southwest on southwestern power plants. I testified, and I said we needed a national energy policy. It wasn't an original idea then, but here we are in 1976, and we still don't have an energy policy. Now some people are saying "Wouldn't it be nice to have a national energy policy?" It isn't going to do any good for me to say "I told you so in 1971." What we want to do is neutralize those who would say, "Kill the messenger," by pointing out how often we have acted and worked in advance of a crisis to bring about a sane national-resource policy.

**FG:** Someone asked me the other day what I think has been the greatest contribution of the environmental movement so far. I said that I think we have, in effect, changed the climate of thought in this society, not that we have saved one wilderness area in a particular region, but that people are having to talk about the environment and to take it into account in their routine daily living. This has happened because people like you stood up and said something and kept saying it.

**BC:** Yes, but we didn't speak up so that the Sierra Club, or some other group, can run the world's ecosystem. The only thing we can do is instill the necessary ethic that will allow the people to do it. I think you've pinpointed our overall goal. Ideally, we'll put ourselves out of business in terms of environmental activism and perhaps then . . .

**FG:** We can go back to hiking?

**BC:** I think you're right, but not for a long time!

**FG:** But how are we going to bring these



people closer to us? I mean the Americans who were brought up to believe wholeheartedly in the profit system, who do what they can to make the biggest profit, these people we're calling "adversaries."

**BC:** There's no shame in profit. It's only profit at the public expense, directly or indirectly, that has caused the diminishing of the industries' credit in the public's eyes. You know, some of our adversaries have tried to create in us the image of people who are somehow anti-American, anti-free enterprise, anti-capitalism. But the public has not bought their message. As a matter of fact, according to a poll taken earlier this year, the public has less confidence in big business than ever before. I think part of that lack of confidence is a reaction to irresponsible attacks on environmentalists. Government officials also misrepresent us. Even today, in the newspaper, a federal official was quoted who said that environmentalists want to get all the grazing off federal lands. But we don't say that. Every time I see that—and I see it over and over—I write and say "Tell me some environmental organization that has said that, where, and when." But I never get an answer. So our image and our goals are being widely misrepresented by other people. We should take more time to explain personally to our adversaries just what it is we really want. Now a lot of them don't care, and they're going to misrepresent us anyway, but we allow that to proliferate.

**FG:** Yes, isn't that wrong? Isn't there some way we could draw them closer to us, so that we could talk reasonably? I don't think you get people to change by standing outside and throwing rocks at them. You have to invite them inside, where we can all talk about our problems together.

**BC:** But first you have to get their attention! You know, it's unfortunate, but we've preached a lot of good things to people who didn't listen until we banged them right between the eyes—and then, all of a sudden, they're willing to listen. So I don't diminish the importance of doing battle with our adversaries. Then the follow-up can be where you correct things. Our people are forced into the adversary situation so often that the idea of talking constructively can be submerged, especially if we've been misrepresented. And I can understand that. But I really enjoy talking to our adversaries. About five months ago I went to Silver City, New Mexico, to a public hearing on a smelter problem. There were, I think, about three hundred and one people there. I was the "one." But what an opportunity that was! Those people had heard so much nonsense over the years about what the environmentalists wanted, and I had the opportunity to tell them what it is we really want. Some of them still got it wrong, but it was a net gain.

I've found that we often agree with our so-called adversaries on a great number of things. The New Mexico strip-mining law was given to the legislature as the product jointly of the New Mexico Mining Association and the Sierra Club. An unholy alliance there never was! The legislature, the senate, the governor, all committees—everybody voted for it without a single dissenting vote. Who was going to tamper with that alliance? It's not a great law, but it has been very helpful. We found some of our differences were matters of degree and timing, and the legislature respected our negotiations.

**FG:** But that was because you were willing to go and talk, and they were willing to find out what the Club thought.

**BC:** Yes, and both sides were totally honest about what our goals were. We cannot just sit here and talk to ourselves and reinforce ourselves and even argue among ourselves and then wonder why we're misrepresented. We simply have to go out and accurately state our case, making it difficult for our adversaries to misrepresent us.

**FG:** Brant, do you think the Sierra Club differs a great deal from other national conservation organizations?

**BC:** I think that people who join and stay in the Club tend to have a broader awareness of environmental needs. There are other organizations, for example, whose constituents limit their involvement in environmental matters to uses of various kinds. People who like to hunt or collect mineral specimens might join sportsmen's clubs or geology clubs. Sierra Club members tend to think of environmental needs as being a truly human requirement. First of all, then, we have a different level of perception and awareness. Of course we hope that through the *Bulletin*, the NNR and so on, we enhance that awareness. Second, we have a grassroots organization, where people can be involved both in issues of local and national significance. Yet the Club is still a club. Although it has grown larger and somewhat more difficult to manage, it remains an organization in which individuals can participate and affect policies. We probably have the most comprehensive mechanism of environmental concern of any organization. For example, the outings program which attracts people is a great recruiting tool. People who join to go on outings then become involved in environmental matters. And they get the national perspective through the *Bulletin*. We also react to what members bring us. If we are brought a concern which has typically not been important to the Club, and if a member is sufficiently dynamic and well informed, we might pick up that issue. That's our strength—our ability to diversify when we need to.

**FG:** So, you're saying that if someone joins in the Midwest, say, because they're interested in expanded protection for the Indiana Dunes, they can bring this concern to the Club and be heard.

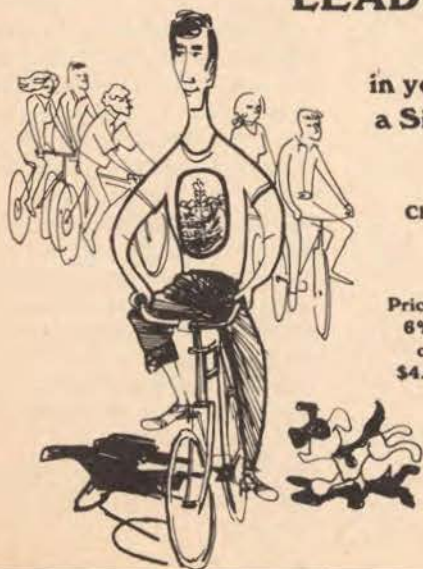
**BC:** That's right. It doesn't always come out as high a priority as that person might want, but our members have access to the Club's decision process through the grassroots organization.

**FG:** How do you think local chapters and groups fit into the national organization?

**BC:** Each is dependent on the other. We couldn't have a worthwhile national organization that has our vitality without people who are energized at the local level. It's hard to run an effective organ-

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ization based on national letter-writing campaigns. So the Club depends upon the chapters in an obvious way for their support. The chapters, on the other hand, benefit from the prestige and authority that the Club has on a national scale. The two, chapters and the national issues, have to work hand in hand.

**FG:** Perhaps this would be a good time to ask how you perceive the relationship between volunteers and staff.

**BC:** In the strictest sense, the staff implements the policies of the Club as set by the board or other units of the Club. The staff works with the volunteers on most things, but the staff also has a leadership role. The staff is often made up of specialists, highly trained people with skills that Club volunteers need. I think we have in the staff not only a great deal of competence, but a leadership resource upon which we indirectly draw. I don't think we should ever put ourselves in the position where we say that if we don't have volunteer leadership in an area, that we should decline to rely on the staff. We've some enormously talented and creative and capable staff people, and they pour their energies into supporting the volunteers. And we're kidding ourselves if we think that limiting them is in our interest. It isn't. People in the past have tended to say that the staff supports the volunteers, which is absolutely true, but there's no reason why the volunteers can't support the staff, all of it, in San Francisco and Washington, too.

**FG:** Speaking of Washington, do you think the Club should be more politically active?

**BC:** Of course, the Club has some legal constraints on how politically active it

can be, but through affiliated organizations or our own, like SCCOPE, we have an opportunity to have a political impact. I do think we should be more politically involved. One way we can become more political is to have our members themselves enter politics. I say this in a completely nonpartisan way. Our people should get into the political machinery, participate and not talk about politicians as though they were some other species, when as a practical matter, we could be the ones who are making the political decisions. It would be so much easier to talk to a legislator or decision maker and know he's someone who's been in the organization, that he fully understands what we're trying to do and isn't taken in by all the misrepresentations. Yes, I'd like to see more of our people run for public office, institutionalize our environmental concerns in the governmental process on a very personal basis. For example, if I could impose an arbitrary role on people, I'd like to see every executive committee have one candidate for political office a year from now.

**FG:** Would we win, do you think?

**BC:** Enough to improve our effectiveness, especially if we continue to run. We have an executive committee member at home, a Republican, who's been thinking about how he can maximize his effectiveness, not only in environmental concerns. He decided to run for office. He's got a tough opponent and he may or may not make it, we'll see. But just by running he's raised public awareness.

**FG:** And in the process he'll get people to know him, what he thinks. He'll broaden their thinking, whether he is elected or not. And besides, even if he loses, he might have another chance, and then

people will already be aware of some of the issues he brought up to begin with.

**BC:** It would be nice to think of someone like that through the course of time becoming the chairperson of our House Natural Resources Committee, wouldn't it?

