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Spring 1982

## Monthly Planet, 1982, Spring

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### Recommended Citation

Senior, Janet S. and Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, "Monthly Planet, 1982, Spring" (1982). *The Planet*. 114.  
<https://cedar.wwu.edu/planet/114>

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# Monthly



# Planet 2

SPRING

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



## KOMA KULSHAN: legends of the mountain

The following is a preview of a new book by John Miles, called Koma Kulshan: The story of Mt. Baker. The book will be published next year by Mountaineer Books, Seattle.

Prospectors are like gamblers - despite repeated frustration they remain eternally hopeful and cannot shake the lure of the strike - the rich bar may be around the next bend in the creek, the mother lode in the mountains just upstream. Countless Tom Barrets went into the Mount Baker country with high hopes and came back with tatters, but there were always more argonauts outward bound. Two prospecting parties of the 1880's, while they found little gold, contributed significantly to the exploration of Mount Baker.

William Henry Dorr arrived in Whatcom County from Iowa in 1882, and established a homestead. One day he talked with a Nooksack

Indian who claimed to have been hunting on Mount Baker's north side. According to Dorr, the Indian told him that there was a place at the head of a stream of water a short distance below where it came out from under the snow over on that side of the high mountain where it directly faces the rising sun in the long summer days, where there were heaps of gold. The Indian knealt and drew a crude map in the sand. Dorr could not see anything to lose in following up this lead, and much to possibly be gained, so he decided to investigate.

Carrying sixty pound packs, Dorr and a friend set out for the mountain. They were guided by the Indian's map, which Dorr had transposed from sand to paper. It took them four days of hard going up the North Fork until they reached the mouth of Glacier Creek. At times, they had to walk in the riverbed to avoid the thick tangle

of undergrowth along the riverbank. After a night's rest at the confluence of the two streams, they ascended Glacier Creek for a mile, then struck steeply uphill east of the creek to the top of Skyline Divide, which the Indian had said would provide a route to the region of the mountain where the gold would be found.

They struck the ridgetop, a delightful place resplendant with flowering meadows and clumps of pointed firs. Up this ridge they went, after a pleasant camp among the flowers, from Skyline to Chowder Ridge, across a small glacier (Hadley Glacier) to a campside on the north side of the slope where Cougar Divide meets Chowder Ridge. They knew themselves to be close to their objective, for the mountain loomed just above them. Crossing Dobbs Creek, they walked to the very east end of Chowder Ridge and saw what must have been the site of the Indian's Eldorado where Barr Creek emerged from beneath the Mazama Glacier.

Here we located the Siwash gold mine. There was a sparkle of glittering mica about the edges of the water and mixed with finer grit in the eddies, just such a showing as might be expected to impress the untutored mind of the savage, but very disappointing to the prospector.

Still, they staked their claim, named it Siwash, and panned and explored the area. Their efforts went unrewarded, so they returned to their camp.

We can imagine Dorr looking up a Mount Baker, which was very close, and telling his companion that since they had done better than half the work of climbing it, they might as well go the rest of the way.

Continued on page 2.

*Mt. Baker (cont.)*

The view would be good, and maybe it would be fun. They set off up the northeast ridge, today commonly known as Cockscomb Ridge.

There was no bad climbing aside from the numerous broad and very deep crevasses but the rise was rapid being fully 30 per cent grade on the average. We reached a high point or spire of lava over-looking a steaming crater on this northeast slope but we were caught in a snow squall and forced to retrace our steps.

The spire of lava is today called the Cockscomb, and is at an elevation of approximately 9700 feet. Good weather would not have assured them of success, for the "spire" is extremely crumbly volcanic rock and could not have been surmounted. With no climbing equipment or experience, the pair could not have bypassed the rock on either side, for steep ice and crevasses make that a challenge even today.

They turned back, but left their mark on the mountain. The "steaming crater" they spotted below them was not really a crater but a group of fumaroles. Today these are known as the Dorr Fumaroles, and plumes of steam can still be seen rising from them at the 8000 foot level.

Another party was on the mountain during the summer of 1884, this one on the opposite side from Dorr. They too were prospectors who went up the South Fork of the Nooksack, but according to L.L. Bales, who described the trip in an interview and article, they also intended to try and climb the mountain. Bales and four companions left Whatcom on June 16 and made their way to the South Fork, up which they traveled for a week. They went slowly, presumably looking for gold and exploring the unfamiliar country. Bales broke out his fishing line from time to time, supplementing their trail food. He reported fishing to be excellent, even in the very upper reaches of the river. They climbed a minor peak of the Three Sisters group, and eventually made their way to timberline on Baker's south side.

Three members of the party decided to climb, the other two to hunt mountain goats. The three crossed a large glacier, which Bales' referred to as the head of

Baker River, and "ascended the mountain from the southeast side." One climber dropped out, and Bales and Victor Lowe continued upward. "After several hours of very difficult climbing, Mr. V. Lowe and myself succeeded in reaching the summit." They enjoyed the view, then descended to their companions and returned to Whatcom by way of the Middle Fork of the Nooksack.

But did they make the summit of Mount Baker, as Bales led his readers in a Pacific Magazine article in 1890 to believe? One student of the mountain's history, Harry Majors, credits Bales and Lowe with the second ascent, but there is reason to doubt. An account of the climb was published in The West Shore in 1884 and was condensed from that which appeared in Whatcom Reveille shortly after the party returned from their adventure. In this account Bales and Lowe "persevered, and by constantly encouraging each other and resting every few steps, finally reached the apex of the eastern summit, about twenty-five feet lower than the dome-shaped summit visible from the Sound, and distant from it 150 yards. They were too exhausted by their efforts to attempt the other apex." This "eastern summit" sounds suspiciously like Sherman Peak, which is approximately 700 feet below the actual summit, and slightly over one-half mile away from it as the crow flies. Perhaps at this point the climbers exaggerated their closeness to the summit, though admitting that they had not made the last little bit to the top.

