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# THE MONTHLY PLANET

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

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# FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Letters to  the Editor

## KSCO IS BIASED

Local radio station KSCO is a wolf in sheep's clothing, masquerading as a public, community-oriented radio station. There is nothing public about the station. Michael Zwerling is the sole owner and rules supreme. It's his own private megaphone and he can do what he wants with it. He can applaud racists and hate mongers. He can fire anyone who doesn't follow his narrow political agenda — people like public radio veteran John Sandidge, who was fired for not following Zwerling's whims, such as being ordered to not mention any political candidate other than Bruce McPherson. Now that's playing with a stacked deck!

All visiting speakers or projects associated with the local Resource Center for Nonviolence (RCNV) are silenced immediately, without hesitation. Reportedly, according to Zwerling: "The Resource Center for Nonviolence is the most insidious cancer in Santa Cruz and I want to crush them...there's nothing that would ever change that." Such candid expression is pure unadulterated hate! What about FCC guidelines? I guess that's the last KSCO listeners will hear of the invaluable visitors and controversial issues that

the RCNV hosts. At least they are open to discussion! And don't expect any more news about the new mayor of Santa Cruz, Scott Kennedy, longtime member of the RCNV.

But Mr. Zwerling doesn't care, he still rules his own empire of the air. Despite appearance of presenting open forums, KSCO's core continues to breathe his doctrine of unapologetic hatred and narrow mindedness. And it feeds on what it can sell to those who listen. But, if you want a more open debate, I recommend turning the dial. Here in the Monterey Bay area we are fortunate to have a cornucopia of truly public radio stations, such as: KKUP (91.5), KAZU (90.3), KZSC (88.1), KUSP (89.1), KQED (88.5), and KPFA (94.1). These are all publicly supported, non-commercial, community radio stations — on the FM dial. If you'd like a chart, listing all the regular public affairs, documentary and political discussion programs on these stations, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Free Radio, 832 Riverside Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Grant Wilson  
Santa Cruz

## PAY YOUR TAXES

About taxes: The prevailing attitude is to pay as little as possible and not at all if you can get away with it. And there are many who do. It seems the wealthier the person, the more opposition to paying their taxes.

Take the Nannygate story. A woman who was nominated for the post of attorney general (surely a job requiring knowledge of law) was discovered to have somehow "overlooked" paying the Social Security tax for the nanny she employed. The same for "almost" secretary of defense, millionaire Admiral Inmann. He also somehow overlooked paying the Social Security tax for his housekeeper. And it is such a small tax, a mere 6.2 percent of their wages. Surely, they must have known that failure to pay the tax would make it hard if not impossible for the nanny/housekeeper to collect their Social Security when they retired.

The anti-tax syndrome was illustrated best by ex-President Ronald Reagan, who was presenting a plan for a cut in taxes. He said on national television: "Now, is it not better if the extra money is in your pocket, than in Uncle Sam's pocket?" As if he did not know that it is Uncle Sam who paid his salary,

generous benefits, and now his pension.

It is Uncle Sam Taxpayer who pays the salaries, generous benefits and pensions for everybody in the federal government, from the president down to the sergeant at arms in the Congress. And it is Uncle Sam Taxpayer who bears the cost of all government departments, the judiciary, law enforcement, energy, education, etc., and it is Uncle Sam Taxpayer who pays for maintaining the armed forces, whose job is to protect the country at home and abroad and to protect all people, including the tax refuseniks.

If only Uncle Sam Taxpayer could or would close all tax loopholes in the tax-correcting process there could perhaps be enough money to pay half, if not all, of our national debt.

Zena Druckman  
Santa Cruz

## WRITE TO THE PLANET!

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# Congressional Report Card

SHELLY D'AMOUR

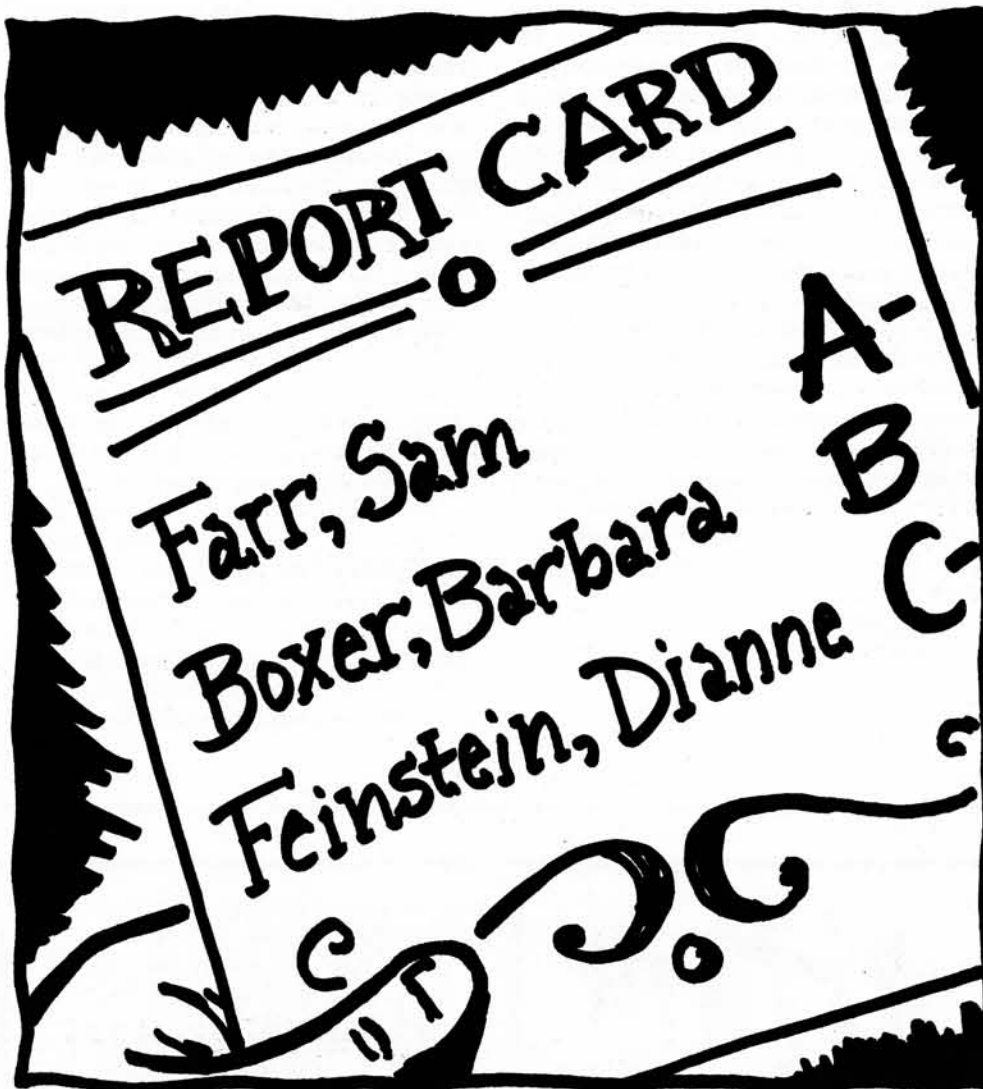
**T**he grades are in, and the results — at least in terms of arms control — are mixed at best, according to national *Peace Action*, which recently published its 1993 Congressional Voting Record analysis. *Peace Action* (formerly SANE/FREEZE) scored members of Congress in terms of nine key votes on military spending issues.

Overall, Congress did poorly in advancing the causes of arms control and reduced military spending. Of the nine votes tracked in the House, only two resulted in a pro-arms control position; the Senate did little better, with three out of nine votes resulting in a victory for arms control. The House votes addressed such issues as budget priorities, arms sales, NATO, funds to dismantle nuclear weapons, and funding for nuclear systems such as Star Wars and the Trident II. The Senate votes tackled similar issues but also included votes on landmines, base closings, funding for the Seawolf submarine, and US withdrawal from Somalia.

Five senators and 45 house members received a perfect 100 percent score; while 73 house members received a zero percent score. The "prize" for the lowest pro-arms control score in the Senate goes to Senator Inouye of Hawaii, who received an 11 percent rating.

California's two new Democratic senators have come back with different report cards. Senator Barbara Boxer rated 78 percent (seven out of nine votes favored the *Peace Action* position, and two were contrary); while Senator Dianne Feinstein drew a 44 percent approval (four out of nine votes favored the *Peace Action* Position, two were against, and she did not vote on three others). The 17th district's new representative, Sam Farr (D), received an 88 percent approval rating (seven out of nine votes favored the *Peace Action* Position, he did not vote on one issue, and was not yet seated in Congress in time for one of the votes). In terms of the California delegation as a whole, eight representatives — including Bay Area Reps. Ron Dellums and Nancy Pelosi — received a 100 percent score; while nine representatives — eight of which represent areas of Southern California — received a zero percent score.

A summary of the key issues follows. A "+" indicates the legislator supported the *Peace Action* position; a "-" indicates



s/he opposed the *Peace Action* position; a "?" indicates no vote was given (counts as a vote against the *Peace Action* position, in terms of ratings); an "I" indicates the member was ineligible to vote (does not count as a vote against the *Peace Action* position).

## BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE (STAR WARS)

**House:** Amendment by Dellums (D), to reduce funding by \$1.5 billion. *Rejected* 160-272. *Peace Action* supported the amendment. Farr (+).

**Senate:** Amendment by Sasser (D-TN), to cut funding from \$3.4 billion to \$3 billion. *Adopted* 50-48. *Peace Action* supported the amendment. Boxer (+), Feinstein (+).

## TRIDENT II (D-5) MISSILE

**House:** 1) Amendment by Dellums to terminate missile procurement at the end of fiscal 1993 (a savings of \$1.13 billion), and transfer \$564 million of the

savings to conversion project activities. *Rejected* 183-240. *Peace Action* supported the amendment. Farr (+).

2) Amendment by Penny (D-MN) to eliminate the D-5 missile program after fiscal 1993. *Rejected* 178-248. *Peace Action* supported the amendment. Farr (+).

**Senate:** Amendment by Inouye to allow for continued funding for the D-5 missile program. *Adopted* 63-34. *Peace Action* opposed the amendment. Boxer (+), Feinstein (?).

## BUDGET PRIORITIES

**House:** Amendment by Mfume (D-MD) to adopt the Congressional Black Caucus budget, which calls for deep military cuts and a shift in spending priorities toward meeting domestic needs. *Rejected* 87-335. *Peace Action* supported the amendment. Farr (I).

**Senate:** Motion by Byrd (D-WV) to table (kill) an amendment offered by DeConcini (D-AZ) to transfer \$50 million from the DOD to the Department of Health and Human Services, in order to

fund drug treatment programs for women and children. *Motion agreed to* 61-32. *Peace Action* opposed the Byrd motion. Boxer (+), Feinstein (+).

## ARMS SALES

**House:** Amendment by Andrews (D-ME) to prohibit the use of defense conversion funds to finance arms sales to other countries. *Adopted* 256-160. *Peace Action* supported the amendment. Farr (+).

**Senate:** Motion by Nunn (D-GA) to table (kill) an amendment offered by Sen. Bingaman (D-NM) which would eliminate a \$25 million authorization to export "defense articles" to NATO countries, Israel, Australia, South Korea and Japan. *Motion agreed to* 63-37. *Peace Action* opposed the Nunn motion. Boxer (+), Feinstein (-).

## NUCLEAR TESTING AND WEAPONS DISMANTLING

**House:** Amendment by Hunter (R-CA) to cut funding intended to support dismantling of Soviet nuclear weapons from \$400 million to \$100 million, and to transfer the \$300 million to operations and maintenance accounts for the US Army, Navy and Air Force. *Amendment rejected* 149-263. *Peace Action* opposed the amendment. Farr (?).

**Senate:** Motion by Harkin (D-IA) to table (kill) an amendment offered by Exon (D-NE), which sought to water down a previous proposal by Harkin to reduce funding for nuclear testing. The original Harkin proposal would cut testing funds by \$206 million. The Exon amendment would cut testing funds by \$53.4 million. *Harkin amendment rejected* 31-62. The Exon amendment was then passed on a voice vote. *Peace Action* supported the Harkin amendment to table. Boxer (+), Feinstein (+).

## BASE CLOSINGS

**Senate:** Amendment by Feinstein to postpone the 1995 round of military base closings until 1997. *Amendment rejected* 18-79. *Peace Action* opposed the amendment. Boxer (-), Feinstein (-). There was no House vote on this issue.

## LANDMINES

**Senate:** Amendment by Leahy (D-VT) to grant a three-year extension to the current US moratorium on the sale or transfer of landmines to other countries.

Amendment adopted 100-0. Peace Action supported the amendment. Boxer (+), Feinstein (+). There was no House vote on this issue.

## SEAWOLF SUBMARINE

**Senate:** Motion by Inouye to table (kill) an amendment offered by McCain (R-AZ) to prohibit funding for a third Seawolf submarine. *Motion agreed to 52-47.* Peace Action opposed the Inouye motion. Boxer (+), Feinstein (?). There was no House vote on this issue.

## FOREIGN POLICY

**Senate:** Motion by Thurmond (R-SC) to table (kill) an amendment offered by McCain (R-AZ) which would prohibit funding for any US military operations in Somalia, except for the withdrawal of US troops. *Motion agreed to 61-38.* Peace Action opposed the Thurmond motion. Boxer (+), Feinstein (?).

