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The Monthly Planet

VOL. 9 NO. 4

"by people who have a little to say"

MAY 21, 1980

The MX

CHARLOTTE SORLIEN

The MX missile is part of a major new leap in the arms race. Until the latest series of weapons systems - the cruise missile, the Trident submarine, and anti-submarine warfare systems, the nuclear weapons policy was one of deterrence through Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

The U.S. presently has 30,000 tactical nuclear weapons and 9,200 strategic nuclear weapons, enough to destroy every major Soviet city 35 times (according to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists).

Now we are seeking the capability to launch a first strike on the Soviet Union: "flexible response" or "counterforce." In January, Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense,

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Conference / Care Fest

PEGGY REINSCH

"It won't be as extensive as the Energy Conference," Jenny assured us. And so I volunteered to help with the

Environmental Center's Spring Conference, "Global Problems and Human Values: The Future of Humanity and the Planet," and Carefest, too. I didn't have a lot of time to put in, but I said I'd do what I could

Before I knew it, the very minor role I had envisioned for myself snowballed into being surrounded by schedules, posters, bookmarks and deadlines. The more time I spend with planning the week of events, however, the more enthusiastic I get. At least that's the way I feel sometimes.

Dr. Willis Harman, whom I've heard so much about, will be

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Liz Gray

MP Interview: Baking Bread with G.P.

Jeff Porteous

I interviewed Orman D. Darby the other day doing my Clark Kent bit for the Planet. Orman is Georgia Pacific's public relations manager. I was curious to see what GP had to say for itself: curious

because I've lived in Bellingham for nearly a year and still haven't gotten over the smell. But also curious because my father is building a pulp mill on the other side of the state

When I walked into GP I expected to meet a Chamber-of-Commerce glad-hander in a

three piece suit. Darby is none of that. He'd look alot like Jack Nicklaus if Nicklaus was 5' 4", spoke with a Texas accent and had hands and feet the size of the midget's on Fantasy Island.

He began: "In the area of environment... we talk only about the positive side, because if you look back to where we came from...what you look back on is a Pittsburgh-like view of Bellingham with the entire waterfront all the way from the concrete plant to Post Point Park being solid smoke stacks belching black smoke."

The man did his best to be positive. By the time I turned the tape over Orman was beginning to run low, and things were beginning to get a little more interesting. In regards to GP's recurring pollution of the air:

"Air pollution has largely been brought into compliance with government regulations in the last couple of years. Trying to remove that last bit, with current technology, will require as much money as the first 97%, so that's not a very appetizing improvement, particularly since we're within the current guidelines and are showing good faith efforts to find new technologies to get the remainder."

"We have fermentation going on in the alcohol plant, sulphur compounds for cooking the chips, and we create sulphur when we burn fuel in our steam plant. If we have an "upset" we call the Northwest Air Pollution Control Authority.... They then penalize us according to their regulations. We've been fined many thousands of dollars many times in the past few years..."

My first thought was how many times and how many thousands of dollars would you



② "Where have all the fishes gone?"

James Click

next page, please

BAKING BREAD WITH GP.....

have to nick GP before they'd even notice. My second thought was about the cozyness of the relationship GP has with the N.A.P.C.A.

But Orman pressed on: "The tuna fish odor, the so-called tuna fish odor, doesn't smell like tuna fish to me but about twice a year. The rest of the time it smells like baking bread... There are no known health hazards related to these odors, although I suppose you could smell something for so long you could go out of your mind....

"I'm really convinced that people who did not grow up here are far more sensitive to 'why does it have to smell like that?' I was transferred here six and a half years ago and I've never been bothered by it to any great extent."

Speaking about GP's efforts to clean up their air pollution act Darby ended the interview with this:

"There are capital limitations. If you build a black box to clean up air pollution and do so to the detriment of your ability to spend money on research and internal process improvements over a period of time you may have succeeded finally in throwing your whole wad in on the wrong bet. Even if the corporate directors would allow them to do it, it would have to be based on very sound decision making and so far they haven't come to those conclusions."

The man was nervous when I turned on my tape recorder and nervous even after I turned it off. I was puzzled. Why doesn't GP have a high powered flack to front for them in the community? My guess is they pay Darby in part to endure getting his balls buried by citizenry, which is a shame. Orman's not a bad guy. But that doesn't do anything about the stink in the air, does it?

So there you have it, GP's company presentation. As far as smelling like baking bread? Maybe Darby thinks it does.