There is also a descriptive detail in Bales' 1890 account that lends some credence to this possibility. He says that he and his companions crossed "a large glacier, the head of Baker River, and ascended the mountain from the southeast side." If the party came up the moraine known as Railroad Grade, crossed the Easton Glacier to the Squok Glacier, then struck for the highest point above them, they could have inadvertently found themselves atop Sherman Peak. If visibility was poor, as it often is, they might have climbed Sherman Peak thinking that they were on their way to the summit, only to gaze exhaustedly across at the higher peak from the summit they had achieved.

A 1906 article in the Seattle Post - Intelligencer also lends some credence to the argument that Bales and Lowe were atop Sherman Peak rather than Mount Baker

itself. Frank Teck, in reviewing climbs of Mount Baker, notes that "Lowe and Bales claimed they had reached the summit of Sherman peak June 29, and discovered an immense extinct crater, a thousand feet deep and half a mile in diameter ..." Thus Bales and Lowe probably made the first ascent of Sherman Peak, the pointed summit of the east rim of the crater. Bales, for whatever reason, made an erroneous claim to the second ascent of Mount Baker in his 1890 account.

Sixteen years after Coleman's party made footprints across the summit plateau, parties had followed new routes to the mountain's summit region. While the lure of gold had drawn them into the area, once close to the mountain it had cast its spell upon them, and they had responded to the challenge. The 1884 achievements were a sign of adventures and adventurers to come. #

*John Miles is on the faculty at Huxley College.*

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*It is not wealth that stands  
in the way of liberation but  
the attachment to wealth;  
not the enjoyment of pleasurable  
things but the craving  
for them*

*-E.F. Schumacher*



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# THE "JAY"

by Mack Faith

Who is this creature fluttering into the bush outside my window? Your blue breast startles me, would startle even one who knew your name. "Jay." I want to call you a "Jay" but you will never know if I am right. It's certain you won't, may not even know yourself. In that barren winter bush — all leafless sticks and colorless silhouette — you prance and call your little flock as if you'd found a banquet and a home. For a moment I believe it. This is my first spring here and I am flooded with joy. "You'll find I make a handsome neighbor," I promise, "friendly but not too nosy."

Whether home or passing through, there you are, dancing along a branch in my tiny yard. As delighted as I am to see you there, bobbing and weaving and cleaning your beak, I cannot help but wonder why. I am human. Is there not some point at which no creature will come near us? Am I so different? I'd love to believe it, to believe that you can sense the love and awe and wonder in my heart, believe that from this town you chose my yard, my window, me. Perhaps it's true. But I think not. That's heady wine, that talk of stewardship and harmony with nature. I love the talk, but, in truth, an hour ago you were extinct to me.

You swooped down into my yard because of you, not me. That's so, isn't it? You fly where you fly because you must, in accordance with seasons, in a kind of natural flood of movement I've almost forgotten how to feel. But it isn't just for food or nest, for ritual or for your mate. It's for beauty. You fly into my yard and draw your flock along, not for some advantage, but to startle a human being, to be glorious in my sight. And how you are. But it isn't that you exist for the sake of my pleasure, my health, my happiness. You are fulfilling you. Dazzling my human eye is as great a chord in the symphony that draws you here as is the instinct for food and shelter. And I can deeply feel that you are not the least concerned for any of it, and neither am I.

I laugh.

It's not survival that draws you here. Were that the hit tune on your intuitive radio, you would stay as far from people as was possible, in the woods not so far behind you. Instead, you chose the bush most near my house. Fulfillment drew you here, and I proclaim that you were right to come.

After the manner of human beings, startled by your beauty, not at all professional in this business of watching birds, I pause by my window for fully half an hour. Few things can so delay me. But I too am filled, am drawn to the window, and startle you. I show myself a golden dawn of human love, a radiant sun to set a hundred jays to singing. I am here not just to push and pull, to make things better or worse. I fly to you as much as you to me, that a beauty might be known. For me it's strange and new, but I feel you drink me in. We pause, then you fly on and so do I, your life as busy and as peaceful as my own. What wisdom of economy. We both have had the better of the bargain. Be well. \*

*Mack Faith wrote this in response to the review of Joseph Meeker's book, "A Comedy of Survival: Search for an Environmental Ethic"*



*Objectivity means being in harmony with one's own subjectivity, not lying to others or to oneself.*

*-Eugene Ionesco  
Fragments of a Journal*



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## ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR

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JUNE 4,5

Coal Ports and Environmental Considerations. A two day symposium will address the environmental problems associated with coal port development and operation. Contact Polly Dyer for brochures, registration and information.

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JUNE 5

Introductory slide show on the Cerro Gordo Community, a model "self-supporting ecosystemic village" in the works near Eugene, Oregon. 2pm at the Group Health Cooperative, 201 16th E. Seattle. \$2 donation requested.

JUNE 24-26

Acidic Precipitation & Atmospheric Deposition: A Western Perspective. A 3 day symposium to be held at WWU. Contact Dr. David Brakke, Huxley College for more information.

# THE OUTBACK: an experience in self-reliance



By Steve Manthe

A little touch of farm life amongst the urban-ness of a college campus, they call it the Outback. In the spirit of historical and/or ecological preservation, the Outback is a recycled homestead - an outdoor classroom for the pursuit of skills in small farm management, homesteading and organic gardening. In terms of alternative lifestyles, it is an opportunity for students to experience self sufficiency.

Originally, the property called Outback belonged to a man named Farrar Burn and his family, who traded a cabin cruiser for the land in 1929. On a forested hill overlooking the meadow where the gardens and pasture are today, Burn built two small log cabins where he and his family lived for a number of years.

Then, after an extended interval of neglect and abandonment, the farm came back to life. In 1974, the buildings were restored and turned over to Fairhaven College to become the Outback program. The land again became a working farm, with gardens produced a variety of crops including cabbage, wheat - even roses. The pastures there have housed rabbits, ducks, chickens and goats.

The Outback program emphasizes ecologically sound farming practices and the practical application of appropriate technologies. Past projects have included a wind generator, sauna, shower and hot tub. In keeping with the concept of self sufficiency, materials for these projects were and are usually obtained by donation or salvage. This was the case for the greenhouse, hotbed and composting bins, which were all built using bricks, lumber and glass from a torn-down building. The sauna was built using the forms left over from the construction of the Arntzen and Environmental Studies buildings. Labor, too, has been donated. The barn, originally located on Ohio Street, was dismantled and then reassembled at the Outback by students.