**House:** Amendment by Kennedy (D-MA) to eliminate funding (\$2.9 million) for the Army School of the Americas, which trains troops from repressive countries which are favorable to US interests. *Amendment rejected 174-256.* Peace Action supported the amendment. Farr (+).

**ACTION:** Contact your representative and senators and let them know how you feel about their voting record on these issues. Remember to thank them for votes you are happy about. For the complete 1993 Congressional Voting Record, contact Peace Action at 1819 H Street, NW #640, Washington, DC 20006-3603. (202) 862-9740; fax (202) 862-9762. PeaceNet users can find the report listed as topic #179, 1/25/94, under the conference "pa.lobby."

## ARMS SALES

The Pentagon has announced its intention to sell off 400 F-16 advanced military aircraft to developing nations, in order to make room for (and help finance) its next generation of aircraft weaponry. The proposed sale is being criticized by national peace organizations, which argue that the acquisition of these technologies by Third World countries will only serve to escalate regional conflicts, and encourage the governments of poor countries to use their scarce resources to advance military goals over meeting the basic needs of their own people. The proposed sale also contradicts the officially stated US goal of curbing worldwide arms proliferation.

The United States has the dubious distinction of being the world's number one arms supplier, accounting for almost 60 percent of all international arms sales. In addition, US military aid to other countries is as much as eight times greater than its level of economic assistance. US foreign policy is, in very real terms, a military policy.

The "arms" in arms sales constitute a broad range of destructive weaponry,

and are not limited to the types of weapons one might usually associate with your "standard" army equipment. In the arms market, the aim is to please the customer, and almost anything goes. Jim Bondi, in his excellent piece, "Arms for the Poor" (*The Catalyst*, Winter 1993/94) tells us that US weapons sales cover not only the usual array of tanks, planes and guns; but also include such items as electric cattle prods and helicopter gunships — items which are intended for use against civilian populations.

In recent years it appears that karma has caught up, as the US has found itself immersed in one international quagmire after another, a partial consequence of its policy of indiscriminate arms sales. Witness the turn of events in Iraq and Somalia alone — both recipients of huge amounts of US military aid and weapons transfers — which eventually led to the use of US troops, and have cost American lives. Likewise, longstanding US military aid to former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega did nothing to enhance the security of that nation, but on the contrary, led directly to the US invasion of Panama, which cost thousands of civilian lives. Funding for the brutal regimes in El Salvador and Guatemala, and for the Nicaraguan Contras of years past, have threatened to pull us into regional conflicts on a number of occasions.

**The United States has the dubious distinction of being the world's number one arms supplier, accounting for almost 60 percent of all international arms sales.**

Currently, US arms sales to Pakistan, Indonesia, and various countries in the Middle East are intensifying an already heightened environment of internal governmental repression and regional militarism.

In response, Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and Representative Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) have introduced a bill that would establish criteria for approval of weapons sales or transfers to foreign countries, and provide for more direct congressional and presidential oversight than currently exists.

The "Code of Conduct of Arms Transfers" legislation — HR3535 in the House and S1677 in the Senate — would deny weapons sales to countries that engage in the abuse of human rights,

are currently waging acts of military aggression, have undemocratic forms of government, or which do not participate in the UN Arms Register. Arm sales to countries which do not meet the criteria must be approved by both Congress and the president, who must demonstrate why the sales are necessary for US national security.

The Code of Conduct legislation does not guarantee that arms sales will cease, or even decline, but rather provides a level of government accountability for arms sales. It is much needed and long overdue.

**ACTION:** Contact your representatives and senators and ask them to co-sponsor the

Hatfield/McKinney Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers legislation, HR3535 and S1677.

## MILITARY BUDGET

President Clinton has released his military spending request for fiscal year 1995, calling for \$263.7 billion in spending authority, a \$2.8 billion increase over the current year's figure. The budget includes requests for \$3.4 billion for Star Wars, \$818 million for the B-2, \$745 million for procurement of Trident II (D-5) missiles, and \$2.5 billion for the F-22 Advanced Tactical Fighter.

In his State of the Union Address, the president declared that his budget "draws the line against further defense cuts." This is, to say the least, an unfortunate stance. Five members of the House have circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter to House Budget Chair Rep. Martin Sabo, asking him to oppose increased levels of military spending beyond the \$261.5 billion approved by Congress last year. The letter states in part: "Many important domestic needs face severe budgetary pressure because of the tight spending caps we have adopted, as you are aware. To increase defense spending means that we would either increase the deficit above its currently scheduled level or threaten important domestic programs..."

Current projections for military spending indicate a slight drop for the fiscal years '96 through '98, and then a rise in fiscal year 1999. It is critical that Congress get behind a serious, comprehensive arms control agenda that includes continuing reductions in military spending. ■

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

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# LOGGING A HOLE



## Lawsuit Challenges Legality of 3-Acre Exemptions

by Elizabeth Herbert

**W**hen the price of redwood skyrocketed to an all-time high last summer, so did the number of three-acre exemptions and conversion exemptions filed in the state. Word spread quickly about how easy it was to cash in redwood trees with no oversight from the California Department of Forestry (CDF). All the landowner had to do is mail in a two-page form, and then start cutting.

The three-acre exemption, officially known as (14 CCR 1038 c), exempts landowners on small plots from filing a timber harvest plan. Without the benefit of a timber harvest plan, the logging operation receives no environmental review from the state, and requires no advance notice to neighbors, or routine CDF inspection.

Because these small logging operations often take place in residential areas where neighboring properties are put at risk, three-acre exemptions burgeoned into a crisis in Santa Cruz County and across the state last year. The resulting public outcry has drawn state and national media coverage.

Litigation challenging the legality of timber harvests on small plots without environmental review was filed against the California Department of Forestry (CDF) by attorney Tom Lippe on February 8th in the San Francisco County Superior Court. The plaintiff in the case is the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), with headquarters in Garberville, Humboldt County.

"This lawsuit has a very limited objective: to put a stop to a small part of the much bigger problem of timber harvesting exemptions," according to Lippe. "Exemptions are being abused on an increasing level, by more and more landowners, to harvest timber without environmental review. The abuse is subverting the significant hard work done in the last 25 years to protect the forest resources of the state."

Many more acres of timberland are harvested every year under exemptions than under timber harvest plans, according to Ross Johnson, administrator of forest practices for CDF in Sacramento. (The timber harvest plan is the standard mechanism authorized by the Forest Practice Act to evaluate proposed commercial harvests on all non-federal land in California.) And CDF continues to issue exemptions at a record-breaking rate. In January of 1994, 381 exemptions were issued statewide, compared to the previous record of 188 for January 1993.

"The lawsuit contends that the Board of Forestry stepped outside the scope of its authority when it adopted the regulation creating three-acre exemptions," according to Brian Gaffney, EPIC's litigation coordinator for the lawsuit. Every regulation adopted by the Board of Forestry, CDF's policymaking branch, must be authorized under the state's Forest Practice Act, enacted in 1973. According to Gaffney, this regulation was not so authorized.

The lawsuit does not challenge a similar exemption, which applies to three-acre conversions on any sized plot (14 CCR 1104.1 a). The conversion exemption is used to convert forest land to another use, i.e., clear-cut, with no environmental review. Nor does the lawsuit challenge the "salvage" exemption which allows dead, dying and diseased trees to be commercially cut with no environmental review (14 CCR 1038 b). The Greenwood Watershed Association in the town of Elk, Mendocino County, has already legally challenged the salvage exemption after Louisiana Pacific filed to "salvage" 1,380 acres of timberland directly upstream from the town's wells.

Last fall, in response to the critical situation in this county, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors placed an emergency moratorium on exemption permits that expires this coming April 15th. Meanwhile, the county is reviewing its own timber harvesting ordinances regulating three-acre operations. (As of 1983 all timber harvesting activities on plots larger than three acres were removed from county jurisdiction and placed under the sole jurisdiction of CDF under the Board of Forestry's rules.)

The State Board of Forestry has consistently acknowledged the widespread abuse of the three-acre exemptions statewide, but has not yet corrected the problem. Last September, the Board of Forestry issued a public statement stating: "CDF has observed increased abuse of the exemption process...There is a potential for cumulative environmental impacts...-Negative impacts result from misuse of the exemption process." Reports of fraudulent forms, over-cutting, cutting into streams, tree theft, and assault with a deadly weapon are all part of the public record. Abuses have been reported from Butte, Mendocino, Humboldt, Sonoma, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties.

One of the most flagrant abuses was recorded on videotape by members of the Westhaven Community Development Council in Humboldt County, last September 17, 1993. When they learned that a logger was about to illegally lay waste to a cherished grove of redwood trees in the Coastal Zone, council members alerted the sheriff and local citizens. About sixty people rushed to the scene to stop the operation. According to Marni Waller, president of the Council, one woman had stepped in front of a tree, to protect it from cutting, when the logger started up his chainsaw and went after her, cutting her clothing. Waller said "The police would not arrest the logger, because they found no intent to harm." After viewing the videotape, however, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors imposed a moratorium on three-acre exemptions, although it was lifted last month.

Dr. Robert Hrubes, a registered professional forester



and economist, has blasted the Board of Forestry for "dillying dallying" and "sitting on their hands" when it comes to correcting the problems of exemption logging. Each time the Board of Forestry proposes rule changes a public hearing is held in Sacramento, and two opposing sides are heard. One is the voice of the public, demanding that the board stop the abuse. Typical is Jean Crist from Butte County, who heads a group called Protect Our Watershed. Crist says "These three-acre exemption operations are done in groups of family-owned parcels, stripping as much as 24 acres of forest, without any sort of environmental review, or notice to neighbors." The other is the voice of the timber operators, who claim to represent small landowners, waving the banner of private property rights, to justify logging without environmental review.

In December the Board appointed a subcommittee to study the problems of three-acre exemptions and suggest rule changes to address them. Although loggers outnumbered public citizens 5-3 on the subcommittee, Terry Terhaar, represent-

ing the Planning Conservation League, had hoped that the public's concerns could still be heard. But Terhaar said, "The loggers on the subcommittee, under the guise of representing the needs of the small landowner, have pushed to expand the scope of exemption logging rather than trying to stop the abuses." Terhaar also said that the subcommittee had failed to reach consensus about what recommendations to make to the Board, "because the public members are interested in closing the existing loopholes, while the industry representatives are interesting in creating new ones."

The author of this article also was appointed to this subcommittee, representing Citizens for Responsible Forest Management. The only things that the committee could unanimously agree on were that the exemption process was being seriously and widely abused, and that insufficient law enforcement by CDF was one of the major causes.

Doug Ferrier, a registered professional forester and subcommittee appointee remarked, "I don't care how good the rules

are; if they aren't enforced, you're going to have problems."

Subcommittee member Jerry Ranger, a CDF inspector, explained that lack of staff was a major problem because "There are just too many exemptions being filed to inspect them all." Nevertheless, on exemptions that were inspected in El Dorado County, 25 percent of them had violations, according to Terhaar. In order to be licensed, the timber operators in charge of these operations need only complete two days of training. Even though timber operators must by law follow the state Forest Practice Rules, they are not required to pass a test demonstrating their knowledge of the rules to obtain a license.

As easy as it is to get a timber operator's license, very rarely are they ever taken away, according to Ferrier. There is no system for registering complaints against these operators, as there is with for registered professional foresters.

*The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors held a three-and-one-half-hour public hearing on March 8th, examining the county's proposed ordinances to regulate three-acre operations. Their decision is to be announced at their regular meeting on March 15th in the Supervisors' Chambers, 5th Floor of the County Building, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz. Meanwhile the lobbying intensifies for the unregulated timber harvesting of three-acre plots. ■*

*Elizabeth Herbert is a freelance writer who lives in the mountains above Aptos.*

**Last fall, in response to the critical situation in this county, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors placed an emergency moratorium on exemption permits that expires this coming April 15th.**

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# Mongolia:

## to capitalism

The land of Attila, Genghis and Kublai has a proudly independent history going back millennia. The Chinese started building their Great Wall to keep the Mongols out around 2,500 years ago. For the last few centuries, however, Mongolia has essentially been a colony, first of Manchuria and then of Russia — and now, perhaps, of the disciples of Friedman and Jesus.

History, as written by Europeans and Chinese, stresses what it calls the barbaric aspects of the Mongolian heritage. Certainly Attila's fifth-century Huns were stronger on the rape, pillage, murder and burn side of conquest than on its more constructive aftermath. He is acknowledged as an ancestor by modern Mongolians but not revered.

The national hero is Genghis (now officially Chingis Khaan but the old-fashioned orthography seems destined to survive in English). This much-maligned ruler, who lived from 1162 until 1227, established a remarkable empire that eventually extended from Korea and Vietnam to Turkey and Hungary. He and his grandson Kublai (builder of the original Xanadu) conducted campaigns as far afield as Japan, Indonesia and Austria.

More important, and impressive, is the fact that they established a fully functioning bureaucracy. There was a mail system very like the Pony Express, except that it went further and lasted two centuries longer. There was also paper money and, yes, inflation; it was a thoroughly modern system of government and no crueler than those who complained of it.

