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Monthly



Planet

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Governor's Timber Sale Endangers Spotted Owl

by Claire Cdebaca

In September Gov. Booth Gardner, heir of the Weyerhaeuser fortune, with the approval of President Reagan, tentatively agreed to a multibillion dollar old growth timber sale to Japan. Japan is purchasing raw materials from around the world to protect its national security against the time its silicon yen is worth less and non-renewable resources are worth much more.

Japan has tentatively purchased the majority of the salable old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest's National

Forests. Reagan collects export revenues from the sale, and Gardner probably will increase his family's fortune, as well as collect 25% of the federal revenues from the sale.

As a consequence of this agreement, Japan's major port of entry will be changed from California ports to the Puget Sound. No additional jobs will be created for loggers, as Japan doesn't purchase milled wood.

Standing in the way of all these billions of yen and dollars are the remaining populations of the state-designated threatened species, the N. Spotted Owl.

These owls have been used for the last decade as indicators of the health of the ecosystem in which they live. Spotted Owls depend on a dense canopy cover for protection from predation. The more fragmented the forest becomes due to logging practices, the easier it is for the owls to be captured by predators.

Old growth coniferous forests (Spruce, Cedar, Hemlock and Douglas Fir) are required for nest sites. Nests are built in broken tops or platform areas of living trees. Snags and decomposing deadfall are necessary to support prey species, flying squirrels and woodrats.

Spotted Owls have a .55 birth rate and rarely breed before three years old. Their lifespan is about 15 years. They have a juvenile dispersal mortality rate of 85% at present. As they are long-lived birds, lagtime effects of this mortality rate will have a crucial impact on their population diversity.

The USDA Forest Service's EIS draft on Spotted Owl management guidelines covers the next 15 years. The majority of this draft has either been misused or neglected. The major concern of the draft is how little old growth can be given the owls and still insure the ability to sell 40,000 + acres of old growth for the next

15 years. This represents roughly one square mile of forest logged per week. Jobs lost were cited as the major criteria in selecting an appropriate management plan.

Several alternative management policies are "examined" in the draft. They range from no action beyond the present policy of a 300 acre allocation per pair of owls to alternative L which allocates the observed average acreage of 4200 acres per pair.

The Forest Service prefers alternative F, which increases the acreage per pair up

to 2200 acres but only the core 1000 acres are exempt from logging. All the acreage in Alt. L are exempt from logging. If Alt. F is enacted, the Spotted Owl problem will be settled for all time.

There will be no problem in 15 years. The EIS drafters plan to manage 1248 pairs of birds throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 15 years under Alt. F only 927 pairs will remain. In 100 years only 58 pairs are predicted to still exist. This is considered a viable population.

Alt. L attempts to insure that the 1248 pairs of owls today will at least be replaced by 1248 pairs in 15 years.

"Standing in the way of all these billions of yen and dollars are the remaining populations of a state-designated threatened species, the N. Spotted Owl."

A letter writing campaign to the Regional Forester elicited an extremely good response from Huxley students and faculty, but the crisis is not over. The fight has only just begun. The Regional Forester will make his decision soon. Letters to state and federal legislators are needed to urge environmentally responsible action.

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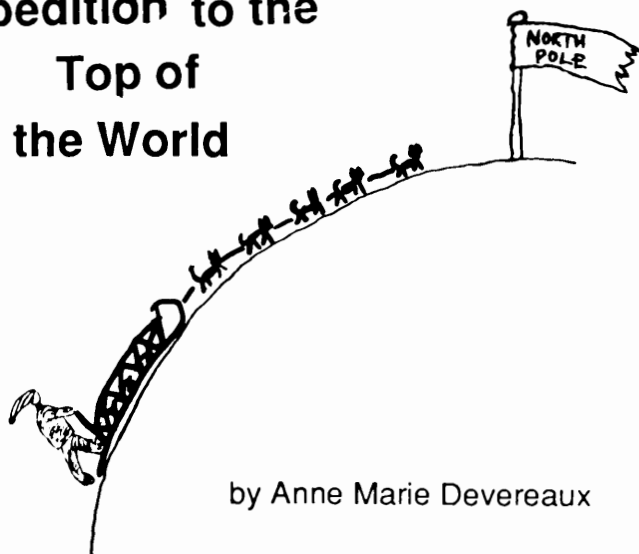
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A special thanks to all our contributors this quarter, to the Environmental Center for their support, and to the staff of the Miller Hall Computer Center for their help.