**FG:** Oh, yes. Speaking of resources, though, we've covered a lot of ground, so far, but we haven't mentioned energy conservation. I'm sure that if anything's a priority, that's it.

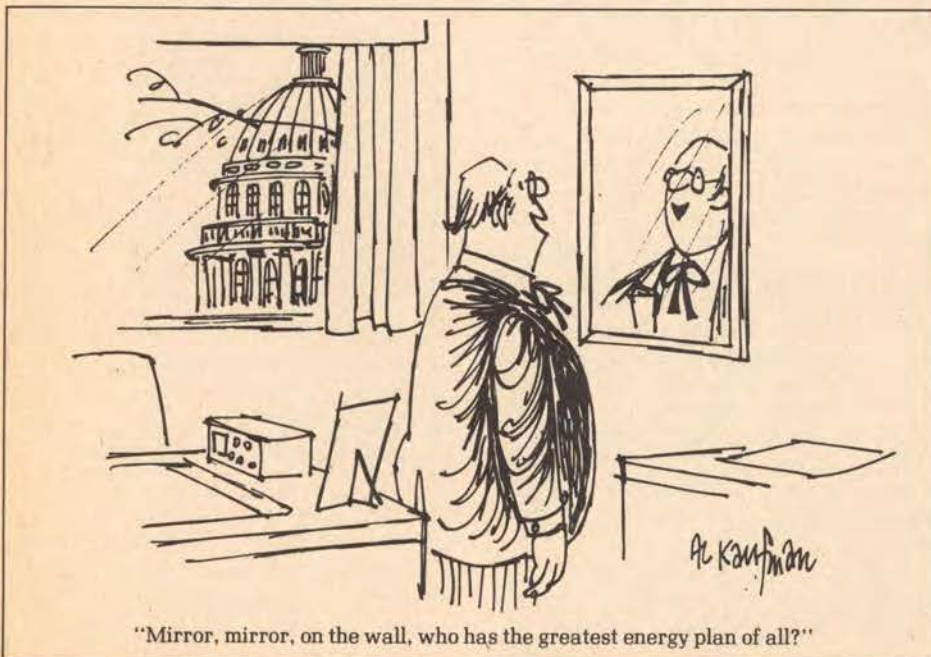
**BC:** Yes. You know, the energy issue is one where people are going to change. Here again our history in energy matters is going to make us credible and we can provide some leadership. The country has drifted into a pattern of energy consumption which it can't sustain. So, how do we lead it away? We can't do it by simply saying "You're going to have to change!"

**FG:** Isn't it really a change back to something? Until and during the Depression, people saved everything, including tin foil from chewing-gum wrappers. But then the government said that people should spend in order to stimulate the economy. Since then we've been raising generations of people with an artificial set of values, haven't we? How do we get them to remember what people's values were really like until artificial conditions were superimposed?

**BC:** Unfortunately, I think we've raised a generation of Americans that doesn't understand its dependence on the natural world. To them, water comes out of a pipe, electricity comes out of a wire and the bus comes down the street and that's it. I'm concerned that there may not be a memory of those older values for a large part of the American public. For them, it's go back to what? If all we had to do was remind people of something they already knew, our job would be much easier. But lifestyles have become so ingrained that we now have to re-create completely in people's minds their dependence on the natural world. I perceive our role, in energy issues especially, as being more profound than simply saying that lifestyles are going to have to change. There are too many people who cannot conceive of what it could change, or change back, to. There's a phrase I've heard: "I've seen the past and it works." Well, we don't have to go to the Dark Ages, but we do have to reinstall some earlier prudence in our energy system. If we can hold off those who say, "kill the messenger," the Club may indeed be able to provide some real leadership on energy matters.

**FG:** Is this part of what we'd call environmental education?

**BC:** Yes it is. I tend to think that the Club should emphasize its activities which



"Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who has the greatest energy plan of all?"



are issue-oriented, and use those to demonstrate the principles. We can't educate the country directly, although we have a very good environmental education program within the Club to help spark people to do things. We can affect issues. We should force ourselves to make those few changes that ripple down through the system, in order to create an awareness of our needs. Because it's only through institutions—schools, school boards, the college system and so on—that we can provide that education. We have to do it by our leadership example. When it comes to energy, for example, I think the Club can do really well. As a nation, we have a problem, though. We are relatively affluent. And this is a problem because we tell other people and other nations they should cut down on energy consumption and they say "Listen, you fat cats, you are the ones who eat it up." And we're aware of this. So, I think our personal example in energy matters is going to be important. I'm trying to figure out how we can get the Club to be a better example.

**FG:** I would like to involve the *Bulletin* in this, somewhat, to talk about alternative lifestyles. You know, I hate to say "alternative" because that makes it sound like what we've got already is better. I wish we could find a better name for it. Maybe a "simple lifestyle," a "more satisfactory lifestyle" or a "more integrated lifestyle," perhaps?

**BC:** Yes, we need something which has virtue written into the phrase. One of the great phrases that's helped us in Alaska has been the phrase "National Interest Lands." We need a phrase like that for discussing lifestyles. I can't think of a better idea or a better subject area for us.

The foreign-outings program has been criticized as a big energy consumer. If I felt that program was nothing but a lark, I'd have to agree, but I just got a letter from a man in India who wants to set up a Sierra Club there. I also had a letter recently from someone in Japan who wants to set up an outfit there like the Sierra Club. He got all his information and enthusiasm from a Sierra Club outing that had been there. We were spreading our message! That can change lifestyles in other countries. Besides, conservation does not necessarily mean austerity. Some people would like us to believe there's only a choice between the Dark Ages and the 21st Century. So, I would like to get the Club to emphasize not only the technical character of the energy problem, but the lifestyle alternative.

**FG:** Do you really think we have the power to effect such changes?

**BC:** Yes, especially if we can become a larger and more visible organization.

I look at what the board of directors has done over the last several years, and I find that most of their decisions regarding Club resources have been what I call "distributive." Some issue needs to be funded; we need resources for something else, etc. Basically, it's been a partitioning and distribution of the Club's resources and energies. But there have been two board actions which, I believe, will bring about a profound change. The first decision was to ask the membership for a dues increase to \$20. After that, the board decided on a goal of 250,000 members by 1980. Put those two decisions together and you have a powerful dynamic: 250,000 people at \$20 each. They're the first "acquisitive" moves the board has made in a long time. For the first time, the board has given us the tools with which we can do more than meet inflation. We'll have the ability to serve the volunteers more, and the issues more, and we'll have that much more political clout.

**FG:** I'm not sure I understand how we'll have more political clout.

**BC:** Because, if we do get to the 250,000 mark, we'll have that many more people writing letters and taking action. I think the board now feels we're in a position where our finances and internal structure are in such order that we can aim for a vast improvement in our present effectiveness. And this is the message I'm taking everywhere and telling everybody. I'd like to get all the units of the Club moving in the direction of that 1980 goal. It's exciting to think what we can do with a quarter of a million members and the resources they'd bring to us. I think we could double our effectiveness, even if we increase our membership by only forty percent.

**FG:** 250,000—that's a lot of people, especially within our group, which seems to have such a diverse range of interests and beliefs. The *Bulletin* receives letters from members, some condemning us for having printed a particular article and others praising us for the same one. Through just this mechanism I've come to understand the diversity of our membership.

**BC:** Yes, diversity brings conflict sometimes. We're always going to have that, and we have to accept that. Some members drop out because of positions we take, but then we also gain members owing to those same positions. We're not going to be all things to all people. What I don't want to see is a preoccupation with institutional problems so that they overshadow the real reason for our being here.

**FG:** You mean you don't want to see us become a bureaucracy. Yes, so often groups lose their original motivation as they become larger until their pur-

pose becomes merely to further their own bureaucracies.

**BC:** Right, or they use all their energy dealing with some petty procedural inequity. Nobody likes those inequities, but it's better to bear them and swear at them silently under our breaths, and to continue to attack the real environmental problems, than to get bogged down in petty concerns.

**FG:** Yes, but isn't it fine that we are so diverse? Because we do have some lumbermen, for example, who join the Club for reasons that don't have to do with our stand on clearcutting. They may not agree with some of our policies, but they tell their friends they belong to the Sierra Club for other reasons. This is the kind of thing that eventually will get us 250 million conservationists, whether they're Sierra Club members or not. There are going to continue to be problems and more and more people from all viewpoints are going to have to become involved.

**BC:** That's a great phrase: "250 million conservationists." Sooner or later this country is going to be just that. It's essential. But it's also a big part of our job. At that rate our 1980 membership goal works out to only one member per thousand. We have to do better than that.



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## A Showdown at the Polls Land Use in Oregon

Bob Straub

*Bob Straub, the governor of Oregon, has long been a proponent of natural resources management and conservation.*

It's a high compliment that Americans expect Oregon to take a lead role in developing and implementing imaginative and effective environmental laws.

Those expectations are well founded. Oregon was the first state to adopt air-pollution legislation—back in 1952. Oregon pioneered statewide water-quality control programs almost forty years ago. All of its ocean shoreline is in the public domain. The Oregon "Bottle Bill" is an inventive and practical scheme that has all but eliminated beverage-container litter along our roads and highways.