In the long run, however, it was absurd that a few hundred thousand Mongols would rule millions of people spread over the largest nation the world has ever seen. (Not that the British used to think that a similar ambition was so unrealistic...) Individual genius and advanced military technology, in the form of sophisticated cavalry regiments, held power for a while but the individual components, especially China, eventually asserted their independence. Mongolia collapsed into clan fighting that barely deserves the name civil war.

As the balance shifted, the Manchus took control and exacted tribute. As so often happens, Mongolia shrank to far less than its proper ethnic extent. Many more Mongols now live outside the nation than in it, perhaps 4 million abroad and a little over 2 million nationals.

Russia eventually absorbed a large chunk of land and half a million people into Siberia but the largest grab was by China, which annexed everything on that side of the Gobi Desert. With their

on the rocky road

Pete Shanks

usual ethnocentrism, the Chinese called their new province 'Inner Mongolia' — 'Inner' because it was nearer China. For many years Mongolia itself was known in the West by the insulting name of 'Outer Mongolia' for the same reason.

As China and Russia both fell apart at the beginning of the 20th century, the Mongols grabbed their chance. They declared independence in 1911 and set up a Tibet-style theocratic state under the 8th Living Buddha, entitled the Bogd Haan. This didn't last long: Mongolia was caught up in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution and the People's Government was declared in 1921. The Bogd Haan died, perhaps conveniently, in 1924 and the Mongolian People's Republic officially became the world's second Communist country.

Events over the next few decades paralleled the Soviet Union's experience. Mongolia had its own Stalin, Horloyn Choibalsan, whose early comrades met premature deaths. He ruled until 1952 and was responsible for the murder of (among many others) at least 17,000 Buddhist monks, whose elimination was carefully documented by the bureaucracy, and the destruction of all but 4 of the country's 700 monasteries.

His successor, Yumjaagiyn Tsendenbal, was Mongolia's Khrushchev. He brought the country into the UN in 1961 (over American objections), condemned his predecessor, sided firmly with Russia at the time of the Sino-Soviet split, and lasted until Gorbachev took office in 1984.

The late eighties brought *glasnost*, *perestroika* and the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the US and China. The old order was shaking.

In the nineties, everything changed.

The money from Moscow dried up. Mongolia owes Russia some \$5.7 billion, which will surely never be repaid: it comes to about \$2,600 per person; or about 10 years' total income, since GDP (gross domestic product) per capita is around \$250 and falling. In 1991 alone, trade with Russia, virtually Mongolia's only partner, dropped by 62 percent, because the Russians decided that, for a change, they wanted to be paid. In cash. Not togrogs, the Mongolian currency. And not sheep either.

To make matters more interesting, the head honchos of the Mongol Bank thought they could help by playing the foreign exchange market. Oops. They lost about \$90 million very quickly and had to export the gold reserves in late 1991 to cover the new debts. (As of early 1994, no one had gone to jail for this; it seems the perpetrators were incompetent rather than crooked.)

All in all, by 1992 things were dire. Stores were empty of goods.

All of a sudden the attempt is being made to impose an American-style competitive economy, but no one knows the rules of the game.

Food was cheap but unavailable; a pair of American missionaries were spending only \$40 a month but seriously wondering if they could survive.

Capitalism, it was vaguely decided, was the way to go. Privatization of many state-owned businesses took place by the simple expedient of giving them away: Each citizen got a voucher that could be traded or sold on the newly established stock exchange. Somehow this didn't automatically solve the problems.

These reforms were implemented by, of all things, the Communist Party. Technically it is called the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, or MPRP, and won elections in both 1990 and 1992. This may have represented popular opinion, despite the competing claims of at least 11 other parties, several of which have boringly ordinary names like the Social Democratic Party (the main capitalists). Others include the Mongolian United Party of Herders and Farmers, the Mongolian Bourgeois Party and the Mongolian Party of Renaissance, which is more than slightly nationalistic. Even more xenophobic is the Mongolian Party of Independence, which plans to close the stock exchange, ban Western dress and rock music (an English band called The Beatles have lately become very popular), kick out the foreigners and defend the borders, though it is not clear how, since they are outnumbered about 500 to one by their neighbors to the south-east and have no noticeable industry or military capability.

Some things have improved. The shelves are no longer empty, though any 7-11 still has a greater variety of food than the largest store in Ulaan Baatar. There are a few cars on the street, some of them even new. This is not, however, because of enlightened policies.

What is propping up the entire country, according to a World Bank accountant, there to teach the rudiments of his profession to the central government economists, is the informal sector. Smuggling, that is, without benefit of, well, accountants.

Mongolians go to China, buy goods (which they try to shove into the train compartments occupied by under-bagged foreigners), haul them to Russia and sell them. It's a risky business, given racist attitudes in both Russia and China, corrupt customs officials and the chance of being tear-gassed on Russian railway stations as the mobs try to do deals. But profitable: One trip can net as much as \$2,000, and half that, a more common profit, is still four times the average annual income.

Meanwhile, 25 percent of the population are estimated to be living below the official poverty line. The poverty line for a city family of four is 1,600 togrogs per month — less than five dollars. Inflation is currently estimated to be running at an annual rate of 200 percent, according to a British economist; the exchange rate has collapsed in less than four years from three togrogs to the dollar to about 400 and falling in January 1994. In the country, the cash economy has pretty much disappeared.

A smart young man who speaks En-

glish and works as a tour guide earns 14,000 a month, and pays 3,400 rent for one room. With bread at 80 a loaf, and staples newly deregulated, that is, going up in price, he and his wife decided they couldn't both afford to live in the city. She went home to mother to have their second child; he has seen them once in six months because the plane fare is now 28,000 round trip and the roads are impractical in winter.

He developed an abscess in his mouth and went to the hospital for treatment, only to find that as of January 1st, 1994, treatment was no longer free. He needed to present an insurance card from his employer (sound familiar?) or pay cash up front (1,000 togrogs). It used to be that drugs were free but not available; now there are some but people cannot afford them. Socialized medicine is history.

So, soon, will be the 90 percent literacy rate, and not just because the new nationalism is bringing in the beautiful old-fashioned script to replace the Cyrillic that is all anyone under 60 can read. A quarter of the schools are already closed for lack of funds. Besides, the kids are needed on the farm. Traditional culture is pulling in its horns and restoring rural self-sufficiency. That way there is a chance of eating.

Russia tried to impose a Soviet-style planned economy from the top down. Ulaan Baatar is essentially a Soviet city with Mongolian accents and inhabitants. All the technology was imported, along with all the refined petroleum. No one starved but no one really generated wealth either. The system was completely dependent on subsidies and bore no real relation to local conditions, culture, or potential.

All of a sudden the attempt is being made to impose an American-style competitive economy, but no one knows the rules of the game. There is a stock exchange but virtually no trading. Foreign companies run into amazing hassles — Holiday Inn tried to step in to salvage the half-built Chingis Khaan Hotel, planned as the five-star hub of jet-set business and tourism — but sank into a bureaucratic quicksand. The building remains as unfinished as it was two or more years ago.

Meanwhile the missionaries spread out, preaching their various creeds of monetarism and Christianity. Most of them (many of them Americans) are doing commendable work, teaching in one form or another. Most of them are rather admirable people; it's not the place to go for an easy time or quick money.

But it's hard to see why American prescriptions should do much better than Russian ones. Anything imposed from the top down depends on educating the populace to the point of view of the people handing out the answers, and there just isn't time.

Maybe the Mongolian Independence Party has a point.

Why can't we just keep out? ©

*Pete Shanks wrote this in Mongolia in January 1994. He then hand-carried it to Guernsey, from where he e-mailed it to Santa Cruz.*

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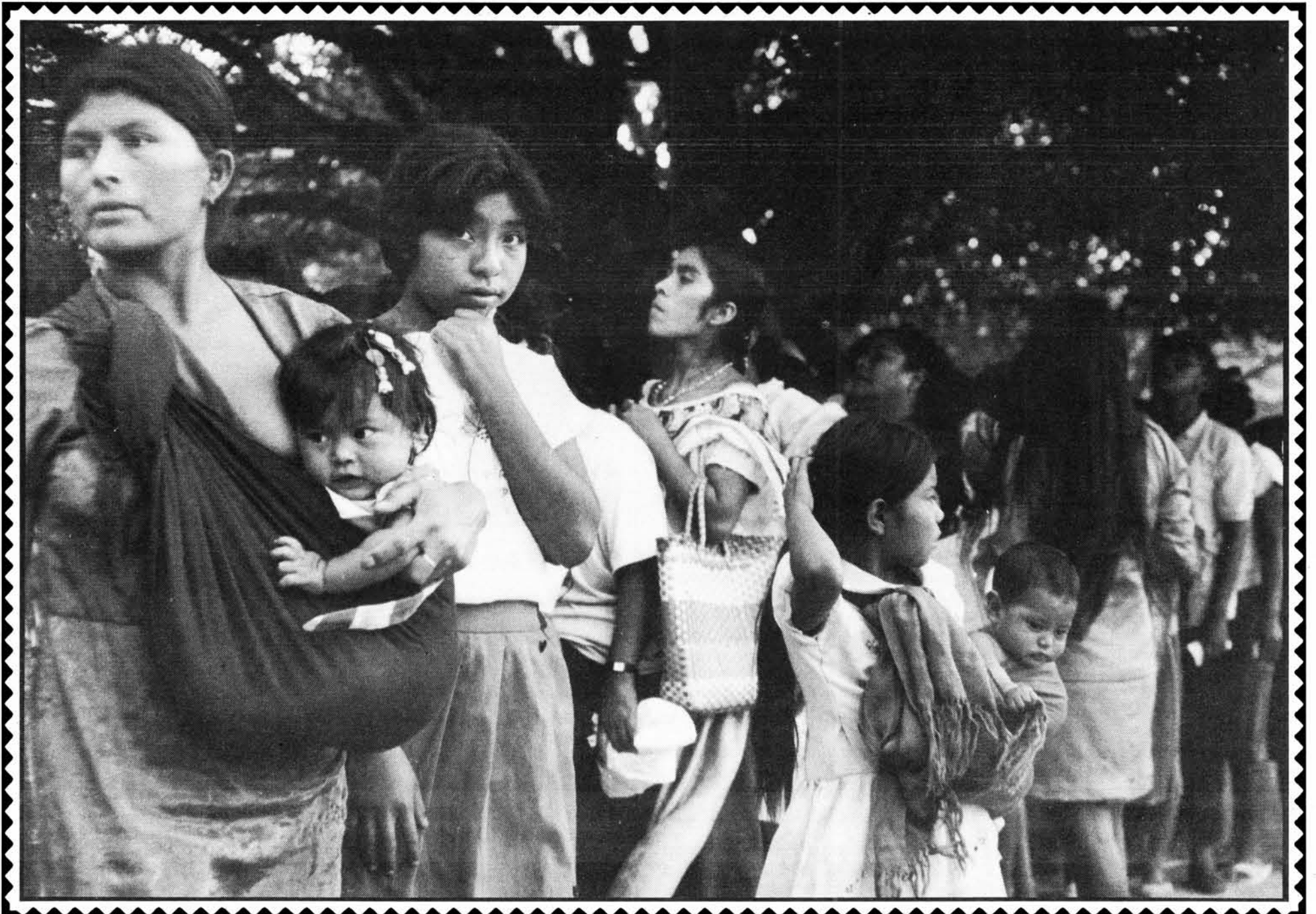
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# TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY REVOLUTION

**INDIAN INSURGENCY IN CHIAPAS**

**BY PHILIP McMANUS**

PHOTO BY DENNIS DUNLEAVY



**Residents of Ocosingo line up for material assistance**

## Despite its laudable history of insisting on the social roots of insurgencies in Central America, the Mexican government denied the obvious in the case of Chiapas.



*n February 21st, 19 representatives of the Zapatista National Liberation Army marched into the cathedral in San Cristóbal de las Casas to begin peace talks with the Mexican government. At a press conference ten days later, a government spokesperson read an agreement promising major changes for Mexico's impoverished Indians. While much remains to be done to make these commitments a reality, the indigenous New Year's uprising has clearly changed Mexico forever. The events of these two months reveal an armed insurgency the likes of which have never been seen before and the extraordinary mobilization of broad social sectors in Mexico as well as of the international community. The results shed light on the limits of authoritarian power and the potential strength of broad-based popular movements in this post-Cold War world of fast-track negotiations and instant global communications. They also suggest new hopes based in age-old indigenous wisdom.*

**A NEW YEAR LIKE NO OTHER**

In a lavish New Year's Eve bash, Mexican President Carlos Salinas gathered 500 guests to toast his crowning political achievement: the North American Free Trade Agreement. As he neared the end of his term, he took pride in knowing that he would leave behind a Mexico poised to modernize with the help of growing foreign investment.

NAFTA went into effect the next morning. But the news which greeted President Salinas that day depicted the neoliberal wave he had pinned his presidency on crashing against the hidden shoal of the desperation and anger of the dispossessed. A thousand or more mostly Indian rebels had seized several towns in the southern state of Chiapas, denouncing centuries of oppression and proclaiming their resistance to NAFTA as the current symbol of that sad history. Salinas' carefully-crafted image of Mexico as a nation on the threshold of joining the First World was badly shaken by the size and strength of the insurgency. That image crumbled before his eyes when the Mexican army attempted to obliterate the rebels in a brutal counter-offensive and in the process provoked a massive domestic and international reaction. Salinas went into shock, barely showed his face over the next week, and then emerged to name an old school chum, Manuel Camacho, to chart a new course.