The Monthly Planet is published bi-quarterly by the Associated Students Environmental Center of Western Washington University. We, the Monthly Planet staff, know that environmental interest and concern is not confined just to the experts and the radicals. By broadening the focus of the Planet we hope to broaden our readership and appeal to a community-wide audience. Let us know what you like or would like to see in the Planet; reader participation is invited in all aspects of the Planet.

What would you like to see in the Planet? Drop us a note in Viking Union 113 and tell us what articles, topics, ideas, format that you would like to read.

"Homegrown" Expedition to the Top of the World



by Anne Marie Devereaux

The cover of September's National Geographic features a handsome red-cheeked, blue-eyed man in a frost-covered parka and facemask. Inside is the story of an incredible struggle and the victory of the first attempt since Robert Peary in 1909 to gain the North Pole by dogsled without assistance from aircraft for re-supply or navigation.

The Geographic story, however, leaves out a most important part of the expedition: the fascinating process that took place to get this homegrown expedition off the ground.

Will Steger, the leader of the expedition, and Bob Mantell, a team member, were waiting out a fierce storm on a dogsledding journey in the Northwest Territories when the idea was conceived. Several years and tens of thousands of scraped-up dollars later, the expedition was finally underway.

Steger and co-leader Paul Schurke were the public relation masters behind it all. After landing the main sponsorship from Dupont, they took a 3,000 mile dogsled trip from Ely, Minnesota, to Point Barrow, the northernmost tip of Alaska. The final 1,000 miles was done as a trial run with five of the eventual eight team members. This run proved themselves to their sponsors, and slowly the process of gathering money, publicity, team members, and momentum began.

The expedition was based out of Schurke's home in Ely, which had phone and electricity, two of the most sophisticated items the team would use in preparation. The rest of the work was done at Steger's Homestead outside of town which could only be reached by crossing two lakes or following an obscure and lengthy trail through the woods.

They built an office and garage to handle the constant phone calls and supplies which began to filter in from various sponsors. Noodles anyone?

Thousands of pounds of egg noodles, flour, oatmeal, tea, vitamins, energy bars, and even yogurt came in to help the expedition along.

By the end of October, seven of the eight team members had left their homes and families in Alaska and various parts of Canada, and moved to the Homestead to train, build and bond. An extensive support circle had

formed over the year; some living, working and cooking with the team, others doing fundraising and publicity work elsewhere. The momentum in Minnesota was rolling. Besides Steger and Schurke, Ann Bancroft, the only woman on the team and first woman in history to make it to the North Pole on her own power, was also a Minnesotan.

Team members set up tents, built small shelters and even cleaned out an old chicken coop for quarters at the Homestead. They turned the old woodshop into a gathering and planning place, and set to work on a new shop where they could build sleds and have electric lights run by a generator for the long winter nights. This was all part of their training; to get materials into the Homestead they had to be put on a motorboat (borrowed from a nearby resort), brought across a large lake, then either carried

1 1/2 miles over bogs and through the woods, or 3/4 mile strapped to canoes, paddled down the lake and carried over the hill to the building site. Whew! A good way to build muscles and communication.

The new shop was nearly finished when the November snows came, but not quite. Fortunately the local high school donated their shop to build the sleds that would carry

the crew to the Pole. A new routine was added to the already crazy schedule. Each morning at 5:30 a.m. someone would get up, stoke the stove, put the morning oats on, walk to the lake and chop the water hole, haul water, start the coffee and wake the crew. The work day began at 7 a.m.--sleds would be loaded, dogs harnessed, and the six mile journey via logging roads and snowmobile trail, would be taken into the high school. An enjoyable morning dogsled ride? Hardly. Team members would run alongside the sled in heavy winter boots and clothes, only occasionally jumping on the sled to slow down the dogs. They would work on the sleds all day and return the same way at night with headlamps. It was a steady, hectic, stressful process, but it was the foundation for a very successful expedition.

The process was interrupted for Christmas when everyone went home to visit families - everyone except Bob Mantell, who spent Christmas Day chopping large blocks of ice out of the lake for practice with the ice tools which would later be used to break through huge pressure ridges formed by the buckling ocean ice.

After the vacation and another hectic month in Ely, the whole operation was moved to Frobisher Bay, Canada, in the Northwest Territories. The Canadian government donated a recently vacated prison for the team to use as a base. Support team members furiously sewed, packaged and prepared for take-off while the team trained on the sea ice. Mishaps occurred--Steger smashed his foot and was in a temporary cast; Mckerrow, a New Zealander who joined the team after Christmas, tripped and broke his nose; Brent Boddy hit the ice and got a concussion, but they held together. Thousands of folks were following their progress, praying for them, and sending good wishes, and as they all said on their return, it was the spirit of the people that made it happen.