The program utilizes a variety of organic agricultural practices including intensive mulching and composting. These methods require no fossil fuel energy and no chemical fertilizers or pesticides; they attempt to maintain the fertility of the soil rather than deplete it. The waste material placed in the composting bins also vents heat, released during decomposition, into the neighboring greenhouse. The greenhouse also receives heat from a passive solar system called a waterwall, which absorbs radiant energy in black water jugs during the day and then releases it into the greenhouse at night. Compost is also provided by the composting toilet, which reduces human waste anaerobically and leaves behind a sterile, odorless humus used for fertilizing the fruit orchard.

The homestead is not perfectly self sufficient. Because the residents are students with limited time, it is not possible for the farm to meet all the resident's needs. Water is piped from the dormitories and laundry facilities are also available. On the whole, though, the Outback is reliant on its own resources. In the future, the residents plan to rebuild the wind generator, construct solar collectors and pipe water in from the brook. If these plans prove feasible, a more perfect self-reliance may be achieved.

Students run the Outback; between four and seven of them live in the cabins there. They pay no rent, but do sign a contract and

agree to contribute 50 hours of work under the supervision of the present occupant. When they move in, the residents pay a twenty five dollar deposit, and then ten dollars each month for maintenance. Each member of the program must also donate 14 hours every month on an approved project concerning improvement and beautification around the cabins and farm.

Visitors to the Outback homestead are always welcome. They are free to explore the farm, ask questions, make suggestions or browse in the Outback library (located in the larger cabin). Maps, for self-guided tours, are available in the mail box just outside the rainbow arch, located behind the Fairhaven dorms. \*

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*Geyser Watching With Harry*  
We were halfway down the Canyon  
And below a ridge  
The river rushed.  
Harry bent down and brushed  
His hand across a dormant spring;  
The ground was hot.  
Stew was roaring near  
Where a basin filled and emptied  
Before one glanced away  
To see a tiny geyser spit  
A thimblefull of pearls,  
Or tears, depending on the wind.  
"Look Harry, see that?  
It's how I feel when I'm with you."  
-Suzanne Hackett

# Budget Cuts Affect Community Services

by Bruce Chunn

Whatcom County is fortunate to have a supplemental human service agency such as the Whatcom County Opportunity Council (WCOOC). The goal of the council, established in 1966, is to help low income people become self-reliant. The council provides a number of community service programs: Community Information, Energy Programs, Community Food and Nutrition, and Coalition for Child Advocacy. This article will focus on the reduction of staff in the Community Information program, and the consequences this may cause to the community.

The Community Information program consists of three parts; Consumer/Tenant rights, Information and Referral (lining people up with appropriate community services and resources), and Welfare Rights which helps people who have problems or questions concerning the Department of Social and Health Services. Susan Copeland, the coordinator for Community Information, had four VISTA volunteers working in the program. On March 31, 1982, they lost their jobs. The contract which WCOOC had with VISTA ran out and because the Reagan administration has chosen to phase out the VISTA program, the VISTA contract with WCOOC was not renewed.

VISTA employees work 40 hours a week for less than minimum wage (\$322/month after taxes), and receive no unemployment benefits tremendously from this cheap, yet dedicated labor. Linda Elwood, consumer advocate for Community Information, said, "All of the VISTAs believed in what they were doing, they were not in it for the money."

During the 2-1/2 years she was with the Community Information program, Linda Elwood worked with Consumer/Tenant rights and Information and Referral. Her colleagues, Theresa Livingstone, Timi Koontz and Sue Hansen, had also been working with the council for several years.

This human service of expertise is not easily replaced. In the office now is Susan Copeland and a recent CETA employee, Angela Cornell, who will be there until her funding runs out in approximately 4 months. The services are still being offered, but with an obvious reduction in force.

All of the services at WCOOC are offered free of charge. Everything from suggestions on how to get your rental deposit back, how to plant a garden, and how to weatherize your house are offered at WCOOC. These types of services have become increasingly important due to the serious economic decline in Whatcom County, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in Washington State. The unemployed and low income people need these skills to become self-reliant and they need an awareness of their rights as consumers.

Basic funding for WCOOC has, in the past, come from the Community Service Administration. This federal agency no longer exists. WCOOC will now be receiving some of its funding from Federal Block Grant monies administered by the State Planning and Community Affairs Agency. Staff are now spending time seeking other sources of money.

I asked Susan Copeland, coordinator of Community Information some questions regarding the budget cuts and the effects on her department and the community.

Question: How have the layoffs affected Community Information?

Susan Copeland: "We can only answer the incoming calls -- we do not have the staff to continue projects like consumer education, outreach, etc."

Q: Do you feel the public has lost any previously offered services?

S.C.: "Yes, they've lost advocates to the welfare dept., the people with expertise in dealing with DSHS."

Q: Do you think that Comm. Info. will have adequate funding under the new system?

S.C.: "Yes, and now we have some United Way funding for next year."

Q: What do you see in regards to the alternatives available for citizens needing assistance?

S.C.: "There are still sources for assistance -- they can look in the Peoples Yellow Pages, but when people come to us, we can look at their entire situation and offer a variety of resources. There is really no one else in Whatcom County who does this."

Community members wishing to see these services maintained and expanded should let their opinions be known. Our state and federal representatives can be contacted and those working for social service programs supported.

Locally, we have an excellent human service agency and although the staff has been reduced, all is not lost. Community support is necessary to secure the continuation of these valuable programs. W



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## PLANET STAFF

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## REAGAN'S CIVIL DEFENCE POLICY - INDEFENSIBLE

In mid January, the Reagan Administration announced its plan to revive large scale civil defense expenditures. Part of the Administration's goal to achieve a "nuclear war fighting capability," the plan supposedly would save up to 80% of the American population in the case of an all-out war with the Soviet Union. This contemplated civil defense effort would combine reinforcement of industry against nuclear blasts, evacuation plans for all major metropolitan areas, and systems of support and shelter in rural areas for the evacuated population. The Reagan defense planners consider civil defense necessary in order to counter supposed Soviet capabilities of protecting large parts of their population and industry from damage by a nuclear exchange.

Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Strategic and Nuclear Forces, T.K. Jones, formerly a Boeing Company Analyst, is a major backer of the plan. While working for Boeing, Jones became convinced that the Soviets had achieved a sophisticated civil defense capability that would protect a large proportion of their country. In contrast, the U.S. program has been essentially inactive since the '50s. This civil defense imbalance, he feared, might entice the Soviets toward a first strike against the United States.

Jones determined to his own satisfaction that the Soviet industrial protection plan would work by testing the instructions in the Soviet civil defense manuals. For example, to test their techniques for protecting equipment, he covered machinery with dirt and exploded TNT in the vicinity. After this and other investigations, Jones became convinced that the U.S. must match the Soviet plans. According to Jones, the U.S. could recover fully from an all out nuclear war in 2 to 4 years if we had an operable Soviet-style civil defense program.

In a January interview with the Los Angeles Times, Jones stated that "everyone's going to make it, if there are enough shovels to go around." According to Jones, in case of nuclear war, you simply "dig a hole, cover it with a couple of doors, and then throw three feet of dirt on it. It's the dirt that does it." Commenting further on

the fate of the nuclear war survivor, Jones added, "his house is gone, he's there, wherever he dug that hole ... you've got to be in a hole. The dirt is really the thing that protects you from the blast as well as the radiation, if there is radiation. It protects you from the heat."

William Chipman is chief of the Civil Defense Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the agency that would implement the plan. Says Chipman regarding an explosion 100 times the force of the Hiroshima detonation, "you know, it is an enormous, gigantic explosion. But it is still an explosion, and just as if a shell went off down the road, you'd rather be lying down than sitting up, and you would rather be in a foxhole than lying down. It's the same thing."

FEMA has developed a battery of public relations materials to "educate" the public about the possibilities of surviving nuclear wars. Regarding optimistic nuclear war survival statistics that appear in some of the FEMA literature, Chipman observed "when they figure fatalities, they figure it on the basis of your Crimean War medical care, which is to say, almost none. And yet, if I remember rightly, of the people who reached the so-called hospitals of the Crimea - they were more less like sheds - I think 85% ... eventually survived, essentially unaided, essentially pre-arrival of Ms. Nightingale." Chipman cited other examples of disasters that humanity had recovered from as reasons for optimism. Regarding the Bubonic plague, he observed, "It was horrifying at the time, and yet six or eight years later, not only had English society rebounded, but, by God, those people went out on an expeditionary force to France."

Chipman's agency also provides literature which will aid the potential attackee in building his/her own nuclear shelter. One plan includes the construction of a "pre-planned snack bar shelter" which, notes the Los Angeles Times, is supposed to double as an entertainment center before the attack, and, it is hoped, afterward. In summation of his position on nuclear war, Chipman noted, "It is very depressing and horrible on one hand, but if worse ever came to the worst, I think

people would be miserable, but they would in all probability rise to the occasion and restore some kind of country which might be called the post-attack United States. No one would ever forget what had happened, and I hope to God that if it ever happened once, it would never happen again." When asked whether he thought democracy and other American institutions would re-emerge after such a war, Chipman added, "I think they would eventually, yeah. As I say, ants will eventually build another anthill."

\*\*\*\*\*

In this writer's opinion, civil defense is indefensible. Common sense seems to dictate to me that a country whose major cities have been devastated, its hospitals destroyed, its transportation and communications systems hopelessly impaired its food supply irradiated and with billowing clouds of ominous radiation sweeping the countryside, there would be very few ants left to build the next anthill, shovels or no shovels. Fortunately, I'm not the only one who feels this way. Thousands of Americans are beginning to realize that when serious and sincere statements of our government officials begin to sound like excerpts from an Art Buchwald satire, it is time to pull our heads out of the sand. Thinking about the potentiality of nuclear war is not always pleasant, but it is a lot more pleasant than going through one. Because of these

changes in the attitudes of many Americans in all levels of society, civil defense proposals have been getting a bit of a rough treatment.

On March 1, the Boulder, Colorado County Commissioners voted to reject federal efforts to develop nuclear war evacuation plans. In April the Cambridge, Massachusetts City Council voted to avoid participation in the plan in favor of an education campaign on the dangers of nuclear war. California Department of Health Services Director, Beverlee A. Myers, said in March that it would be "unethical" for her department to participate in a plan that "creates the illusion that the public health community can offer any assurances of health protection to the cities of California in the event of a malevolent detonation of

nuclear warheads. To plan for a hoax is a disservice to the people of California." Popular opinion is also running against the plan. In a recent Los Angeles Times national poll, 49% of the respondents said that they considered civil defense to be "a waste of time and money;" 36% were in support of the proposal.

So far, it looks as if Congress is rather reluctant to go along with the Administration's nuclear fantasy. One civil defense bill in committee provides for a scant 5% increase in expenditures, much lower than the administration had requested. Informed sources in the Office of Management and Budget have estimated that the President's plan could cost 10 billion dollars over the next five years, if fully funded.

Although the civil defense proposals might die of their own blatant demerits, unfortunately there are more such policies. The current administration is packed full of limited nuclear war buffs, U.S. military supremacists, and other far-out types who were brought from the fringes into the forefront of national policy by the Reaganites. These people have not gone unnoticed by the American public. The Reagan Administration's simplistic cold war bellicosity, rapid unexamined escalations of arms expenditures, statements about nuclear war fighting capabilities, and the recent civil defense fiasco have sparked an American peace movement of a magnitude unparalleled in U.S. history. An awareness is growing that those in the higher levels of government, who are supposed to be protecting the public interest, are undertaking a wholesale abrogation of their responsibilities. War is peace, they say. In order to reduce nuclear weapons, we must

build more of them. The people of this country are beginning to say, "enough of this!"