Thus began an abrupt shift in the government's approach to the crisis and a potential turning point in Mexico's 65-year-old system of one-party rule by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, or PRI). Meanwhile a movement that traced its roots back to Zapata was sketching the outlines of a post-"500 Years" revolution. It aimed not at seizing state power but on forging an authentically democratic national community with justice and respect for indigenous traditions.

### TEN DAYS THAT SHOOK MEXICO

Chiapas, which borders Guatemala, is a resource-rich state that nonetheless has some of the highest indicators of poverty in Mexico. Last year 15,000 people died of hunger-related disease. Its population of 3.2 million people includes roughly one million indigenous from several ethnic groups whose common ancestors are the Mayas. During 1993 scattered reports of a guerrilla presence in Chiapas, even of clashes with the army, surfaced in the Mexican press. The Mexican government, preoccupied with securing the passage of NAFTA in the US, adopted an unequivocal

position: "There are no guerrillas in Chiapas." On January 1st the truth became clear, but even careful political observers in Mexico were surprised by the number of insurgents and their level of organization.

The initial actions of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional, or EZLN) provoked few armed clashes. City halls in several of the occupied towns were ransacked and equipment was destroyed. Prison doors were thrown open. In Ocosingo a brief and bloody battle left four police dead. But the EZLN's goal that day was political rather than military. They took advantage of their instant fame to proclaim their revolutionary program, conduct interviews with journalists, and even pose for photographs with foreign tourists.

The atmosphere changed abruptly when the Mexican

rights groups mobilized to document the abuses and to pressure the government, always sensitive to its image abroad, to change its behavior.

Despite its laudable history of insisting on the social roots of insurgencies in Central America, the Mexican government denied the obvious in the case of Chiapas. In official communiqués, the EZLN was referred to as simply a "group of law-breakers." They were Guatemalans or Salvadorans but not Mexicans. The local Catholic church and specifically Bishop Ruiz were accused of masterminding the insurrection. When the participation of local Indians was acknowledged at all, there were racist overtones in the description of them as "manipulated" and "deceived."

Yet such efforts seemed to fall on deaf ears. As the crisis

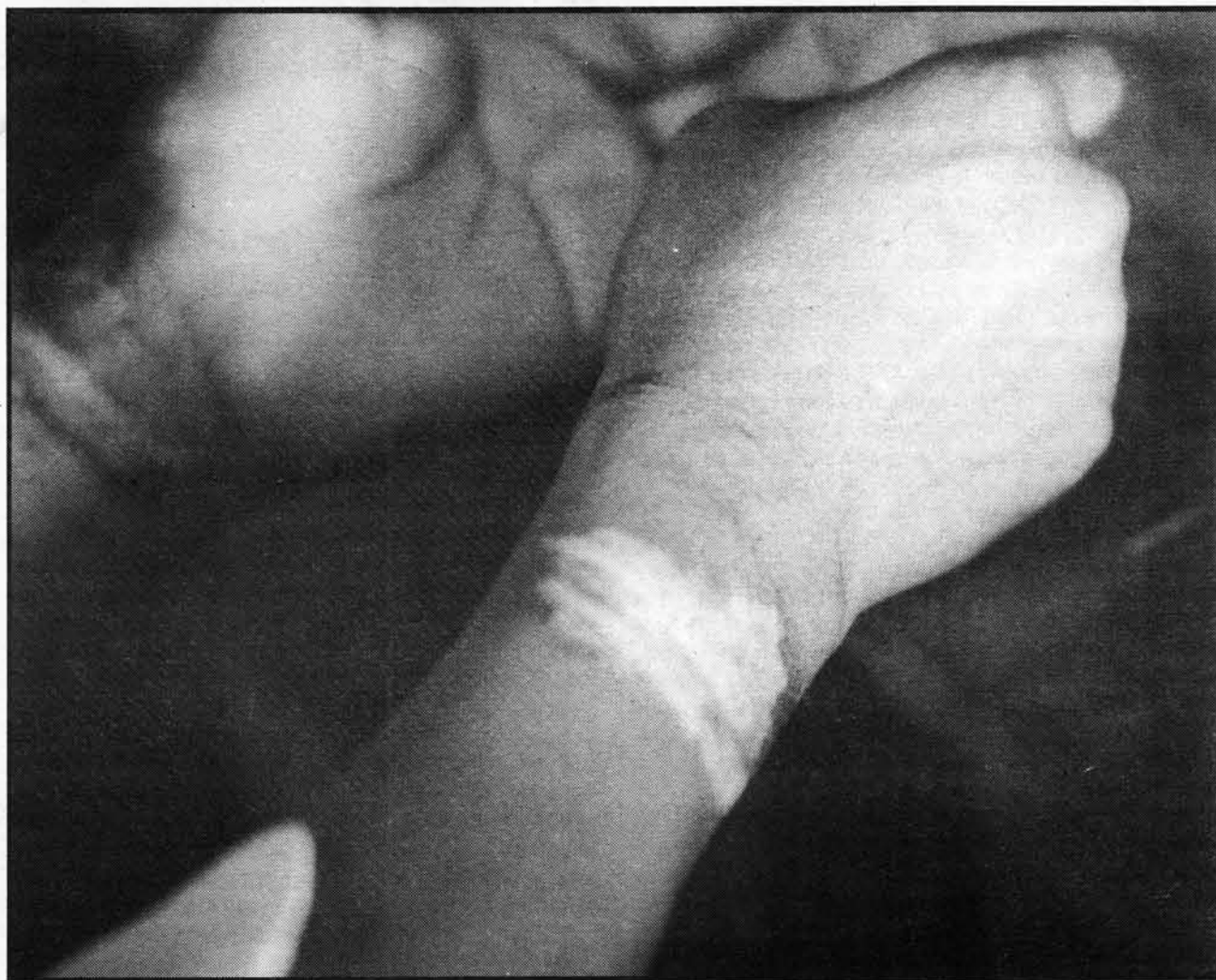


PHOTO BY DENNIS DUNLEAVY

### Rope burns on the wrist of a man tortured by the Mexican Army in a Altimirano

army moved in on January 2nd. In Ocosingo the fighting was particularly heavy. Most estimates of the number of dead there ranged in the hundreds. The army impeded an accurate count by removing many bodies to an unknown site. Human rights investigators subsequently charged the Mexican armed forces with indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets (including the local Catholic church), killings and disappearances of civilians, and the execution of EZLN soldiers. In San Cristóbal de las Casas, the largest of the occupied towns, the EZLN forces withdrew quickly but then over the next week repeatedly attacked a nearby army base. Frustrated by their inability to catch or drive away the guerrillas, Mexican military planes bombed the surrounding communities into which the Zapatistas seemed to melt.

Bishop Samuel Ruiz of San Cristóbal de las Casas denounced such abuses and appealed for "international humanitarian observers." Mexican and international human

rights groups mobilized to document the abuses and to pressure the government, always sensitive to its image abroad, to change its behavior. Despite its laudable history of insisting on the social roots of insurgencies in Central America, the Mexican government denied the obvious in the case of Chiapas. In official communiqués, the EZLN was referred to as simply a "group of law-breakers." They were Guatemalans or Salvadorans but not Mexicans. The local Catholic church and specifically Bishop Ruiz were accused of masterminding the insurrection. When the participation of local Indians was acknowledged at all, there were racist overtones in the description of them as "manipulated" and "deceived."

Yet such efforts seemed to fall on deaf ears. As the crisis unfolded, a very different consensus emerged. In universities, editorial boards, workplaces, street corners, and humble homes all across Mexico, most discussion of the crisis began with the premise that Chiapas has been horribly neglected and that the successful resolution of the crisis must deal first and foremost with that fact. Moreover, Mexican civil society mobilized to press the point. In towns large and small, marches were organized with a simple and unequivocal call: dialogue and peace in Chiapas. A January 12th march in Mexico City drew an estimated 100,000 people.

It was in the face of this kind of response that President Salinas called in Camacho and named him Commissioner for Peace and Reconciliation in Chiapas. He wasted no time in signaling a change in course. The first step was the January 10th firing of Interior Minister Patrocinio González. A large landowner from Chiapas, González became famous during a term as governor there for his bru-

## For the peasants of Chiapas, NAFTA is neither complex nor the stuff of abstract economic theory. It is a survival issue.

tal repression of peasant movements. The next step, on January 11th, was to open access to the Chiapas highlands which had been closed since the Mexican army moved in to confront the EZLN. This was followed on January 12th with a unilateral cease-fire by the government accompanied by Camacho's call for negotiations with what he referred to, in a politically significant gesture, as "the Zapatista Army." Instead of repeating charges that Bishop Ruiz was a guerrilla leader, Camacho called him his friend and solicited his help in mediating a negotiation process. Then the two set off to visit highland communities to promote the prospects for talks.

After more than a month of negotiating about the negotiations, during which both tensions and expectations remained high, the Zapatista representatives emerged from their jungle hide-outs and arrived in San Cristóbal de las Casas. The presence of hundreds of popular movement groups from all over Mexico, which provided an unarmed "security belt," symbolized the profound preoccupation as well as the hope that the Indian uprising had provoked. While onlookers shouted "¡Viva los Zapatistas!", street vendors peddled dolls dressed in the guerrillas' uniform. When the rebels greeted the assembled officials and press in four different Indian languages, it marked a powerful testimony to the vitality of their cultures after 500 years of domination.

But the almost festive air soon turned serious. The political process had taken on a momentum of its own. Official pronouncements about "dialogue" and "social problems" had raised expectations, and the deep-seated inequities in Chiapas were front and center in the public debate. Now the hard work remained of bridging the enormous gap between the impoverished and marginalized Indians and the government that presided over the failure of its social contract.

### PEASANTS AND POLITICIANS

Chiapas is a major producer of coffee and beef, a key tourist area, and the site of large oil reserves. Yet poverty is everywhere. The annual per capita income is \$965. Two-thirds of the population never finishes primary school. Many landless indigenous peasants work as day laborers on the farms of wealthy landholders. Often they are not even paid the minimum wage of \$4 per day. Those with land claims face the threat of violent expulsions by security forces.

The big landholders' political control in Chiapas is as complete as their economic control. In the same state where an army of 1,000-2,000 insurgents has taken up arms in desperate resistance to the PRI government, the PRI received its second-largest majority in the most recent elections (1991). In 50 polling places the PRI was credited with 100 percent of the vote. In one of those, 102 percent of the local citizens were registered! The people cast their ballots, and the PRI counts the votes.

In addition to the ancient injustices that live on today, Chiapas is also the focus of a very contemporary controversy. The EZLN timed the uprising for January 1st to resist the implementation of NAFTA. As part of its efforts to prepare for the free-trade agreement, over the last few years the government changed agricultural policy to favor large-scale production and to promote foreign investment. The effect has been enormous. The Mexican newspaper *El Financiero (International)* reported in December that "declining export prices, the elimination of price guarantees, reduced farm subsidies and expensive farm credit have contributed to making agriculture much less profitable and forcing more producers into insolvency." The peasant sector, for whom survival is a daily struggle even in good times, is particularly hard hit by these developments. Added to them is a 1991 constitutional revision that legalized the breakup and sale of the ejidos, the peasant agricultural cooperative farms, thus undermining one of the key achievements of the 1910-17 Mexican Revolution. For the peasants of Chiapas, NAFTA is neither complex nor the stuff



PHOTO BY DENNIS DUNLEAVY

### Basilia Lopez was hit by a stray army bullet during a clash with Zapatistas

of abstract economic theory. It is a survival issue. This theme, and a general rejection of Salinas' economic policies, were evident at a January 13th meeting of representatives from 140 Indian and peasant organizations in Chiapas. As one Indian leader, quoted in the Mexican newsweekly *Proceso* exclaimed, "This Article 27 of the Constitution, they changed it without asking us, without getting our opinion. Now is the time for them to listen to us, because if they take away the land, they take away our life."

In far-off Mexico City, the technocrats in the Salinas administration have rejected ideological formulations in favor of a free trade economic model supposedly rooted in cool, scientific analysis. In an interview, Manuel López Obrador, an opposition leader with the Democratic Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Democrático, or PRD) noted the ironic twist in this nonideological approach to politics. Referring to the Draconian costs imposed by what he called Salinas' "fanatics," he said: "If it is necessary to sacrifice a sector of the society in order to realize their plans, they'll do it."

In fact it is difficult to see where poor peasants, especially the indigenous, fit into Salinas' First World Mexico, a vision he promised would become a reality by the end of the decade. Presumably most of those who are displaced from a no-longer viable rural existence will head for the already overcrowded cities. But undoubtedly many will end up making the desperate and dangerous trek north to the United States, thus belying President Clinton's claim that NAFTA would reduce immigration by bolstering Mexico's economy.

### NEPOSING TO DISAPPEAR

The struggle for survival in the face of such conditions has led to a proliferation of Indian and peasant organizations. Marches, occupations of idle land, and takeovers of city halls are common, as is the pattern of beatings, torture, imprisonment, and occasional disappearances that accompany them.

