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The Politics of the Net

AN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL

COMPUTER BULLETIN

BOARD OPERATOR

CHRIS NEKLASON

THE MONTHLY PLANET

c/o Nuclear Weapons Freeze

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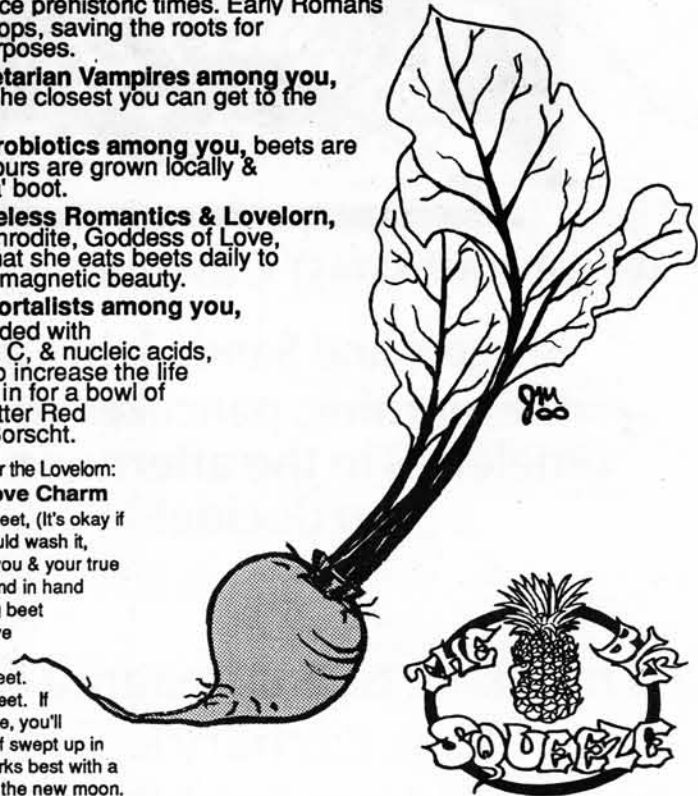
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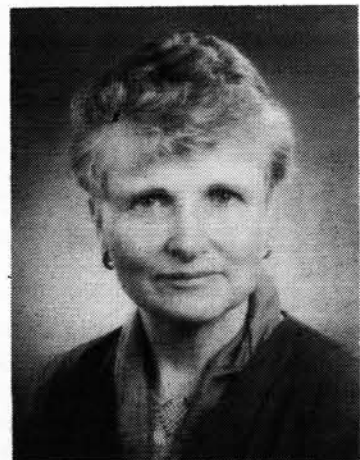
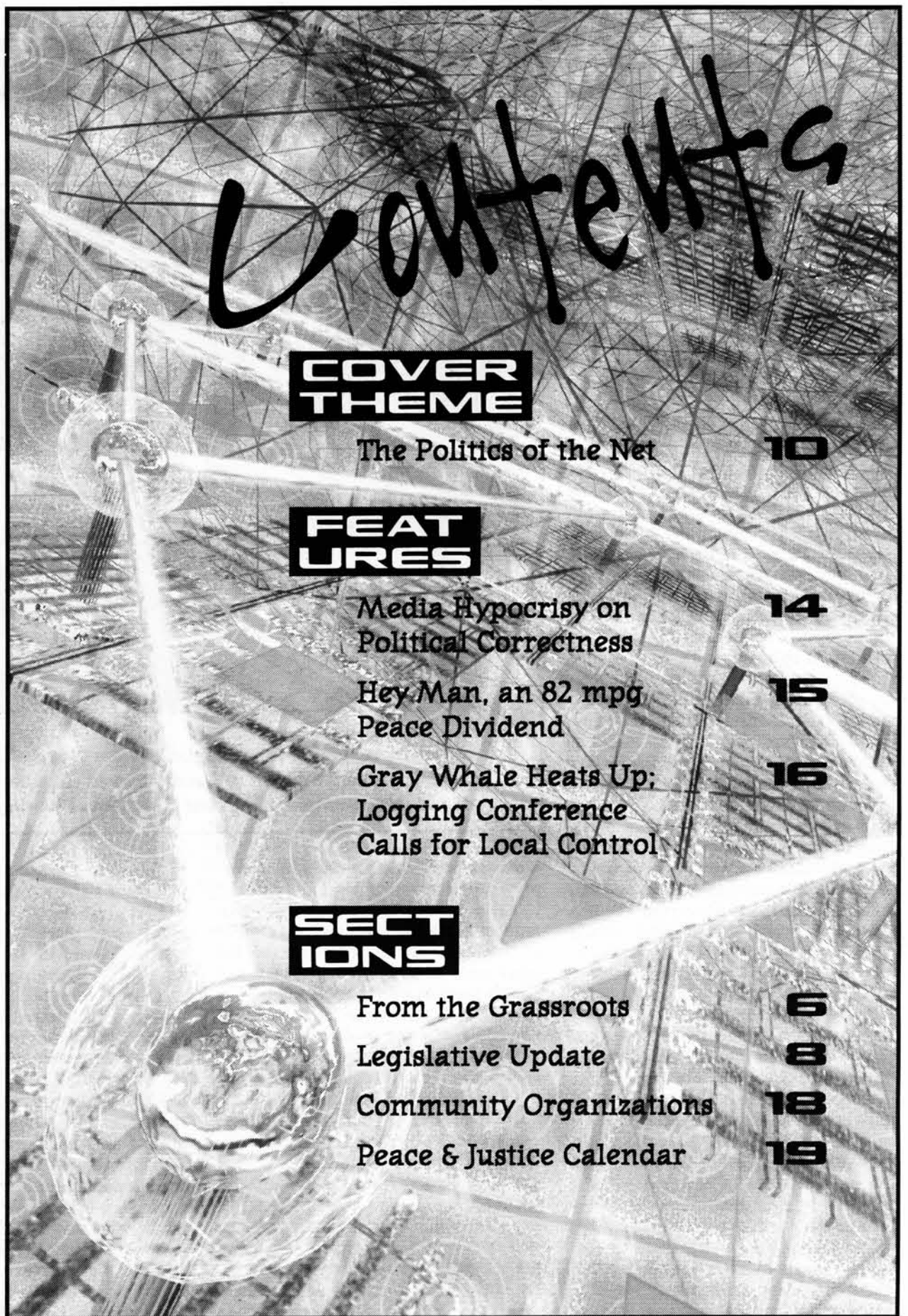
"Don't just try to influence the media - be the media"

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DEADLINES for the Jan./Feb. Monthly Planet (Publication date: Sat., Feb. 5, 1994)

Display ad deadline: Friday, Jan. 28th, 5 p.m.

Calendar item deadline: Friday, Jan. 21st, 5 p.m. (no phone calls, please)



Celebration of Light

As the time of the darkest day approaches, peoples throughout the world celebrate the time of the return of longer days with a display of light. Those who follow the teachings of Christ think about the star that guided the wise men to the stable in Bethlehem. Those of the Hebrew faith light the candles of the menorah to celebrate Hanukkah, commemorating the miraculous event when one day's lamp oil lasted eight. In Peru celebrants stand at the temple of the sun in Machi Pichu and wait for a ray from the sun to pass through a specially placed window and shine upon the alter within. The promise of the return of the light is an important event in our psyches. This promise helps us to get through the dark days of Winter and the dark days of our lives. Rituals

surrounding this important event are important for the health of our being. Celebrate the return of light at this time of darkness with family and friends! Give to each other in a way meaningful to you and to them.

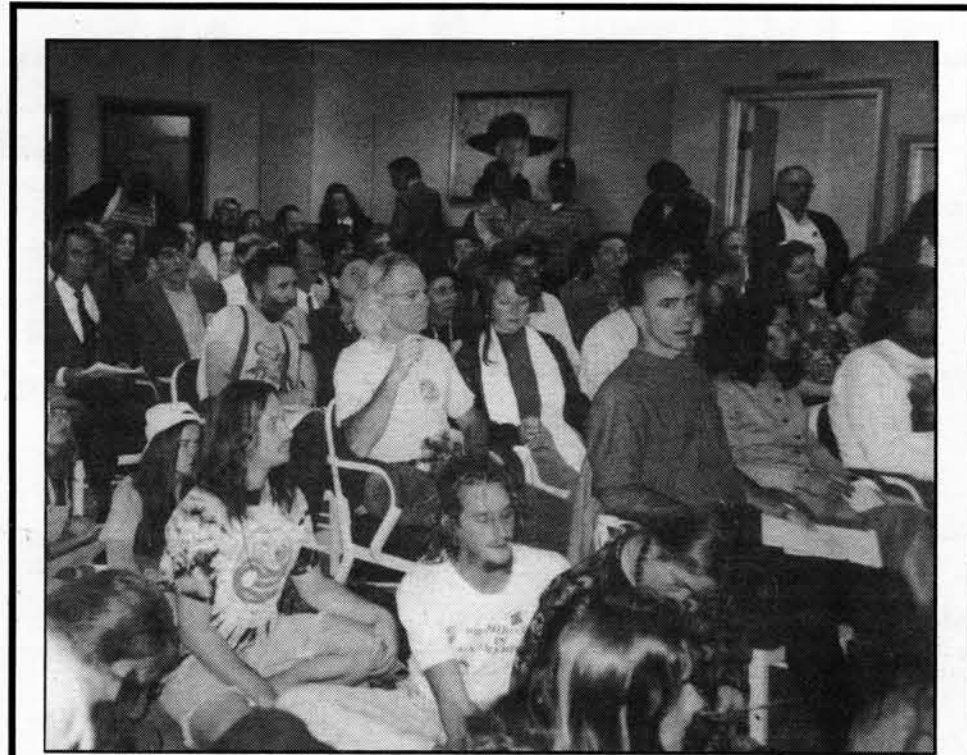
Joan Forest is a licensed marriage, family and child therapist who has studied at the Jung Institute in Switzerland and who works at Redwood Therapy Center, 6005 Highway 9, Felton, a peaceful 15-minute drive from Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, and accessible to all locations in the San Lorenzo Valley. She offers a sliding fee scale and takes insurance. Call Joan at 335-4210 for individual appointments for information about group or to receive her quarterly newsletter.

STOP FUNDING THE WAR ON MARIJUANA

Step right up folks! It's time for another exciting episode of TRUTH or D.A.R.E. wherein "to grant or not to grant" is still very much the question as our Three-time challengers, the "armed with information and therefore very dangerous" Santa Cruz Hemp Council, try to stop our defending champions of the status quo, Santa Cruz County's very own Board of Supervisors, from authorizing another year of repression against our plant-using citizens! Let's take a moment to thank our sponsors, the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) for their generous support. We understand that this year's underwriting grant of \$240,000 is 15 times greater than ever before! And both the Hemp Council and the Santa Cruz Citizens for Medical Marijuana would like to send a special thanks out to CAMP, for without their total disregard of everyone's Fourth Amendment rights, we never would have found enough outraged citizens to make us the irrepressible force that we are today.

But why are we now coming out of our closets and into the supervisors' chambers? Could it be our frustration at having worked one whole year to pass Measure A, the Medical Marijuana Initiative, only to have it ignored by our supervisors and sheriff? Or is it our outrage at the re-arrest of Valerie Corral, our county's only DA-certified medical marijuana user (epilepsy)? Perhaps we're a little miffed at being identified in the grant as one of the main "causal factors" in our county's "marijuana problem"? (Actually we're really honored now that we realize that the real "marijuana problem" for the sheriff is that not enough people think marijuana's a problem anymore!) Or maybe it's that we've all had enough of spying helicopters and CAMP cowboys raiding, ransacking, and robbing us at gun point just because we want to grow our own medicine.

Equally important, is how we came to be here today. It all began in late September when we learned that the supervisors were about to approve a major anti-marijuana grant. Without wasting a moment, we intrepid fighters for truth, justice, and the American way of life (pre-1937, that is) sent out the call far and wide. From computer bulletin boards to store-front windows, from newspaper ads to radio interviews, the words rang out - *The war on marijuana is*



THEODORA KERRY

A crowd of over 250 people packed the November 23rd meeting of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to discuss the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting grant.

a war on you!" And to everyone's surprise, this call was answered by nearly 100 citizens. Realizing they were outnumbered, unprepared, and too close to an election, our fearless leaders did what years of political experience had taught them to do...they postponed the hearing until November 23!