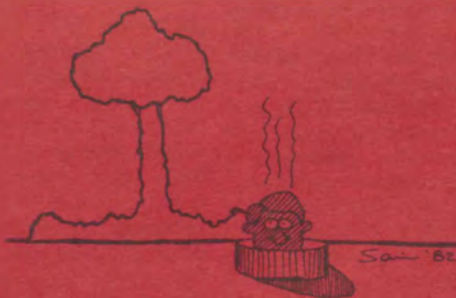
This fledgling anti-nuclear weapons movement has crystallized around the Bilateral Nuclear Weapons Freeze proposal which is being circulated in various forms around the country. According to the L.A. Times national poll, 57% of Americans support the freeze proposal. Over 500,000 Californians have signed a petition which will place the freeze proposal on the ballot for possible voter endorsement in the general election. Recently, freeze proposals were endorsed in 159 out of 191 town meetings in Vermont. State legislatures in Massachusetts, Oregon, New York and Connecticut have voted their support of the freeze. Maine also voted to support the freeze, its House of Representatives voted their unanimous support and the Senate supported the proposal by a 25 to 4 margin. Municipal and county governments in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Kansas have also taken action in support of the proposal. The movement has reached up into the halls of power as well; 175 U.S. Senators and Representatives currently support the freeze proposal introduced by Senators Kennedy and Hatfield.

Other related events indicate the widespread base of the new movement. A few months ago, the Union of Concerned Scientists sponsored nuclear teach-ins at 151 campuses across the nation. Groups like The Physicians for Social Responsibility have been sponsoring numerous seminars on the medical consequences of nuclear war. Engineers are also beginning to form groups that urge their members not to work in weapon related facilities.

Clergy members are also involved in the arms freeze movement. Recently, Bishop Leroy Mathiessen of Amarillo, Texas urged workers in his diocese who are employed at the Pantex nuclear warhead assembly plant (which assembles all U.S. warheads), "to resign from such activities and seek employment in peaceful pursuits." Soon afterward, the twelve other bishops of the state's hierarchy voted to support Mathiessen's action. Sixty Catholic bishops have voiced their support of the freeze campaign. Last summer, Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen created quite a furor when he advocated that citizens should withhold part of their tax payment in protest of the nuclear arms race.

This movement will not be just a passing fad in American political history; it is destined to make some serious changes in national policy -- one of the reasons being the surprisingly bi-partisan nature of the new movement. According to the polls, Republicans and Democrats support the freeze in almost equal proportions. Interestingly many of those who voted for Ronald Reagan go against the views of the president on this issue and support the freeze by a 56 to 39% margin. Even the crusty conservative columnist, James Kilpatrick, has written a column in support of the freeze.

Some despair that the freeze proposal will never reach the highest levels of government in the U.S. or the Soviet Union, and thus will never be implemented. To me, whether or not the proposal as formulated in the petitions will ever be carried out is immaterial. What is important is that it is raising the public consciousness to the point where it is no longer possible for the "experts" in the Pentagon to foist increasingly suicidal policies on the American public - without substantial opposition. As the movement grows, it is inevitable that real strides in arms control will begin. This movement, in solidarity with the more advanced peace movement of Europe, can move us closer to the vision of Dwight Eisenhower: "Someday the governments of the world will have to move over and let the people make peace." ■



Mark Gardner is a recent graduate of Hurley College.



# Wildlife Toxicology ... So What?

by Ron Kendall

Environmental chemicals have been shown to impact wildlife species and result in detrimental effects. A case in point is the reproductive impairment caused by organochlorine pesticides in breeding raptorial species of birds, such as bald eagles. Bald eagles have suffered dramatic population declines due to the impact of chemicals, particularly DDT. In addition, these birds have suffered from illegal shooting and habitat deterioration caused by man's activities. Nevertheless, the issue of declining numbers of bald eagles has received a tremendous amount of attention as they are our national symbol and, indeed, represent the spirit of freedom in the United States. However, there is a paradox here. Although the bald eagle is a symbol of freedom in this country, it is in itself not free from exposure to multitudes of environmental chemicals (e.g., DDT, DDE, heptachlor, endrin, lead, mercury) that can be harmful to health and, therefore, affect survival. Perhaps the bald eagle could also be thought to represent, as well, the exposure of all of the other wildlife species in this country to various chemicals we have liberated into the environment. However, to ascertain how these chemicals impact wildlife is not an easy task.

Wildlife toxicology is the science that deals with the effects of toxic chemicals on the reproduction, health and well-being of wildlife species. But, so what? Who cares about how chemicals affect wildlife? Times are hard, money is tight and people need to look after people; budgets are in the red. Therefore, to successfully argue the point, one can propose that wildlife make excellent biological monitors for effects of chemicals on human beings; hence, we need further development of the science. When wildlife died in Montana from endrin poisoning, the incident alerted people to the hazards of the chemical. Mink experienced reproductive impairment in the Great Lakes region and studies, which resulted from research into this problem, revealed that Coho salmon were contaminated with PCBs and these fish, if eaten by humans,

could also be harmful to their health. So, wildlife toxicology is important because it provides evidence that chemical contamination can ultimately affect humans as well as wildlife. It would seem that information development of this nature through toxicological research would convince the lords of the granting agencies to fund such kinds of research and, indeed, it often does. However, wildlife toxicology funding is often overlooked for research involving domestic animal toxicology.

One comment directed to me recently was "Why are you in wildlife toxicology and not veterinary toxicology? There's no money in wildlife relatively speaking." In essence he had said who cares? I care. I care not only because wildlife make a good biological monitor of toxic chemical effects on humans, but because I care about wildlife. Maybe it's just an enjoyable experience for me to see a bald eagle flying over Lake Whatcom and knowing that this opportunity is important to me. Not many people in the United States have that opportunity. Why? Because bald eagles, though they are our national symbol, are not as common as they once were. Ethically, can we as free people allow our national symbol to become extinct? In respect to the forefathers who selected this bird as our national symbol, the answer should be "No!" A lot of effort has gone into research on determining man's impact on eagle populations, including chemicals. Bald eagles found dead in this country are analyzed for chemical residues. This process requires a lot of time and money on behalf of many people. Why do they bother? Because enough people care enough or have responded to public pressure to get the job done.

