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"The decisions of an immortal man can be canceled or regretted or doubted. In a world where death is the hunter,...there is no time for regrets or doubts. There is only time for decisions."

--Juan Matus, Yaqui Indian

HUXLEY HUMUS



All the news that fits.

Vol. 4, no. 5 November 11, 1974

To Plan

Huxley's Home

All interested faculty and students are urged to attend a meeting Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 4:00 PM in the Huxley Conference room. The purpose of this meeting is to begin drawing up both short and long term plans for the unfinished Huxley College Space in the Northwest Environmental Studies Center.

There is a great deal of space left empty and bare that shall be finished in the next year, and Huxley College has been told that we can design these areas in whatever way we want. Needs and proposals include faculty offices, computer space, student/faculty lounge and study areas, etc. In the mean time, funds are immediately available for interim study and commons areas.

If you are interested, but can't make the meeting, contact Jay Gottlieb or the HERB Office.

EXPO MATERIAL ARRIVES AT HERB

Two large notebooks have been donated to the HERB Office/Huxley Library by Eric Boge. Eric, working at Expo '74's Environmental Symposium Series, is heartily thanked by the HERB Office for these two resources. One notebook, titled "Pollution", is a compilation of articles and extracts on all facets of the subject. The other notebook contains the same diversity, only it is on "Population." They come complete with indexes and study guides, and are a resource treasure, invaluable to all Huxley Students in their ever continuing quest for knowledge. Unfortunately the books may not be checked out of the office at this time, however all interested persons are invited to come to HERB (ESC 70) and make use of this material.

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One more student member is needed for the Curriculum Committee, which meets at noon on Thursdays in the conference room outside the Huxley office.

WILD FOODS

Karen Weida

CHICKORY

IDENTIFICATION: Chickory is a perennial with stiff, rather rigid, short branched stems rising one to four feet above a large tap root. Chickory's main leaves are basal, oblong, tapered toward base, deeply divided into opposite pairs of lobes with coarse irregular edges. They range in length from three to six inches and resemble a dandelion leaf. The stem becomes covered with short stiff hairs and smaller leaves as it elongates. Chickory's bright blue flower heads are an immediate identifying characteristic. They are attached directly to the top of the stem. The flowers like the moving sun, and usually close around noon except in areas like Western Washington, where clouds prevent overheating.

USE: This time of year the best part of chickory is its root. Dig up the root, wash clean, and roast over a slow fire or in your oven until it is brown completely through. Then grind and brew as in fresh coffee. Chickory is stronger than conventional coffee and slightly bitter. But if you're a coffee fiend, why not try some. All it needs is a little time with your hands in the earth.

*Riding down Harris, near the boat yards, the Chickory is thick, and ripe for digging.

Chickory

**KELP CANDY**

Compliments of Annette Mase

Take one kelp, cut the large bulb off, and cut the stalk into 12 to 16 inch sections. Rinse and peel with a vegetable peeler. Slice into circles about $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick. Cover with cold water, and soak for two days; changing the water 2 or 3 times a day. These gets the salt out of the kelp. You can use any flavoring you like, but here I use ginger. Scrape or peel fresh ginger root and slice thin. Put ginger and kelp in a pot, just cover with water, and simmer for 15 minutes. Let stand over night, and simmer again using the same water for 15 minutes. Cool the water, drain it into a container, and measure it. Add 2 cups of sugar for each cup of water. Bring water and sugar mixture to a boil and add kelp and ginger. Simmer slowly in covered pot until syrup is mostly absorbed. Can be done all at once, or over a period of several days. Drain and roll in sugar. Allow to dry over night, and store in a covered container.

I am teaching Asian Studies at Fairhaven College, and recently received the following announcement, which is a request for help from Scientific Aid to Indochina (SAI), a task force of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information. It struck me that there might be quite a few good people at Huxley who would have some requisite skills and interests, and would like to pass it along.

"For a decade the people and lands of Indochina have been subjected to attacks which are without parallel in their intensity and without precedent in their technological complexity. They have suffered millions of casualties and massive destruction of property--a heavy burden on their meager resources. Beyond that they must reckon with the long-term consequences, especially of the carpet bombing and mechanical earth movers. These weapons were largely untried until they were used in Indochina, and without a major scientific effort it is extremely difficult to predict their long-term effects or to devise effective means of repairing the damage they have inflicted.