While the guns have largely remained silent since the

January 12th cease-fire, powerful social forces have been unleashed, and tensions have built. In the two years prior to the New Year's uprising, popular protests resulted in the replacement of nearly a quarter of the 110 municipal presidents in Chiapas. Since January 1st social organizations have targeted at least another 21 for dismissal, accusing them of corruption. In this same period landless peasants in Chiapas have occupied nearly 100 farms, taking advantage of the cease-fire to press longstanding land claims. Demonstrations in diverse parts of the country have continued, with some expressing explicit support for the EZLN. In Michoacán 2,000 displaced sugarcane workers went so far as to pledge their willingness to join the ranks of the Zapatistas.

Yet even as the talks got underway, big landowners, organized in the "Opposition Front against Destabilizers" (Frente Opositor contra Desestabilizadores), strengthened existing para-military groups in order to resist the "invasion, lack of respect, aggression" of the EZLN. Attacks on suspected EZLN sympathizers have been reported. At the same time, the army quietly advanced its positions toward the jungle areas where the EZLN is hiding out. In an ominous move, government authorities urged indigenous communities between army and Zapatista positions to relocate to refugee shelters, warning that "these places may become a combat zone."

In this charged context government negotiator Camacho warned that "if the conflict is not resolved quickly, fighting may break out and the problem would drag on for 10, 15 or 20 years, as we have seen elsewhere in Latin America."

### BREAKTHROUGH

The government had indicated all along that it sought a "fast-track" negotiation process: quick, informal, and focused on the concrete and feasible. While the agreement announced on March 2nd came quickly, it did not do so by ignoring substantive issues. Agrarian reform, revamped governmental structures in Chiapas, expanded infrastructure development, and a constitutional amendment banning discrimination against Indians were included.

Even the upcoming national elections were on the table. The January signing by the PRI and opposition parties of an accord on electoral reforms, including sharp cuts in campaign spending limits, expanded provisions for election monitoring, and a mechanism for investigation of fraud, was an early fruit of the uprising. Stating that these reforms did not go far enough, the peace agreement calls for a special session of Congress to consider additional reforms requiring new legislation.

Some Zapatista demands were rejected. Camacho refused to agree to the repeal of the recent changes in Article 27 regarding agrarian reform or to the forgiveness of crushing agricultural debts carried by many peasant communities. The agreement itself is tentative, and the talks adjourned so that the Zapatistas could consult with their communities and Camacho with the government. Unresolved issues will be taken up again when the talks resume, supposedly before the end of March.

Perhaps a bigger question is whether the government will deliver on the points that actually have been agreed. Maintaining a discreet distinction between what is promised and what is delivered is a fine art — with a long history — in Mexico's system of one-party rule.

Other impediments exist as well. Official foot-dragging and opposition from right-wing political parties may doom the special session of Congress. And there are forces that may resist the implementation of an accord that threatens their privileges. Referring to the absence of the big landowners, the Zapatistas noted that only two of the three armed groups in the conflict were at the negotiating table.

Still, President Salinas has indicated his support for the agreement, and there are deadlines for implementation of some provisions. Given the far-reaching nature of the agreement, the high level of social tension in Chiapas, and

## Government negotiator Camacho warned that "if the conflict is not resolved quickly, fighting may break out and the problem would drag on for 10, 15 or 20 years, as we have seen elsewhere in Latin America."

the intense national and international spotlight, neither side can easily afford to appear uncooperative.

The fact that presidential elections are scheduled for August 21st underscores the uncertainty regarding Mexico's future. At the same time it increases the pressure on the PRI. The standing of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, the leading opposition candidate, has improved considerably as awareness of Mexico's problems and hope in the possibility of change have grown side-by-side. Some observers have suggested that if the polls look bad, the PRI may drop Salinas' hand-picked candidate, Luis Colosio, and turn to the charismatic and widely respected Manuel Camacho. Camacho hasn't denied his presidential aspirations, and even opponents of the PRI would love to see him emerge from the Chiapas crisis as a successful peacemaker. Whether his party is willing to actually pay the necessary price for a secure peace is not yet clear. Regardless, we can expect a full-on propaganda offensive to convince the public that it has done so.

Before the Zapatistas headed off to consult with the highland communities, they credited Camacho with a "true interest" in peace. But they underscored the tenuous nature of the process, noting that "the government only comes through if it is obliged to, either by the power of the gun or by social pressure...The only possibility for peace that we see now is if other social forces commit themselves to make sure that the government fulfills its obligations."

### REDISCOVERING "AMERICA"

The New Year's uprising was an alarm that was heard in Chiapas, across Mexico and around the world. The Zapatistas have never represented a military threat to the

democratic change in Mexico will not be "the political will of the federal government, nor our supposed political-military force, but the committed action of what is called Mexican civil society."

In the peculiar armed peace in which Chiapas is currently suspended, 570 delegates representing 276 organizations gathered on January 23rd to form the Council of Indigenous and Peasant Organizations of Chiapas (Consejo de Organizaciones Indígenas y Campesinas de Chiapas, or COIC). Amid many expressions of support for the EZLN, the delegates insisted on their right to full democratic participation and to the preservation of their unique cultures. They issued specific proposals for changes in economic and development policies, and they called for constitutional revisions that would establish new governmental structures in Chiapas based on ethnic representation. While most of the groups represented may not be directly related to the EZLN, they form the organizational backbone that made the Zapatista uprising possible. Hence it is not surprising that their concerns were reflected in the tentative agreement.

Their initiative is closely aligned with the resurgence of Indian movements which, especially since the 1992 500th anniversary, have begun to move beyond a survival strategy of resisting assimilation toward assuming a greater role as protagonists in the countries of the Western Hemisphere. At the same time that they insist on their rights they also offer a vision that sheds light on the problems of society as a whole and on sustainable alternatives. It remains to be seen whether such movements, rooted in the ancient wisdom of the ancestors, may successfully assist the birthing of a new social construct for the genera-

## US Policy: Mixed Signals and Contradictions

As changes in Mexico's rural sector show, NAFTA serves to undermine the social and economic protections of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The resulting tensions lead in turn to torture, disappearance, murder and other human rights violations. Yet President Clinton has argued that a good human rights record is a prerequisite for countries seeking greater US trade.

In a January 13th letter to President Clinton and the people of the United States, the EZLN asserted that "The Mexican federal government is using the economic and military aid that it receives from the people and the government of the United States of North America to massacre the indigenous people of Chiapas...you are staining your hands with indigenous blood." US officials acknowledged a concrete example of this when they confirmed that helicopters supplied for anti-narcotics operations had been used in the counterinsurgency effort. The US Embassy expressed concern and requested an explanation, but US Ambassador James Jones later stated that their use "did not violate any agreement."

Other statements by Jones charging Cuban involvement in the EZLN, the recent visit of CIA Director James Woolsey to Mexico, and news reports of a Mexican government request for counter-insurgency training from Washington have heightened fears of possible US involvement. When the tentative peace accord was announced, the State Department expressed its support for the decision to study the effects of NAFTA but added, "...this doesn't affect the implementation of the treaty." Congressional and State Department criticism of government human rights violations has increased pressure on Mexico. But the net result has been mixed signals amid apparent contradictions.

— Philip McManus

## Commitments for a Dignified Peace in Chiapas

Among the provisions agreed to by the Mexican government and the Zapatista Army of National Liberation are the following:

- a Law of Agrarian Justice for Chiapas that would provide for the redistribution of some large estates to peasant farmers, the protection of Indian communal lands, the establishment of a special fund to deal with urgent land needs, and restitution for illegal land seizures.
- new electoral districts and new municipalities in Chiapas in order to guarantee increased indigenous representation in local, state and national government.
- a national Law of the Rights of Indigenous Communities, protecting indigenous culture and legal rights and providing for their self-government.
- national educational programs aimed at children to counteract discriminatory attitudes toward Indians.
- a constitutional reform that for the first time would prohibit any sort of discrimination toward Indians.
- the creation of both national and state-level attorney general offices to defend indigenous rights.
- the development of a new state-level penal code aimed at eliminating discrimination against Indians.
- the establishment of new judicial districts in Chiapas along with a guarantee that judges and police officials in indigenous communities would be nominated by the communities.
- the establishment of a radio station administered by indigenous groups within 60 days.
- a government study, to be completed within 90 days, on the effects of NAFTA on indigenous communities; based on that study and with the participation of indigenous communities, the development of a plan for job training for those adversely affected.
- provisions to ensure that existing labor laws are adequately enforced.
- the development within 60 days of a farming and ranching development plan for Chiapas that, utilizing government funds, would seek to create the greatest number of jobs as quickly as possible.
- a complete re-organization of the health system in Chiapas, including the prioritization of emergency health care, especially for children.
- the development within 90 days of a plan for housing construction in Chiapas, along with the provision of basic services such as electricity, water and roads.
- the construction of new schools, provision for bilingual education, and the development of a detailed plan for the improvement of public education in indigenous communities, based on concrete annual goals.



PHOTO BY DENNIS DUNLEAVY

## Children in Morelia, Chiapas after the military occupied their village and took away 34 men

security of the Mexican government, nor have they claimed to. But they have represented a political threat. That threat is proportional to the actual deep-seated discontent and desperation among Mexico's most marginalized population and the response the Zapatistas have evoked from that sector and other social sectors in Mexico.

In recognizing this dynamic — and eschewing the goal of building a movement aimed at seizing power — the Zapatistas have distinguished themselves from other guerrilla insurgencies. As they stated in one of their many communiqués, "the fundamental factor" for achieving real

tions of the century to come. Today, the news from the south brings hope. ■

Philip McManus is Latin America program coordinator at the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz and chair of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean. He led an FOR human rights delegation to Chiapas in January. He is editor of *Relentless Persistence: Nonviolent Action in Latin America* (New Society Publishers, 1991).

# WAR

## IN BOSNIA THREATENS TO ENGULF NEIGHBORING REGIONS

BY ERIK LARSEN



**The Republics of the former Yugoslavia**

*This is the first of a two-part series that will attempt to provide readers with background knowledge about fighting in the former Yugoslavia.*

Bosnians in the once-elegant Olympic city of Sarajevo are in a bind. Serb militias surround the city. An international arms embargo of the former Yugoslavia prevents Bosnians from obtaining arms to defend themselves. United Nations peacekeeping units in the area have orders not to take military action.

Although the United States government response to the situation is characterized as a policy of containment and preventing the war from spreading to other Balkan states, the February 8th mid-day mortar attack on an open air farmers' market in Sarajevo appears to have re-focused attention on the war. Last month the North Atlantic Treaty Organization forced Serb artillery units to back away from Sarajevo, and more recently the destruction of Serb fighter planes on February 28th has sent a message that the US is serious about Serb aggression.

But according to Sherry Beville, who traveled to former Yugoslavia last year with Mir Sada, an international organization dedicated to the nonviolent resolution of the war in Bosnia, finding solutions to stop the fighting may prove a difficult task. "It's a very, very tragic situation. As outsiders we want peace, but it has to be fair. All sides are involved in atrocities and so many people have died. Yes, we were greeted warmly — people genuinely want to see an end to the fighting. But there's so much ethnic hatred fueled by nationalist rhetoric and intolerance," says Beville.

For nearly 2,000 years the Balkan region was the

site of a power struggle between the Austro-Hungarian empire and the Ottoman empire. Invasions by the two competing powers left eight ethnic groups in the area that in recent history joined together to create the modern state of Yugoslavia. In 1949 Josip Broz Tito, the political leader of the partisans who fought a guerrilla war to oust Nazi troops from the region, became prime minister and president of a unified Yugoslavia. Tito was the longest governing leader in Balkan history.

"He brought relative peace and security to the area, despite discouraging ethnic expression," says Mark Forry, a Ph.D. in music at UCSC who has conducted research in the Serb province of Vojvodina. According to Forry, Tito walked a thin line between American and Soviet allegiances and under his rule Yugoslavia was made into an unconquerable network of ethnic republics.

After Tito's death in 1981, a new government was

forged representing each of Yugoslavia's eight ethnic groups, with the presidency rotating every two years among the different nationalities. But ethnic rivalries eroded confidence in a central government and by the late 1980s nationalist movements in the republics of Bosnia, Croatia and Slovenia began to demand independence from Yugoslavia.

In 1991 Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence, but armed Serb nationalists in both states fought back to maintain the central government apparatus. The fighting lasted over a year in Croatia and only ten days in Slovenia. The two states are now close allies and appear to be acting in concert with neighboring countries to drive the remaining Serb militias from the area. Italy, Austria and Germany are covertly sending arms, munitions and even tanks through Slovenia to Croatia in an effort to prepare Croat military units for battle against Serb-occupied Krajina, a province of Croatia. Bosnia, the third break-away republic, became an independent state with the election of president of Alija Izetbegovic, in 1992. But a large Serb population inside Bosnia sought to create a separate government and fighting soon broke out between Serbs and Bosnians. To make matters worse for Bosnians, Croat nationalists living in Bosnia have since organized to fight for control of Bosnian territory in order to create a greater Croatia. The Serb and Croat nationalist forces have intermittently sided with each other in a program of ethnic cleansing involving the murder, rape and deportation of hundreds of thousands of Bosnians, says Kenan



Begovic, an engineer in San Francisco who has family in Sarajevo.

"The media is basically saying this is a religious war, describing Bosnians as Muslims. That's not exactly true. The war started as pure aggression — nothing to do about religion. Sure when you're in the middle of a war it's easy to pit one against another. But in Bosnia you also have ethnic Serbs and Croats who are Orthodox and Catholic — they fight together as Bosnians," says Begovic.