So this rag-tag, grassroots, group of expeditioners hauled, pushed, and mushed their way to the North Pole without any outside help. Quite an accomplishment in this age of technology when people can pay a few thousand and fly to the Pole for a champagne lunch and be snug in their beds at home that same night. The expedition is an event to mark in human achievement.

For an exciting account of their journey on the Arctic ice (and beautiful photos too) read the September issue of National Geographic.

Book Review

Chinese Thought Reform: Brainwashing or Tool for Transformation?

by Allison Carpenter

"Prisoners of Liberation, Four Years In a Chinese Communist Prison," by Allyn and Adele Rickett. (New York: Anchor Books, 1973 ed. 344 pp.)

During the Chinese communist revolution of 1950, communists arrested Americans Allyn and Adele Rickett as spies and subjected them to "thought reform" (often mislabeled "brainwashing"). For four years, the Ricketts were in the unique position of being American members of a communist society.

"Prisoners of Liberation" depicts the coercive nature of reform applied to China's ancient social structure. After centuries of feudalism and authoritarianism, China underwent a period of Nationalist rule from the turn of the century until 1950.

In 1950, when Allyn and Adele Rickett arrived in Peking to study Chinese, China had reached a sharp turning point: Communists had seized control and China's plight was clear: China must liberate herself from imperialist and capitalist thinking. The effect upon the Chinese citizen would be profound, but "liberation" was not only extended to the Chinese.

Allyn and Adele came to Peking as Fulbright scholars. They were young, intellectual, and eager to study Chinese. Furthermore, Allyn was in the US Marine reserves, and had been asked to report on Chinese communist activity.

By 1951, communism had gained mass support, US consular activity had ceased, and an American victory in Korea grew remote.

Yet Allyn and Adele continued collecting information to be used by British and American intelligence. It still shocked Adele, however, that on July 25, 1951, Chinese communists placed her under house arrest and took her husband to prison.



Upon his arrival at the prison. Allyn was locked in a cell with five other men. Jeng, the cell leader, asked, "Why are you here?"

I shook my head, pretending I did not know.

Jeng's face became tight and stern. "you don't know?" he snapped, "the only people who come here are spies and counterrevolutionaries. And let me tell you, when you're called in for questioning you'd better tell it straight. They've got you cold or they wouldn't have brought you here in the first place. Now do you know why you're here?"

In spite of Jeng's threats, Allyn failed to believe that he could be held seriously as a spy. As an American, he felt that his case was special and that his guilt lay only in getting caught. For the next four years, the Chinese communists attempted to show him that his thinking was wrong.

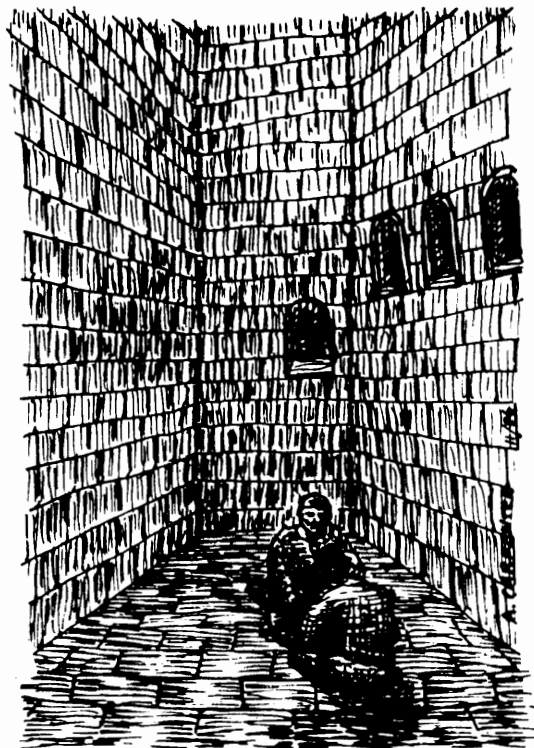
Adele, under house arrest, used similar tactics in the beginning. She averred that she and her husband were only students in China. One night, after hours of lecture and questions, the interrogator asked once more:

"What did your husband do in China?"

I stuck out my chin and answered, "He was a student."