Once again, we swung into action. Peace delegations visited each supervisor to offer convincing reasons why they should stop funding this war. Reasons such as: 1) the fact that fully 50 percent of all cultivation arrests were for under 10 plants, while only 5 percent were for over 100 plants; 2) the very real probability that the grant would cost the county more money than it would save. Not only would this escalation of the war mean more costs to the courts, the jails, the public defenders, and the probation department, but these costs would magically mushroom as more "marijuana criminals" fought for their rights via jury trials, medical necessity defenses, and civil lawsuits in response to the criminal excesses of our nationally famous anti-drug warriors! 3) the frightening challenge to our constitutional rights posed by the infra-red thermal imaging device so coveted by our sheriff. This tool would allow him to measure "excess heat" coming out of our homes without a search warrant and without probable cause. Such measurements could be grounds for suspicion of marijuana growing and the search warrants would be forthcoming. While the Sheriff would have us believe that this device would only be directed against large indoor operations, we must remember that this is the same sheriff

who has used helicopters to spot single plants; and speaking of those pesky helicopters, 4) the very real prospect of more helicopters flying more hours with no regard for the public's right to safety and privacy, not to mention peace and quiet!

As the 23rd neared, it looked as if two Supervisors were ready to say no, and even our daily *Sentinel* was giving the issue front-page status. When the day finally came, nearly 300 hempsters converged on the supervisors' chambers, filling the seats, the aisles, and the halls. "Let my people grow!" was our simple cry. As the day unfolded, we gratefully applauded our many forceful speakers. We laughed at the sheriff's reference to "joint management teams," and we cheered his inadvertent praise of our county's marijuana as being among the most potent in the land. We felt the pain of the patients as they told of their desperate need for this medicine, and we went wild when both Supervisors Patton and Keeley did the right thing. We even hissed and booed (nonviolently, of course) when the grant was accepted by a 3-2 vote, but we all knew a small miracle had happened when the board was told that because the sheriff had not followed the rules when he first applied for this grant, it would take a 4-1 vote to actually give him the money!

Now, three weeks later, it is our third time before the supervisors, and we're beginning to wonder if it's a case of "third times the charm" or "three strikes and you're out"! Only Keeley and the sheriff know for sure, and they seem to be sending the same signals now with a statement wherein the sheriff agrees to

target large growers instead of hemp activists, and the helicopters agree to obey Federal Aviation Administration guidelines...not! What appears to be a small step for humankind and kind humans is really a very big step for our elected officials, and so after another two hours of heartfelt testimony, the supervisors, with the exception of our hero, Gary Patton, say yes to this blood money and split for lunch before we can corner them.

While we are greatly disappointed with this outcome, we are also very empowered by our dealings with our leaders, and, indeed, there are some very real victories to be celebrated. First and foremost is that the supervisors *did not* appropriate money for the thermal imaging device. Even they can see the potential problems with this spy toy. This matter will be reconsidered on January 25, and it's imperative that we be out in force to remind them that their instincts are right-on. We are also thankful that there is now an active dialogue between all sides. Doors once closed are now open. And hopefully, this year's efforts will continue into 1994 with the election of a new sheriff and district attorney. The Hemp Council is committed to identifying and supporting those candidates who will pledge to work for change, so stay informed by calling our hotline at 425-3235. And if you're really ready to change history, become a petitioner for the statewide California Hemp Initiative by calling 425-3313, or join us at our next Hemp Council meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 9, at the Loudon Nelson Center.

By the way, when we left the County Building that day, we were greeted by the sight of an incredibly beautiful half rainbow. Now we've all heard about the pot at the end of the rainbow, so does this magical sign from the heavens mean that we're already half-way there?

Theodora Kerry
 co-founder of the S.C. Hemp Council and the S.C. Citizens for Medical Marijuana Santa Cruz

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS THE MOST DEMOCRATIC

Last November 6th, New Zealand voters rejected their US-style, winner-take-all constitution in favor of MMP (mixed member proportional system) by a margin of 56 percent to 44 percent. This, even though supporters of the binding mea-

sure were outspent ten to one. They join Australia, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Poland, Belgium, Austria, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Finland, Spain, Ireland, a majority of Western democracies that use the MMP system. Even Russia will vote for a constitution which uses MMP. In the US, we can adopt PR (proportional representation) on the local, state or federal level, without changing our Constitution. Cambridge, MA; New York City School District; Peoria, IL; and Berkeley, CA use some form of PR, a more fair system.

On November 20th, the Northern California Citizens for Proportional Re-

and get doused by Mr. Charles Canfield's effluent from his *Logger's Revenge* ride, which he won't stop running no matter how many letters he receives, claiming that drenching innocent victims with effluent is *clean*. OK. So you're soaked, and say you won't patronize the Boardwalk, and walk instead along the sea wall toward river mouth: Surprise! Mr. Canfield, owner of the Boardwalk, pumps effluent right onto you from a 'legal' pipe discharging from the sea wall right under you, the third pillar from the sea of the *Loggers' Revenge*. Soaked again. Well, Mr. Canfield owns Santa Cruz, just like the Navy owns the oceans. Who is

Suppose the city passed a law prohibiting Mr. Canfield and wharf merchants from dispensing plastics or non-biodegradables to customers? Wouldn't that help? The Navy is doing the same, daily, all over the world, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is almost dead. There are almost no fish left. Last summer, pollution reached such levels that just to swim at the Boardwalk beach would give you permanent diseases on some days.

Now if you're good and mad, walk along the beach by the Crow's Nest and watch the pipe spewing topics (from dredging the Santa Cruz Port District) directly onto the beach and into the surf. This is mostly toxic ship bottom paint residue, like TBT, which kills most organisms at the rate of one ounce per 250,000 gallons of sea water. For years, Harbor Marine discharged this crud directly into the harbor, thence onto the beach and into the surf, and only recently installed collectors, but the thousands of boats in the harbor continue to discharge deadly topics.

All of the cities along the Bay Sanctuary discharge raw sewage directly into the bay from storm drains. People dump every conceivable chemical, car oil, dead animals, etc. into those storm drains, and the bay cannot keep on like this without dying. One quart of car oil can cover a two acre portion of the Sanctuary with toxics, including lead, zinc, and phosphorous. Gasoline alone adds over 100 hydrocarbon compounds, not to mention the deadly pesticides leaching into the Sanctuary from county farming. Like the Navy defiantly polluting the oceans, no governmental agency seems interested in enforcing laws already on the books against this toxicity of the Sanctuary.

One can cease participating in one's own destruction: boycott the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf, boycott the Boardwalk of Mr. Charles Canfield, boycott Santa Cruz businesses. One can vote these ignoramus politicians out of office, one can attempt to enlist friends to write or phone to stop this utter destruction of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. You will not be alone.

Harry Kruse
Santa Cruz

WHAT LIES BETWEEN THE LINES OF NAFTA?

Clinton states that he won on NAFTA. He got it but he never won if he bought it. He bought it with taxpayer's money. Many, if not most, of taxpayers were opposed to it.

Those who change their vote after leading their constituency to believe that they would vote against this treaty did not vote their conscience, their conviction or what they thought was best for the American people. They voted for it because they got something for nothing.

Clinton admits that this will put some of our citizens out of work. He didn't say how many. He says that in time there will be more people working. He doesn't say how long this will be. Someone should have asked him.

In the meantime, more people will not be working and not paying taxes, which in turn means more federal debt, which in turn means that American

people will have to pay more interest on the national debt which stood at just under \$4 trillion when Clinton took office. It now stands at \$4.3 trillion. The American people are paying over \$5.4 million annually per minute in interest to those who own the Federal Reserve, of which the American people have no control and whose books have never been audited.

There are 2,000 pages in this treaty. They weigh over nine pounds. I wonder how many people wrote them. I wonder if each individual who wrote them knew what the other participants were writing. I wonder how many congressmen and senators read them.

Are they forming another giant bureaucracy that will break up into two or three separate bureaucracies with all their corruption of which the American people will have no control — a bureaucracy that overrides our Constitution? Will this in time destroy our sovereignty? What could possibly be done in these 2,000 pages? What lies between the lines?

Thorald Castor
Santa Cruz

PARENTHOOD NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT

The TV talk shows, the press, the radio, are full of stories of violence and anti-social behavior of our young. People are searching for reasons, for blame. Is it ignorance, poverty, parental failure to teach their young proper social behavior?

The largest share of blame is for the parents.

But *teaching* takes knowledge, training. No school will accept a teacher without credentials and proof of knowledge and training.

Yet any *he* and *she* can and do become parents, many as young as 14 or 15 years old. Does this automatically make them capable and knowledgeable of rearing a child? Or is it "parents know best"?

Parenting is more than changing diapers, warming bottles, telling bedtime stories. Parenting requires learning, training. It has to be *taught*.

Teaching parenting — and it cannot begin too early — must be a distinct, definite subject in our educational process, just as math and science are.

Teaching the parenthood concept and practice could go a long way to help rear responsible, caring, participating members of family, community, society, and can help diminish and alleviate the aggravating behavior problems that bother and worry all of us.

Zena Druckman
Santa Cruz

WRITE TO THE PLANET!

Send your typed, double-spaced (or legibly written) letters to *The Monthly Planet*, Box 8463, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 or fax them to (408) 429-8889. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.



JANJAAP/MONTHLY PLANET

presentation approved its bylaws in which the board of directors will be chosen by its voting members, using the PR system. I believe that this is the most democratic organization that exists in California. If you would like to learn how PR works, and be a voting member of this new democratic organization, send \$25 (\$5 for low income people) to CPR, 2069 Highland Drive, Concord, CA 94520.

James Ogle
Santa Cruz

STOP TOXIC POLLUTION OF THE BAY

The October issue was fascinating. At first, we couldn't figure out why you included "Environmental Protester Released from the Brig." Maybe we are supposed to apply the pollute-the-world Navy practices at home here in Santa Cruz? We did. We invite readers to take a walk any weekend from the East Cliff/Murray St. railroad bridge over the San Lorenzo River to the Boardwalk beach,

going to stop him dumping sewage onto you?

Walk some more, spring or fall, and reach his next effluent discharge — a 6-inch pipe under the sand at Lifeguard Tower #6. "Perfectly legal sewage discharge," says the Environmental Health people at the county. The mayor of Santa Cruz says the same. After all, it is a city beach being polluted. Notice that the sandbar across the river has caused a lagoon to form, marked with warning signs: "Do not Drink or Swim." These signs mean business. Mere contact with this sewage will give you permanent diseases if you have so much as a cut or scratch.

Now, suppose you stroll along the Boardwalk beach, soaked in effluent, onto the Municipal Wharf. Notice how many plastics are floating in the surf and the Sanctuary along your walk. Well, your good old enlightened city is leaf-blowing these right into the National Marine Sanctuary at about 2:30 am daily, and refused to net the railings because "netting will trap small birds."

"Code of Conduct" Bill Would Regulate US Arms Sales

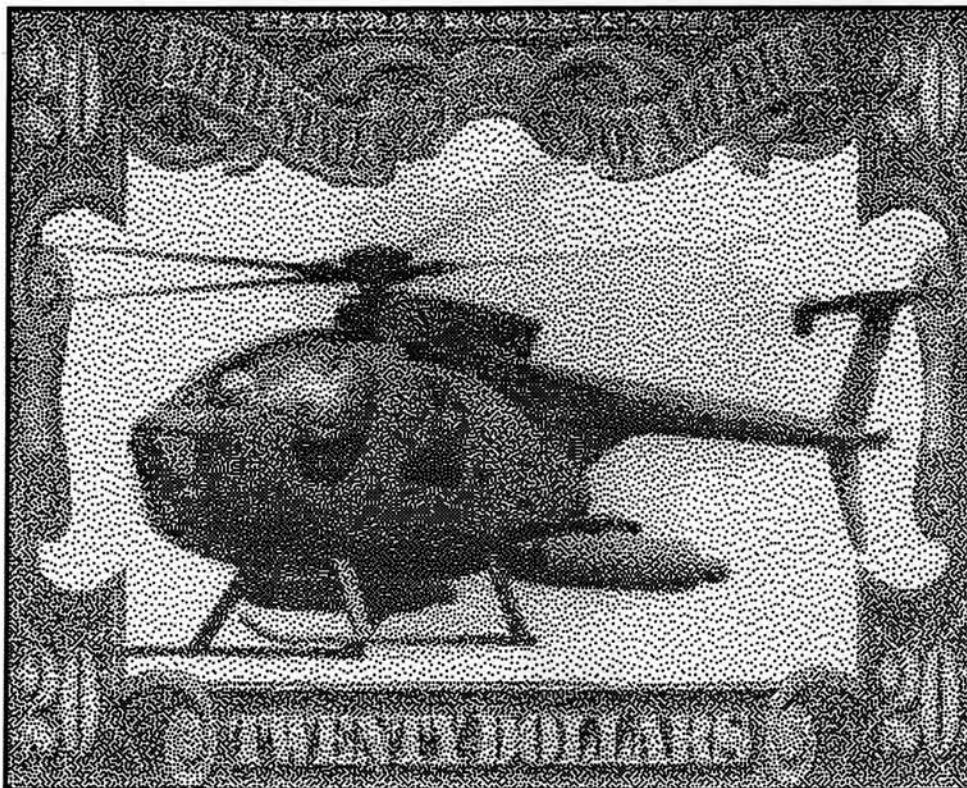
SHELLY D'AMOUR

C Last month Georgia Representative Cynthia McKinney (D) and Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield (R) introduced a bill which would establish restrictive guidelines regarding US arms sales to other countries.