So, in respect to the bald eagle, wildlife toxicology is an important science because it deals with chemical impacts on an important national symbol. Although the bald eagle as our national symbol is of great importance, shouldn't wildlife toxicologists be just as concerned about how pesticides affect other birds like the bobwhite quail? Bobwhite quail, although beautiful to observe go unnoticed by most



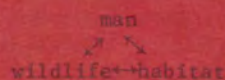
people. But they do provide enjoyment to those who know when and how to observe them.

Because of the ecology of the bobwhite quail, these birds are exposed to a great many insecticide chemicals. However, the bobwhite quail is not a national symbol and doesn't have the political clout necessary to send adequate research dollars its way to investigate chemical impacts. But, it is still an important wildlife species. In many ways, wildlife such as bobwhite quail, have to "take it on the chin" when it comes to chemical exposure, and only limited efforts have been mounted and limited funds have been spent to investigate impacts of chemicals on this bird. This brings us to another important point, ethically speaking. Bobwhite quail are beautiful creatures, enjoyed by many and still it is difficult to justify the research dollars necessary to investigate chemical impacts. If such is the case with bobwhite quail, imagine what position the endangered snail darter is in. No one ever sees it. It's a relatively isolated species, so if nobody enjoys it, who cares? But, both the bobwhite quail and the snail darter are part of a larger picture. They contribute to diversity in the natural ecosystem. To what degree can we sacrifice diversity and still maintain stability in the environment? That is something we have yet to learn.

## Wildlife (cont.)

Wildlife toxicologists in our laboratory are charged with generating information on the impacts of chemicals on wildlife species. These data can, in addition, be useful in predicting impacts of chemicals on humans. But to a larger degree these data are useful in protecting the wildlife resource. For instance, studies in our laboratory revealed that ingested spent lead shots have caused swans to die of lead poisoning at Barney Lake, Washington. To have this information certainly creates an atmosphere to consider alternatives, like making this area a steel-shot-only zone. But, is the key to getting the Washington State Department of Game to declare the area a steel-shot zone due to the efforts in a laboratory such as ours in diagnosing lead poisoning in swans or due to the fact that people see swans dying of lead poisoning at Barney Lake and complain? I will argue that a combination of these two factors is important in making good decisions based on scientific evidence. However, what can be more effective than a group of informed citizens with good scientific information contacting the Washington State Department of Game to demand that something be done about lead poisoning in swans on Barney Lake? That kind of pressure can often make money available for research and, indeed the Washington State Department of Game's evaluation of the incidences of lead poisoning in swans resulted in a declaration that Barney Lake be restricted from lead shot usage for waterfowl hunting.

At this point many of you would agree that the public perception of the wildlife resource can create an atmosphere that can either rain research dollars on a problem or create a dust bowl of apathy. It is therefore, important that interested persons realize that what we are working with is an important triad involving wildlife:



This figure illustrates how wildlife are dependent on both man's activities and the habitat in which they must live. If man's activities result in habitats contaminated with toxic chemicals,

wildlife suffer. Wildlife toxicology can provide information on the extent of this impact. The recent spraying of endrin on wheat fields in Montana resulted in fish and wildlife mortality, and to be sure there were not a lot of people saying, "So what?," but many were saying, "Get that chemical off the market!" The National Wildlife Federation was saying the same thing. So, as a result of this public outcry and even with limited national funds available for research, the Environmental Protection Agency has earmarked several hundred thousand dollars to the State of Montana to pursue research on impacts of endrin on wildlife. In a classic example of the interrelationships involved in the triad above mentioned, wildlife toxicologists have shown that endrin sprayed in Montana caused wildlife mortality, particularly in those species occupying habitats near sprayed wheat fields.



By Art Huber

I first heard of Frances Moore Lappe when I began a paper on agricultural development policy in Third World Countries. At that time, my awareness of the importance of food was limited - importance meaning the problem of feeding every living, breathing soul on our planet. The reality of famine in Bangladesh, Biafra, the Sahel and India had confronted me but I hadn't quite understood the issue of global hunger and poverty. In her book, "Diet for a Small Planet," Lappe brought forth the concern for adequate nutrition for all human beings and blended that discussion with an examination of the political and economic decisions dictated by major growers and manufacturers, and by government policy. As I progressed through her book and her theories, it became apparent that "the invisible hand" was not guiding the poor to a better world. Instead, food production had become a tool of power used by multi-nations and repressive governments to maintain the intolerable living standards of their people for the sake of satisfying the super market needs of developed countries.

However, with public pressure, research will proceed to develop further data to allow better risk assessment of exposure of wildlife to endrin.

To explore these questions of how policy decisions that concern toxic chemical impacts on wildlife are based on both environmental science data and environmental affairs data, is to me, at the heart of environmental studies. I have yet to have one of my students remark about wildlife, "So what?" In my opinion, this reflects well on what we are trying to accomplish. \*

Ron Kendall is on the faculty at Hurley College.



## Francis Moore Lappe

Though I had discovered Lappe in a library, she became real to me when she spoke recently in the Sehome High School cafeteria. She spoke of her research into the root causes of world poverty - how she began "following her nose." Following her graduation from college in 1966, Lappe worked with welfare recipients in a Philadelphia ghetto. She described this time as one of desperation - her first confrontation with the "brute cause of human suffering - poverty." In 1969, she took to the basement of the University of California's Agriculture Library in hopes of piecing together a pattern that would explain the reasons for so much suffering. In this search, she decided to focus on food and to try to dispel the myths we have come to accept - myths that place viability of the market before basic human needs.

In her speech Lappe stressed the importance of developing flexibility in solving the food problem. She also spoke of how necessary it is to become involved in a grass roots movement for a new production and marketing strategy for food. "Market does not respond to need, only money," said Lappe, "It's time to change the ground rules." \*



## Encounters with the Archdruid, by John McPhee

By Janet S. Senior

Who is David Brower? What kind of man becomes one of America's most militant defenders of the environment? In Encounters with The Archdruid, John McPhee describes the man called David Brower - a man who has held forth the torch of the conservation movement - a man who has led the Sierra Club to momentous successes and serious internal controversy.