As Begovic points out, the issues are more complex than can be learned through the mainstream press. For example, the scope of the war is not simply confined to Bosnia. In the near future all but two former Yugoslavian states may be consumed by war.

"The Balkans is a complex, multi-faceted problem. There's the war in Croatia, a second war in Bosnia and a third, fourth and fifth war may soon occur in Vojvodina, Kosovo, and Macedonia," says John Miershimer, a political science professor from Chicago who gave a lecture at UCSC about ending the war in the Balkans.

According to Miershimer, Serb nationalists are the principal aggressors who hope to unite former Yugoslavia under one Serbian flag. In June 1989, the 600th anniversary of a Serbian battlefield defeat on the field of Kosovo, a mass rally was held on the graves of fallen Serbs. Serb president Slobodan Milosevic, flanked by military leaders, exhorted thousands of followers to begin making preparations for war against other Balkan nationalities. Milosevic invoked the memory of slain Serbs who were massacred in a 1389 skirmish. He told the crowd Serbs never again will be caught unprepared.

Milosevic's government collected weapons and munitions that were hidden in hillside caches during Tito's regime and went on to incorporate Kosovo, Vojvodina, and Montenegro into one Serb-led state. Serbia also laid plans for the deportation of ethnic minorities to maintain a numerical advantage over non-Serbs in conquered Yugoslavian republics. According to Miershimer, "Serbia is already involved in heavy-duty ethnic cleansing against ethnic Hungarians in Vojvodina, and the same may occur in Kosovo where a large Serb army is positioned against ethnic Albanians."

Military strategists like Miershimer see the Balkans as a troublesome area because of the possibilities of the war expanding to include other nation states. Hungary and Romania, which border Vojvodina, may take action against Serbs if ethnic Hungarians demand their governments put an end to ethnic cleansing. And the same may apply to Kosovo, where the Albanian military is likely to attack Serb forces if ethnic Albanians in Kosovo are targeted for

ethnic cleansing.

Of the three areas into which the Balkan war may expand, Macedonia, a fourth break-away republic, appears the most worrisome. Albanians, Bulgarians, and Turks are the main ethnic groups in Macedonia and all of these groups can appeal to sovereign states for help if the Serb military makes moves against them. Furthermore, Greece, which has longstanding territorial claims to parts of Macedonia could enter into the fray and side with Serbia. The Clinton administration, anticipating such a scenario, has already sent three hundred and fifty advisors and military equipment to Macedonia. And a security agreement signed with Albania promises munitions and weapons to the former Soviet client state in exchange for use of naval facilities on the Adriatic sea, according to press reports from Tirana, the capital of Albania. "A figurative line in the sand has been drawn stretching along Serbia's border with its own autonomous region of Kosovo and dropping down to its boundary with Macedonia," says David Begoun, writing for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

But US military action against the Serbs seems a dicey proposition. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian parliamentarian and ultra-nationalist who leads his country's largest political party, has pledged 300,000 Russian troops to defend their Slavic brothers. Although Zhirinovskiy has promoted such wild ac-

tions as reoccupying Alaska, dropping an atomic bomb on Japan, and turning Germany into a second Chernobyl, uniting the Slavic nation is a political card that plays well in economically depressed Russia.

On February 18th, President Boris Yeltsin, yielding to internal pressure, announced plans to dispatch 400 military personnel to Bosnia, allegedly to enforce a Serb withdrawal of military units from around Sarajevo. The move has raised new concerns that Russians are shielding Serbs from attack and unnecessarily expanding the Balkan war. The troop movement also invokes images of 1914, when Russia fought with Serbs and Greeks during World

War I to defeat German- and Austrian-backed Croats.

The next issue of *The Monthly Planet* will examine how peace groups in the United States are responding to the war in the Balkans. ■

Erik Larsen is a Marine Corps veteran and a student majoring in Community Studies at UCSC. During the Gulf War he was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience after the Marine Corps threatened him with the death penalty for refusing to deploy for desert training.

**In the near future all but two former Yugoslavian states may be consumed by war.**

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## The Freeze Wish List

We at the Nuclear Weapons Freeze and *The Monthly Planet* could really use the following items. If you're not using them anymore, please put them to work for peace.

- telephones • folding card tables • nice chairs
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### MARCH-APRIL

**Project Scout.** Free federal and state income tax help is available to seniors, low-income, disabled, and non-English-speaking taxpayers. Volunteers can handle most of the problems involved in filling out basic tax forms such as 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, Earned Income Credit, and basic state forms. For more info about the service, call 688-7240 or 423-2128.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 12

**2nd Annual Book Fair.** Used book sale, Santa Cruz publishers' exhibits, author appearances, children's activities, book arts demonstrations. Free. 10 am -3:30 pm at Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St., Santa Cruz.

**In Celebration of the Muse — Santa Cruz Women Writers Reading.** An evening of poetry and prose by some of the most distinguished women writers from the Santa Cruz area. In all, 25 women have been asked to read for this eclectic and energizing event. \$7-\$15, 7:30 pm at the Pacific Cultural Center, 1307 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 17

**Planned Parenthood 1994 Annual Meeting.** Includes annual director's report and distinguished service awards. Featured speaker is Linda Bergthold, Ph.D., discussing health reform and ensuring coverage for reproductive choice. \$30 per person in advance only. Call 425-1551.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 19

**Concert For Kids!** Vicki Neville-Coffis, Steve Palazzo and Sara Pond Poyadue provide music for children as a benefit for Planned Parenthood of Santa Cruz. Look for a lively mix of traditional, contemporary and original songs. \$6 adults, \$3 children. 11 am at Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320 Cedar St., Santa Cruz. Info: 425-1551.

**Concert For Kids!** Jose-Luis Orozco brings bilingual, bicultural performances for children as a benefit for Planned Parenthood of Santa Cruz. Jose-Luis is a talented composer, guitarist, performer and educator. \$6 adults, \$3 children. 1 pm at Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320 Cedar St., Santa Cruz. Info 425-1551.

**Casino Night** benefit for the programs and services of Janus of Santa Cruz. Janus is a nonprofit agency that serves persons who are suffering from alcohol and/or chemical addictions. Programs offered include inpatient treatment, outpatient treatment, prenatal care, and drunk driving programs. \$20 advance, \$25 door. 7 pm at the Jade Street Park, Capitola. For info call Janus at 462-1060.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 20

**Cruzando Fronteras/Crossing Borders.** Singer/songwriter Aileen Vance and Chilean master musician Rafael Manriquez present a multi-instrumental concert exploring the geography, history, diversity, and customs of Latin America. \$5 adults, \$3 children. 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm at Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. Info: 458-4101.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 20

**SCAN County Supervisor Endorsement Forum** at Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. 6 pm. Free. Contact the Santa Cruz Action Network at 458-9425.

# PEACE & JUSTICE CALENDAR



Dorothy Granada's tour of the US, talking about her experiences at a Nicaraguan women's health clinic, takes her to Santa Cruz on Friday, April 8th.



Vicki Neville-Coffis, Steve Palazzo and Sara Pond Poyadue provide music for children as a benefit for Planned Parenthood on Saturday, March 19 at Kuumbwa Jazz Center.

### Free Women's Self-Defense Classes

The Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women offers free women's self-defense classes at Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center St. in downtown Santa Cruz.

All women can learn how to increase personal safety at home, work, school and on the street by learning communication skills, effective strategies, and physical self-defense techniques. Classes are self-paced and non-competitive. Women of all abilities are welcome — athletic ability is not required. Classes combine games, discussions, and exercises. Students should wear comfortable clothing, register for class at the first class meeting, and expect to have fun! Studies prove that a woman's belief in her ability to defend herself can make the difference in successfully avoiding assault. The Commission urges all women to learn how to protect themselves through the CPVAW free Women's Self-Defense Program. Pre-registration is not required; register at the first class meeting. To register for child care (available Tuesday nights only) or for more information, please call the Commission at (408) 429-3546.

### Beginning Self-Defense Courses for Women of All Ages

Mondays: April 4-May 23, 7-10 PM  
Tuesdays: April 5-May 24, 7-10 PM  
Wednesdays: April 6-May 25, 7-10 PM

### Beginning Self-Defense Courses for Girls (aged 8-13)

Tuesdays: April 5-April 26, 5-6:30 PM

### Beginning Self-Defense for Lesbians

Tuesdays: April 5-May 24, 7-10 PM

### Beginning Self-Defense for Seniors

Thursdays: April 7-April 28, 12:30-2 PM

### Beginning Self-Defense for Women with Physical Disabilities

Sundays: April 10-May 1, 10 AM-12 Noon

### One Day Workshop on Beginning Self-Defense

Saturdays: April 16, 10 AM-5 PM  
A basic introduction to women's self-defense. Please bring a bag lunch.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Zero Population Growth video and discussion. "El Ultimo Tren" in Spanish, but self-explanatory, depicts the cultural difficulties young people have in their sexual maturity. "Mexico Televisa Theory," in English, tells how family planning soap operas have been produced in Mexico's nationwide campaign to lower their fertility rate. Free at Garfield Park Christian Church, Errett Circle, Santa Cruz, 7 to 9 pm. Info: 688-3792.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

SCAN 27th Assembly District, Sheriff, and District Attorney Endorsement Forum at Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. 6 pm. Free. Contact the Santa Cruz Action Network at 458-9425.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 1-SUNDAY, APRIL 3

**Healing Global Wounds 1994.** A southwestern regional Unity Gathering focusing on radiation and other environmental damage; sovereignty, religious freedom, and land rights of native nations. At the Nevada Test Site, Cactus Springs. For info, write to PO Box 599, Indian Springs, NV 89018, or call (702) 879-3222.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 1-SUNDAY, APRIL 3

**Inner Silence: Sharing A Deeper Communion,** with Eve Forrest and Rosalie Pizzo-Strain. A chance to worship at the Quaker Center without a full program of activities, this year's Silent Retreat will be held over Easter weekend. For more info, contact the Quaker Center at 336-8333.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

**Noam Chomsky** reception, buffet supper, and lecture. A special benefit for the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center in Palo Alto. 6:30 pm. Faculty lounge, Gunn High School, Arastradero Road and Foothill Expressway. Tickets are sliding scale \$10 to \$20 from PPJC/Chomsky, PO Box 1725, Palo Alto, CA 94302.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Dorothy Granada discusses creative ways Nicaraguan health clinics cope with health issues. After working four years at a Nicaraguan women's health clinic, Dorothy Granada is touring the US talking about her experiences. A reception will be held at the De Anza Clubhouse, 2395 Delaware Ave., Santa Cruz, 5 to 7 pm.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9

**Rummage Sale for 1994 Women's Campaign for Guatemala.** Help raise funds and material aid for women's empowerment projects in Guatemala. Help the Campaign build bridges of sisterhood by donating sewing, educational, kitchen, and medical supplies. At Calvary Episcopal Church, 532 Center St., Santa Cruz. Volunteers needed. Call 423-8670.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

Zero Population Growth video and discussion. "Acompaname" with English subtitles shows segments of one of the long running soap operas used to educate people about the advantages of family planning. This soap opera was part of the Mexican national family planning campaign. Free at Natural History Museum, 1305 East Cliff Dr., Santa Cruz, 7 to 9 pm. Call 688-3792.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 24-SUNDAY, JUNE 26

**Wiccan Faerie Camp.** This is a weekend of camping, workshops, and rituals featuring guest speakers, healers, hiking, crafts, music, and dancing. It will be held in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Everything done this weekend is incorporated into the mid-summer ritual; all pieces of the puzzle. For info send a SASE to Church of the Goddess, Wiccan Faerie Camp, PO Box 583, Capitola, CA 95010.

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<b>Poppins</b> <b>POPCORN</b> 78¢ 3 flavors 5 oz. bag	<b>Blue Sky</b> <b>SODAS</b> \$1.58 + tx. & CRV • 12 oz. • 6 packs	<b>Bearito's</b> <i>organic*</i> <b>CHEDDAR CRUNCHITOS</b> 98¢ 4.5 oz. bag
<b>Health Valley</b> <i>fat free</i> <b>COOKIES</b> \$1.48 6.25 oz. box • 5 flavors	<b>Kettle</b> <b>CHIPS</b> 88¢ 7 flavors 5 oz. bag	<b>Breadshop</b> <b>PUFFS n' HONEY CEREAL</b> \$1.68 13 oz. bag
ROASTED & SALTED <b>PISTACHIOS</b> \$2.58 in random weight bags LB.	<b>Tiger's Milk</b> <b>SPORTS BAR</b> 78¢ 4 flavors 2.3 oz. bar	<b>Koyo</b> <b>RICE CAKES</b> 78¢ 6 oz. bag 4 varieties

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MARKETPLACE

# SEEDing a Sustainable Future

ACTION - Santa Cruz County

... a Model Sustainable Community Campaign



March  
1994



## Info Inside:

### S.E.E.D. Summit Report

- Presentations by Community Leaders
- Keynote Speech by Dr. Rashmi Mayur
- Round Table Vision Statements and First Action Steps

[The following articles are on the last two pages]

County to Participate in our "Local Agenda 21" Process.