These responsive and sometimes daring measures evolve from the special kinship that Oregonians have always had with the land. There's a practical side to that romance. Oregon's three major industries—forestry, agriculture and tourism—obviously are totally dependent upon the wise use and apportionment of the land and its natural resources.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Oregonians were becoming increasingly aware of the fragile balances in nature and the finite capacity of land and resources. We read about urban blight, speculative raids on agricultural land and the terrifying consequences of air and water pollution. More and more of us became convinced that it *can* happen here.

Oregonians moved swiftly and surely to prevent this. My predecessor, former Governor Tom McCall, organized "Operation Foresight" in 1972, an effort that helped us develop strategies to assure that "it won't happen here."

In 1973, the Oregon legislature passed Senate Bill 100, which created the Land Conservation and Development Commission, the state's land-use planning agency. By this means, Oregon has gained an exceptional op-

portunity to mount a comprehensive campaign to preserve its unmatched livability—now and for the future.

SB 100 gives us the broadest possible definition of "livability." Oregon's statewide goals include energy conservation and housing, employment and recreation, preservation of natural resources and agricultural land, as well as air and water quality, and planning for transportation, urbanization and public facilities and services. The key to achieving each goal is judicious land-use planning at the local level; local decisions that are consistent with statewide goals. Mandating local planning to local citizens and public officials, the Oregon legislature in 1975 financed its program with a \$4.4-million fund to supplement local tax dollars.

Further, SB 100 insists that citizens have meaningful roles in the decision-making process. In the past three years, thousands of thoughtful and concerned Oregonians have contributed untold amounts of time, energy and common sense to realizing the promise of SB 100.

But there is a dark cloud on the horizon.

I believe people have a right to participate in the vital decisions affecting their future and their children's future.

Unfortunately, a small group representing rural development interests wanted to repeal that right. It initiated such a repeal effort for the November

ballot. Informed sources tell me that certain urban developers and major landholding interests in Oregon have been quick to bankroll and help organize the campaign.

A good deal of my time this summer—and the time of hundreds of other determined Oregonians—will be spent persuading our fellow citizens to reject repeal of state land-use planning.

Defeating Measure 10 will be difficult. Some of the supporting propaganda has been reprehensible. A hate-letter describes proponents of land-use planning as "dirty Communists." Powerful national forces have reportedly boasted that they can raise a campaign war-chest of \$250,000 to repeal SB 100.

I'm not surprised—nor is the strategy difficult to discern. If land-use planning can be defeated in Oregon—its major stronghold—then it can be defeated in any state in the Union.

The opposition is looking to complete a devastating one-two punch against the sensible and sensitive management of our land resource. The scuttling of the National Land Use Act was the left hook. Defeat of Measure 10 here in Oregon would be the lethal right cross—the knockout.

We're going to fight Measure 10. It will be a tough fight and an expensive one. If you can help, send your contribution to Citizens to Save Oregon's Land, Joe D. Kershner, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1595, Portland, Oregon 97207.



noise in the wilderness, tracks in the desert, deer run to death in deep snow. As off-road vehicles boom in popularity, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, four-wheel-drive vehicles, and dune buggies have become a serious threat to the environment. The ORV Monitor, a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Sierra Club, provides nationwide coverage of the threat—and of what is being done to control it. Subscriptions are \$8/year. Contact Russ Shay, editor, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108. Keep in touch.





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**Carrots and Conservation  
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 Elizabeth Bernstein

*School Gardens: Earthcare in the Dooryard Garden*, by Doris Cellarius; Sierra Club, San Francisco, 1976. Paper, 15c.

School gardens grow more than just vegetables. A child's awareness of his or her environment takes root as well, nourished by the experience of learning how to grow food. A Sierra Club booklet entitled "School Gardens: Earthcare in the Dooryard Garden" offers teachers helpful guidelines for planning school gardens. Written by Doris Cellarius, a long-time Sierra Club member and a veteran school-garden volunteer, the booklet discusses each stage of a garden's development, from making compost to processing the harvest. It shows how children, through studying such topics as pest control and companion planting, can learn environmentally responsible ways of working with nature. At the school garden, children learn traditional, organic-gardening techniques and compare them to the mechanized, energy-intensive methods employed by modern agriculture.

Doris Cellarius' experience with school gardens is first-hand. In her hometown of Olympia, Washington, she participated in a local garden project at the L. P. Brown Elementary School. The purchase of tools, books and seeds was made possible by a state grant, for which the booklet urges other schools to apply. Because such grants are often not available, however, Cellarius also advises schools to involve their entire communities in the project and to look there for support as well.

Community involvement is one of many benefits of a school garden. At the L. P. Brown school, the community's elderly

*Elizabeth Bernstein is a journalism student at the University of California, Santa Cruz.*

residents were sought as experts in traditional gardening techniques and were encouraged by the children to participate actively in the project. Organic wastes for a compost heap were collected from around the community, including the students' own homes. Making the compost heap became a practical lesson in energy conservation and waste recycling, as children witnessed "garbage" become nourishment for the soil.

When it came time to map out the garden, the children learned about companion planting, whereby different plants when grown together, are known to affect one another in helpful ways. In this exercise, the children discovered that some plants could even protect the garden from harmful bugs, thereby eliminating the need for pesticides. A group of pest-control specialists visited the school and spoke with the children about both organic and inorganic methods of pest control. The booklet recommends taking field trips and inviting guest speakers associated with the production of food as ways to bring in new information and help the children relate their efforts to the outside world.

Finally, the children learned how to process their harvest, including how to dry foods. In this exercise the children learned about different kinds of driers, including a solar dryer designed and built by one of the children's parents. Here was another opportunity to learn about energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

The booklet also suggests keeping a "Garden Book," a journal of the garden's progress, containing pictures of the children at work, lessons they have learned and discoveries they have made. The journal becomes a rewarding testament to the children's achievements. The booklet also suggests making each child responsible for knowing all about one vegetable. When the children have had time to become "experts" in their specialty, they can share their knowledge with one another in reports before the class.

Perhaps the booklet's most encouraging note is that a school needn't have an acre of land in order to start a garden. The same appreciation for living things can be fostered in a garden on a windowsill of the classroom as easily as it can in a garden plot outside. Perhaps it is even more important for urban children to gain this kind of sensitivity to their environment. Town or country, "School Gardens: Earthcare in the Dooryard Garden," makes it clear that school gardens can grow more than just vegetables. For copies of the booklet, send fifteen cents for each copy you want to: Information Services Department, The Sierra Club, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108.

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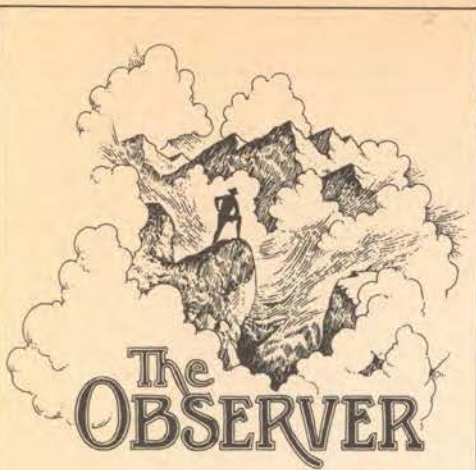
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Robert A. Irwin

September is budget month, when the Sierra Club's directors and staff sit down to try to find dollars for the tasks of the fiscal year ahead. At the Club's local level, too, as chapters and groups gear up for renewed action after the long quiet of summer, a concern with dollars, particularly where they are coming from, also arises. Allocations to a typical chapter amount to about \$2.25 per member per year. Out of that, support for the chapter's newsletter takes \$1, and much of the remaining \$1.25 must be doled out to the chapter's groups.

With extremely cautious and conservative management, a chapter or group can get by. But is just "getting by" enough for a vigorous chapter with several active groups? It takes much more than 50c or so per member to carry out meaningful, worthwhile chapter programs and to oppose the well-financed schemes of the environment's would-be despoilers. So how can the necessary extra funds be generated?

There are a number of ways to increase funds, some of which have already been reported in this column:

- The sale of merchandise such as T-shirts, books, jewelry and stationery;
- The aggressive solicitation of ads in newsletters, some of which are now virtually self-supporting, thus liberating funds for other essential tasks;
- Social events in support of specific conservation issues. The annual wine-and-cheese-tasting fête of the San Francisco Bay Chapter's Marin Group is just one example of this method;

- Unabashed requests for money, often productive, but sometimes overdone. Members tend to weary of the continuous barrage of appeals for funds—national, regional and local. The Board of Directors is going to try to coordinate fund appeals when it meets in San Francisco on October 23-24.