At that moment I glanced at the young girl who was interpreting. She was gazing at me in exasperation and astonishment. . . . I was placed in handcuffs and the interrogation continued. For the first time since Allyn had left I had a feeling they might possibly mean business. It might not be as easy to fool them as I had expected.

Truths, half-truths, and outright lies became intermixed in the following weeks of interrogation. It became obvious to both Allyn and Adele that only a full confession would bring release.



The Ricketts each made separate confessions, but they were no closer to leaving China. The ordeal of "thought reform" now began, in "self-criticism meetings".

At the university, Allyn had watched the communist self-criticism meetings with loathing. The Chinese who claimed that their outlooks on life had been reformed seemed overly emotional, naïve.

Yet there were examples of change.

The battle against illiteracy was started in 1952. Illiterates followed a stringent course of written Chinese. Within two months, Adele noticed that some could already read and write Chinese, a complex and difficult language.

All of Allyn's cellmates had committed crimes which hindered China's transformation. One of Allyn's cellmates, Lu, a landlord, had raped peasant women, abused workers, and once even killed a five-year old by kicking the child's head in. Other prisoners, like Allyn, were in prison for espionage. All were equally guilty of the ultimate crime in socialism: acting out of

(cont. pg. 7)

Airport Expansion Aids Canadian Tourists but Disrupts Bellingham Homes

by Lydia Lindwall

The first of this December the Bellingham Port Commission will be deciding on a proposed runway expansion that may effect the lives of many Bellingham citizens.

The Bellingham Port Commission is made up of three men who are elected to office at staggered intervals for six year terms. Each of these men is paid one dollar per year. But don't be misled; the size of the Commission and the salary they receive cannot be compared to the power they wield.

The Port Commission's proposed runway expansion 2000 feet South of Marine Dr. would condemn and destroy fourteen homes and disrupt approximately another 150 homes. Some of these homes are valued at 250,000 dollars. The Port Commission is willing to pay the owners only 10-50,000 dollars if condemnation occurs.

The Port Commission hired the Devco Aviation firm to conduct a draft environmental assessment to aid in the development of a new port master plan, to determine if the expansion was a legitimate need, what alternatives were in existence, and which alternative was preferred. The alternatives facing the Port Commission are as follows:

1. No Growth.
2. Extend the runway out over the freeway.
3. Build parallel to the freeway.
4. Build another runway on the other side of the freeway with a connecting bridge.
5. Build an entirely new airport. (Land is available and costs are NOT prohibitive).
6. Expand North.

7. Expand an existing SW-NE runway.
8. Expand South.

The alternative preferred by the Port Commission is the one that will have the greatest effect on the greatest number of people.

Ted Soliday, a Devco employee working on the plan has been hired by the Port Commission as their new airport manager.

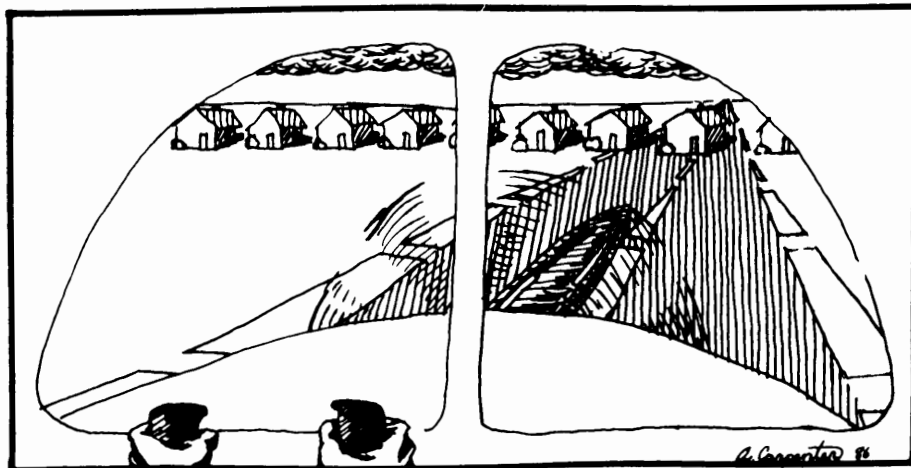
George Emmett, one of the local residents defending the target neighborhood, alleges that the commission conducted a survey of local business to determine if the present runway met their needs but refused to make public the results of this survey. This secrecy has lead the community to doubt Bellingham's need for the proposed expansion. This doubt prompted George Emmett and other concerned neighbors to band together and investigate just who the runway expansion would benefit.