The so-called "Code of Conduct" legislation (HR3538) would prohibit US conventional arms sales to other countries unless those governments met certain criteria regarding human rights and democratic principles as outlined in the bill. The purpose, according to the language contained in the legislation, is "to provide clear policy guidelines and congressional responsibility for determining the eligibility of foreign governments to be considered for United States military assistance and arms transfers." In order for a country to be eligible to buy US arms, the president must certify that the following requirements have been met:

- That the government under consideration promotes democracy: that is, that it was chosen in free and fair elections and permits such elections to take place; that it provides for civilian control of the military, police and other law enforcement institutions; that it provides for the control of national security policy through civilian institutions; that it provides basic civil liberties such as freedom of speech and association, and promotes equality before the law and respect for individual and minority rights; that it provides a civil and political infrastructure, such as local governmental structures, that promote democratic principles.

- That the government under consideration promotes respect for basic human rights: that is, that the government "does not engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights" such as torture, disappearances, extra judicial executions (such as death squad activity), prolonged arbitrary imprisonment, or state-sanctioned discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion or national origin; that the government prosecutes those responsible for acts of gross violations of human rights; that the government permits access to political prisoners by international organizations such as the Red Cross; that the government promotes an independent judiciary and similar bodies; that domestic and international hu-



JULIA HELD/MONTHLY PLANET

man rights organizations be allowed to conduct their work without interference; that the government provides access to international relief organizations in times of national emergency.

- That the government under consideration is not, at the time, engaged in "acts of armed aggression in violation of international law."

- That the government under consideration participates fully in the UN Register of Conventional Arms, including: registering annually the number and type of conventional weapons possessed during the previous year and the number and type of conventional weapons sold or transferred to other countries in the previous year.

As in all foreign aid-related legislation, Congress has attached a caveat that the president can appeal a congressional decision to deny arms sales to a specific country if the president states that it is in the interest of US national security to provide weapons to that country. However, Congress must approve the presidential request by vote. Requests for exemptions would be submitted at the time of the annual foreign aid authorizations requests.

The US is the world's largest arms

dealer, whose annual sales exceed those of all other countries combined. According to the Congressional Research Service, the US has averaged annual sales in excess of \$15 billion since the end of the Cold War; compared with annual arms sales averaging \$7 billion prior to the end of the Cold War. Add to that direct and indirect military assistance funds, which totaled around \$8 billion in 1992.

The legislation has its limitations. For example, it does not address the resale or transfer of weapons from "legitimate" countries to those countries which have been denied direct access to US arms sales. However, it is an important first step toward curbing international proliferation of weapons. In introducing the legislation, Rep. McKinney highlighted what has become an all too-familiar pattern in US foreign policy - that of arming dictators, only to eventually send in US troops to deal with the consequences of a situation that US helped create in the first place: "American soldiers should not be victims of a short-sighted foreign policy that provides American support for corrupt and anti-democratic regimes. For years, we sold weapons to dictators and provided

military training for their officers. We armed the Shah of Iran, we armed Iraq, we armed Somalia and we armed Haiti. And we continue to pay for these sales with American tax dollars and American lives."

ACTION: The Code of Conduct bill needs a lot of support. Contact Rep. Sam Farr and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and urge them to become co-signers now on this important piece of legislation.

NUCLEAR TESTING

Forty-seven senators signed a letter authored by Ohio Democrat John Glenn, which urges the National Assembly of France to refrain from nuclear testing in the wake of China's October nuclear test. Conservative elements within the French government would like to resume testing, however President Françoise Mitterand has stated that testing will not resume as long as he is in office. Senator Barbara Boxer was a co-signer to the letter, but Senator Dianne Feinstein was not.

MILITARY SPENDING BILL

Action on the fiscal year 1994 military spending bills is now complete. Congress has authorized \$261 billion for Department of Defense programs over this next fiscal year. This represents a 5 percent reduction over last year's authorization.

Congress appropriated \$2.9 billion for Ballistic Missile Defense (the new name for Star Wars), a reduction of about \$900 million over last year. Additionally, Congress dropped a 1991 requirement that the US actually deploy the system; now stating that the US maintain "the option to deploy." Other appropriations include: \$1.2 billion for 24 Trident II missiles; \$2.3 billion for the F-22 advanced tactical fighter; and up to \$1.2 billion for a CVN-76 nuclear aircraft carrier. On the positive side, no monies for anti-satellite (ASAT) testing were approved; and \$2.93 billion was appropriated for economic conversion programs. Also, the ban on the export of land mines was extended for another three years. Monies appropriated by Congress for the so-called "mini-nukes" program (nuclear weapons under five kilotons to be used against developing

The US is the world's largest arms dealer, whose annual sales exceed those of all other countries combined.

countries) were deleted in conference. Armed Services Committee member Rep. Elizabeth Furse (D-OR) successfully led the fight against the mini-nukes program. Furse is a former national SANE board member. (Now... how can we get other peace activists on the Armed Services committee?)

CENTRAL AMERICA

Economic support funds for El Salvador from last fiscal year are still being withheld, pending progress in that country's voter registration efforts. The official voter registration period in El Salvador is now complete; however, registration cards still have to be delivered. Additionally, there have been a series of political assassinations of former FMLN officials who were candidates for public office. As part of the peace accord negotiated between the government of El Salvador and the FMLN, this is to be the first election in which the former rebels can run for office. However, it appears that right-wing groups within the country are determined that this will not be the case. Senator Wellstone (D-MN) has sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressing support for the State Department's condemnation of the killings, and expressing concern for the pace of voter registration process in El Salvador. California Senator Barbara Boxer (D) was a co-signer to that letter. The funds are on hold until January, at which time a decision will be made pending consultation with Congress.

On Guatemala, the Clinton administration has announced that it will release \$10 million in economic support funds to that country in order to help alleviate Guatemala's end of the year balance of payment difficulties. This is unfortunate due to the lack of progress

in Guatemala on human rights issues. The Central America Working Group, a Washington DC-based lobby, suggests you contact Assistant Secretary of State Alexander Watson at 202-647-5780, and urge that any release of aid be accompanied by a strong demand that the human rights situation improve.

On Honduras, members of congress are circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, expressing support for a recent series of reforms instituted in that country. The letter commends the Honduran congress for limiting the jurisdiction of military courts, and for the creation of an office for the protection of human rights. This new commission will issue a report on the disappeared, by the end of December. The letter also urges the Honduran government to take further steps to prosecute human rights violations by the military. ■

Shelly D'Amour is the legislative editor of The Monthly Planet.

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(17th congressional district)

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(15th congressional district)

HOUSE MEMBERS
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SENATORS
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The Politics of the Net

INTERVIEW WITH
**CHRIS
NEKLASON**
BY JOHN GOVSKY

ELECTRONIC MAIL

INFORMATION
DATABASES

ELECTRONIC
CONFERENCES

ISLANDS IN
CYBERSPACE

BULLETIN BOARD
SYSTEMS

THE INTERNET

Chris Neklason, 33, is a "virtual community activist" who, with his wife Peggy Dolgenos, runs Cruzio, a service providing access to the computer network known as the Internet. A former software engineer with the Santa Cruz Operation, he is now working full time on using the network to bring people in the community closer together. Chris and Peggy started Cruzio in 1989. It currently serves over 200 Santa Cruz County residents and is working to get local schools connected to the Internet.

This interview, the first in a series of articles on the politics of computer networks to be published in The Monthly Planet, took place on December 10th.

Monthly Planet: Just what exactly is the computer network that we've all heard so much about?

Chris Neklason: Well, it's not really a computer network so much as a people network. In this case the computer is really acting as nothing more than a glorified telephone.

MPI: Do you mean people are just using it to communicate?

CNI: Basically, that's it.

MPI: Who are these people on the network?

CNI: For the most part they are computer professionals, students or faculty of major universities. Some are employees at government research facilities. So demographically, about 60 to 70 percent of the people on the net right now are well-educated, highly paid, white males.

MPI: What are all these people using the network for?

CNI: Essentially, they are using the network for three things: electronic mail, electronic conferences, and electronic libraries.

Electronic mail is a lot like the mail you're familiar with. You send a letter and it's delivered to the recipient.

Electronic conferences provide

people with a way to come together to discuss ideas. At this point there are over 4,000 conferences available on the network, divided by discussion topic.

The electronic libraries are just growing at a fantastic rate. Everything from genealogical databases to papers written by education researchers to the works of Charles Dickens — you name it — it's now becoming available in these electronic libraries on the network.

MPI: You mentioned electronic conferences. How do electronic conferences work? I would think of a conference as people together in a room discussing an issue.

CNI: And that's pretty much the model for electronic conferences. The network provides you with, what you might call, an electronic room where you go to discuss the topic that the conference is associated with.

One of the nice things about the electronic conferences, though, is that participants don't need to be in the same room at the same time. For instance I can join a conference, read the posted messages, and if I choose, post a reply to the messages, and then leave. Days or weeks later somebody else can join the conference and do the same thing: read

"The Internet

is the

largest, most

successful

anarchistic

cooperative

venture in

modern

history.

Nobody owns

the Internet."

the messages, see my message, and then post a reply to the conference in general, or privately to me using electronic mail.

MP: So it seems like this new medium is quite different than what I would traditionally think of as mass media, where it's the one speaking to the many. This enables people to bypass that structure and talk directly to each other.

CN: That's right. That's why there are really two developmental tracks apparent when we talk about the future of the Internet. The commercial interests, of course, are going to try the same thing they did with television and radio and turn the Internet into the Home Shopping Network or the Home Banking Network. But we see that what people really want is a true mass media where the masses can speak amongst themselves. It's the difference between a broadcast communications medium and a true interactive communications medium.

CN: The Internet is best described as a network of networks, much like the United States of America is a country made up of states, counties, and cities. So the Internet, in that sense, is basically an organizational structure.

One very important thing to realize is that the Internet is the largest, most successful anarchistic cooperative venture in modern history. Nobody owns the Internet.

MP: It's hard for me, living in this society, to think of something on the scale of the Internet that isn't centrally controlled or owned by somebody. Somebody must be paying the bill.

CN: Right. This is the difference between who owns it and who pays for it, much like the question of who owns Santa Cruz County. Nobody owns Santa Cruz County, but those of us who live here pay for the services that the municipal government provides. When I say that it's anarchistic I mean that there's no overall structure imposed from above. It's a completely cooperative venture.



JANJAAP/MONTHLY PLANET

MP: We hear a lot about the network in the media, and I sense that we're not getting the true story on why the net is important, and what makes it significant. Maybe you could give me your view on that.

CN: The network is important to two separate groups of people. One group is the commercial network providers. For them, the network is important because they envision it as a way to deliver an audience to advertisers or commercial information providers.

MP: So here you're talking about large corporations such as Prodigy or Compuserve.

CN: Exactly: Prodigy, Compuserve, America Online and others.

The other group is comprised of people like myself; community activists — on-line community activists — who see the network as a valuable tool for bringing people closer together.

MP: A lot of people have probably heard about the part of the network called the Internet, but don't quite understand exactly what it is. What is the Internet?

MP: Well, let me try to understand this. Let's say that I want to send electronic mail (e-mail) to somebody. I hook up my computer to the phone line by using a modem, and direct my computer to call another computer in Santa Cruz which is set up as an electronic bulletin board system (BBS). After connecting to this BBS, I type a letter and address it to someone in St. Louis. From there, I don't know exactly how my electronic letter gets to St. Louis. But I do know that somebody's got to pay the bill, and somehow there is a structure that tells that message where to go and how to get there. How does this process work?

CN: Electronic mail is almost exactly like the US Postal Service mail which you're already familiar with. You write a letter, you address it, and you send it off.

In the case of Santa Cruz County, you send it, somebody picks it up, takes it to San Jose, and from there it's taken to another collection point. Say it's going to St. Louis — it goes to St. Louis and then somebody takes it from the St. Louis post office to your friend's house in St. Louis.