As far as the old man's pulp mill goes, he tells me it's environmentally clean, the latest in Japanese technology, etc. The sulphur process that GP uses will be replaced in his mill by an oxygen process that does away with the stink. The water discharges will be drinkable. He even told me about a tank full of carp swimming around in the discharge created by a Japanese mill using the new process. The carp are supposed to be fat and sassy. But I wonder after listening to Mr. Darby. If there were only some way I could talk to those carp!

MP

THE MX.....

urged that U.S. missiles and bombers be programmed to hit "a range of military, industrial, and political targets." We are increasing missile explosive force and accuracy to target Soviet cities and missile silos.

One of the dangers of a U.S. "counterforce" posture is that the Soviet Union will follow suit and create a "hair trigger" situation with missiles placed on "launch on warning" to evade a first strike. This wouldn't allow time to discover mistakes like the computer error of last November 9: a training tape was loaded into the North American Air Defense Computer and for six minutes the system assumed the U.S. was under attack. We almost started a nuclear war.

The proposed MX weapon system includes 200 loop-shaped roadways surrounded by 23 missile shelters apiece: 4,600 shelters to harbor 200 MX missiles. Ten thousand miles of roads would be built--about one-fourth the length of the Interstate Highway system. The land required is roughly four times the size of Connecticut. Most is either grazing land or wilderness, or reservation in Utah and Nevada. The



Shoshone Indians stand to lose 22,000,000 acres in Nevada.

Each missile would carry ten warheads and theoretically be able to drop them within 300 feet of a target halfway across the globe. The warheads would be 350 kilotons apiece (350,000 tons of TNT), 28 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb.

The environmental effects of the MX are significant - whether or not it should ever be used! According to the Environmental Impact Statement on the MX, the project would raise large quantities of dust into the air, disturb local vegetation and wildlife, threaten as many as a dozen endangered species, destroy archaeological sites, and reduce the scenic and recreational value of the land.

Estimates for the amount of water needed now stand at around 112 billion gallons for the duration of the project. This could seriously lower the water table in the arid region.

The MX will create tremendous social impact by bringing 125,000 new residents into an area that now has a population of fewer than 60,000. "It would literally destroy our

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THE MX.....

way of life," says Mayor Jack Sawyer of Cedar City, Utah.

The official price tag is \$33,000,000,000. Some estimate the MX will cost \$100,000,000,000 with inflation and cost overruns before completion in 1989. These funds might otherwise be available for alternative energy production and other environmental projects.

Underlying the fear, apathy and disillusionment that create these weapons, I think we have the will to use our technological skill and global influence to preserve peace and life.

I've seen glimmers of this will in some of the most unlikely places. I've seen flashes of indescribable beauty working its way to the surface to be expressed. This is what spurs me as an activist. Megadeath weapons like the MX hold us back. When we persist in this direction we throw a shadow on life.

Major increases in Department of Defense appropriations bills will be debated this summer. Votes will likely take place on MX funding levels. Letters from you are crucial now, before the military mentality and bureaucratic inertia propel the weapon's construction. Send a short letter to:

Senator Henry Jackson
137 Russell SOB
Washington, DC. 20510

Senator Warren Magnuson
127 Russell SOB
Washington, DC. 20510

Congressman Al Swift
1511 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC. 20510

For legislative updates write Steve Wheeler, Friends of the Earth, 530 7th Street SE, Washington, DC. 20003.

MP



EXPO '80

JIM MILLSON

Good energy, music, and food surrounded the first Whatcom County Good Earth Exposition, April 25-27. Self sufficiency was the theme of the Expo, and a wide array of earthy items was presented to the "home grown" crowd. Local groups and organizations also had a good opportunity to reach the community in a personal way.

To some people it may have been a small scale repeat of the somewhat bizarre Seattle Environmental Faire, but to most it was an awakening to the appropriate decentralized technologies that are available today. As one visitor put it, "it was like walking into a living Whole Earth Catalog."

Even though the common cause was somewhat tinted by commercialism, the Good Earth Expo turned into a small scale success. Hopefully the information disseminated will not be quickly forgotten.

MP

MP Poll

Mark Canright

The Monthly Planet interviewed ten Fairhaven dormitory residents to find if the natural environment bordering two sides of the Fairhaven dorms is important to them.

Sehome Hill, a one hundred acre wooded park, borders the east side of Fairhaven dorms, and the Fairhaven College Outback Farm borders the south side of the dorms.