"The damage in Indochina demonstrates the enormous destructive power of the weapons produced by modern science and technology. Scientists cherish the humane, creative potential of their disciplines; we believe that many of them wish to accept the obligation to show how science can help repair the effects of its destructive use and turn to the tasks of peace and reconstruction.

"In response to an invitation from the Hanoi government, two members of the SAI task force, Prof. E.G. Pfeiffer (U. of Montana), a zoologist, and Prof. Arthur Westing (Windham College), a botanist, visited North Vietnam from July 28th to August 16th to determine what American scientists could do to aid in the tasks of reconstruction. Dr. Pfeiffer has written a report of that trip, which appears in the November issue of the SIPI publication, ENVIRONMENT. Meeting with the Society for the Dissemination of Science and Technique, SIPI's counterpart in North Vietnam, Drs. Pfeiffer and Westing were asked with considerable urgency that SAI organize several immediate aid projects. These are:

- 1) Aid in the establishment of a new Institute of Agricultural Botany in North Vietnam.
- 2) Collection of selected scientific books and journals for use by scientists in North Vietnam.
- 3) Establishing direct exchange of information between American and North Vietnamese scientists regarding the scientific problems of mutual interest." (end of announcement quote).

(This group is also seeking to establish contacts with scientists in South Vietnam).

4 Included with the solicitation were specific requests for information on the effects of gasses and herbicides on plant life and other related environmental questions. An example is a letter from Dr. Bach Quoc Tuyen of the Laboratory of Hematology and Genetics, Bach Mai Hospital (which is being rebuilt after having been bombed flat by the Air Force in Christmas, 1972). He requested information on such things as why bananas grow so big and fast after being sprayed. The lists is available from SAI, 30 E. 68th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. Tel: (212) 249-3200.

Let me put in a personal plug for some people to look into working with Scientific Aid to Indochina on some of these problems which are really life and death matters for people in Vietnam and Indochina as a whole.

1. Politically, it would be both a practical and very political act--like when American GI's in Vietnam simply stopped fighting in the last years of the American military presence. It is unlike the symbolic politics that some people have despaired of in the last couple of years (although demonstrations, etc., had their effect).
2. It is tied to questions of ecology and environmental preservation that concern us all at home. Much of the complex, military-related industry which has caused pollution and waste here in Washington, and has been a major drain on natural resources, energy, etc., has been developed in service of direct destruction in Indochina. We get the fringe non-benefits; they get the full onslaught of calculated destruction. As Karl Marx once said (approximately), "The oppression that clothes itself in stylish garb at home, goes naked in the colonies."
3. It seems to me that people here who are interested in the land, and values that attach to a way of life that is more dedicated to a human relationship with nature would have much to learn from the Vietnamese, who are an ancient and caring agrarian people, and who in recent decades have had to cope with the worst kinds of ruination of their environment and have done it with a practical and optimistic spirit.
4. On the whole SAI type people have an outlook and workstyle which is refreshingly non-professionalistic. They would like to make it possible for all interested people, regardless of their level of skills, to work together equally as colleagues (comrades) where everyone contributes to the common goal.

If people are interested, please contact the SAI at the above address. Also, if you want to rap with me about it, come to Fairhaven 209, or call 3693--or 734-0675 at home.

--Mitch Meisner

P.S. Maybe we could get Pfeiffer to come out to speak.

by Michael R. Smith

For those of you who may have wondered a few weeks ago about why, even though the sun was kind of shining, you could not see Mt. Baker, let alone the other side of town, the smoky haze was the result of a temperature inversion which gripped the Northwest.

A temperature inversion occurs when a cool, more dense air mass is trapped under a warmer, less dense, air mass. The results of this is that the cool air mass has nowhere to move until the earth warms it up enough to mix with the warmer air above. If the earth does not warm the cool air mass, the inversion will remain until there is precipitation or wind.

During temperature inversions, pollutants become trapped in this lower air mass and accumulates. The result of this accumulation is the haze which we saw here in Bellingham. In Seattle, the accumulation of pollutants was more severe than up here. Not only was there a dense haze, there was also a high accumulation of carbon monoxide (CO) due to the large concentration of automobiles in the city. CO reduces the oxygen capacity of the blood and puts a heavy load on the heart and lungs. CO is especially damaging to people with respiratory ailments and heart disease.