Now let's say you want to send some electronic mail to your friend in St. Louis. So you call your network provider — in this case let's say a local BBS, and you pay only for

that phone call. This bulletin board system calls the next BBS, or collection point, which calls the next one, and so on, on a path between here and Saint Louis until it is finally delivered to your friend's mail box. Each BBS is only responsible for the call to the next BBS, so the cost of delivering that letter is distributed. Each call is economical, because each BBS groups many messages together before forwarding them to the next collection point, and the data is transmitted at the highest possible speed, making the phone call as short as possible.

MP: So, it seems to me that the decentralized nature of the Internet is one of its strengths. My understanding is that the military actually developed the Internet to be survivable, in case of a nuclear war, so it's very decentralized.

CN: Surviving a nuclear war was certainly one of the things that they wanted to do, but basically the military community developed the Internet to link various universities and research facilities so that researchers at these facilities could share research data in a more efficient way.

This link is what is referred to as the Internet "backbone" of high-speed phone line connections. It's analogous to the military paying for a 30-lane super-highway between, say, Lawrence Livermore Labs and Alameda Naval Air Station.

Soon after it was developed, a lot of researchers and students found that the Internet was also useful to them, not to trade military research, but to just communicate as human beings.

This knowledge spread; more and more people started hooking up to the Internet, so that along the 30-lane super-highway you had this system of smaller roads which were not controlled by the military.

So in that sense, the military might have started the Internet, but it's gotten completely out of their control, thank God.

MP: I've seen many news articles recently discussing government plans for the Internet. Are there developments at the federal level that we should be aware of, either positive or negative?

CN: There have been both positive and negative developments. The federal government has a program called NREN (National Research and Education Network). It's Gore's baby, which is basically involved with upgrading the so-called "backbone." One somewhat negative aspect of NREN is that discussions as to its future are mainly confined to the large institutional players.

On the positive side, the Clinton administration has actually taken several steps in making government a little more accessible to the on-line community. There's a pilot program in Congress right now, in which six congressional members have electronic mailboxes connected to the Internet. One of these is the conservative Republican Newt Gingrich, and I'm sure he's getting a lot of delightful electronic mail from people here in Santa Cruz.

There are other initiatives. Of course the president and the vice president both have electronic mailboxes on the Internet. As for conferences, there's one devoted to alternative news media in which the White House publishes several pieces a day, including the full texts of presidential speeches, background briefings to the press, and whatnot. Also, the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) has agreed to put the Edgar database onto the Internet. So the Clinton administration is really taking a leadership role in getting the federal government onto the network.

MP: I understand that the Internet is growing — I've heard rates of a 10 to 15 percent per month increase in the number of users. Is that true, and how long can that kind

"The military might have started the Internet, but it's gotten completely out of their control, thank God."

of growth continue? Is this growth going to force some changes in the structure of the net?

CN: The figures I've heard are that about one million new people, worldwide, join the Internet every month. If you consider the technology of the Internet, naturally this will lead to some changes. We hope that the cooperative, anarchistic structure of the Internet won't change. In other words, we hope that governments won't decide to take over the Internet, or to hand it to large, private concerns, and that it will remain an anarchistic entity.

MPI: I know that there's an incredible amount of information available through the network. How is that information structured?

CN: Well, there are some agencies that act as clearing-houses for information. For instance, there's an agency called the NIC (Network Information Center), which is in charge of registering new sites when they connect to the Internet, and making that information available to other sites. So, if you want to send e-mail to your friend at the Foobar Spam BBS in St. Louis, the NIC is responsible for telling your BBS how to route your letter.

Or for instance, the folks at University of Michigan created a tool called "gopher" which basically allows you to browse on-line libraries. They maintain a comprehensive list of all gopher libraries on the Internet. Right now there's nothing like, say, the Dewey Decimal System, or a giant card catalog or a fabulous index which will point you to all that information. You have to go out and explore the network and actually find it. It's still your responsibility and your job to find those on-line libraries.

MPI: I know there has been some state legislation recently passed which mandates or makes available government information on-line in the state of California.

CN: Yes, and it's very exciting. The legislation you're talking about is Assembly Bill 1624, authored by Assembly-member Debra Bowen. The passage of that bill actually provides a case history of the usefulness of the network. The bill mandates that legislation under consideration by the California government be made available to citizens on the Internet.

This is very powerful stuff, as you know, because usually when legislation is being considered, the public isn't really invited; we don't hear about it until after it's been decided. So there's no real feedback process and there's no way for activists to see to it that the legislation actually meets the needs of the people.

In my mind, AB 1624 was really passed through the efforts of Jim Warren, who is a columnist for *Micro Times*, a computer magazine. Jim Warren is an active citizen of the network in addition to writing a regular column in *Micro Times*.

He posted the text of the bill as proposed on the network and urged activists — people who were interested in that kind of access to legislation — to contact their representatives and pass the bill.

As the bill went through committee, he posted regular status reports concerning various changes to the bill, who the major players were, what sides they were taking and all the while, urging people to get involved and contact their representatives.

The end result was that the bill did pass. Governor Wilson signed it into law, and it was basically a case of on-line advocacy at work. The bill probably would not

have passed, or if it had, it would've been in a much different, less useful form. We owe it all to Jim Warren.

MPI: So it sounds like the bill itself was passed in part because of electronic lobbying.

CN: Electronic advocacy. Definitely. Which proves the power of the network as a communications medium. One person was all that was necessary to attend these hearings. He posted status reports. He did not have an editor saying, "That story's not important, don't run it today," like a newspaper. He just acted as an advocate and he exhorted his fellow net-citizens to get off their duffs and participate in the process.

MPI: I also understand that some cities — specifically Cupertino — have quite advanced programs. There are developments where city governments are putting things on-line, and making more information accessible to citizens. What's happening in Cupertino and other cities in California?

CN: In California there are two cities which are fairly advanced in terms of providing so-called city networks. These are Santa Monica and Cupertino. The idea of the city network is basically that you provide a way for people

are more people on-line in Santa Cruz County, and these people start asking for on-line access, then we'll start to see it happen.

MPI: So it seems like there are several issues involving access to the network. One that you've touched on is how the net itself will be structured, and whether or not it'll be hijacked by commercial interests or given away by the government to commercial interests. And the other issue is just who's on the net right now, and how that affects what's happening.

In these communities where the city is doing great things on the network, it's only because that critical mass has been reached — because a large number of affluent people have access to it. I assume that means that people who are not affluent do not currently have that much access to the net.

Do you see that changing? More and more people are talking about hooking up to the network. But by and large, these are people who are very well off and have their own Macintosh or expensive IBM-compatible computers. How can we get around that? How can we democratize the net?

CN: When you talk about access, there are really two

"We hope that governments won't decide to take over the Internet, or to hand it to large, private concerns, and that it will remain an anarchistic entity."



JANJAAP/MONTHLY PLANET

Chris Neklason, Peggy Dolgenos, and their son Jake Dolgenos provide Santa Cruz with a portal to cyberspace.

with computers and modems to dial in to the network and send electronic mail to their local representatives, to read the minutes of hearings and meetings, to see calendar postings of upcoming hearings and meetings, and to actually access on-line legislation and matters under consideration.

MPI: What's happening in Santa Cruz? Is there any movement afoot to put more city information on-line?

CN: To my knowledge, there's really no organized movement afoot to do this in Santa Cruz.

MPI: Why do you think that is?

CN: Lack of critical mass. Lack of interest.

MPI: Do you think that will change as more people hook up to the network in Santa Cruz County?

CN: Yes, I do. You have to remember that both Cupertino and Santa Monica are very affluent communities. Especially Cupertino, which is a bedroom community for Silicon Valley, and the home of Apple Computer. They have a very high density of computers to households there. It's basically a question of readership. When there

filters at work. One is, I guess, awareness or education, and the other is money.

A computer still costs a lot of money. It's really a middle-class type of phenomenon. And it's the same with education. To become comfortable with the network really requires exposure to the network, and that generally occurs for most people at a university. People who don't get that kind of introduction to the network or computers obviously aren't really aware of what the network can do for them.

MPI: So, not only does the network have democratic potential, but its use also has the potential to increase the divide between the haves and the have-nots.

CN: Exactly. In a democracy — and we've seen this so often in the recent past — how you vote depends on what you know. A case in point, of course, is the recent Gulf War, where we found that a lot of what we were told was rationale to get into the war; a lot of it turned out to be untrue or grossly exaggerated.

Access to information determines the outcome of how you will vote. Therefore, access to information is probably one of the most important issues facing our democracy, as

it always has been. That's why the Internet can be a force of true democratization, because you can avoid the biases and filters of the authoritative information distribution sources. Citizens can inform each other.

MPI You've said that those using the network are primarily white, middle class or perhaps upper middle class, and male. Why do you think the network is mostly male-oriented? I've noticed that at least three quarters of the people who post things on the net are men; probably more than that. Why is that? Do you think we can change that?

"The network right now is not a friendly place for women. Women who go out onto the network face the same kinds of things that women faced when they first entered the work force in large numbers after World War II. In my mind, there's a lot of bigotry, homophobia, and racism on the network."

CNI That's a hard question. It would be tempting to go into generalizations that men like gadgets more than women, but I don't necessarily believe that. I think much of it has to do with the fact that the network started out with the military and university researchers, both of which were comprised, predominantly, of professional males.

The network right now is not a friendly place for women. Women who go out onto the network face the same kinds of things that women faced when they first entered the work force in large numbers after World War II. In my mind, there's a lot of bigotry, homophobia, and racism on the network. Before this can change, the groups of people who are under-represented on the network have to grit their teeth and go out there and just get involved in the same way and fight the same battles that they've been fighting in the workplace and in civic life in general, for the last few generations. They need to get involved not only as network users, but as network access providers.

MPI OK, so let's say you're one of these people who wants to grit their teeth and get onto the network. You've got your computer with a modem attached to it. Now, what does one do? How would you advise one to start exploring the network?

CNI The first thing to do is adjust your attitude. The technology itself is not user-friendly. So, part of it is just realizing that the technology is still rather primitive. Another thing that you need to be prepared for is the lack of maps or direction. You need to think like a pioneer, because you really are one.

You have to go out there and find what's useful to you.

As far as where you start, naturally, I would advise against getting involved with the large commercial services, and instead suggest the local BBS's. Every community has local BBS's, and these are usually operated by somebody who doesn't charge money; by a volunteer who hosts a BBS in their home. So the best place to start, in my

continues on page 19

An Introduction to Computer Networks

When we speak of computer networks, we are really talking about people networks. In this case, the people are utilizing computers as nothing more than devices suitable for sending and receiving written communications.

All networks exist to pass along information between the participants. Computer networks offer the following services to facilitate communications:

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Electronic mail, or "e-mail," is much like the physical mail sent via the US Postal Service. A letter is written, addressed and sent to the recipient. E-mail has several advantages in that it is cheaper to send and faster than the US Post.

Electronic mail also has advantages over a voice phone call, in that it is easy to transmit large volumes of information, and there are not any long distance charges applied.

ELECTRONIC CONFERENCES

An electronic conference is like a distributed public meeting, where people who are connected to the network discuss issues without needing to be in the same place at the same time. Conferences are divided by discussion topic. There are currently over 4,000 active conferences on the network.

A person can post an "article" to the conference, which may be viewed by network conference participants. Any one of them can post a response to the article, e-mail other conference participants, or post their own articles.

INFORMATION DATABASES

A database is how information (data) is stored on a computer for later search and retrieval. There are hundreds of databases on the network, with more being connected and made available for browsing every day.

Popular databases include the CIA World Information database, the ERIC Educational Database, and other databases holding information on almost every conceivable topic. These databases form a virtual library of information spread across the planet, yet easily available at the press of a key to citizens of the network.

ISLANDS IN CYBERSPACE

"Cyberspace" is defined as the electronic "space" where computer communications take place and information is stored. You are familiar with the "real life"

geography of Santa Cruz County, with its mountains, coastal towns, the farms in the valley and the bay. In visualizing the geography of the Santa Cruz County cyberspace, imagine a number of islands, with lights representing the people on the island.

UCSC, for instance, would be a large island floating in cyberspace, brightly lit with thousands of lights. Local companies like SCO and Borland would be other large islands. Smaller islands would include Cruzio, Cabrillo and a host of BBS's (electronic Bulletin Board Systems). Now imagine the islands connected by bridges.

This is the Santa Cruz County computer network, linking thousands of people on dozens of islands in the local cyberspace.

THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY NETWORK

This network is known as the "scruz" network. It allows the residents of the various islands to communicate via electronic mail and participate in regional electronic conferences. It is run by a loose affiliation of local island chiefs and bridge builders.

THE INTERNET

The Internet is often described as a "network of networks." Just as the scruz network is a confederation of local islands (known as "sites"), so the Internet is a confederation of networks. The Internet is run by a loose affiliation of network chiefs and bridge builders.

By virtue of being a member of the Internet, a site can offer services other than e-mail and electronic conferences. These services include access to network file libraries and information databases located across the planet. Many of the sites belonging to the scruz network are also connected to the Internet.

BBS (BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM)

A bulletin board system is basically an electronic meeting place where people can leave messages or files for others. Some BBS's support network electronic mail and conferences.

MODEM

A modem is a device which enables computers to talk to each other over the phone. It translates the ones and zeros which computers speak into sounds which can be carried over the phone lines. The modem on the other end translates the sounds back into ones and zeros.

- Chris Neklason

The Global Action & Information Network A Resource For People Taking Action

The Global Action & Information Network (GAIN) is an electronic clearinghouse and network service for people taking action on sustainable development and environmental issues. GAIN staff gathers and gleans the best and most relevant materials from a wide range of respected sources. It then compiles and disseminates this information electronically via EcoNet and America Online. Early next year anyone with an Internet accessible address will be able to use GAIN's resources directly via modem.

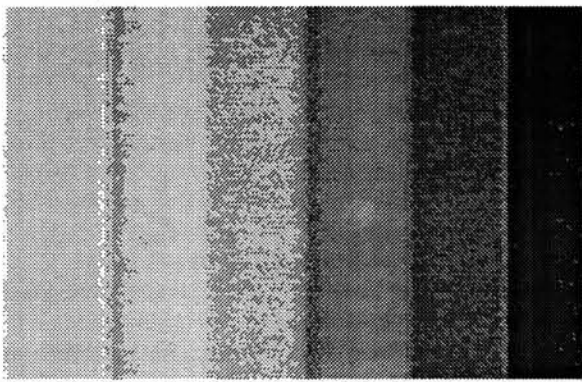
Currently GAIN's emphasis is on legislative information, including up-to-the minute

news on bills in Congress as well as background data and analysis. GAIN also offers action alerts; success stories about actions on a variety of issues from wetlands protection to environmentally friendly transportation; ideas for what you can do; organizational resources; and more.

Not ready to drive the information superhighway yet? When you join GAIN as a member, you can choose to receive information via US mail as well as electronically. GAIN provides its members: A free subscription to *Gaining Ground*, a journal for people taking action, featuring success stories, legislative up-

dates, action alerts, resources, and ideas; and a free subscription to the GAIN Packet, featuring the best of what has been posted on computer networks, legislative information, action alerts, and ideas for sustainable living.

To join, send \$25 to GAIN; 575 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Be sure to let us know if you want your materials in printed or electronic format. (Send your e-mail address if you choose electronic!) Subscription to EcoNet or America Online is extra. For more information, contact Terry at 408-457-0130 (voice); 408-457-0133 (fax); e-mail: gain@igc.apc.org.



Media

white and 94 percent male. What's more, 67 percent were present or former US government officials; the remaining third included many academics and think-tankers closely aligned with Washington policy-makers. Arguments can run hot and heavy, while remaining within narrow bounds.

The fact is that a paucity of diverse outlooks is routine on network TV. In short, with few exceptions, the guests are limited to those whose views are politically correct — as far as the media powers-that-be are concerned.

Lately the PC establishment has been busily pointing fingers elsewhere, particularly at campuses. A single Newsweek column by George Will described PC villains five different times as "radicals," a code word for political incorrectness if ever there was one. This is typical whiplash: The more that pundits flog the PC horse, the more their own hysteria — and intolerance — gain momentum. And along the way, rigorous limits on public discourse remain in force without challenge.

"The great triumphs of propaganda have been accomplished, not by doing something, but by refraining from doing," Aldous Huxley observed. "Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth."

A litmus test for political correctness — and a prerequisite for season tickets around the mass media's punditry table — is demonstrated and reliable silence about matters that the real PC enforcers do not want seriously addressed. "Radicals" need not apply.

America's grandest media institutions operate as if hosting an immense — and rigged — game of Jeopardy: with prepared answers that won't lead to crucial questions. Reporting on federal policies rarely illuminates the vested interests and leverage that mega-corporations maintain. When the United States went to war with Iraq, for example, the profits for US arms makers received little coverage by big media — including NBC, which is owned by General Electric, a huge Pentagon contractor.

Media powerhouses — whose boards routinely overlap with the directors of banks and other top financial institutions — prefer not to acknowledge the impacts of corporate magnates, including their owners, as current events unfold. While claiming to inform and elucidate, the most powerful purveyors of "information" are frequently mystifying when it

comes to who controls what, why, and how.

As a result we are inundated with what political scientist Paul N. Goldstone has called "a view of the world which controls perceptions of what is, and limits the possibilities of what might be." We continuously meet power "concentrated and screened from perception which it increasingly constructs"; we are moving to "a condition where the effects of power are pervasive, but where its identity is lost."

Multicultural openness is essential to truly demo-

The very institutions sounding the loudest alarms against political correctness are the ones with the most clout to routinely define America's politically acceptable boundaries.



Hypocrisy

cratic discourse: the inclusion of voices and vantage points too often filtered out of mass-mediated public life in America. The PC status quo, however, is much more interested in maintaining its media dominance.

When George Will fulminates against "instruments of indoctrination" that promote "officially approved thinking," he's not complaining about the indoctrination process that keeps him on network TV every week while keeping "radical" critics off. Pleased to equate don't-rock-the-boat positions with the essence of reasoned thought, the media's preeminent definers of political correctness give short shrift to anyone with a different definition.

Decades ago the journalist A.J. Liebling observed that "freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." Today we might add that the most sweeping power to suppress "politically incorrect" opinion is exercised by the mass media, even while they denounce political correctness as an ominous threat to freedom. ■

This article is excerpted from the new book by Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon, Adventures in Medialand: Behind the News, Beyond the Pundits. The book is available at Bookshop Santa Cruz and other area book stores. Or Visa/MasterCard orders can be phoned to the publisher, Common Courage Press, at 1-800-497-3207.

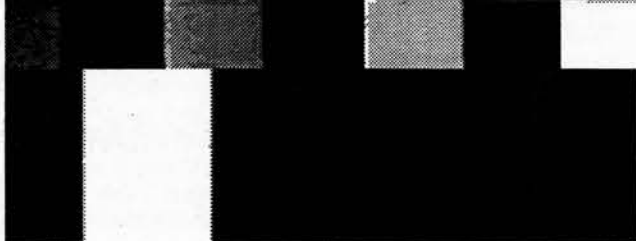
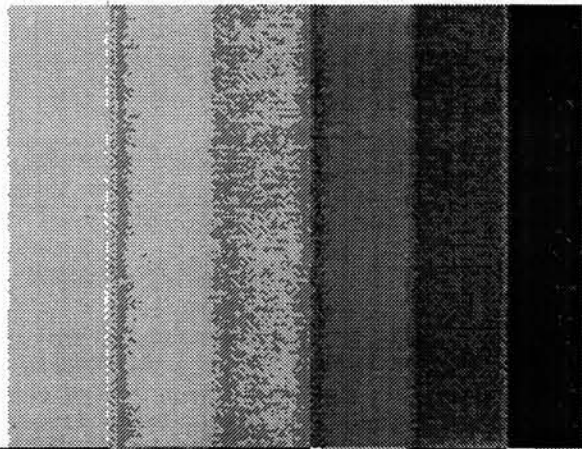
The "politically correct" uproar has gained an enormous amount of ink and air time recently. But the profuse warnings against a clear and present PC danger have left unmentioned the nation's most powerful arbiters of political correctness — the news media.

The very institutions sounding the loudest alarms against political correctness are the ones with the most clout to routinely define America's politically acceptable boundaries. A few executive producers at TV networks and top editors for key print media have infinitely more to say about what ideas will or won't reach the American people than all the campus activists in the country put together.

What we get when we turn on our televisions for news or public affairs programs is usually akin to white noise: constant and familiar, with little variation. The prevailing pundits — heard in sound bites or as panelists — are as predictable as the soundtrack of a TV test-pattern before dawn. The limits of their droning discussions, and the day-to-day exclusions of divergent voices, define political correctness.

The problem extends well beyond commercial broadcasting. Public TV's highly-touted "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour" has a guest list that is exceedingly confined. A Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting study documented that NewsHour coverage of international affairs featured American guests who were 94 percent

On Political

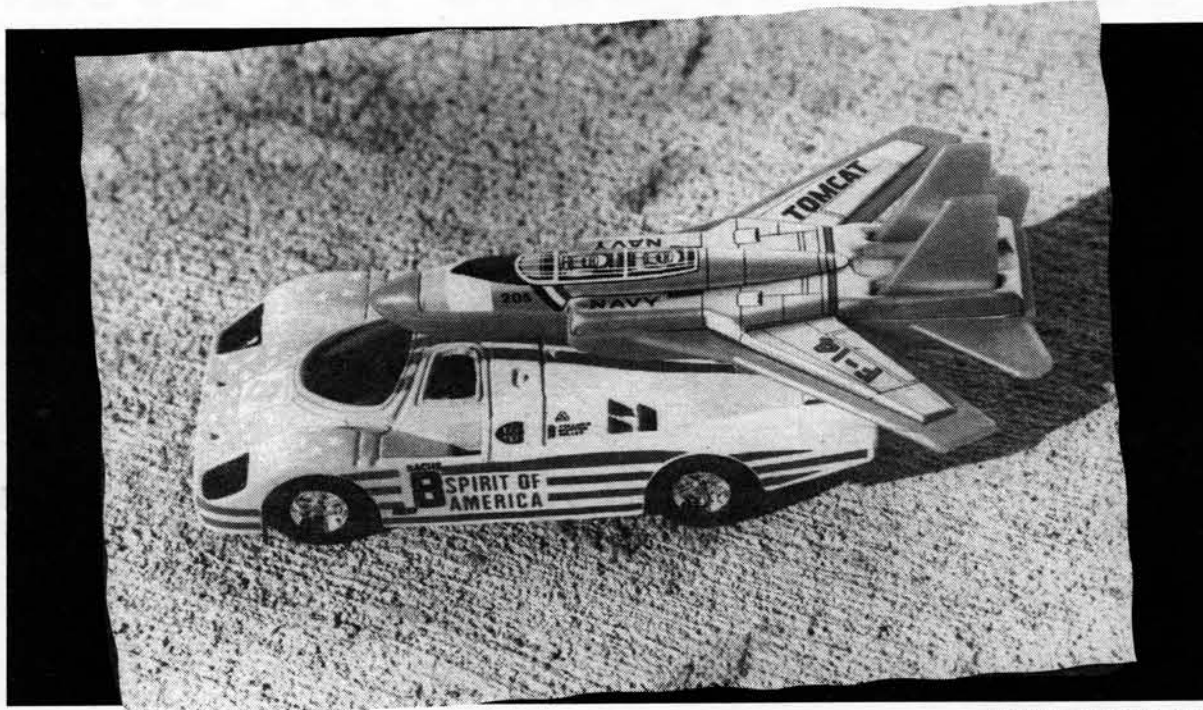


Correctness

By Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon

Hey Man, an 82 mpg Peace Dividend

By Harvey Dosik



JANJAAP/MONTHLY PLANET

"Hey man, a car that gets 82 miles per gallon — now that's a peace dividend" said my friend Amos, as he leaned back on the couch and put a match to his pipe.

"You know that thing that Clinton and the Big Three auto makers agreed on a while back? Where they all kick in a bundle of money to do R&D on a car that doesn't pollute, is totally recyclable and gets 82.5 miles a gallon," he said as he puffed.

"You mean the Clean Car Initiative," I responded.

"Yeah, yeah," he exploded in a burst of smoke, excited that someone knew what he was talking about. "They're gonna get all those scientists and engineers at Livermore Labs that have been figuring out how to make smarter and faster H-bombs and have them work on something that people can actually use."

"You know, I've always felt sorry for those guys because I thought that deep down they knew all their talents were going into making these death machines. There's a peace dividend at a personal level for them," he mused.

"So, how will this work, how will they do it?" I asked.

"Well, the idea is to team the government's national laboratories like Livermore and Sandia with top researchers from the auto industry. They'll work on a car that not only gets mega-mileage, but is safe, as powerful and as comfortable as today's cars, and do it all in the next ten years. Al Gore said, 'Just having a tin box that gets high mileage is not the point, anyone can do that, but one that is as impressive and marketable as those produced today with a threefold increase in mileage — that's the hard part.'"