### The Fun Route to Funds

An astoundingly successful and enjoyable way to avoid dunning its members for money has been tested and proved for the second year running by the 1,100-member Columbia Group of the Pacific Northwest Chapter. On June 5, in Portland, Oregon, it cleared \$2,700 in its Second Annual Environmental Auction. Its first auction in May 1975 netted \$2,300. After a year in which its bank balance had sunk as low as three dollars, the group, early in 1975, reassessed its position. It either had to cut services or raise more money. It chose the latter. The executive committee looked for ways other than direct appeals. One of its members, David Lincoln, suggested an auction, similar to those put on by some public-television stations. It took a lot of organization and two or three months of preparation, but it worked.

The first step was to find a professional auctioneer willing to donate his services; then, to round up the items to be auctioned off. Those for the 1975 event, largely donated by nonmembers, had a retail value of \$3,000. They included restaurant dinners, airplane flights around the Portland area, a raft trip down Hells Canyon, several prints donated by photographer Ray Atkeson, mountain-climbing trips, tickets to events, books, sleeping bags and much more. Expenses amounted to about \$20 for postage and phone calls, \$75 rent, and \$15 for a restaurant gift certificate given to the auctioneer.

With the net proceeds of \$2,300 safely in the bank, the Columbia Group set up a budget to make the money last for one and a half to two years. It is being used not only to make up the earlier deficit in meeting general operating expenses, but for legal actions, training volunteers, and contributions to other environmental groups. The \$2,700 realized from the 1976 auction also will (1) support Oregon's nuclear-safeguards initiative; (2) oppose another November ballot initiative that would eliminate the state's land-use agency; and (3) support various

environmental measures before the 1977 Oregon legislature.

The auctions proved to be not only highly effective money raisers, but also a lot of fun. This year's affair, under the direction of Fran Finney, owed its success to the enthusiastic help of more than fifty members of the group. In addition, the whole metropolitan community became involved, contributing most of the auction items and then turning around and bidding for them as well.

Such auctions seem to be ideally suited to local units of the Club, bringing members together in a meaningful, successful enterprise and at the same time winning the goodwill and help of the community at large. Further, all of the financial burden is not borne by Club members! The worry over "hard"-versus-"soft" (tax-deductible) funds is neatly avoided. The cash proceeds—which are not gifts—can be used wherever they are most needed. Perhaps your chapter or group will also want to explore this possibility. Dave Lincoln has prepared a four-page set of guidelines for conducting an "Environmental Auction." For a copy, send your request, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Columbia Group, Sierra Club Auction, 2637 S.W. Water, Portland, Oregon 97201.

### William Bronson Dies

California conservationist William Bronson, former editor of the *Sierra Club Bulletin* (1972-1973), is dead at the age of forty-nine. Earlier (1965-1971) he had edited *Cry California*, a quarterly publication of California Tomorrow, a San Francisco-based environmental organization. Bronson was an early and persistent critic and opponent of the forces tending to befoul California's environment and despoil its natural resources. On that theme he wrote one of his best-known books, *How to Kill a Golden State*. Recently he had been writing and producing documentary films for television.

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Chris Jones

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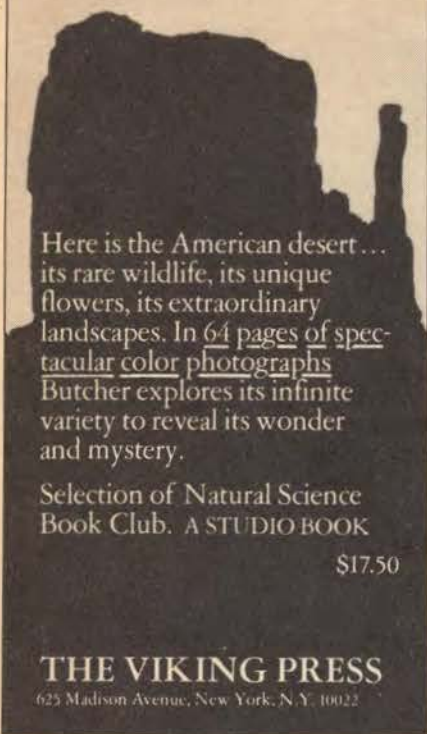
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## News

### California coastal act passes; Ford signs coastal amendments

The dream of California conservationists to secure permanent protection for the state's coastal zone came true on August 23, when the State Senate passed the California Coastal Conservation Act (S.B. 1277). The act makes permanent many of the provisions of the 1972 ballot initiative ("Proposition 20") passed by the state's voters, including a statewide coastal commission with permit and plan-review authority.

In Washington, President Ford signed the Coastal Zone Management Act Amendments, which make improvements in the coastal-zone management program, establish loan guarantees for eligible projects, and limit use of the Energy Facilities Impact Fund to facilities that must be located in the coastal zone.

### Wilderness organizer Ken Bohlig dies in climbing accident

Sierra Club Northern Rockies Wilderness Coordinator Ken Bohlig fell to his death in Idaho while inspecting wilderness management and outfitter problems in a proposed wilderness area on the Salmon River. The Montana Wilderness Association (MWA), of which Ken was an active member, and the Sierra Club have announced a "Ken Bohlig Wilderness Memorial Fund" dedicated to fulfilling his dream for preserving Montana's Beaverhead wilderness, particularly in the Pioneer Range. Contributions may be directed to the MWA at P.O. Box 84, Bozeman, Montana 59715.

### Toxic Substances Bill— passage close

The Toxic Substances Control Act, H.R. 14032, is now before the full House. The bill, which would give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to curb dangerous chemicals such as PCBs and vinyl chloride, was weakened in order to assure fast committee action. Conservationists are hoping that strengthening amendments will be introduced on the floor to require a time-phased enforcement schedule of seven and a half years and to require EPA to take prompt action on PCBs. The Senate passed a "toxics bill," generally stronger than the House version, earlier this year. Provisions now in the House bill would give EPA authority to require that new chemical ingredients be tested and to regulate manufacture, labeling, distribution and disposal of hazardous chemicals; require regular reports from large manufacturers; protect employees from "environmental blackmail" (threats to close a plant in order to avoid compliance with regulations); provide for citizen suits and petitions; and provide for civil and criminal penalties for violations.

### Congress overrides Ford veto of Federal Coal Leasing Amendments

The Federal Coal Leasing Act Amendments of 1976 became law recently when both houses of Congress managed to muster well over the required two-thirds majority needed to override President Ford's veto of the bill. The act will increase federal and state revenues from federal coal leases, require inventory of coal reserves prior to leasing, promote free competition for and diligent development of lease tracts, and require an antitrust review of bidders prior to leasing. Strip-mine standards are not included in this legislation. While major revision of the federal coal-leasing program was supported by environmentalists, it was also felt that such legislation should follow, not precede, a stringent strip-mining reclamation law.

### House passes OCS bill

Important improvements in outer-continental-shelf oil and gas leasing and development procedures, as embodied in H.R. 6218 (Amendments to the Outer Continental Lands Act), passed the House on a 247-140 vote. Two significant conservation amendments passed by voice vote. One authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to offer one-third of the leases under leasing methods other than that of the "bonus bid." The second amendment prohibits the secretary from issuing or extending a lease if the attorney general or the Federal Trade Commission determines that the lease is inconsistent with antitrust laws. The bill now goes to conference with the Senate-passed version. The administration opposes both bills.

### Clearcut decision in Texas— timber reform in Congress

A federal district court in Texas told the U.S. Forest Service recently that it must halt clearcutting operations on the Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Sabine and Angelina National Forests. In his decision, a temporary injunction until at least December 6, pending final outcome of the trial, Judge Justice found that clearcutting violates not only the Organic Act of 1897, but also the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The injunction, which was the result of a suit brought by the Texas Committee of Natural Resources, does not apply to timber sales contracted before July 3, 1976. The Texas decision is expected to increase pressure on Congress to pass some form of timber legislation this year. At press time, the Senate had not acted on the revised version of the Humphrey bill which the timber industry now opposes as too restrictive, but which falls short of the needed timber reforms embodied in the Randolph/Brown timber reform legislation favored by the Sierra Club. The House Forestry Subcommittee is expected to report an even weaker bill which will have to be substantially strengthened in the full House Agriculture Committee and on the House floor if meaningful timber reform is to be achieved this year.



## Supreme Court rules on *Sierra Club v. Morton*

In a 7-2 decision, the Supreme Court reversed the court-of-appeal opinion in *Sierra Club v. Morton* requiring the federal government to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the effect on the Northern Great Plains of intensive coal and energy development in the region. Even though a multitude of federal decisions led to this development and despite the enormous environmental impact on the region, the court, in a highly technical reading of the National Environmental Policy Act, ruled that since the government had not formulated an actual proposal for developing the entire Northern Great Plains, it did not have to prepare a regional impact statement. However, the court went on to state that "When several proposals for coal-related actions that will have cumulative or synergistic environmental impact upon a region are pending concurrently before an agency, their environmental consequences must be considered together." Attorney Bruce Terris, who represented the Club before the court, indicated that although disappointing, the decision affirms the important principle that multiple actions that have cumulative impacts must be analyzed in a comprehensive fashion.