The State Department of Ecology issued the first pollution alert for Seattle after levels of the odorless, colorless, yet poisonous CO gas exceeded 15 parts per million (ppm). On the 17th of October, the CO level was between 17 and 20 ppm.

This was only Seattle's first pollution alert and it occurred when the CO level exceeded 15 ppm. Perhaps the people of Seattle and the Northwest will realize the hazardous potential of CO pollution before Seattle becomes like Los Angeles, where pollution alerts are not called until the CO level exceeds 50 ppm.

Oddcolumn No. 2

Something hurt me deeply two days ago. I was walking past the steam sculpture on campus, headed for me dorm. It was, perhaps, seven in the evening. Some people were dancing, running, playing up on the hill above me. Just before I went into the roadway underpass, a voice came back to me, lifted high with joy, "Hurray! Nixon is dying!"

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It didn't hit me at first. I walked on, climbing the hill into Fairhaven, the trees closing about me. Dead? Someone wanted someone else dead? Someone was rejoicing, because someone else, at that moment, was deeply in shock - fighting for his life? What kind of person would it take to wish another's death?

What did it matter? My deathwishing friend was the only one - and his hope was one, alone.

I wish that thought were correct. But I have heard more and more expressions of joy at Nixon being so close to death. Certainly I will not deny that I do not like the man. I might even loathe him.... I am not sure. But to hate him enough to wish him dead? A human being....a person....dead? Why?

PETROGLYPHS.....Joan Kane

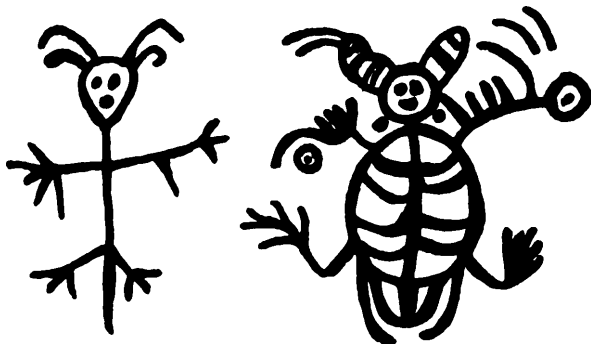
J.L.

ELECTRIC NIGHTMARE

Water-devil petroglyphs (stone carvings) from an Iod Chinook village near Wishram, Washington, located on the Columbia River near the Dalles.

Water devils are generally found near water, in places where it is dangerous to fish. "Water devils", as the Indians call them, symbolize that a bad spirit lurks in the deep waters below. They are also supposed to scare children away from bad places.

Water devils are found in various sizes and shapes and have been interpreted as being grotesque representations of imaginary animals or possibly lizards.



You know those superpower lines that are slowly tying up the earth? Well, a recent book titled Power over People by Louise B. Younge, a physicist from Illinois, brings out another side to the personality of these metal giants. It seems that voltage transmitted via these lines leaks into the surrounding air and charges any electrical conductor material within a radius of 200 to 300 feet. In areas where these 765,000-volt lines run, a number of strange things have been observed. Cows won't graze near the lines on rainy days, corn growth is stunted, and Ecology USA reports an instance where a fluorescent tube was light while being held in a farmer's hands. In the face of this, bigger one-million-volt power lines are on the drawing boards. Mrs Young also charges that power lines generate high levels of ozone, which is a lung-damaging pollutant. So next time you look at those metal giants, you might consider that they do more than just stand around and look ugly.

--Doug Adams

POETRY

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BIRDS & CLOUDS

I think that birds & clouds are like my daydreams;
There for only a fleeting moment,
Soon to fly away.
High in their lofty scene,
They drift throughout the passing day.
Their form and shape a constant change,
From one to many fold.
A thrill to witness them ,
But difficult to hold.
To capture them would be a crime,
To tame them next to sin.
For clouds & birds were ment to be
Just like free thinking men.

---R.L.S.

"If it were true that a heavy concentration of industry is destructive to human life, one would find life expectancy declining in the more advanced countries. But it has been rising steadily. Here are the figures on life expectancy in the United States (from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company):

1900--47.2 years

1920--53 years

1940--60 years

1968--70.2 years (the latest figures compiled).

Anyone over 30 years of age today, give a silent "Thank you" to the nearest, grimmest, sootiest smokestacks you can find.

--Ayn Rand, "The Anti-Industrial Revolution", The New Left. New York: The New American Library, Inc. c. 1971 pp137-138.

HUMUS STAFF

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