Six of the ten residents interviewed said they hike or jog on the hill sometimes and think the hill is an asset. Resident Shaun McCluken said the hill is a good place to walk and think.

The other four residents interviewed said they don't notice the hill much.

Resident Greg Gunderson said "I usually go to Mt. Baker or the San Juan Islands for outdoor recreation."

Six of the residents interviewed said they don't notice the Outback Farm much since they rarely go by it.

Resident Patty Thomas said, "I don't know what Outback is. They seem to have some strange ideas, but they don't bother me. I don't know if I bother them." The other four residents said they enjoyed having the Outback Farm close by. Resident Polly Dormaier said, "I like the farm animals. I like to talk to the goats."

Fairhaven's natural surroundings do seem to make life more pleasant for some Fairhaven students. Any Western dorm residents who find their present dorm environment too urban might consider moving to the Fairhaven dorms for a more natural environment.

MP

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The Environmental Center

Spanish Recycling

KEITH ANDERSON

Valor is a community of 200 people clinging to the southern side of the Sierra Nevada in Andalucia. Mules outnumber cars about 20:1. Little has changed since the Moors were driven out 500 years ago. We were the first outsiders to stay more than a few days. It was a good opportunity to observe how people from a completely different background regard their environment.

As with everything else in this topsy-turvy land, Spaniards practice a curious mix of positive and negative environmental habits. Recycling is enforced by necessity, as in any land where scarcity, not ecologists, dictate economy of usage. Wine bottles are saved and refilled weekly in the middle of town from a tanker truck with a fire hose sized dispenser. Shoes and clothes go from one generation to the next. Autos are always full which makes hitchhiking a challenge.

Little energy is wasted on such extravagances as TV's, dishwashers, etc., obviously. None is wasted on space heating. Nobody needs Jimmy Carter to tell them to put on an extra sweater. Every kitchen table has a brazier built in underneath. The family sits around all evening and speaks Spanish (they're pretty good at it), their tootsies warmed by the charcoal Paco's Forest Service crew makes in the mountains.

Tractors are unknown. Mule power does everything from tilling the fields to playing moving van to carrying their own manure back to the fields from which it originated. Building materials are indigenous, as is the food they eat: eggs,

flour, fruits, pork, chicken, olives and wine. Hunting provides some protein too, though more sport, judging from the size of the birds they bring back!

Now the negative side. Despite having lived with the land for centuries, the Spaniards I've observed and talked to seem to have a disdain for it. It's disturbing to see Valor's garbage dumped straight into Rio Valor to add substance to Ugijar's drinking water downstream. Spain is known as the land of the individualist. This tendency manifests itself environmentally as well as socially and politically. Their concern for others' environment ends at the tip of their nose. Smoking is rampant, making breathing difficult in public places and recycling of smoke "mandatory."

With litter the rule is "out of sight, out of mind." Unfortunately it doesn't stay out of sight, even in remote landscapes. And the explosion of political posters and graffiti, besides making interesting reading and being a healthy sign of ascendent democracy, creates some god-awful visual pollution. Muffler laws are non-existent, so noise pollution nearly annuls the aesthetic advantages of the old cities.

There are signs of change. There was a demonstration for "ecology" in Barcelona attended by 30,000 people a few days before we were there. Ecology is in the editorials and political speeches. In a land that's catching up with the 20th century at a lightning pace, this new awareness can come none too soon.

MP



It is now **ebony drape**
that I pray
the serene warmth of day
will lose its stubborn fight
and submit
to the shadowy grandeur of
night.

And who may know
what splendid chemistry
contrives this treat,
a gift my patient eyes await
of swelling beauty so complete.

When day evolves into night
and the glowing red sun
seems but inches few
from the bay's blue horizon

And paints the soft bellies
of the sky's clouded bedding
brilliant shades of luminous
reddening,
for miles and miles
a suspended scene,
soothing and serene...

No less, a placid dream
'till the fiery ball
puts out its light
downforth in its stall.

Slowly dies the spectacle of
sight
finally smothered in ebony
drape
from which the day finds no
escape.

- Jeffrey Barnes Kelly -

Holists and ANALYSTS Unite! - editorial



I would think that since environmentalists talk so much about "interdependence," it would characterize their interrelationships. Surprisingly, there seems to be as little constructive communication in the Environmental Studies Center as anywhere else on campus.