## Leaky pipes in Alaska?

Revelation of faulty welds, along with the use of falsified x-rays to cover up their existence, spurred congressional scrutiny of quality control on Alyeska's trans-Alaska Oil pipeline. A total of 1,950 "welding discontinuities" have been discovered in 1,700 existing steel-pipe welds already in place on the 800-mile pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. Two hundred and fifty have been repaired and a promise to correct twenty-eight more leaves 1,672 disputed welds, many already buried under permafrost. To recheck and correct if necessary will be costly in both economic and environmental terms. "But it must be done," commented the Sierra Club Alaska Representative Jack Hession "The grim specter of hundreds of weak welds in the pipeline which, when stressed, could cause it to split open and spill oil across Alaska's fragile tundra looms large and devastatingly destructive." Congressional investigations continue as other structural problems on the pipeline are being revealed.

## Alpine Lakes and Eagle's Nest—victory at last!

Conservationists celebrated the passage of wilderness legislation protecting Washington's Alpine Lakes and Colorado's Eagle's Nest, which became law on the same day. The Alpine Lakes Area Management Act designates a 303,508-acre wilderness and provides for another 88,050 acres to be added as private lands in the area are acquired. A special "management unit" will surround the wilderness, which lies only one hour east of Seattle and embraces Washington's central Cascade Range. The culmination of the long fight to save Alpine Lakes was an unusual negotiated settlement between conservationists and the timber industry that led to passage of the bill. A wilderness area of 133,910 acres was created by the Eagle's Nest bill, which passed despite stiff opposition from the timber industry, the Forest Service and the Denver Water Board. Eagle's Nest lies in Colorado's Gore Range in the Arapaho and White River National Forests.

## BLM Organic Act passes House

An improved, but still unacceptable, "organic act" for the Bureau of Land Management passed the House on a narrow vote of 169-155. Over a dozen conservation amendments were adopted on the floor. Fish and wildlife management was enhanced, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was exempted, grazing tenure was limited, the Interior Secretary's discretion to grant rights-of-way was restricted, and the dumping of oil shale spoil on public lands was prohibited. Conservationists were especially pleased with the success of amendments exempting wildlife refuges from the bill's hobbled withdrawal provisions, strengthening law enforcement, and establishing a procedure for Congress to veto revocations of existing withdrawals. Particularly disappointing, however, was the loss—on a vote of 191-193—of an amendment that would have increased the size (from 5,000 to 25,000 acres) of prospective withdrawals exempted from possible congressional veto. Amendments establishing fair-market-value grazing fees and striking a provision for special-interest grazing advisory boards also lost. The House bill now goes to conference with the conservationist-supported Senate version. It is thought that the narrow margin of victory for the House bill reflects concern over its anti-environmental tone. If so, it could well be strengthened in conference.

## Conferees agree on Land and Water Conservation Fund

House and Senate conferees agreed recently to final compromises on their respective versions of a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The conferees also agreed to a phased increase in the annual authorization for the fund to \$900 million by 1980. Of significant interest to conservationists was the resolution of the question of whether the fund would be available to finance construction of sheltered facilities. The compromise limits use of the fund for sheltering pools and ice rinks in cold-weather areas only. However, a state can, with the Interior Secretary's approval, use up to ten percent of its allocation from the fund to construct sheltered pools and rinks. States could use their own monies above the ten-percent level, for sheltering both new facilities and existing pools and rinks. The bill now goes to the president.



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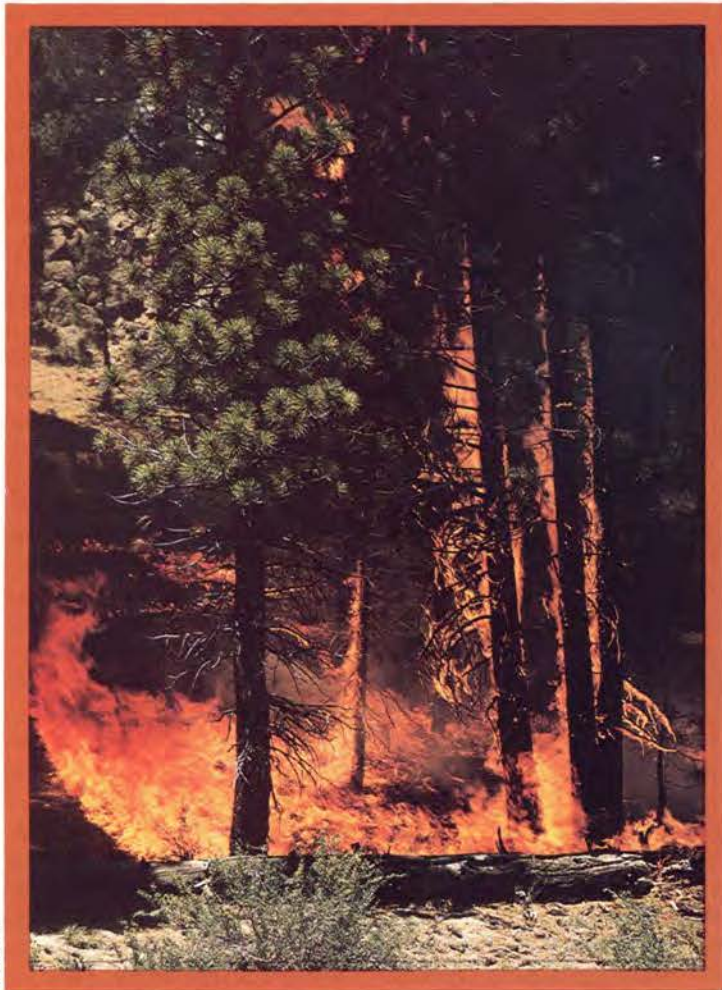
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# A New Look at Forest Fires

MICHAEL R. EATON



Art Buck

*The Crestview fire.*

For more than a half-century, it has been public policy to suppress all brush and forest fires, yet contrary to Smokey the Bear's conventional wisdom, not all fires may be harmful. Recent evidence suggests that periodic small fires may benefit forests and wildlife. A long period of fire suppression results in poor habitat, low timber yields, reduced forage and weak, often stunted, plants. Furthermore, suppression of smaller, cooler fires often makes large, destructive ones inevitable, as brush and forest lands accumulate excessive amounts of dead, highly combustible material. When fire does finally occur, it often becomes a holocaust, endangering trees, wildlife, property and people. The costs of fighting

*Michael R. Eaton is a staff member at the Sierra Club's Sacramento office.*

fires, of resulting erosion and watershed destruction, and of the loss of recreational, agricultural and timber resources run into millions of dollars.

At issue is a question of managerial philosophy as important as the perennial debate about clearcutting. In managing ecosystems such as forests, do you manipulate them for a single purpose, in this case timber? Or do you try to perpetuate the natural processes that have made them worth managing in the first place? If forests are regarded as tree farms, then fire suppression would seem to be a way to protect an investment, and clearcutting, a way to maximize the return. But if you are interested in maintaining the long-term health of the forests and managing them to the benefit of all their components, then fire suppression turns out to make no sense. For fire is a key in-

redient in most native ecosystems, and no amount of human or mechanical wizardry can fully duplicate fire's role in maintaining long-term productivity.

No one wants to retire Smokey, but conservationists and some policymakers are suggesting a simple and, in the long run, inexpensive alternative to his suppression/conflagration syndrome: periodic controlled burning to reduce fuel accumulation and maintain a healthy diversity of plant species. They can point to a growing body of scientific knowledge that seems to support the practice and can cite recent examples of successful controlled burns. Yet proposals for controlled burning often evoke strong opposition from government officials, landowners and others closely involved in forest management and fire control, who understandably are skeptical considering the tremendous damage wrought by wildfire in recent years. Data can be mustered to support both points of view, but each is only partly correct. To resolve the confusion, it is necessary to make a distinction between high-intensity and low-intensity fires.

The combustion rate, or intensity, of a fire is determined by such factors as the quantity and moisture content of accumulated fuel, the size of fuel particles, humidity, temperature, and the direction and speed of the wind. Fire intensity can range from 200 to 150,000 BTU per second per foot of fire front. Fires generating less than 500 BTU per second per foot are considered of low intensity; those of more than 5,000 BTU are rated high and dangerous.

This distinction is critical because a typical low-intensity blaze will not harm established trees and brush or create abnormal erosion. Indeed, such fires often enhance the germination of plant species. A high-intensity fire, however, destroys entire forests by, in the jargon of fire fighters, "crowning out," that is, spreading to the crowns of the trees. Stopping high-intensity fires is always expensive; under certain fuel and weather conditions, it is impossible. Under natural conditions, fires typically were more frequent and, because fuel could never long accumu-



late, of low intensity. After a half-century of fire suppression, however, the enormous amount of accumulated fuel in the western forests and chaparral has produced an artificial fire cycle characterized by infrequent high-intensity fires. The economic and ecological costs of this shift are only beginning to be fully understood.

The role of fire in natural ecosystems is not limited to removing accumulated dead matter. Periodic fires encourage germination of fire-tolerant indigenous species and discourage less productive scrub invaders. The situation is most critical in mature forests, where many climax species depend on periodic fires to thin and eliminate competitors. Otherwise, open forests of large, evenly spaced trees give way to dense understory brush and stunted trees. In the process, much of the forest's value, in terms of wildlife, recreation and timber, is lost. Similarly, grasslands from which fire has been excluded revert to scrub, but if allowed to burn in a natural cycle (one low-intensity fire every five to ten years), they maintain themselves in the face of intruding perennial scrub growth and provide maximum forage.