EcoTeams - Bringing Sustainability Home

Earth Day '94 - "Right in Our Own Backyard"

Upcoming Conference on Sustainability at UCSC

The mural pictured above was created by the Graffiti Removal Project, under the direction of Pat Tyken-Collier and Adrienne Gehriger Gil. It was dedicated on Oct. 23, 1994 - the day before ACTION Santa Cruz County's SEED Summit. It is the first in a series of murals meant to beautify our community and discourage vandalism. It is located at 530 Front St. in Downtown Santa Cruz, between Front Street Pub and Coast Federal Bank. A special thanks to Jerry Turgeon, owner of the building. The mural was inspired by the artwork of Jacqui Froelich of the New Life Farm and BioRegional Project, Box 129, Drury, MO 65638. Permission is required for the use of this beautiful rendition.



"It's in our hands"

# Santa Cruz County S.E.E.D. Summit on Sustainability

## (Social, Environmental, and Economic Development)

*ACTION Santa Cruz County* has taken a substantial step forward in developing plans for sustainability in Santa Cruz County by hosting an all day S.E.E.D. Summit this past October at the Nylonnek Retreat Center in the Soquel Hills. The Summit was endorsed by a wide variety of businesses, government entities, as well as educational and community organizations. Around 125 individuals convened to focus on creating a "Local Agenda 21" document and action plan.

We are responding to the global Agenda 21 document, a blueprint for sustainable development that was agreed to by all of the 177 nations participating in the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in June of 1992. This very substantial work plan for improving quality of life contains 40 chapters on topics including: economic vitality, clean air, clean water, health care, protecting oceans, education equality, etc. Chapter 28 specifically asks local authorities to reach consensus on a "Local Agenda 21" - a plan for moving sustainably into the 21st century.

Santa Cruz is one of the first communities in the U.S. to take up the challenge. In fact we have applied to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to be one of 21 communities throughout the world that is recognized for its Agenda 21 and related activities.

The S.E.E.D. Summit offered us an opportunity to envision our positive future as well as identify the challenges we face locally and the possible actions, plans, programs, or restructuring that is needed to reach our goals. In the afternoon session, Special Focus Area Round Tables met to begin that process. Each Round Table described the current status in their special focus area, reached preliminary consensus on the desired state, listed driving and restraining forces that facilitate and impede progress toward that goal, and concentrated on some first action steps that could lead toward creating the future that we all want for our community.

Most of the Round Tables have been meeting since the conference and hopefully will continue on through the completion of our "Local Agenda 21." Their *preliminary* reports are enclosed in part (only including the Vision Statements and First Action Steps). For more information, please call the team contact person. It is important to remember that these reports do not yet represent the consensus of the community, but rather only the viewpoints of those attending the SEED Summit and giving input at follow-up meetings. *ACTION-SCC* is working towards building the necessary coalitions to tap the cross-cultural diversity that is represented in Santa Cruz. Further input and participation from the community is anticipated and encouraged. What YOU do matters! Let's recognize the urgency of taking steps NOW to secure future quality of life, both locally and globally. What we do in Santa Cruz County ripples out into the rest of the world.

Our goals are quite ambitious. In working simultaneously on social, environmental, and economic sustainability, we are involving every institution in the county. This process is very definitely an organic one, and the results we achieve will be born out of the synergistic efforts of all who participate in the coalition campaign. Presently, we are setting up a more formal infrastructure and attempting to raise the necessary funds to support the whole process. Please watch for updates in the Monthly Planet and elsewhere, and become involved in creating our *Agenda 21 Community Teamwork In Operation Now - in Santa Cruz County.* (*ACTION-SCC*)



Jeanne Nordland, Summit Coordinator & Dr. Rashmi Mayur, Keynote Speaker

### Plenary Session Guest Speakers

(A Series of Presentations by Community Leaders at the S.E.E.D. Summit)

#### Local U.N. Follow Up

Our first presentation of the morning was given by the president of our local chapter of the United Nations Association, Steve Ross. He reported that the newly formed United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development has specific issues to work on each year. For 1994 it has chosen health and human settlements, fresh water, toxic waste & hazardous chemicals, and accelerated sustainable development along with consumption patterns. The U.N. is designed to empower various commissions to study and produce relevant materials on a given subject, but has no specific structure for follow through. They simply say, "Here's the material, read it and act appropriately."

This is where public involvement is needed. We can either sit back passively and hope that something good happens or aspire to something greater and actively move to achieve it.

#### Planning for the Future

Jeff Ringold, Chair of the City of Santa Cruz Planning Commission, stated that, "Sustainability is the challenge of our time, both ecologically and spiritually." This means we are responsible for the future as active agents and not just victims of circumstance. In answer to the question, "How can we respond without feeling overwhelmed?" he answered, "Pick one or two things, and do them well." Jeff's focus is on land use issues, because they "chart a course for the community that is irreversible."

His goals, which we can consider for our own, are to: (1) Preserve and protect the remaining open spaces; (2) Increase densities, especially along transit corridors, to assure diversity in urban areas; and (3) Move to establish alternatives to the private automobile. Jeff says that over the long run we would be a lot better off if we'd use the funds proposed for expanding Highways 1 and 17 to create a light rail system.

#### The Contradiction of Our Times

Dan Miller, Coordinator of the local chapter of Zero Population Growth, pointed out the contradiction of our times - namely that the "outside threat" that has replaced communism as the cement for our society is perceived by us to be the environmental degradation issue. However, those striving to maintain growth perceive the environmental movement itself as the threat.

This dichotomy makes consensus impossible. Then, he added the sustainable use of natural resources will not be effective unless women achieve economic and social emancipation.

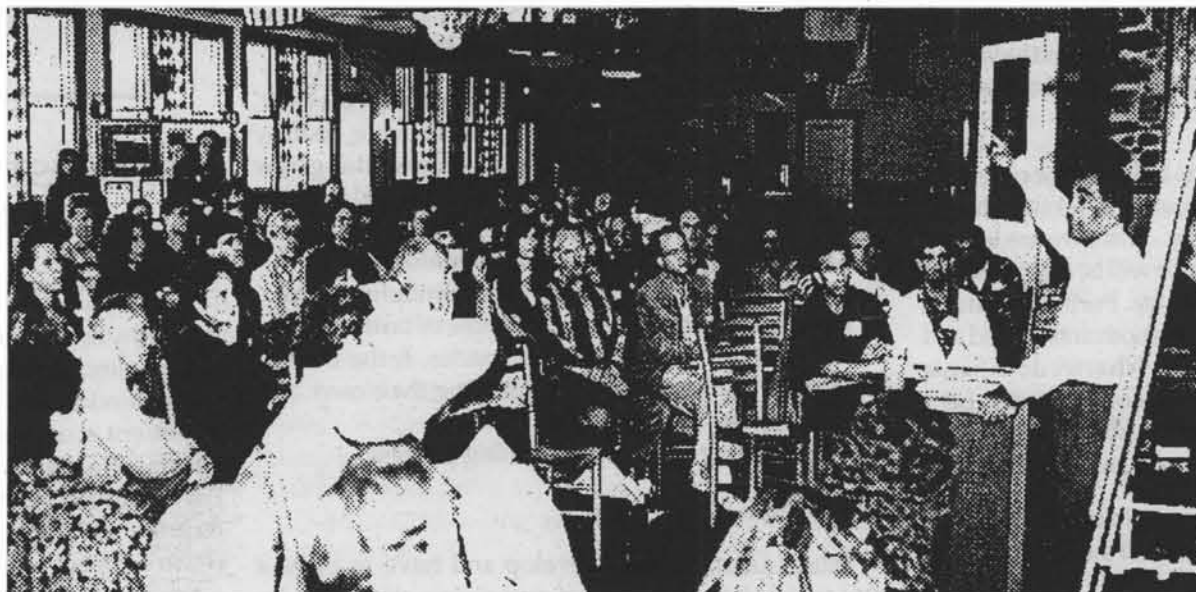
#### Report from October Economic Summit

Bill Tyselling, Director of Democratic Management Services, reviewed 9 months of economic research in Santa Cruz County. He cited that changes in defense spending and the loss of high-tech world markets have left our local economy floundering. Major economic factors for our county center around 1) growth of the University, 2) the birth rate, especially in the South County, and 3) immigration related to agriculture. Furthermore, there's been a decline in jobs and an increasing disparity between wealth and poverty with the number of poor increasing

steadily. There's also been an overall decline in sales tax revenues, the county's only discretionary income, with the exception of Capitola. Meanwhile, public assistance, debt maintenance and public protection have been steadily rising. There is also an increasing shortfall in overall housing availability. Although the economic picture is pretty bleak, he feels that by reducing time spent on slow governmental processes we can create significant new revenues which can then be applied to land use issues.

## Saving Energy Saves Money

Ian Thiermann, of "Adopt-A-Business" & Chair of the Energy Conservation Commission, informed us of the opportunity to save money while saving energy. P. G. & E. is offering to pay businesses up to 50% of the cost of installing energy efficient lighting and motors. One incredible example is the Santa Cruz School District. P. G. & E. offered Santa Cruz High School a grant that was used to develop the Adopt-A-Business energy conservation program. Students at Santa Cruz High School determined that \$150,000 / year could be saved by the entire school district. The cost of retrofitting was \$785,000. P. G. & E. gave them a rebate of \$155,000 with the remaining payment to be paid over a 10 year period. Because the savings is being applied to this payment, it is costing nothing out of pocket! By extending the pay period, the school district was even able to save several educational programs that otherwise would have been canceled. The Adopt-A-Business program puts people to work, reduces pollution, educates students, and saves money. Volunteers are needed.



## Public Motivation

Victor Aguiar, co-director of Ecology Action, addressed the issue of public motivation by reframing it to mean "inspiring people to do what they want to do." He outlined 3 elements for public motivation: 1) applying sustainable concepts to people's everyday lives, 2) speaking in plain language, and 3) appealing to broad, long range and ethical concerns such as peoples' children, species extinction, and availability of land fill space. Our goal is to fully motivate our community to realize its potential as "planetary stewards, keepers of the heart and the garden, for we are no less."

Finally, Victor spoke about walking our talk in our daily lives. Sharing a story about how he spied his neighbor about to take a load of virgin cardboard to the curbside, Victor told us how he saved the day saying, "This is a job for 'Recycling Man.'"

## Including all costs for Economic Success

Anne Marie Steinberg, Western U.S. Field Organizer for the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, reminded us that "there was no such thing as garbage." Land fills always create a sacrifice zone. Incineration always causes air pollution, damaging mainly poor, rural, and people of color communities. Therefore, our goal must be "zero garbage." She spoke of the 4 R's: 1) Reduction of toxic from our garbage, which presently are being dumped in the Hispanic community of Kettleman City, 2) Reuse of what we already have, 3) Recycle, and 4) Restore. Land fill mining is being used to get the recyclables out of existing landfills. Above ground storage facilities made of concrete allow communities a responsible way to deal with their own garbage without dumping it on someone else. The only way to insure that we take care of our garbage in a responsible manner is to include the full cost of disposal for all toxics in the purchase price for all products that use or contain them.

## Keynote Address

### "Global Sustainability and Local Action"

Dr. Rashmi Mayur, renowned environmental scientist from India, president of Global Futures Network, and consultant to the U.N. and many developing nations of the world, gave the keynote speech. His most recent book, *Earth 21: How do we mend, reconstruct and save this earth by the end of the 21st century*,

gallons of water / day, compared to the worldwide average of 3 gallons. In addition, 30% of the world's pollution comes from automobiles, the U.S. being the chief offender. The rape of the Earth has been carried on in the name of "development." In order to be "sustainable," we need to harmonize ourselves with Nature, because the Earth's fate is the fate of ourselves.

Sustainability is not something that we have to recreate. Indigenous peoples have lived that way for centuries. The Aborigines of Australia have lived in one place, in harmony with nature, for sixty thousand years. After living with them for a short time, Rashmi asked their leader for one lesson he could take with him. It was, "Do not take from the earth more than what you can give. Only then will the earth be there to serve you."

## Our "Local Agenda 21" Campaign

Jeanne Nordland and Rob Wheeler presented a model for our "Local Agenda 21" campaign, focusing on environmental, economic, and social sustainability in

will be due out soon. Although our focus is to address working at the local level, we must acknowledge the interconnectedness of all environments. This means that Bangladesh may have a beautiful local plan, but if 78% of the forests of Nepal disappear, Bangladesh will continue to lose about 2 billion tons of topsoil and ~50,000 people annually. Therefore, a global perspective is necessary! Dr. Mayur also emphasized the time constraints we face for turning the tide away from current destructive practices and policies towards more viable alternatives for long-range sustainability. In approximately 2,000 days we will be in a new millennium.

Rashmi feels that the Earth Summit held in Rio in 1992 to save the Earth and its inhabitants, fell short. Most of the heads of state put their own agendas before that of the Earth. Yet, said Rashmi, "100 species will disappear during the next hour. What is their crime? How long can we survive before we become the endangered species ourselves?" Though our task is enormous, requiring dedication on all our parts, there is hope. Agenda 21 is a beautiful and important document telling us what we need to do, but it doesn't tell us how or by whom. Therefore, WE must commission OURSELVES to the task, thus filling the gap of Agenda 21. And it is within the local community that we must create a model of sustainability.

1.2 billion people, almost one fifth of the world's population, live under unacceptable conditions. Each week ~10,000 people die from starvation in Angola. "How do we transform this planet?" Rashmi answers his own question by saying, "We transform ourselves, our relationships, our families, groups, nation-states, society, and international relations." If Americans would reduce their meat consumption by only 10%, the amount of land, food and grain released could eliminate starvation worldwide.