"Holists" tend to downgrade dealing with nitty-gritty problems, claiming they can often be eliminated by altering values systems, for example. "Analysts" tend to minimize philosophizing about problems, emphasizing that broad-ranging problems are solved by getting your hands dirty, then going to the computer to gain the real picture. (I know that no one may admit to fitting these types, but I shall continue.)

Group problem-solving processes should combine holism and analysis to generate the best solutions. A lack of familiarity with group process on the part of many faculty and students shows up in the present faculty selection process at Huxley College.

Although the dean, Dick Mayer, helped lay some common foundation for the final decision by saying that it is most important that Huxley seek "excellence," the two most likely candidates offer two kinds of excellence. One

is an excellent limnologist (lake expert); the other is an excellent teacher. But how are students and faculty to choose between them?

I talked to Dick a few days ago about "excellence." Did he primarily mean "expertise" or "excellence in teaching undergraduates" or something else? Clarification gave us a firmer basis for further discussion.

But if group problem solving skills were more generally abundant, then this selection process would have involved much more discussion and clarification of Huxley's needs, and the criteria for judging how these needs might be met by a candidate. Later today, the decision will be made with the foundation not well laid. Good luck to Huxley!

A couple of weeks ago, I facilitated a discussion among a diverse group of students during the "May Day Symposium on Education for Transformation." We uncovered a common desire to "improve the quality of survival"--a good subject to discuss endlessly.

By following a problem-solving approach we clarified our discussion to "ways to get students involved with Outback," a pitifully narrow and irrelevant version of the former

desire for anyone infatuated with aimless discussion. A good group problem-solving process deals with too much discussion as well as too little discussion.

We used some advice from The Universal Traveler, a soft-systems guide to creativity and the problem-solving process.

The co-authors (one of whom may visit Fairhaven College this fall) use diversity of view to clarify complex problems and workable improvements. A "well-seasoned traveller" understands how to be a part of a progressive interplay between the broad view of the holist and the in-depth view of the analyst.

A group problem-solving seminar could really develop some muscle if its students have to learn to skillfully swing scythes of analysis, clarification and brainstorming and sickles of decision-making and implementation, through thickets of conflict.

Some flesh will be pricked as members gain skill (and fearlessness) penetrating difficult problems. But that illusive reality of "community" is experienced most when clearing the prickly path.

Brian Blip ⑥

Letters to the Ed.

Dear Monthly Planet:

Your last issue was thought provoking, although only by chance did I happen to see it. Why not give some thought to a better distribution system? I assume it is not written exclusively for the Huxley "granola eaters" and "greenies."

The confused article by Janet Blair demonstrates part of the problem with the Serra sculpture. Apparently no one, including the curator of the VU gallery, bothers to study aesthetics any more. Matters of taste and quality are up for grabs; whatever one "feels" determines the merit of creativity. When our feelings confuse us, we talk about cost by measuring art in dollars.

Ms. Blair's article offers no solid criteria for testing the merit of the iron triangle. The clichés, when they are not just her own feelings, are superficial and give us little basis for artistic judgement. (1) "It is direct and unavoidable due to its size and massive form." The same may be said for the Bellingham cement plant, Red Square turned into a garbage dump, or a Sherman tank placed in the VU gallery.

(2) "Don't judge a book by its cover." Thank you, Ms. Blair, for a terrific insight.

(3) "...requires its audience to seek their own personal solutions." i.e., art as subjectivism and individual taste thus the graffiti.

(4) it "raises basic questions" but she provides no discussion of those "basic questions."

(5) "It's never too late to have additional insights." Yes it is. Some acts are irreparable, and Serra may be one. In any event, it's now too late for the WWU Art Council.

(6) "Keep looking and trying, wait to make a value judgment"

--about the Sherman tank in the VU.

(7) "Not all revelations come in a flash." But some never come.

(8) "an internationally respected artist," which proves...

(9) "Contemporary art may be seen as the present realization of art's development." As an historian, I really can't knock that idea, can I? Except the same may be said of every modern thing everywhere, as when I explain the invasion of Afghanistan as "the present realization of Russia's development" or the hostages as "the present realization of Iran's development" or a MacDonald hamburger as "the present realization of America's development."

Campuses ought to be places for honoring clear thought, not clichés and personal feelings. Therefore it is reassuring to find some courage, and objective thinking in the steam plant if not in the art gallery. I'd like to see the Planet article about Richard Severson reprinted in the Front or FAST.