McPhee's book is not a traditional biography, a catalogue of vital statistics and chronological accomplishments. Instead, the story of David Brower is told in the terms of his political cause and his relationship with three men who rival that cause. The personality of Brower comes alive in the course of three separate narratives: as he climbs the steep trails of the North Cascades with Charles Park, a mineral engineer; as he roams the quiet beaches of a southeastern barrier island with Charles Fraser, a resort developer; and as he rides a rubber raft down the Colorado River with Floyd Dominy, a builder of "Gigantic" dams. Brower looks out at the American wilderness with each of these men - yet in the same mountains, the same island, the same river canyons - he sees a different vision.

"We need to lumber. We need to mine," says Park, about a copper mine in the midst of the Glacier Peak wilderness. "A mine would not hurt this country - not with proper housekeeping."

"I've got to restore dune grass vegetation here" says Fraser. "I've got to put the lake back to its original size, so I can build houses around it."

"The unregulated Colorado was a son of a bitch. It wasn't any good," says Dominy. "It was either in flood or in trickle. Lake Powell (is the) jewel of the Colorado."

Brower is strangely unmilitant and unabrasive with these men. He does argue with them but the arguments are spiritual not emotional - about questions of value and judgement. By confronting Brower with his rivals and then with him on a personal, human level, McPhee gives us a view inside Brower, the man - the subtleties of his perception, the outlines of the vision that makes him militant, the need he feels to defend wilderness and wildness.

"There's another view, and I have it," says Brower, and I suppose I'll die with it. Lake Powell is a drag strip for power boats. It's for people who won't do things except the easy way. The magic of Glen Canyon is dead. It has been vulgarized."

David Brower is a mountain climber and a wilderness lover. Some call him "the flaming firebrand" or "an emotional, unreasonable preservationist."

David Brower - the archdruid \*

## Polluted Oysters

By Bruce Chunn

Not too very long ago, Gig Harbor, Washington was a quiet little fishing village on southern Puget Sound. Most of the residents were from slavish families and had lived there for generations. That was a time when everyone knew everyone else and the smallness of the community was peaceful. Over the last few years, this sleepy town was taken by storm by land developers, real estate agents, new businesses, and many new residents. The result has been a tremendous expansion in housing, businesses, jobs, schools, and the population. Fortunately Gig Harbor's officials saw far enough into the future to realize the need for a municipal sewage system. The system was installed and is operating at full capacity now, but the influx of people into the area continues.

Unfortunately, the outlying area around Gig Harbor has experienced the same steady stream of human migration, but no action has been taken toward any sewage treatment system. In the past, the area surrounding Gig Harbor was so sparsely populated that the concept of a municipal sewage system was

not practical for economic reasons, nor was it necessary due to the minimal amount of waste generated. The residents simply installed drainfields, most of which worked properly, and the sewage generated was simply not a problem. The coming of the population boom has changed this situation.

In August 1981, the Department of Social and Health Services found that two local oyster cultivating farms had fecal coliform contamination in the tissues of their oysters, which exceeded the state standard by as much as 700 times. This resulted in the closure of both oyster companies.

Since then, the Department of Social and Health Services and the Department of Ecology have done water quality analyses and have identified the sources of contamination to be inadequate sewage disposal. Currently, there is much disagreement among the residents, the businesses, and the state as to who should take responsibility for the correction of this sewage problem.

I would like to be able to say that this problem is unique to the greater Gig Harbor area, but it is not. This is just another example of the spread of suburbia into the rural areas, a phenomenon that is going on throughout the country. This particular case involves very desirable waterfront property and the all too commonly forgotten problem of waste disposal planning. The dilemma is simple to outline: (1) construction takes place without consideration of large scale sewage treatment facilities, (2) large numbers of people create large amounts of waste, (3) this waste is harmful to the environment when concentrated in relatively small areas, (4) the need for adequate sewage treatment becomes necessary, (5) nobody wants to pay for an expensive treatment facility, (6) the environment is turned into a cesspool, (7) the residents then start pointing fingers at each other.

Although this has been the way sewage disposal problems have been dealt with in the past, we have hope for better planning in the future. With the recent rise in environmental consciousness, more communities will begin to take appropriate actions to solve such problems before they happen. We, as thinking human beings, must take responsibility for ourselves and attempt to live with our environment, not against it. \*

## Appearance of Fairness

by Janet S. Senior  
and Kathy Bennett

Substitute House Bill 1011, passed in February by the State legislature, makes a significant change in the application of the appearance of fairness doctrine in local land-use decisions. The appearance of fairness doctrine is a legal precedent used to disqualify local officials from making land-use decisions if they have an apparent bias or conflict of interest. The doctrine presumably was intended as a tool for maintaining honesty and relative objectivity in government and for preventing the influence of an interest that is not directly financial. As stated in the law, the decision-making bodies it applies to are planning commissions, hearing examiners, zoning adjusters and boards of adjustment, as well as legislative bodies.

This new statute, most importantly, makes a distinction in the application of the doctrine for quasi-legislative versus quasi-

judicial matters. The statute no longer allows the application of the appearance of fairness doctrine in matters of quasi-legislative nature, meaning actions such as the adoption, amendment or revision of comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances or other land-use documents. Thus the doctrine has been limited to quasi-judicial actions, which involve disputes of fact in administrative matters. Originally, the doctrine was applied to both types of decisions. The statute does preserve rules concerning business transactions with constituents, campaign contributions and the submission to the public record of communications in regard to hearings and case proceedings. But by more clearly defining, and indeed limiting, the allowable claims of violation, the law has significantly limited the public's right to question the objectivity of a decision-maker.

According to a legislative intern in Olympia this session, the bill was actively supported by the real estate lobby, a profession well represented on boards and commissions that deal with land use controversies. Though their concern for efficiency in decision making can be understood, the question remains as to whether or not this is a protectionary measure for a single interest group - one

that will limit public access.

The need for objectivity and "expertness" in government officials is a difficult issue to balance. "It's a myth that boards should be objective; nobody is," says Ruth Weiner, a professor at Huxley College. Dr. Weiner has served on a number of boards and commissions similar to those mentioned in the law. She says these decision-makers have an inherent subjective interest, ideological or otherwise, in the issues they deal with; if they didn't, why would they be interested in serving?