American foresters have long recognized the usefulness of certain types of fires. Various Indian tribes intentionally set fires for land-management purposes, although it is not clear how widespread the practice was. Studies of fire chronology for California have established that most forests burned, on the average, once every eight years until about 1900. Since the forests thrived under these conditions, most of the fires must have been of low intensity.

The first major disturbance of the natural fire cycle resulted from nineteenth-century logging practices. Loggers left great quantities of slash on the ground and fires quickly grew to high intensities in the dry wastes. A series of these fires destroyed thousands of acres in California and other areas of the West.

The damage done by slash fires galvanized public opinion in favor of fire-exclusion policies. The policy began in Yellowstone National Park, was restated with the establishment of Yosemite National Park in 1890, and was implicitly incorporated in the National Parks Act of 1916.

Vigorous fire-prevention programs in all jurisdictions led logically to the public assumption that all wildfires were bad. Early attempts to reinstate

fire as a natural process failed for lack of public or official support; programs utilizing fire for range management received only moderate support. The California Division of Forestry's "Brushland Range Improvement Program," for example, carried out more than 400 controlled burns on over 200,000 acres in 1955, but by 1975 less than ten percent of that area was being treated annually.

The success of fire-suppression programs meant that fires, through the 1950s, were generally fewer in number and covered less area, but there were some notable exceptions. The McGee fire, for example, burned 13,000 acres near Kings Canyon in 1955 and posed a major threat to mature sequoias within the park. Afterward, researchers began to devote more attention to the dangers of continued fire suppression. The turning point came with the publication in 1963 of the Leopold Report. Prepared by a prestigious panel of scientists under the direction of Dr. A. Starker Leopold of the University of California, Berkeley, it recommended to the Interior Department that all national parks be restored as much as possible to their natural states and concluded that the judicious use of fire was essential to achieving this goal.

#### *"Natural Fire Zone"*

Most of the Leopold Report's recommendations have been incorporated into management policy in western national parks. Much park land consists of upper montane and subalpine forests, where fuel accumulates less rapidly than at middle or low elevations. Seventy percent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks is now designated as a "natural fire zone." Lightning fires in these areas are closely monitored to keep them from spreading beyond the designated zones to endanger park users and facilities. Even so, the fires rarely have to be suppressed. This policy has yielded some encouraging results. Although large fires have occurred, such as the 1974 Comanche fire, which covered over 3,000 acres, the overall benefits have outweighed the damage. Very little harm to mature trees has been observed, and fuel accumulation in the burned areas has been reduced to a level where serious fires are unlikely for at least a decade.

Middle-elevation forests within the boundaries of "Sequoia-Kings Canyon" pose a much more difficult prob-

lem for park management. Between 4,000 and 7,000 feet elevation, in the chaparral, yellow-pine and mixed-conifer communities, fuel accumulation is so great that fires kill even mature trees. Therefore, during the summer, when storms accompanied by lightning are not uncommon, the Park Service must still suppress fires in this lower montane belt. To reduce fuel loads, park officials have begun to employ prescribed burning, setting fires when weather and moisture conditions guarantee they will not reach high intensity. Officials hope to imitate the effects of periodic ten-to-twenty year burns over much of the lower-elevation area in order to eliminate the extreme fire danger that now exists in summer.

Prescribed-burning programs are more difficult to administer in areas near urban centers because of residential developments and the comparatively small size of potential fire-management tracts. As a starting point, however, it may be possible to initiate controlled burning on areas that have experienced major fires in the last decade. Since fuel accumulation in such areas is minimal, the costs and dangers of such a program would be reduced.

Before widespread controlled burning can be considered for most western chaparral and forest lands, program administrators must address questions of safety, liability, air quality and public opinion. The key to safety is research; the more that is known about fire behavior under different conditions, the better officials can predict and regulate a given burn. Liability for fire damage can be covered by a public insurance fund. Forestry officials must coordinate with air-quality agencies to ensure that particulates released by burning do not overburden an air basin. Possible public resistance could be overcome through education.

These barriers, though important, are not insurmountable. Right now, the most significant obstacle to implementing a prescribed-burn program may be the inertia of fire-control agencies. The impetus needed to bring about a re-examination of fire management priorities may have to come through either legislation or public initiative. Controlled burning will never remove the need for fire suppression, but it does promise to make the firefighter's job safer and more effective. No one is asking Smokey the Bear to step down—just to move over a little to make room for a more flexible fire policy. **SCB**



# Summer on Bald Mountain

ART BUCK

**L**ightning bolts split the air. The cumulus clouds we had watched building in five-mile-high thunderheads all morning had finally gathered, and nature's awesomely beautiful show was under way. Groundstrikes pounded the south side of Bald Mountain, followed by the almost inevitable column of blue smoke.

"Lee Vining Station, this is Bald Mountain. Smoke call."

"Lee Vining. Go ahead."

"It's in township two south, range twenty-eight east, southwest quarter of section twenty-nine. That's a half mile south of Alper's Ranch on the Owens River Road. Small column."

So began the dispatch of men and equipment to put out the still small blaze that started because a Jeffrey pine happened to be where the lightning struck. As one of the closest units, I got into my pumper truck and drove toward the fire, leaving my wife Carol in charge of the lookout. Twenty minutes of bumping over dirt roads brought me to the fire. Bill Alpers, whose ranch is only a short distance away, was already there, knocking down flames and flinging dirt with his shovel. I thanked him. Because the fire was still small, I would be able to control it with the help of the second unit that would soon arrive. So Bill headed back to his ranch.

Although the United States Forest Service and the California Division of Forestry handle nearly all the wildfires in the state, local residents are always ready to help. Such cooperation is common here, maybe because the population is small enough for everyone to know their neighbor and for all to feel they have a stake in what happens to their community.

The community takes in what is popularly known as the Mammoth Lakes region of California's Sierra Nevada, perhaps the most beautiful area along the steep eastern side of the range. A

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*Art Buck still works for Inyo National Forest, but as a writer-editor rather than a fireman. He and his wife lived on Bald Mountain for four summers.*



*On the line in Inyo National Forest.*

rolling, forested upland punctuated by rugged volcanic formations, it lies between the 13,000-foot Sierra to the west and the even higher White Mountains to the east. South of the region lies Owens Valley, and to the north, Mono Lake and the Mono Basin, which border Yosemite National Park. Bald Mountain Lookout is a high point in the Glass Mountain Range, so named for the black volcanic glass that sparkles from its slopes. Situated in the center of the region and running roughly parallel to the two great ranges on either side, the comparatively lowly, 11,000-foot Glass Mountains command a hundred-mile view of mountain crests, thrust up in steep escarpments a full mile above the valley floor.

The land east of the Sierra is generally arid because the range traps on its west slope most of the moisture borne by the wet Pacific storms that roll across California each winter. But a local geographic anomaly makes the Mammoth Lakes region different in this respect. A gap in the crest of the range allows moist air to spill across to the eastern flank, where it falls as snow. Instead of the usual sage-covered prairies we see to the north and south, a Jeffrey pine forest spills over the rim

and spreads out in a rough fan shape for twenty miles, clearly delineating the extent of the snowfall that finds its way to the east side.

Much as we enjoy just gazing out from our mountain perch, we must look with a purpose. Besides many lightning fires, the thousands of visitors to the Inyo National Forest present the added danger of man-caused fires. Of course, only a few people commit the mistakes of forgetting a campfire or cigarette, or the crime of torching off the woods; nevertheless, these few add up to several fires every summer. Bald Mountain is different from the usual fire lookout. Perched atop a rounded, bald mountain, it has no need for a tower. Instead, a glass-walled office sits above our living quarters, like a small box on a larger one. Although there is a generator for electricity, it is seldom used since Carol got her treadle sewing machine. Kerosene lights suffice for reading; a gas stove and refrigerator are concessions to twentieth-century convenience. The burning logs in the fireplace seem to hold our attention better than television.

Bald Mountain Lookout opens when the snow melts enough to get a truck up the road, and closes in late fall when



the snows return. We arrive in May, in warm, sunny weather. Not sunny enough, it turns out, to prevent us from getting stuck in snowdrifts. By shoveling out and melting the snow by turning the nozzle of my pumper on it, we manage to continue. The seventy-five gallons of water in the small tank on the back of my pickup save us a lot of digging.

May and June is when summer tries to establish itself, but warm spells have to share time with the last snowstorms of winter, until Old Sol finally wins out in late June. Then warm, dry, beautiful weeks follow, broken by occasional thunderstorm cycles. Taking the readings at the weather station is a small chore that adds to understanding overall patterns. The unobstructed vista enables us to watch changes: fronts coming, local storms and major storms moving in and out of the region. Occasionally, under unusual circumstances, smog creeps up the Owens Valley from Los Angeles 300 miles away, or, breaking out of its inversion layer, rises up from the San Joaquin Valley, and appears over the Sierra. But for the most part, this airy, industry-free country of high pines and firs and bare granite crests is windswept clean.