There was no stopping him now. He stood up and began pacing back and forth, waving the pipe like a

"You know it's not only the car, man. It's like a whole way of thinking about what's important in life and then changing your priorities to support these values."

conductor's baton, as if to orchestrate his thoughts.

"Just think about what this could mean for the environment. A clean car would mean less pollution and cleaner air, it would be totally recyclable, and waste less of our natural resources. I mean we spend bongo bucks on these things alone," he continued. "And oil — man, do you think we flipped out in the Persian Gulf because we liked the Sultan of Kuwait? Man, this car could go a long way toward making us less dependent on foreign oil and loonies like Saddam Hussein."

I smiled nervously, remembering George Bush on television preparing for war. "What about the economy — there's another peace dividend," I said, anxious to get away from that thought.

"Oh man, we're talking whole new industries. This kind of research means big-time spin-offs in electronics, metallurgy, computer design, robotics and who knows what

else. And we're talking jobs, man. Manufacturing jobs, education jobs, service industry jobs, retail, wholesale, you name it."

He paused and his facial expression changed as if a deeper thought had suddenly become clearer.

"You know, this is what Clinton meant when he talked about defense conversion, about cooperation between the federal government and private enterprise for developing commercially useful technologies. Germany and Japan have been doing this for years."

He sank down again on the couch, crossed his legs at the ankles, and said pensively, "You know it's not only the car, man. It's like a whole way of thinking about what's important in life and then changing your priorities to support these values. You know, I look around and see mistrust and cynicism that so many people have for the government and big business. The Right blames the Left for wasting money on government bureaucracy and inefficiency, and the Left accuses the Right of being slaves to profits at everyone's expense. Maybe they're both right...but if the underlying focus of this kind of cooperation is life affirming, if it doesn't screw up the environment, then maybe we can rebuild some of the trust in our leaders — and in ourselves."

"That's the real peace dividend." ■

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Gray Whale Heats Up: Logging Conference Calls for Local Control

By Elizabeth Herbert



JODI FREDIANI/MONTHLY PLANET

A recent three-acre clear-cut near Fern Flat Road in Aptos.

As they watched 20 acres of their beloved forest fall to loggers on November 11, members of Save the Gray Whale Parklands (SGWP) were as angry as they were dismayed. "We didn't expect the cutting to start on Veteran's Day," remarked member Jodi Frediani. "The Forest Practice Act prohibits cutting on weekends and holidays." Frediani said that if the cut hadn't begun illegally on a holiday, the group would have "had a better chance to legally stop the cut before it got started."

Not only did cutting begin on a holiday, but Nancy Drinkard, a forester with the California Department of Forestry (CDF), inspected the site on her day off to give loggers the go-ahead. Drinkard was quoted by the *Santa Cruz County Sentinel* as saying, "It was a real honest mistake." Celia Scott, one of the founders of SGWP said, "I don't believe that for a minute." Nor did Frediani, who claimed that "as usual, CDF was pushing to get out the cut."

Only the day before, the State Board of Forestry refused to hear an appeal of the Majors Creek timber harvest plan which included the fated 20 acres. The appeal, filed by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, contested the plan because it failed to properly address potential environmental impacts, and because "meaningful public input was stifled rather than solicited." The Board of Forestry stated that it

refused the appeal because there were "no substantive issues raised."

Ironically, three days before the state refused to hear the appeal, Fifth District County Supervisor Fred Keeley blasted the CDF and the state Board of Forestry for being "absolutely unaccountable to the interests of local communities." His remarks were made as an invited speaker at a November 6 logging conference sponsored by the Sierra Club.

On the Monday after the cutting started, protests began on the logging site near the intersection of Smith Grade Road and Empire Grade Road. On Wednesday, Dennis Davie, a member of Earth First! was arrested by Deputy Liberty of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department after an altercation with Geoff Conley, the licensed timber operator for the Majors Creek plan. According to Davie, he was standing about three feet into the roadway when Conley, driving in the opposite direction in his pick-up truck, made a U-turn, drove back to where Davie was standing, and pushed him 15-25 feet down the road with the front of his truck. Conley claims that Davie and a group of five or six protesters were blocking the road, and that he had no choice but to let his truck roll towards the group at about five miles per hour. Conley said, "All the others got out of the way, but Davie stood with his

back to the truck with this 'I'm not gonna move' attitude."

Davie said he beat on Conley's truck as he was pushed, and that he hit the windshield, cracking it. He said that Conley then stopped the truck, got out, walked over to Davie, grabbed him, and threatened him. Davie says at that point "we wound up on the ground, I'm not sure how." Several other protesters pulled Conley off of Davie. "The sheriff's department showed up about ten minutes later; not one of them saw what happened," Davie said. He also said that the deputy talked to Conley first, and when Davie approached the deputy to ask him to arrest Conley for assaulting him with his truck, Deputy Liberty arrested Davie instead, even after several witnesses corroborated Davie's story. He was charged with battery, vandalism, and blocking the road.

Save the Gray Whale Parklands went back to court to stop further harvesting on the Majors Creek plan until the merits of a pending lawsuit could be heard. On November 18 the judge stipulated that landowner Ron Yanke, a resident of Idaho, could complete the harvest already begun on the 20-acre segment (which by then was a clean-up operation). But the order prohibited any further logging activity on the remainder of the Majors Creek timber harvest plan until next spring.

Meanwhile, SGWP is seeking a stay from the state appellate court to stop harvesting on Peasley Gulch, a second Gray Whale Ranch timber harvest plan, while a lawsuit on that plan is pending. "The plan is not legal, although it was approved by CDF. But of course, they approve virtually all timber harvest plans," said Scott. "The county appealed Peasley Gulch and lost.

Our only recourse is to litigate." Although different in some respects, lawsuits for both the Majors Creek and Peasley Gulch plans contend that timber harvesting should not be allowed while a required environmental impact report is being prepared for the proposed luxury residential development on the same land.

The lack of local control over timber harvesting, and the public's need to litigate when illegal timber harvest plans are approved by CDF, were two of the main issues addressed by the Sierra Club logging conference held on November 6 in Santa Cruz. The conference, entitled "Logging in Santa Cruz County: Can Our Forests Survive?" drew a full house of attendees representing such divergent interests as SGWP, grassroots groups, CDF, timber companies, Earth First!, Hemp Council, and Greenpeace. Conference organizer Dan Dickmeyer of the Sierra Club Forestry Task Force called the conference "a resounding success, beyond all of our expectations."

Speakers at the conference included county supervisors, local environmental

organizers, wildlife experts, an environmental attorney, and a registered professional forester.

Third District County Supervisor Gary Patton pointed out the necessity for public involvement in "the business of cutting trees." Patton said, "We live in two worlds, the world of nature and the world we create, consisting of infrastructure and institutions. These worlds are governed by two different sets of laws which we get confused all the time. We start thinking that we don't have to obey the laws of nature, and we put our own lives and the life of the planet in peril." He challenged the public to get involved in "changing the rules that regulate the world that we create. If things aren't working right, we can make it better by writing better rules."

Patton acknowledged that changing the laws governing timber harvesting has become more difficult since 1983, "when Big Creek Lumber successfully lobbied to get a bill through the state legislature that essentially eliminated county jurisdiction." Previously, however, he said the county did regulate timber harvesting, "charging a fee to those who were profiting, unlike CDF who reviews and regulates entirely at the taxpayers' expense."

Supervisor Keeley emphasized that "the timber industry has been singled out by the state for very special treatment. If you wanted to build a house, or a golf course, or a housing development, you wouldn't go to the state, you'd go to city hall or the county." He said that what distinguishes timber harvesting from other land use activity is that "the governor and the state legislature in the 1980s absolutely caved in to the narrow special interests, who don't like

that the city and county governments listen to the legitimate concerns of the local residents." Through contributions and lobbying, he said, the forest products industry got the votes to pass Senate Bill 856, which took away local control and gave it to the state. Keeley said that they got those votes from districts "where people don't care, because logging isn't done in their backyards."

Sharon Duggan, keynote speaker and environmental attorney, quoted State Board of Forestry officials who have acknowledged severe and prolonged over-harvesting of California's forests. She went on to say that, "Rather than regulate for sustained yield and protection of forest productivity as required by law, the board has allowed market forces to dictate the level of cut." She called on the public to participate in the process of timber harvest plan review, but warned, "What can you expect from CDF as you attempt to exercise your right and duty to protect the environment? You can expect the face of environmentalism, and the heart and mind of the timber indus-

try. You can expect the appearance of cooperation, while they are undermining your efforts, dismissing your views, and rationalizing continuing harvests at the behest of the timber industry."

Duggan drew cheers as she continued, "Ask anyone who has spent countless hours reviewing and commenting on a timber harvest plan or better yet, attempted to engage the Board of Forestry in its interminable dance with the industry only to have their well-researched comments and concerns ignored, belittled or arrogantly dismissed. Fundamentally, CDF believes that its duty is to approve THPs."

One of the best attended conference workshops explained how the public can participate in the timber harvest review process. Each conference participant was also given a copy of the booklet, entitled, "Fight Back! A Citizen's Guide to Forest Preservation in Santa Cruz County," which details the process specifically for the county.

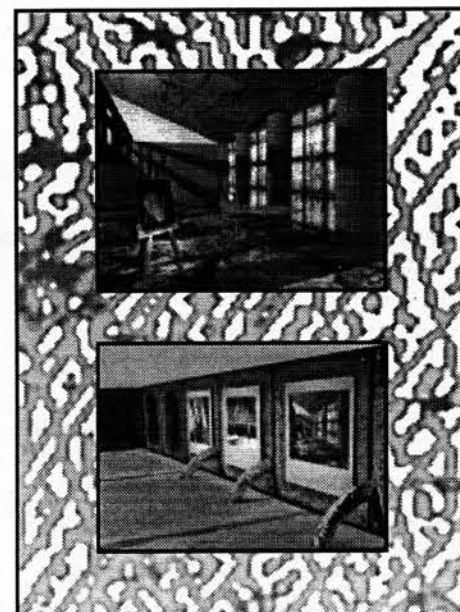
Another focal point of the conference was exemptions. Exemptions allow landowners many different ways to cut trees without having to file a timber harvest plan. Exemptions are designed to make it easy and inexpensive to log, even clear-cut, without the public scrutiny or the environmental review required by a timber harvest plan. CDF considers exemptions to be low priority. They do not routinely inspect, and there are no stiff penalties for citations. Therefore, abuse has been rampant all over the state. The public outcry from Santa Cruz County over three-acre conversion exemptions has been among the most vociferous. The conversion exemption, designed to convert forest land to a "non-timber growing use," provides a mechanism for landowners to clear-cut up to three acres on any sized parcel.

According to conference speaker Dr. Robert Hrubes, an economist and a registered professional forester, the abuse of the conversion exemption is "the single biggest problem in forest practice regulation in the state of California at this time." He explained that changes to the regulations governing exemptions had been before the Board of Forestry since July, but that the board was "dilly-dallying" and "sitting on its hands" as it considered changes.

Fortunately for local neighborhoods, the public outcry over abuses of the three-acre exemptions has met with a very positive response at the county level. On October 26, Santa Cruz County supervisors voted 4-1 to place an emergency moratorium on exemption permits that expired on December 7. They had the authority to do this because the county still retains some power to regulate timber harvesting on three-acre plots. The supervisors also voted 4-1 to extend the moratorium on exemptions until April 15. Dave Johnston, county resource planner, is updating the county timber harvesting ordinances to regulate three-acre harvests. "These new ordinances have to be ready to go into effect by April 15 when the moratorium expires," said Johnston. ■

Elizabeth Herbert is a free-lance writer who lives in the mountains above Aptos.