Only the future will tell how this new law will affect land-use decision making. Let us hope that it does not trade too much fairness for too much efficiency. ✽



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## E.C. LIBRARY

Springtime means flowers, buds on trees, new grass. It also means that a new shipment of books, purchased through the Hames Fund, has arrived in the Environmental Resource Library, in E.S. 518. The Hames Fund was established in 1978 by the parents of Thomas Hames, a Huxley student who was killed in a Kayaking accident. This year nearly 50 books were purchased. Subjects like Toxicology, Energy Economics, Family Planning, Alternative Technologies, and Nuclear Energy are covered. All these books are now on display in the new book section of the library. Peel free to come up and browse, look through problem series, magazines, and books, study or just relax in a bean bag chair. Also, the Environmental Resource Library is now open weeknights (except Fridays) from 6 to 11 P.M., if you need a quiet place to study. ✽

Congratulations and best wishes are in order for Dave McFadden and Valerie Smith, the new E.C. Coordinator and Program Director. We also want to thank all the students who have helped with the Monthly Planet, the Spring Symposium, the E.C. Library and the administrative restructuring of the Environmental Center. We owe our success this year to all these people. Thanks again and please offer your support and energies to Dave and Valerie next year.

Adios,  
Gary and Chris

# The Last Oil Well

by Michael Willis

A dust cloud rises from the surface of a remote island and rushes along the horizon. No sounds are heard except for the wind and nothing disturbs the extreme flatness of the landscape. As the eye scans the dusty plain, a solitary vertical image appears in the distance. From a closer view, the outline sharpens and a great walled city appears. It seems impossible that a region as desolate as this could harbor a city. For what reason would such a city exist? Perhaps a view from within its massive walls will reveal the answer.

Inside the fortress-like walls a ceremony is taking shape. A varied group of colorfully dressed people is moving toward the city's central square. The air crackles with a certain excitement and bells are ringing. A magnificent palace stands watch over the square. In front of the palace is a tall and brilliantly shiny structure - a 200 foot high oil derrick presides as the holy monument of Petrol City. Every morning, the monument is the focus of attention as the people gather there to worship.

The mass of worshipers moves in a steady flow toward the monument. We listen as a man and his daughter begin talking amidst the crowd.

"Father, will you tell me something of the old country?" asks the young child.

"I will tell you all I know, Lubra, which is very little," replied the man.

"You see, your grandparents were only children when they arrived on the Isle of Oil with their families. They came from Texas, which was one of the United States of America. In fact, all of the ancestors of the people of Petrol City were from Texas. When your grandparents arrived, the city was hardly a village and all of the people were still working on the construction of the holy monument."

The man stopped speaking for a moment as he and his daughter rounded a corner and walked into the square, the steel monolith was in full view. The giant tower glistened in the sun as the crowds of people poured forth to witness the ceremony.

The conversation continues as the father and daughter walk into the square.

"But why did our ancestors leave the old country? Wasn't life good there?" asked young Lubra.

"I can't answer your question in detail Lubra, for your grandparents spoke very little of their past lives in America. Only in overhearing conversations among the elder people of the city did I manage to get an idea of what it had been like. It seems that America's oil supplies had begun to run dry in the 1970's. The society, which had grown accustomed to a plentiful supply of oil, had to look to foreign sources for a new supply. At the turn of the century, there was much turmoil in the world over the lack of oil, and every nation was fighting for the remaining supplies. This panic only hastened the depletion of the world reserves of oil. The wheels of the industrialized nations slowly rolled to a stop as the last fossil fuels were used up. The elders, who were alive when I was your age, had seen America transform from a highly mobile and oil-consumptive society back to an almost tribal existence in the span of fifty years."

The noises of the crowd muffled the man's words but Lubra was still listening as he continued the story.

"During the time of crisis a group of Texas oilmen organized by your great-great-grandfather bought this island. At that time the Isle of Oil was not a known oil reserve. Because of its obscure location in the Indian Ocean, the island remained unnoticed throughout the time of energy struggle. These oilmen had the foresight to stockpile all of the energy supplies and equipment that they could smuggle from America. They had hoped to find oil here and indeed they did. As the last barrels of oil were draining dry, your ancestors loaded their ships and sailed to our island. Here they began to build Petrol City."

"But why do we worship the petroleum god, one who has been the cause of so much suffering in the world?" asked Lubra.

"We follow the tradition of our ancestors, my child, who worshipped the god of gasoline. I do not know if the people of the old country held ceremonies such as ours, but I do know that they burned their oil in motorcars, tiny moving temples of worship owned by each and every one. Everyday the

people of America would pay tribute at gas stations all over the country. This enabled them to practice their religion on the freeways and on the streets of the cities."

By now the father and child had reached a good vantage point in the square. They stopped to view the ceremony as it began to unfold.

The petroleum priest emerged from the door of the palace. He was wearing a robe of blue metallic and a shiny, chrome helmet. He raised his arms to greet the morning worshippers. The crowd was silent. On the priest's signal, a disciple wearing silver hard hat and work boots began to climb up the giant oil rig. As he reached his station, four others climbed to the platform and manned the controls. Another signal from the priest and the massive engines of the oil rig began to fire. The production process was underway. The people of Petrol City roared with praise.

A large tub in the center of the square began to fill with the thick black fluid, the life blood of Petrol City.

The priest slowly descended the stairs of the palace and walked majestically toward the tub. He climbed a ladder and stood on a diving board above the tub. As he stood on the board, he raised his arms in worship toward the holy monument and the silent faces below. The pumping engines suddenly stopped. The priest let his robe drop and flung his naked body into the tub of oil. The shouts and cheers of the people echoed from the surrounding walls. The worshippers then began to form many long lines up to the tub of oil.

As Lubra waited in line with her father for their daily ration of oil, she began to wonder what life would be like without petroleum. How would one live without oil to heat the house or fuel the lamps? Though she knew allocations had been carefully planned to last well into the future, she also knew one day Petrol City would someday run out of oil just as it had happened in America. \*



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