The work day starts around seven. Flip on the forest network radio, then up top to look around. Maybe a fire has popped up in the night. The unfolding weather pattern will help us plan the day. The first few weeks of summer are the time for major projects like repainting the station or reshingling the roof of the log cabin, which served as the home of the first lookouts. Today, it functions as a guest house and museum. During rain or snow storms, it is warmer and drier than our modern cinder block house.

By eight we're at work on cleanup or a building project; if not, there's always firewood to cut and split against the cold days ahead. When not being used on fires, the fire truck serves a second function: hauling the station's water from a spring three miles away. Later on, Carol settles into a day of firewatch, with time for baking bread, sewing and painting, oils and acrylics now replacing housepaint.

I will often head out on patrol, a job that involves warning people about the fire danger, checking on woodcutters, mostly just trying to be helpful and friendly to the people in the forest. Traveling east, I'm soon out of the pine forest and into high sage plains. Not

far from the Nevada border, the town of Benton rests peacefully at the foot of the massive White Mountains. Once it was a busy gold town; today cattle ranchers far outnumber the few remaining miners. The old buildings still stand, and enough commerce—barely—continues to save it from becoming a ghost.

My patrols often take me by Mono Lake, the large salt lake north of Bald Mountain. The town of Lee Vining used to have an annual festival, "Mark Twain Days," to celebrate that gentleman's visit to the lake basin during his prospecting days. The celebration is now a thing of the past, perhaps because somebody read *Roughing It*, in



Bald Mountain lookout at dusk.

which Mark Twain described Mono Lake as "the most forbidding and god-forsaken place on this earth." Local residents are not in complete agreement. For many, the alkaline water is a medicine to be kept on the shelf with more conventional nostrums. The Paiute Indians used to gather, for food, the fly larvae that still abound, floating on the water. These, plus piñon-pine nuts and small game were food enough a century ago. A goat ranch managed to last seven years on the large island in the lake, where vegetation was nurtured by fresh water springs.

Mono Lake is surrounded on three sides by sandy sage plains, with the Sierra soaring upward on the fourth. The lake is accented by tufa outcroppings, strange towers rising out of the water. Easily likened to coral, these are limey deposits of tiny plants which pile up and harden in the alkali lake around fresh-water springs. The area is of volcanic origin; the two islands are volcanoes. The lake is drying up at the rate of about a foot a year because almost all the water flowing into this sink from the canyons of the Sierra Nevada is being diverted into the Los Angeles Aqueduct. In fact, Los Angeles owns most of the water rights in the Owens Valley. While people warn of the local climatic and environmental changes probable with the loss of this large

body of water, the "Save Mono Lake" bumper stickers can't match the political and legal clout from the metropolis to the south.

Cattle and sheep graze the vast rangeland between the lake and Benton. It is a land of grass and brush, piñon pine and juniper. There are only a few streams and springs. Basque shepherders are found throughout the West, and the Inyo National Forest is no exception.

This is also popular country for local four-wheelers. Come fall, hunters will comb the woods and range for mule deer, doves, sagehen, chukar, quail, ducks and geese.

Near five o'clock I'm back from the day's patrol. After supper the evening's main entertainment will be the sunset, especially if there have been clouds and showers during the day. Watching the last rays of sun on White Mountain, to the east, I'm reminded of the story first told me by Tad Roberts, longtime resident and our boss when we first arrived. White Mountain summit, accessible by four-wheel-drive vehicles, houses high-altitude research stations of both the U.S. Navy and the University of California. At 14,246 feet elevation, it is a scant 250 feet lower than Mount Whitney, 100 miles to the south and the highest point in the contiguous forty-eight states. According to local legend, the International Geophysical Year studies of a few years ago determined that White Mountain actually had Whitney beat by several feet. Realizing the panic this information could cause, as well as the ponderous task of re-writing the textbooks, this fact has been suppressed. Well, true story or tall tale, the last sunlight, John Muir's "alpenglow," slips off the lofty peak, dropping west and below the impressive Sierra escarpment, backlighting the clouds in ever-changing yellows, oranges, reds and purples. It never fails to excite us, and it's never quite the same. The evening clouds are often heaviest over Mono Lake, making one wonder if they will seem the same in thirty years, when the lake has shrunk to a series of spring-fed puddles.

At night, we can see lights through only ninety degrees of our vista. The other three-quarters panorama is darkness, uninhabited. The lights come mostly from the communities of June Lake and Mammoth Lakes. A few hundred live in June, a few thousand live in Mammoth. June Lake has sprung up in a small, lake-strewn glacial valley; the



steep mountains and lakes will effectively keep this hamlet from getting much bigger. Mammoth, on the other hand, has several thousand acres to expand into—and is doing just that. New building in this old gold town has the proportions of a second and far bigger boom.

The dry, hot, dusty days between late June and September are the time when lookouts and firemen really earn their pay. Most fires are contained within an acre, thanks to topography, types of fuel, and the rapid response of Forest Service firemen, local volunteers and the community at large. People still talk about the one that got away, though.

In early July of 1972, some kids playing near the small settlement of Crestview inadvertently set off a blaze that consumed 1,100 acres of timber. Pushed by forty-mile winds, the front of the fire became a half-mile-wide ball of flame literally leaping through the crowns of the trees. Practically every man of the Inyo National Forest was on the fireline, many leading crews of residents from settlements scattered from Bishop to Lee Vining. We chased the fire all day long. There were tank trucks, cats, graders, and airplanes dropping fire retardant. The smoke was so thick up front that the air bombers could only work the sides. During the first few hours, a lot of us learned the hard way the wisdom of hiding behind a tree when the retardant bombers dropped their slimy orange "slurry." Several of us were too busy "cutting line"—making a firebreak—to see the approach of the old B-17 that lumbered down to within a hundred feet of the treetops and let loose its load—right on our heads! Six hundred men and a lot of heavy equipment worked hard that day and night, and thanks to a large dry lakebed, the fire was ringed by midnight. The Crestview fire had run six miles in half as many hours, stopped by a lakebed while the advance crews were still a couple of miles back.

A sight I won't forget: sitting on that sandflat around midnight, with the whole world lit up in strong orange, I watched flames soar into the air twice the height of one hundred and fifty foot pines and firs. The fire had been encircled, but far from controlled. A lot of people didn't get home for days. Carol, meanwhile, had a ringside seat, as the fire swept practically to the base of Bald Mountain. She was kept busy relaying radio messages.

Fall, when the meadows turn brown,



## Whenever performance is measured by the foot, the unanimous choice is **vibram® soles.**

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the winds blow colder and stronger. Fire danger is still high, though the real focus of interest for firemen is now Southern California, where the brush is tinder dry and the Santa Ana winds hot and strong. But here we wait for the first heavy cold rains of September, rains just as likely to be snow. The fall colors and fresh cold winds have an invigorating effect after the dry, dusty summer.

There is still time for fishing and camping, and now the hunters are

roaming the woods too. By late October we have to be ready to run for it—and hope the latest snowstorm will be light enough for our vehicle to push its way out. With luck the water system has been drained in time so that we won't return next spring to burst pipes. Wood is stored for the spring, the shutters are up; the wind is blowing in excess of sixty miles per hour and the snow's getting deep! Time to say goodbye to Bald Mountain for another winter.

**SCB**



**Sierra Club Offices:**

**Sierra Club Headquarters**

530 Bush Street  
San Francisco, California 94108

**Sierra Club Foundation**

530 Bush Street  
San Francisco, California 94108

**Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund**

311 California Street, Suite 311  
San Francisco, California 94104

**International Office**

777 United Nations Plaza, 10th Floor  
New York, New York 10017

**Alaska Office**

545 E. 4th Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

**Los Angeles Office**

2410 Beverly Blvd., Suite 2  
Los Angeles, California 90057

**Midwest Office**

444 West Main, Room 10  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

**New York Office**

50 West 40th Street  
New York, New York 10018

**Northern Plains Office**

P.O. Box 721  
Dubois, Wyoming 82513

**Northwest Office**

4534 1/2 University Way, N.E.  
Seattle, Washington 98105

**Sacramento Office**

927 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Southwest Office**

2014 E. Broadway, Room 212  
Tucson, Arizona 85719

**Washington D.C. Office**

324 "C" Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

**Canadian Offices:**

**Ontario Office**

47 Colborne Street  
Toronto, Canada M5E 1E3

**Western Canada Office**

P.O. Box 35520 Postal Station E  
Vancouver BC Canada V6M 4G8



American Bald Eagle: Tupper A. Blake; Trail Maintenance: Catherine Cullinane; & Sierra Club Photo Library.

**F**OR 83 YEARS the Sierra Club has defended wilderness and the integrity of nature. To protect and conserve the natural resources of this planet; to preserve the quality of our environment; to restore what has already been needlessly spoiled: these are the ends toward which the Sierra Club applies its strength.