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1095-A Smith Grade Rd., Santa Cruz 95060 • Reverend Benet Luchion

COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR (CISPES) 458-3555
P.O. Box 366, Santa Cruz 95061

COMMON CAUSE 425-7474
77 Chestnut St. #107, Santa Cruz 95060 • Sylvia Knapton

COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE OF SANTA CRUZ
P.O. Box 1501, Freedom 95019

COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD 457-1741
501 Soquel Ave., Suite E, Santa Cruz 95062 • Christine Johnson-Lyons

COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR THE DISABLED 429-9969
340 Soquel Ave., Ste. 115, Santa Cruz 95062

CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAM 475-8277
P.O. Box 7224, Santa Cruz 95061 • Adrienne Waite

CRISIS LINE FOR DEFENSA DE MUJERES 685-3737
(24-hour bilingual)

CRUZIO 423-1162
1803 Mission St., #556, Santa Cruz 95060

CULTURAL COUNCIL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 476-2313
7960 Soquel Dr., Suite I, Aptos 95003 • Lance Lahares

DAVENPORT RESOURCE SERVICE CENTER 425-8115
100 Church St., Davenport 95017 • Amy Weiss

DEFENSA DE MUJERES-SANTA CRUZ 426-7273
1215 Mission St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Yolanda Montes

DEFENSA DE MUJERES-WATSONVILLE 722-4532
406 Main St., Rm. 326, Watsonville 95076 • Blanca Tavera

DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE 423-6445
P.O. Box 7763, Santa Cruz 95061

DEMOCRATIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES 425-7478
1509 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA (DSA) 479-0641
664 37th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB 479-0641
P.O. Box 1901, Capitola 95010 • Rachel Haskell

DETROIT SUMMER 429-5673
151 Towne Terr., Santa Cruz 95060 • Christopher Shein

EARTH FIRST! 425-8094
P.O. Box 344, Santa Cruz 95061

EARTH SAVE 423-4069
706 Frederick St., Santa Cruz 95062 • Pat Carney

ECOLOGY ACTION OF SANTA CRUZ 427-1357
P.O. Box 1188, Santa Cruz 95061 • Bonny Wilson

EDUCATION NOT INCARCERATION 454-9472
116 S. Branciforte Dr., Santa Cruz 95062 • David Pullman

EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (UCSC) 426-1597
441 High St., Santa Cruz 95060

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL 426-2286
P.O. Box 1769, Santa Cruz 95061 • Mary Tsalis

EPILEPSY SUPPORT GROUP OF SANTA CRUZ 425-0725
125 Torrey Pine Ter., Santa Cruz 95060

FAMILIA CENTER P.O. Box 533, Santa Cruz 95061

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION 423-9444
104 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

FILIPINO COMMUNITY OF WATSONVILLE 722-4522
2448 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville 95076 • Frank Irao

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES 688-8840
236 Santa Cruz Ave., Aptos 95003

FOOD NOT BOMBS 425-3345
909 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060

FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL COMMUNITY 427-9532
232 Esmeralda Dr., Santa Cruz 95060 • Len & Carolyn Vertin

FREEDOM NOW 115 Coral St., Santa Cruz 95060

FREEDOM SONG NETWORK 338-7283
P.O. Box 559, Felton 95018 • Mark Levy

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION 423-2605
118 Miles St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Herb Foster

FRIENDS OF BUTANO CREEK 425-3205

FRIENDS OF PORTER-SESON 475-6104
3407 Gross Rd., Santa Cruz 95062 • Vickie Powell-Murray

FRIENDS PEACE & SOCIAL ORDER COMMITTEE 475-6050
1255 Dougmar Dr., Santa Cruz 95062 • Maria Acosta-Smith

GAY AND LESBIAN VEGETARIANS 336-3255
P.O. Box 7971, Santa Cruz 95061

GAY HOTLINE 427-CALL
(Crisis line for hate crimes, Friday & Saturday 6-10pm)

GRAY PANTHERS 475-2435
P.O. Box 1015, Santa Cruz 95061 • Zena Druckman

GREEN PARTY OF SANTA CRUZ 425-3193
P.O. Box 3074, Santa Cruz 95063-3074

GREENPEACE 429-9988
1112-B Ocean St., Santa Cruz 95060

HARBINGER COMMUNICATIONS 429-8727
250 Homestead Trail, Santa Cruz 95060 • Bill Leland

HEAD START 724-3885, 688-3802
237-1/2 Beach, Watsonville 95076

HOMELESS GARDEN PROJECT 426-3609
P.O. Box 617, Santa Cruz 95061

HOMELESS UNITED FOR FRIENDSHIP & FREEDOM 427-1205
614 Hanover St., Santa Cruz 95062 • Robert Norse

HOUSING LAW CENTER 458-1086
1522 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

HUMAN CARE ALLIANCE 423-0554
1110 Emeline Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

INTERNATIONAL CESARIAN AWARENESS NETWORK (ICAN) SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER 354-4401
121 Escobar Ave., Los Gatos 95032

I/YOU VENTURE 462-0161
104 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

JANUS ALCOHOLISM SERVICES 462-1060
718 Carmel St., Santa Cruz 95062

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZEN LEAGUE 724-4028
P.O. Box 163, Watsonville 95077

KCAH-TV 25 UHF-COMMUNITY TV 754-1540
P.O. Box 1541, Salinas 93902

KOLAYNU/SANTA CRUZ NEW JEWISH AGENDA 425-4782
219 Peyton St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Sally Schwartz

KSCO-AM 1080 TALK RADIO 475-1080
2300 Portola Dr., Santa Cruz 95062 • Rosemary Chalmers

KUSP-FM 476-2800
203-8th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062

KZSC-FM 459-2811 (BUSINESS); 459-4036 (REQUEST)
UCSC, Santa Cruz 95064

LAVENDER READER 423-7287
P.O. Box 7293, Santa Cruz 95061

LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC) P.O. Box 301, Watsonville 95077

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SANTA CRUZ CO. 688-6535
21 Carr St., Watsonville 95076

LESBIAN & GAY ACTION ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 7293, Santa Cruz 95061

LESBIAN NEWS Box 2968, Santa Cruz 95063

LIGA INTERNACIONAL DE MUJERES POR LA PAZ E LIBERTAD 728-8824
P.O. Box 1991, Watsonville 95077 • Maria

MASS RENT BOYCOTT/ANTI-EVICTION PROJECT 427-3016
P.O. Box 7407, Santa Cruz 95061

MEDIA WATCH 423-4355
P.O. Box 618, Santa Cruz • Ann Simonton

MEN'S ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE 425-5248
P.O. Box 2126, Santa Cruz 95061

MENTAL HEALTH CAPTIVES LIBERATION FRONT 426-3201
117 Ocean St., Santa Cruz 95060 • John Telfair

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER 425-2510
1081 Emeline Ave., Bldg. K, P.O. Box 962, Santa Cruz 95061 • Barlow Schuyler

THE MONTHLY PLANET 429-8755
P.O. Box 8463, Santa Cruz 95061 • John Govsky

NAACP 426-1957
P.O. Box 1433, Santa Cruz 95061 • Francile Hill

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) SANTA CRUZ CO. CHAPTER 335-7704
P.O. Box 1119, Felton 95018

NATIONAL WRITERS UNION (SANTA CRUZ/MONTEREY LOCAL) 427-2950 / 659-0632
P.O. Box 2409, Aptos 95001 • Steve Turner

NATIVE AMERICAN SUPPORT GROUP
P.O. Box 1996, Aptos 95001 • John Walsh

NATIVE ANIMAL RESCUE 462-0726
2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062

NATURAL RESOURCES & EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM 662-3616
323-F Spreckles Dr., Aptos 95003 • Steve Holzerland

NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREEZE OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 458-9975
P.O. Box 8463, Santa Cruz 95061

ONE SONG INTERNATIONAL CHOIR 458-1961
123 Bixby #1, Santa Cruz

OPERATION HOMELESS OF SANTA CRUZ 475-9229
2-2021 East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz 95062 • Arlyn Tebeira

OUR GARDEN 429-5673
1803 Mission St., #91, Santa Cruz 95060

PAJARO VALLEY DEMOCRATIC CLUB 724-4522
1208 Freedom Blvd., Watsonville 95076

PEACE DAY PROJECT 475-0207
P.O. Box 1729, Santa Cruz 95061-1729 • Bonita Mugnani

PEACE CHILD - SANTA CRUZ 479-7708
P.O. Box 897, Santa Cruz 95061 • Diane Bridgeman

PEACE EDUCATION PROJECT 338-7283
P.O. Box 559, Felton 95018 • Helen Oppenheimer

PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY-CALIFORNIA 688-8692
P.O. Box 2325, Aptos 95001 • Maureen Smith

PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY 423-3062
P.O. Box 7376, Santa Cruz 95061 • Susanne

PEACEMAKERS 479-9770
515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 • Jack Klinger

PEOPLE FOR ANIMAL LIBERATION 429-5698
P.O. Box 2960, Santa Cruz 95063

PEOPLE POWER 462-5968
731 36th Ave., Santa Cruz 95065

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB 479-0641
664 37th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062 • Gordon Haskell

PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY 422-9066
505 E. Romie Lane, Salinas 93901 • Don King

PLANNED PARENTHOOD, SANTA CRUZ 426-5550
212 Laurel St., Santa Cruz 95060

PLANNED PARENTHOOD, WATSONVILLE 724-7525
90 Mariposa Ave., Watsonville 95076

PROGRAM SUPPORT 425-1830
298 Harvey West Blvd., Santa Cruz 95060

PSYCHIATRIC INMATES RIGHTS COLLECTIVE 438-8424
P.O. Box 299, Santa Cruz 95061 • Jane Kysor

RAINBOW COALITION 761-0861
41 Jefferson St., Watsonville 95076

REFUSE AND RESIST 425-3133
Student Center, 1156 High St., UCSC, Santa Cruz 95064

REGIONAL ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY 422-5377
9 West Gavlilan St., Salinas 93901

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS NETWORK 425-8711, 425-1551
212 Laurel St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Carol Fuller

REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE 429-8030
107 Dakota St., Santa Cruz 95060

RESOURCE CENTER FOR NONVIOLENCE 423-1626
515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060

RUACH JEWISH 12-STEP PROGRAM FOR ADDICTION & ABUSE 475-HOPE
2636 17th Ave., Suite 156, Santa Cruz 95065 • Rabbi Andy Silver

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC KITCHEN 425-9225
205 Mora St., Santa Cruz 95060

SALUD PARA LA GENTE 728-8250
204 E. Beach St., Watsonville 95076

SAN LORENZO VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB 338-6578
P.O. Box 574, Ben Lomond 95005 • Nancy Macy

SANE/FREEZE CANNVASS 429-8888
320-G Cedar St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Armond Gauthier

SANTA CRUZ ACTION FOR BIG MOUNTAIN 464-8633
P.O. Box 1653, Soquel 95073 • Meagan Cassidy

SANTA CRUZ ACTION NETWORK (SCAN) 458-9425
108 Locust St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Jennifer Wintode

SANTA CRUZ AIDS PROJECT (SCAP) 427-3900
911-A Center St., Santa Cruz 95060

SANTA CRUZ ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE 429-9623
1095 Smith Grade, Santa Cruz 95060 • Rev. Benet Luchion

SANTA CRUZ CITIZENS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA 429-8819
328 Ocean #5, Santa Cruz 95060

SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION 425-7708
512 Front St., Santa Cruz 95060

SANTA CRUZ COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION 423-1318
P.O. Box 632, Santa Cruz 95061

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CYCLING CLUB 423-0829
509 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95062

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY IMMIGRATION PROJECT 724-5667
406 Main St., Suite 217, Watsonville 95076

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION 454-2772
701 Ocean St. Santa Cruz 95060 • Rita Flores

SANTA CRUZ GREENS 476-5957
920 Kennedy Dr., Capitola 95010 • Robin Brooks

SANTA CRUZ GUATEMALAN COMMITTEE 425-5939
112 Hebard St., Santa Cruz 95060

SANTA CRUZ EPILEPSY SOCIETY 423-3610
Jim Dorety

SANTA CRUZ INDIAN COUNCIL 459-7929
P.O. Box 975, Soquel 95073

SANTA CRUZ LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDERED COMMUNITY CENTER 425-LGBC
1328 Commerce Ln., Santa Cruz 95061 • P.O. Box 8280

SANTA CRUZ SPCA 475-4454
2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz 95062

SANTA CRUZ STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY 458-2719
Cowell Box 672, UCSC, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

SAVE OUR SHORES (SOS) 462-5660
P.O. Box 1560, Santa Cruz 95061 • Vicki Nichols

SAVE SOQUEL 476-1871
4453 Fairway Dr., Soquel 95073 • Judy Parsons

SAVE THE GRAY WHALE RANCH PARKLANDS 423-0796
P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz 95061

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL IMPECCABILITY 338-7139
14197 Hwy. 9, Boulder Creek 95018 • Kythera Ann

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM 476-7140
809 Bay Ave., Suite H, Capitola 95010 • Jean Plotenhauer

SEEING BEYOND—RADIO 2000 479-8255
P.O. Box 697, Capitola 95010 • Karin Derr

SENIOR CITIZENS LEGAL SERVICES, SANTA CRUZ 426-8824
343 Church St., Santa Cruz 95060