Anyone who has tried to reform the basic (as against frilly) environmental practices at Western will appreciate Severson's dilemma. We "save" electricity by blacking out the Christmas tree and halting elevators for a few days but then plan to install an \$800,000 air conditioning system for a region where summer temperatures seldom exceed 80° more than ten days a year. Of course what Mr. Severson fails to realize is that we never act on any problem until it becomes a crisis, whether it's our Lake Whatcom drinking water, toxic and nuclear (1984) wastes, or heating systems. After all, Mr. Severson, "not all revelation comes in a flash," "it's never too late," we should "seek our own sol-

utions," and things have beauty if they are "direct and unavoidable" due to massiveness. Our steam engineer needs a few lessons from Ms. Blair on how to make judgments, that's all.

Bob Keller
Fairhaven College



The new logo of The Environmental Center, by Gay Roselle

Dear Editor,

I still find the same frustrating vagueness connecting students with teachers as I found when I first came to college. We have to compensate for it with simple, one-on-one human communication.

Students must talk to their teachers in their offices if something about the class bothers them. Listen to the pros and cons and maybe you'll get a better idea of why the course is being taught that way. The teacher should bring it up in class if it's worth it. The class's opinion will be an evaluation process and a way to update the course material. This is a way to positively motivate teachers without the pressure of committee reviews and a way to reach the teachers who don't have to think about being rehired.

Liz Cleary

7

GLOBAL PROBLEMS AND HUMAN VALUES CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
May 19-23 (Monday-Friday) in the VU Lounge

Wednesday

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CURRENT STATUS OF WORLD RESOURCES: 3 presentations, 2 films, 2 panel discussions

Thursday

8:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. GLOBAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: 4 panel discussions, 2 films, 1 presentation
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Current Human Rights Situation: presentation by Gerrit van der Wees of Amnesty International, and 1 film
8:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. "Changing Ourselves to Fit in with Global Realities," Dr. David Clarke, WWU

Friday

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. GLOBAL LAND USE DILEMMAS: 2 panel discussions, 2 films, 1 slide show
1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. "Living the New World View," Dr. Gary Bornzin, a physicist, futurist
2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. IMAGINING THE FUTURE, SHARING VISIONS: Conference wrapup, informal discussions led by conference participants

Corrections

We wish to apologize for the following errors in the March Planet: Our "Engineer" article gave Mr. Richard Severson's name as Richard Svenson. Also, our burnable waste could generate enough steam (not electricity) to heat most of the college. Heating (not "electrical") costs would be cut considerably (not "in half").... Further, the Administration is not planning to spend a second \$800,000 on air conditioning as could have been interpreted by ambiguous wording.

The Monthly Planet has its own two-credit seminar next year! It is sponsored by Huxley College, and all students interested in environmental journalism should register for at least one term!

CREDITS

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FOURTH ANNUAL CARE~FEST

SATURDAY, MAY 24
2-10 PM

CIVIC FIELD, BELLINGHAM

FEATURING: *Free!*

MARILYN FERGUSON AT 3 PM

Editor of Brain/Mind Bulletin and author of Aquarian Conspiracy: Personal and Social Transformations in the 1980's.

Free! PLUS:
LOCAL MUSICIANS,
ENTERTAINERS, BOOTHS,
SPEAKERS, ORGANIZATIONS

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Steamheat Dreamsuite
Nolet Brothers Doug King
John Hogan Jazz EcoMan
Barbershop Quartet
George Poor

SEE YOU THERE!

Free Shuttle service to Civic Field:
Pay 'n Save---WWU---Civic Field
For schedule or more information call
the Environmental Center; 676-3974.



CONFERENCE/CAREFEST.....

here the first evening of the Conference, May 19. His talk on transformations promises to be a great start for the week of panels, speakers, films and discussions.

Carefest is now an established annual event. This year we've decided to hold this concert/symposium off campus at Civic Field to be consistent with our theme of community involvement. It will be held after the Conference, on Saturday May 24, from 2:00 - 10:00, with Marilyn Ferguson (author of Aquarian Conspiracy) speaking at 3:00.

Scheduling entertainment and speakers has not been easy. We're counting on good turnouts to help us feel our efforts are not in vain! (I apologize for not getting the Planet printed before the start of the conference--Ed.)

MP

The Monthly Planet is responsible for fostering environmental awareness across campus. It is not responsible for individual views expressed in it.