**SIERRA CLUB LEGAL.** In recent years the Club has often had to turn to the courts to win compliance with environmental laws. This is the task of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Contributions to the Fund are tax deductible. Without such legal pressure, many of our best statutes would be empty pronouncements of good intent.

**INFORMATION/EDUCATION.** Through its books and periodicals, films and exhibits, the Club points out the challenge we dare not fail to meet: to formulate a sane and tenable relationship between the human race and the fragile world that sustains us. Sierra Club outings have taken on new meaning as lessons in "walking lightly" on our vulnerable land. Rock climbing, winter camping, ski touring, kayaking, scuba diving, mountaineering: Sierra Club classes, formal and informal, teach these and other skills. The themes are safety and respect for the land.

**LOBBYING.** The Club's essential work is to promote sound laws and policies and, more fundamentally, the climate of opinion that allows these laws and policies to succeed. The Club's small hired staff spends most of its time in this field. The real momentum, however, comes from thousands of active Club members offering uncountable thousands of hours of volunteer service, backed by the dues and contributions of the entire membership.

**SERVICE TRIPS.** Wilderness survey trips to endangered areas gather the data the Club must have to lobby for preservation. Trail maintenance trips and clean-up trips combine fun and service. "Inner City Outings" conducts first-time wilderness trips for the urban young. For some participants, these experiences may be the start of lifelong friendships with the land. We hope that all will come away with at least a little more awareness of what a gift the natural world is—and how greatly it deserves our care.

There is everything to be done, most of it at chapter and group levels: complex issues to study and understand, policy to debate, meetings and hearings to attend, news to spread, letters to compose.

In the search for solutions that are long-lasting, the Club must constantly communicate: with legislators, leaders in business, labor, minority groups, and many others. The lack of such contact could be crippling.

**RESEARCH.** The Club's office of environmental research surveys the work of experts in many countries and carries out its investigations in such fields as geology and forestry. This scientific back-up helps the Club define its policies and state its case to the public, to legislators, and to courts.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SIERRA CLUB.** The effort we make is costly, but the stakes are huge. Gifts made directly to the Club go largely to lobbying and cannot be deducted from the donor's taxes. If a deduction is important to you, we invite you to consider giving to the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund or to the Sierra Club Foundation, which funds educational, scientific and literary projects. Consider also a bequest to the Sierra Club: such a gift is a strong personal statement, and a legacy that will live.

**Application For Membership**

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# Sierra Club





# YKK U.S.A.

## Exactly who we are. And what we stand for.

There have been so many misconceptions about us, we thought it would be a good idea to clear up a lot of the confusion by just telling you the facts about YKK.

First of all YKK U.S.A. is an American company. We produce zippers, and only zippers. No sideline products. No offshoots.

We maintain one of the most modern zipper manufacturing facilities in this country right in Macon, Georgia, utilizing some three hundred thousand square feet of space. Employing over two hundred people. It is almost fully automated and is said to be one of the most efficient operations anywhere.

Our products are unsurpassed in quality by anyone, anywhere in this country. What's more, we offer more innovations in our products. Take our Vislon™ zippers, for example. With individually molded teeth for added strength that will stand up to any kind of weather. Or Ziplon®, our multi-purpose, smooth running, nylon coil zipper. Both especially designed for backpacks, tents, sleeping bags, parkas. With years of tested performance behind them to fill all the camping industry's needs.

Our operation is fully national. With manufacturing, warehousing and total service facilities in every major market. (For a complete list of our branch offices, see below.)

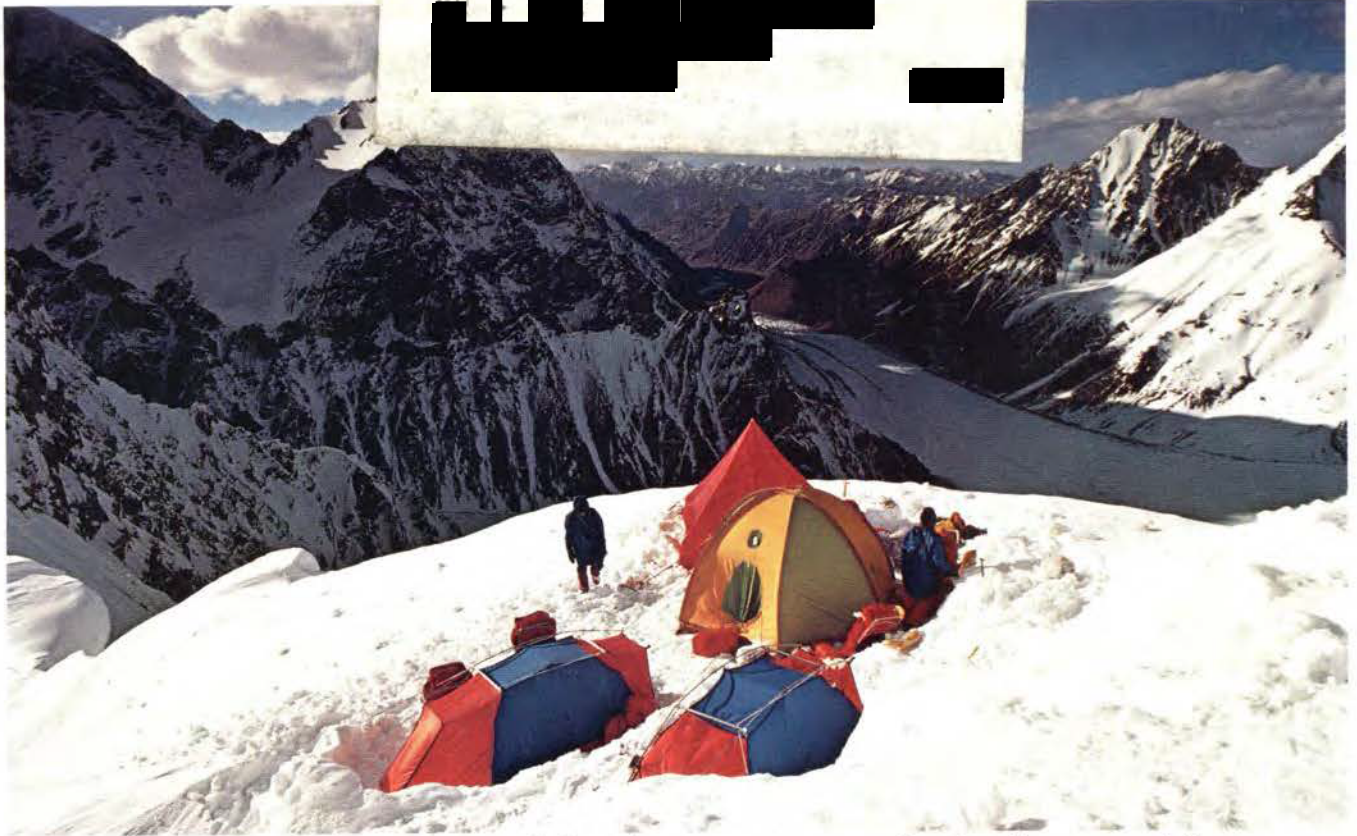
Our marketing philosophy is simple. Provide the best possible products the market wants. At sensible prices. With better service than anyone else can give.

This, then, is who YKK is. And what we stand for. Exactly.



The world's largest zipper company.





**“On K-2, the second highest mountain in the world, blizzard conditions kept us zipped in our sleeping bags of Dacron® fiberfill II... day and night for six days...”**

**JIM WHITTAKER, leader of the 1975 American assault on K-2.**

“We were using a man-made fiberfill at altitudes where down had always been the traditional choice.

“But our sleeping bags and parkas of ‘Dacron’ fiberfill II performed perfectly. Just as I expected them to.

“Don’t get me wrong. I’m not anti-down. In dry cold you can’t beat it. But down can collapse when it gets wet. It can lose its ability to insulate. ‘Dacron’ fiberfill II is different. It can be fully saturated, and then wrung out and, like wool, still provide some insulation.



Unique hollow filaments of ‘Dacron’ fiberfill II

“On the K-2 expedition, we encountered most of the wet conditions on the approach march. And we simply draped our sleeping bags on top of the tents to dry.

“But it was at Base Camp (17,500 ft.) that the real test came. We had to live in our sleeping bags day and night for six days. And we appreciated



every one of those 500 miles of hollow fibers that ran through every pound of ‘Dacron’ fiberfill II.

“Du Pont’s ‘Dacron’ is the only fiberfill that has these hollow fibers. It’s interesting to note that caribou is one of the best furs for arctic wear... and this fur has hollow follicles. Hollow fibers add loft without weight. And loft helps determine warmth.

“It’s a pretty smart idea. And ‘Dacron’ fiberfill II proved it... on the second highest mountain in the world.”

You’ll find most manufacturers of sleeping bags offer Dacron\* polyester fiberfill II in quality-

constructed models. Usually at very affordable prices. For a list of suppliers and more details on the advantages of hollowfill write us: Du Pont, Dept. SB, Fiberfill Marketing Division, 308 E. Lancaster Ave., Wynnewood, Pa. 19096.



\*Du Pont registered trademark.  
Du Pont makes fibers, not sleeping bags.

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