Their discoveries prompted rage.

A non-stop tourist flight to Reno would be offered, but to Canadians only. The Bellingham airport is appealing to Canadian travel agents because they can offer their clients free parking. (Free to them but paid for by Whatcom county residents.) The new runway would be used by Canadian cargo planes and as a training field for Canadian airlines.

The Port of Bellingham would profit from this runway expansion. The Canadian citizens and businessmen would profit from this runway expansion.

The residents of this target zone, however, lose not only their neighborhood and homes but their right to benefit from something they have worked long and hard to secure.



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Toxic Living: A Consumer's Guide to De-Toxification

by Amy Morrison

"Give your clothes the clean fresh-smelling scent"

"Oh my, I see Carol's got SPOTS on her glasses...."

"...and you've STILL got Ring Around the Collar!...."

Ads such as these permeate into our homes with promises of "insta-clean kitchens" and "fresh pine-smelling rooms". A good many of the products used to attain these modern standards of "spic & span" houses and bodies, however, are toxic and polluting to humans and to the environment.

Debra Lynn Dadd, in her book, "Nontoxic and Natural" (Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc., Los Angeles, 1984, 289 pp.) explains how to "avoid dangerous everyday products and buy or make safe ones.

"We as consumers generally incorrectly assume that a product must be safe and non-polluting or else it wouldn't be on the market. In fact, a good many products are unsafe for a large segment of the population and most pollution is caused by the manufacture, use, and disposal of consumer products in the home or workplace," Dadd tells readers.

"Nontoxic and Natural" contains product listings for household, garden and personal products - from air fresheners to deodorants to oven cleaners to yarn.

Each product entry lists the harmful substances it contains, safe brand name alternatives and "Do it yourself" alternatives.

Alternatives to using commercially available hazardous products are many. "In many cases cleaning chemicals can be replaced by simple soap, baking soda, vinegar, ammonia, washing soda, and borax that are less expensive and usually just as effective - ask your grandparents!" says Seattle Metro Guide, "Toward Hazardless Waste." (available in V.U. 113).

Dadd also explains in her book some misconceptions due to improper labelling, discovered during her research. For example, many products are combinations of other sub-products, and though the final product might be labelled as "sugar-free", the sub-ingredients listed may contain sugar. Federal labelling requirements, however, do not require labelling of what sub-ingredients are comprised of.

Another tactic used by marketers is "to announce that the product does not

contain something that it wouldn't contain anyway, leading you to believe that other brands of the same product do contain this additive and are therefore inferior," explained Dadd.

Moreover, federal regulations of common household products can be inadequate. "No agency is regulating the levels of toluene diisocyanate that are being emitted from your polyurethane -

foam stuffed, polyester covered, fireproof mattress; the phenol in your perfume; or the xylene in your felt-tipped marker," says Dadd.

The Department of Public Works in Bellingham also provides information concerning hazardous household products. The Department has compiled the following table and has other information available.

Household Alternatives: A Consumer's Guide

If you have this

Ammonia and soap

Chlorine bleach

Cooking oil

Cornstarch

General purpose powder cleaner

Mineral oil

Scouring powder

Washing soda

You might not need this.....

Glass wax

Disinfectant cleaner
Mildew stain remover
Mildew preventive
Toilet bowl cleaner
Tub and tile cleaner

Nonstick cooking spray

Laundry starch powder
Carpet and rug shampoo
Some stain removers

Floor polish remover
Scouring powder
Tub and tile cleaner

Some household oils
Some rust preventive oils

Stainless steel cleaner
Aluminum cleaner

Detergent boosters
Drain cleaners
Household detergents
Water softeners

Other Household Alternatives

- Drain Cleanser:** Pour boiling water down the drain. Two handfuls of salt followed by boiling water should clean pipes and help to avoid clogging.
- Drain De-Clogger:** One or two handfuls of bicarbonate soda followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Allow to set for an hour and then let water run through.
- Cleanser:** For sinks, salt is an excellent scouring agent while also possessing disinfecting qualities. For ovens and refrigerators, baking soda is a good cleaner and disinfectant.

Garden Alternatives

- Aphids:** Garlic, chives, petunias and nasturtiums repel aphids. Also, protect ladybugs and lacewings which prey on many such garden pests.
- Slugs and Snails:** Pour beer in a flat receptacle and place below ground level in the infested area.
- Other Pests:** Many insects despise the smell and taste of pepper.

Thought Reform (cont. from pg. 4)

self-interest instead of for the good of society.