SENIOR CITIZENS LEGAL SERVICES, WATSONVILLE 728-4711
127 E. Beach St., Watsonville 95076

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT 429-9747
104 Magnolia St., Santa Cruz 95062

SENIOR OUTREACH SERVICES 462-0161
104 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

SENIORS COUNCIL 688-0400
234 Santa Cruz Ave., Aptos 95003

SIERRA CLUB 426-4453
P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz 95061

STEPPING OUT 476-0245
3035 Prather Ln., Santa Cruz 95060

STOP FIRST STRIKE 462-9579
4257 Fairway Dr., Soquel 95073

STOP POLICE ABUSE NOW 475-2012
Nick Whitehead

SUICIDE PREVENTION OF SANTA CRUZ CO. 458-5300/688-1818
P.O. Box 734, Capitola 95010

SUNFLOWER HOUSE 423-3890
125 Rigg St., Santa Cruz 95060

SUNRAY MEDITATION SOCIETY 457-2057
309 Cedar St., Suite 41, Santa Cruz 95060

SURFRIDER FOUNDATION-SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER (LOCAL WATER QUALITY HOTLINE) 438-8882
P.O. Box 3203, Santa Cruz 95063

TEMPLE OR TIQYAH FOR AMERICAN JEWISH RENEWAL 475-HOPE
2636 17th Ave., Suite 156, Santa Cruz 95065
Rabbi Andy Silver

UCSC WOMEN'S CENTER 459-2072
UCSC, Santa Cruz 95064 • Beatriz Lopez-Flores

UHURU SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE 462-1353
P.O. Box 2002, Santa Cruz 95063

UNITARIAN/UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE 684-0506
6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos 95003 • Beth Coats

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION S.C. P.O. Box 291, Brookdale 95007 • Steve Ross

VETERANS FOR PEACE ACTION TEAM 429-8345
Steve Brooks

VETERANS FOR PEACE CHAPTER II 426-7974
129 Marcell Ave., Santa Cruz 95060 • Ruben Gomez

VFW POST 5888, BILL MOTTO 335-2122
P.O. Box 664, Santa Cruz 95061 • Gordon Smith

VIVA (VICTIMS IN VICTORY ADVOCACY) 425-3244
509 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF S.C. CO. 423-0554
1110 Emeline Ave., Santa Cruz 95060

WAR TAX RESISTANCE FUND 427-2399
515 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060 • Ned Van Valkenburgh

WELFARE PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP 458-9070
509 Broadway, Santa Cruz 95060

WESTERN WORKER'S LABOR HERITAGE FESTIVAL 426-4940
P.O. Box 7184, Santa Cruz 95061 • David Winters

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER 425-5028
1000 Mission St., Santa Cruz 95060

WOMEN FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE & ARBITRATION
106 Comstock Lane, Santa Cruz 95060

WOMEN'S CANCER ADVOCACY RESOURCES & EDUCATION (WOMENCARE) 457-CARE
P.O. Box 944, Santa Cruz 95061

WOMEN'S CRISIS SUPPORT & SHELTER SERVICES 425-5525
1025 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Sara Lively

WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER 427-3500
250 Locust St., Santa Cruz 95060 • Ciel Benedetto

WOMEN IN BUILDING & DESIGN 457-7387

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM (WILPF) 459-8078
P.O. Box 61, Santa Cruz 95063 • Alice Davis
For Watsonville's WILPF chapter, see Liga Intl De Mujeres

YOUTH SERVICES (WATSONVILLE) 728-2226
107 California, Watsonville 95076

YOUTH SERVICES (SANTA CRUZ) 425-0771
117 Union St., Santa Cruz 95060

YWCA, SANTA CRUZ 426-3062
303 Walnut Ave., Santa Cruz 95060 • Barbara Young

To update this information, or to add your organization, call The Monthly Planet at 429-8755.

PEACE & JUSTICE CALENDAR

Calendar items must be typed or legibly written and sent (along with any photos) to *The Monthly Planet*, P.O. Box 8463, Santa Cruz, CA 95061, or faxed to 429-8889. We do not take calendar items over the phone.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Celebrate the Full Moon with Whillee!!! and Friends. Ceremony, song, dance, drumming, rattles, joy! 6-10 PM, Seabright Beach, Santa Cruz. Share vegetarian potluck. Free! Bring love and firewood. Info: 462-4287.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Project Scout. Every year volunteers are needed to assist seniors, disabled, non-English speaking, and low income individuals file their income tax returns. Classes will be held for five consecutive Saturdays starting January 8 and ending on February 5, at Cabrillo College. Volunteers receive free instructions for their personal income taxes and get personal satisfaction in helping their community. Since materials for classes must be ordered soon, please call Project Scout, Inc. at 688-7240 or 423-2128 to register for the class.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

African Dance Party at Loudon Nelson Community Center. The event kicks off at 6 PM. The evening features Ma Boukaka, a Congolese Master Drummer; a dance video on a giant screen; live dance exhibition; African food; dance to DJ music from all over Africa including "Soukous" from Zaire. The event is a benefit for the Mosi Mosi Foundation, a public, charitable non-profit organization dedicated to assisting disadvantaged children in Africa. For more information call 459-9655 or (510) 487-7692.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

People Power Bike Pride Ride. Time changed due to popular demand! 12 noon, rain or shine. Celebrate the new year with human powered transportation! Meet at the lighthouse in

Santa Cruz (on West Cliff Drive) for an easy, fun ride around town. Call Don Fong at 429-0133.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

People Power Bike Pride Ride. Time changed due to popular demand! 12 noon, rain or shine. Meet at the lighthouse in Santa Cruz (on West Cliff Drive) for an easy, fun ride around town. Call Don Fong at 429-0133.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9- MONDAY, JANUARY 10

National Space Organizing Meeting and Protest at University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sponsored by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. The event is for local organizers and citizens who are concerned about US plans for space. The cost of registration is on a sliding scale between \$15-\$35. Deadline for registration is January 1.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

A Global Peace Meditation, noon-1 PM, your time zone. Unite in consciousness, whether alone or with friends, with the sound of OM. Harmonizing and synergizing in the awareness that global peace is happening now. Info: The Global Peace Foundation at (708) 256-8646.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

"The Politics of Social Reality," hosted by Bob Debolt, a weekly public affairs program with talks by Noam Chomsky, Michael Parenti, Howard Zinn, Helen Caldicott, John Stockwell. Covers social, political, environmental, health issues, 7-8:30 PM on KZSC 88.1 FM.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

"The Politics of Social Reality," hosted by Bob Debolt, a weekly public affairs program with talks by Noam Chomsky, Michael Parenti, Howard Zinn, Helen Caldicott, John Stockwell. Covers social, political, environmental, health issues, 7-8:30 PM on KZSC 88.1 FM.

HOLIDAY HELP LINES

The holiday season can be a time of family togetherness and celebration, but it can also be a time of increased family violence. If you feel you may be at risk of violence, please call for help:

Women's Crisis Support
24-Hour Crisis Line 429-1478 provides crisis counseling, support, and advocacy for women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, or chemical dependency. There is a confidential shelter for battered women and their children, and offers Temporary Restraining Order assistance.

Parental Stress Hotline
24-Hour Crisis Line 429-7322 provides support and counseling to help parents cope with stress and reduce the risk of child abuse. Being a parent isn't easy, and you don't have to face it alone.

Suicide Prevention Service
24-Hour Crisis Line 458-5300 provides confidential peer support counseling and emergency intervention for community members in danger of harming themselves.

Defensa de Mujeres 24-Hour Crisis Line 685-3737 bi-lingual, bi-cultural Spanish-language crisis intervention, advocacy, coun-

seling, Temporary Restraining Order assistance and court accompaniment for survivors of rape and domestic violence.

Youth Services
24-Hour Crisis Line 425-0771 provides help and counseling for teens (including run-aways) with family conflicts, emotional, personal, or drug/alcohol problems, and neglect, abuse or molestation.

Holiday Help Lines is provided as a public service by the City of Santa Cruz Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, 809 Center Street, Room 10, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (408) 429-3546

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mind, is with these small, virtual community centers - these BBS's.

MPI I heard that in Santa Cruz several operators of these local BBS's have gotten together and formed some kind of a co-op which involves connections to the Internet.

CN That's true. Santa Cruz County is very fortunate in that it has a large number of what I would call virtual community activists, who have put together a very rich, local network environment including: linking BBS's and public access systems like mine, Cruzio; corporations like Santa Cruz Operation, and Borland; and schools like Cabrillo College and UCSC. Just recently, a cooperative was formed to actually provide access to the greater Internet.

MPI How does that work - how do we get access to the Internet?

CN Well basically, you connect to the Internet through somebody who's already connected. So the Internet co-op has leased a phone line over the hill to another Internet cooperative in Silicon Valley, making access through that telephone line available to anybody in Santa Cruz county for a low fee.

MPI During the Gulf War, I as an activist made great use of the network. We organized an anti-war demonstration attended by at least 4,000 people who filled downtown Santa Cruz, and then watched the television news report that "hundreds" of people attended a rally in Santa Cruz. I immediately posted the real story to PeaceNet, and it was very apparent from other postings that grossly inaccurate and downright false media reporting was widespread throughout the country. By bypassing the mainstream press, we networkers were able to get a real picture of what was happening. So I know how an activist like myself can use the network. How about your average person in Santa Cruz - what's in it for them? How could they use the net? What are the resources that they could gain?

CN The net could be useful, and is useful in fact, to your so-called average person - which I take to mean someone who is not a professional, or a student, or researcher.

For example, there's a very popular, very useful electronic conference devoted to parents raising children; it's called "misc.kids." On this conference, you can post a question: "My little girl has a persistent cough. She's had it for several weeks. She has a runny nose. I'm a little bit worried. The doctor's can't find anything. What should I do?"

Dozens of parents will then post a response, both publicly to the conference or privately through e-mail to this person, saying, "Runny noses are common in children. It doesn't necessarily mean that they're sick, that they have bronchitis or something of that nature."

In other words, it can act as a support group. You can talk with people who have been through the same thing that you are currently going through and they can let you know what it's like, what you can expect, and, you know, just that you'll survive and you'll get through it. One can be both a consumer of information and a provider of information. Everyone is an expert.

MPI OK, now here's the big question: We hear a lot about how the Internet is the greatest thing since sliced bread, and the answer to the problems of our democracy. So tell us: Will the net save us?

CN The network won't save us. We'll need to save ourselves. What the network can be used for is a communications device by which we, the people, can get together and come up with solutions to the problems which face us. We can come together much like the early Committees of Correspondence did in the original 13 colonies, when they developed the ideas that later led to the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution. So no, the net won't save us; it's up to us to save ourselves, and the net can help. ■

John Govsky is the editor of The Monthly Planet.

Local Bulletin Board Systems

There are probably over 30 BBS's based in the Santa Cruz area alone. Here are some boards offering public access to e-mail, Internet, or electronic conferences. (Starting with the next issue, the *Planet* will publish, on a regular basis, a directory of local BBS's. To add your BBS, send e-mail to scfreeze@cruzio.com.)

CRUZIO

423-9995 (2400 bps); 423-1987 (9600 bps) 423-1162 (voice)
Sysop: Chris Neklason

Cruzio provides friendly, menu-based access to the Internet, in addition to electronic mail and electronic conferences. Starting in January of 1994, it will also provide classes for people new to the network.

CLOVIS

335-4229 (2400 bps)
Sysop: Tim Bowden

Clovis's focus is on local and Internet e-mail and electronic conferences, including the local Santa Cruz County "scruz" newsgroups.

THE ENCLAVE

338-9754 (1200-14,400 bps)
Sysop: JR Dean

The Enclave is oriented toward fiction writers of a "darker" bent, but all writers are welcome. This BBS offers Internet e-mail and conferences of interest to writers.

GORN

458-2289 (2400-14,400 bps)
Sysop: Jon Luini

Gorn (as in the planet Gorn, from an old Star Trek episode) is one of the venerable public access UNIX systems in the county. Gorn offers a selection of conferences and a new connection to the Internet.

DEEPTH

423-4810 (2400-14,400 bps)
Sysop: John DuBois

Deptht (as in deep thought) is a public access UNIX system. A selection of conferences are supported, as is network e-mail and a new connection to the Internet.

SCRUZ-NET INTERNET CO-OP

457-5050 (voice)
Sysops: Tim Garlick, Matthew Kaufman, Qarin Van Brink

The Scruz-Net co-op provides low-cost SLIP/PPP connections to the worldwide Internet. They are the network providers used by Cruzio, Gorn and Deeptht.

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