All during my time in prison this was the most difficult thing I had to contend with....In the United States, I felt, I had always been a most law-abiding citizen....and though I might have broken the Chinese law, I refused to admit that I had ever wanted actually to harm any one, and now it hurt to be thrown in with murderers, bank robbers, arsonists, rapists, thieves, and what have you, and to be considered as much a criminal as they.

Allyn's cellmates did not sympathize with him. But they did understand. "After all," explained Bao, "look at what Li Ko Allyn is....he's the product of a society which makes a virtue of total warfare. Wiping out a whole city with one atomic bomb is, to people like him, a great scientific accomplishment. You can't expect him to get rid of these ideas overnight."

Outside the prison, all of China was undergoing reform, and still is .

Allyn and Adele were in the Chinese communist prison for four years. When their release finally came in the fall of 1955, the Ricketts had a rare understanding of the thought reform movement in China.

McCarthyism was at its height upon the Ricketts' return to the United States. The Ricketts' calm support of the Chinese social reform sparked harsh criticism. "Hopelessly brainwashed," claimed headlines. Yet Allyn and Adele proceeded to write "Prisoners of Liberation," a record of achievement for both China and the Ricketts.

The book does fail to address the blood and violence which accompanied the communist revolution. It also forgets the insensitivity and suppression of individuality implied in thought reform. But on the whole, "Prisoners of Liberation" is a must for those interested in the readjustment of society forced by a time of rapid transformation.

Eighth Graders Experience Pioneer Living

by Lori Rathbun

Bellingham's Whatcom Middle School eighth graders are given a unique opportunity to learn leadership skills in the outdoor environment.

Greg Hart, teacher, proposed the eighth grade program and for three years students from Whatcom Middle School venture into the "wilderness" to partake in the program.

The Gordon L. Carter Environmental Education Site, better known as the Conservation Site, is located on the south end of Lake Whatcom.

Although the eighth grade program is relatively new, local third graders have participated in a Pioneer Day for about the last twenty years, Hart said.

Pioneer Day gives the third graders a chance to do assigned tasks in the forest. The emphasis is on living styles before electricity was introduced to home living. Meals are cooked over a fire in the A-frame located on the site.

Hart said for the past fifteen years, Whatcom Middle School's sixth graders have visited the site for studies in environmental education. Most often tree and plant identification skills are learned and practiced.

Hong Vo, presently an eighth grader, has visited the site three times now - in the third, sixth, and eighth grades. She recalls from her sixth grade visit learning to draw trees on paper with tree bark.

The eighth grade fall program encourages group participation. Each small group of students has a designated student group leader and an assigned task. The group leader is responsible for planning strategy with group members to accomplish their goal.

Group assignments range from cutting cord wood, clearing trails, "spudding" poles and splitting cedar shakes to building chimneys, bridges, steps, and small cabins. Hand tools such as bowsaws, wedges and mauls, brush sythes, and axes are used by the groups to complete their tasks.

There are four small cabins or "adirondacks" which have been built by eighth graders as a part of this leadership program. Hart says he hopes in the future the small cabins will be used in extended overnight programs.

Jon Kinloch, eighth grader and former group leader, says even though he was apprehensive about the program, he quickly found that working on group interaction and leadership skills in an outdoor environment was enjoyable. Kinloch now deems the program "fun."

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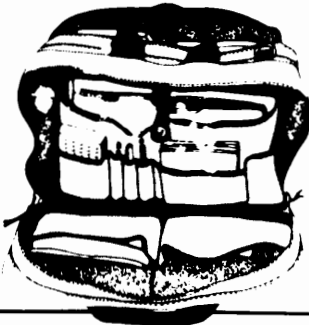
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- January 12 Household Hazardous Waste
Reduction - Slideshow
- January 26 "Pesticides and Alternatives" Panel
Discussion
Tom Thorton - Cloud Mt. Farms
Don Norman - Huxley College Graduate Student
Representative - Whatcom County Extension
Agent
- February 2 "Stream Rehabilitation vs. Hatcheries"
Jim Humphreys - Washington Sea Grant
- February 9 "The Three R's - Reduce, Reuse,
Recycle"
Jeff Morris - PhD Economics
- February 23 "Responsible Investing"
- March 2 "Environmental Catastrophe, Crisis
and Policy"
Professor David Clarke - Huxley College
- March 9 To Be Announced

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*Nobody makes a greater mistake
than he who did nothing because
he could only do a little*

- Edmund Burke