According to Dr. Mayur, "One fourth of the world's toxic waste comes from the U.S., as well as 22% of the CO2 discharge into the atmosphere. Citizens of the U.S. use 120

Santa Cruz County. Many things must be done to launch and carry out this campaign. We can start by: 1) initiating community discussions about what it means to be "sustainable;" 2) providing information and educational opportunities to the general public; 3) building communication processes which help us support and work with one another; 4) supporting exemplary and developing new community programs; & 5) encouraging local governments and community decision-makers to implement programs that will create sustainability in Santa Cruz County.

We are creating Round Table Working Groups, which provide opportunities for the public, community groups, and government to come together in Special Focus Areas. We hope that Round Tables will host community forums and Town Hall Meetings focusing on their areas of community life. ACTION-SCC is sponsoring Summits and Coalition Conferences, where we can all come together to discuss pertinent and interrelated issues, as well as to complete the "Local Agenda 21" action plan.

Dan Robin shared progress on our Sustainable Business Quality Awards program, which is designed to encourage businesses to move swiftly and steadily toward quality and sustainable practices. County Chambers of Commerce have endorsed and will assist in publicizing the program.

Chris Neklason encouraged us to communicate electronically through CRUZIO, which provides Electronic Mail, Electronic Conferences, Information Databases, Islands in "Cyberspace," Internet, and the Santa Cruz County Network and Bulletin Board System. ACTION-SCC would like to use CRUZIO to facilitate communications among coalition participants. Volunteers are needed to help us take advantage of this opportunity.

Felipe Rivas of TV Channel 25 offered to be our cable network for sustainability once they are fully on line.

# ACTION-SCC Round Table Preliminary Reports

## PREFACE:

The following ACTION-SCC ROUND TABLE REPORTS include only preliminary Vision Statements and First Action Steps, plus a Team Contact Person, & names of contributors to date. It is important to note that these reports do not yet represent the consensus of the community, but only the viewpoints of those attending the SEED Summit and those giving input at follow-up meetings and in various other ways. Some of the Round Tables have been meeting since the Summit and have their chapters of the "Local Agenda 21" more fully developed than others.

ACTION-SCC is working towards building the necessary coalitions to tap the cross-cultural diversity that is represented in Santa Cruz County. Also, we are hoping that additional Round Table groups will be established to cover areas that are not included so far. Further input and participation from the community is both anticipated and encouraged. What YOU do matters! What we do in Santa Cruz County ripples out into the rest of the world. Let's recognize the urgency of taking steps NOW to secure our future quality of life, both locally and globally.

For more information on how to participate in a particular Round Table or to give input, please call the Team Contact Person. For information about ACTION-SCC overall or to be put on the mailing list for future Summits, Conferences, or Coalition Meetings, please call Jeanne Nordland at (408) 338-6013.



## AGRICULTURE

### Vision Statement:

We want to maintain agriculture in Santa Cruz County as a major source of economic viability following sound ecological, economic, social and humane practices. We endorse agricultural practices that foster biologically active and living soils. We aim for improving air quality, water quality and maintaining our agricultural land resource base. We promote urban agricultural and edible landscaping. We support educational centers for increasing public understanding of agriculture.

### First Action Steps:

- A. Outreach and network with agricultural practitioners inside Santa Cruz County.
- B. Develop standards for sustainable agriculture using the vision statement as a guide.
- C. Increase education and public awareness about sustainable agricultural practices.

Team Contact Person: Jared Lawson - 425-7232

Other contributors to date: Sam Earnshaw, Dave Hope, Damian Parr, Eleanor Wasson, Michael Smith, Allan Wilks, Terence Welch, Ken Foster.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Vision Statement:

Educational programs in Santa Cruz County that address people at all levels of awareness and action - and progress from that point. These programs will assist and allow them to discover their full potential while helping them to be aware of their responsibility for and impact on all life. Diverse age groups and cultures will be involved in the learning process.

An education system that encourages relevant, experiential learning & promotes a sustainable, healthy life for all beings. Focus will be placed on teaching how to learn and how to enjoy learning. This would involve:

- 1) Cooperative learning in groups which is learner-directed, empowering and participatory.
- 2) Development of integrated core curriculum at all levels which emphasizes the theme of unity & interdependence of humanity, all species, & the Earth.
- 3) Student participation in developing their own curriculum.
- 4) Mixed age groups in the learning process.

### Action Plan:

A. School Curriculum: Develop and have in place a core curriculum that follows our vision statement by the year 2000.

1. Research the necessary tools to reach our goal.
2. Diverse teams to develop what's needed.
3. Diverse team will go to each school district to present plan for feedback.
4. Input for school curriculum to be gathered from: Life Lab, Y.E.S., Children's Creative Response to Conflict, EarthSave, Institute of HeartMath, Elmwood Institute, River Restoration Projects, SEA Club, Earth Action Club, Project Wild, Community Service Projects (e.g. Youthserve), Ecology Action, and in cooperation with the arts.

B. Community Education: 20% of the community will be implementing sustainable lifestyles by the year 2000. Utilizing the Social Diffusion Theory, it will automatically spread to the entire community.

1. Evaluate Global Action Plan (Ecoteam Program) as a tool for a local action plan.
2. Compile information about what is already being done in our community.
3. Assist other Round Tables with dissemination of educational messages (eg. the Viable Economy R.T.'s Sustainable Business Quality Awards - encouraging businesses to move toward sustainable practices and building awareness of the three pillars of sustainable community: environmental, social, & economic sustainability.)
4. Lifestyle survey and pledge program for individuals and businesses. (to be developed)
5. Institute of HeartMath tools and trainings - a new technology to offer common sense techniques which build a foundation of inner security and personal empowerment within adults, children and youth from where healthy and productive behaviors can be internalized and sustained.
6. Use media and arts to expose community to reality based sustainable lifestyles.

### Implementation of Action Plans:

1. Regular meetings at County Office of Education
2. Meet with Curriculum Council Representatives and School Boards

Team Contact Person: Holly Gordon - 459-3138

Other Contributors: Lori Shifrel, Jeanne Nordland, Melissa McClaren-Lighty, Dan Robin, Caprice Potter, Steve Ross, Kat Brown, Erin Wong, Veronica Paz Olalla, Dan Stevenson, Natalie and Dr. Diane Bridgeman, Marilee Geyer, Donna Beavers, Gertie Frye, Pat Miller, Rob Wheeler, Dean Rimmerman, Robin Atwood, Mike Arenson, Dr. Robert LaRosa, Glen Barlow, Barbara Vogl, Luiz Rodrigues, & Joseph Sundram.

## ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT & BIODIVERSITY

### Vision Statement:

A healthy ecosystem is the foundation for a sustainable community. Therefore, our vision for the bioregion in and around Santa Cruz County begins with stabilization of present ecosystem conditions followed by on-going efforts towards restoring habitats to health and balance. For the future, we envision all species of flora and fauna thriving and, wherever possible, lost species being reintroduced. Water is drinkable and delicious throughout the county and air quality is excellent. Furthermore, the community is actively involved in maintaining & enhancing the quality of life for all species.

### First Action Steps:

An Environmental Survey to establish current ecosystem conditions is necessary for the enforcement of regulations as well as to set a base-line against which progress and loss can be measured. Diverse pieces of such a survey are being compiled by various agencies, task forces and individuals, including the Soquel Demonstration State Forest (SDSF), the Santa Cruz Mountain Biodiversity Task Force, the University's Environmental Studies Dept., and Coastal Advocate's Geographic Information System (GIS) program.

We need to: 1) identify what is being done or has been done, 2) compile listings of reports, contact individuals, and the scope/limits of their work, 3) assist in networking information among them so that duplication of efforts is avoided and cooperation is enhanced, 4) identify areas of omission, 5) find ways to fill the gaps, 6) and see that a comprehensive documentation of existing conditions in Santa Cruz County is compiled, acknowledged as an authoritative report, and used as both an educational and regulatory tool.

Throughout this project we seek to stimulate meaningful community involvement by bringing knowledge of the process to the local community through the dissemination of information via local media, open meetings, and possibly public on-site investigations or field trips. Once substantial progress towards fulfilling these goals has been made, bioregional coordination with adjacent counties would be encouraged. After documentation of conditions has been completed and public education fostered, we intend to activate the community in overseeing & reporting violations in their neighborhoods to the appropriate regulation agencies.

Team Contact Person: Dean Rimmerman - 425-3205

Other contributors to date: Betsi Sites, Dennis P. Davie, Ted Jones, Kent Reeves, Robert LaRosa, Kathleen VanVelsor, Frank Barron



## ENERGY

### Vision Statement:

Entering the 21st century we meet the Earth Day goal of reducing home energy use by 30%, saving on average 1 ton of CO2 emissions /person/year. As homeowners and renters invest in conservation and passive solar, an increasing number of residents use even less energy than can be sustainably produced. Businesses, schools, churches, and government buildings are retrofitted for energy conservation and passive solar, dramatically reducing the amount of energy and other resources that must be imported. Substantial amounts of capitol are freed up and used to fund other sustainable enterprises.

### First Action Steps:

A. Work with the County to develop a strategic plan for implementing the County General Plan on Energy policies, programs, and recommendations. Begin discussion with the County, as to how the community can fund staff and carry out said conservation programs. Investigate the feasibility of adopting and promote an Energy Tax targeted at funding alternative modes of transportation and conservation programs.

B. Encourage businesses, schools, and non-profit organizations to participate in the Sustainable Business Quality Awards program and the Sustainable Community Resource Directory. Encourage businesses and schools to join with the County in developing and carrying out Energy Audits. Develop programs encouraging staffs to provide lighting and regulate heating and cooling through opening and closing windows, doors, curtains, and other coverings.

C. Look into the feasibility of working with the CONSERVE Corporation to develop appropriate technology and energy enterprises. Work with the County and appropriate economic development and finance professionals to establish a coordinated public/private financing program for conservation, retrofit, & sustainably oriented businesses. Encourage the County to do a cost analysis of how much money is spent on energy in Santa Cruz County and the savings that could be made through implementing various programs.

**Team Contact Person:** Ian Thiermann - 336-2160

Other contributors to date: Rob Wheeler, Michael Arenson, Bob Schwarz, and James Ogle.

## HOUSING



### Vision Statement:

We can envision and work for a future in which every person in Santa Cruz County lives in decent and affordable housing, where there is a feeling of safety and security. Neighbors support and care for each other. There is a true sense of family and community, and each of us feels that we belong and have a special role to play in the community. The structures, building materials, household products and appliances are nontoxic in nature and housing is built with materials that are recyclable and/or biodegradable. Only as much energy is consumed, and natural resources are used, as can be sustainably replaced. Co-housing

opportunities abound and permaculture is becoming ever more prevalent. We're seeing the development of gray water systems, passive solar construction, earth friendly landscaping, and bio-safe/appropriate technologies, along with the integration of lifestyles, living, and working situations.

### Goals for the Year 2000:

One of the County's most pressing needs is to provide affordable housing for all county residents, including those in the \$10,000 to \$40,000 annual income group, low-income renters, and first-time home buyers. This includes providing housing for all seniors, students, agricultural workers, single parent and homeless families, and other special needs households currently residing in the county.

Funding needs to be encouraged at the local, state and federal levels for sustainable housing development, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Individuals, organizations, businesses, and city and county agencies who are working to provide an adequate supply of affordable housing, first for the very low, then low to middle income residents, need to be encouraged and supported. Every governmental jurisdiction needs to share in identifying areas reserved for more intensive housing needs. We need community education that addresses resistance to housing projects, the implications of inadequate housing, and that supports non-traditional households.

We support economic development and a program that encourages a livable wage scale in order to increase job opportunities and wages. Finally we need to balance housing needs with preserving agricultural lands, environmental values, and infrastructure restraints.

### First Action Steps:

Our proposed first action steps include encouraging County Government to concentrate development in the core urban areas, thus limiting urban sprawl. Development should be permitted on the fringes only with sufficient provisions for affordable housing, development of mass transit to sites, and in ways that integrate open space, agricultural and residential uses. Zoning for new development and affordable requirements need to target higher percentages of first *very low* and also *low income* housing. We need to form a coalition of affordable housing, business, and environmental advocates to promote these objectives in concert.

We can investigate means to limit construction of homes for bedroom community home buyers. The community can discuss the possibilities of limiting or capping increases in purchase prices and home valuations.

The County can be encouraged to raise the inclusionary requirement for affordable housing to 25%. Businesses and existing energy conservation programs can encourage renters, home owners, and businesses to participate in energy and natural resource conservation practices through our Sustainable Business programs. Finally we can develop means as a community to lobby for limiting population growth in California and to encourage decreases in the Fair Share Housing requirements.

**Team Contact Person:** Rob Wheeler 476-7230

Other Contributors to date: Gary McNeil, Arnie Fischman, & Chase Price.



## POPULATION / SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Vision Statement:

We recognize that the population problem is systemic and inseparably linked to many interrelated factors; these include political, cultural and religious factors, as well as levels of consumption which have become excessive due to our obsession with unrestricted economic growth. A sustainable world population is one whose environmental impact does not diminish the planetary resource base and life support systems for the present and future generations. Presently, we have exceeded this measure. The ideal environment conducive to population decline is one of equity, justice, and nonviolence. Lower levels of population cannot be achieved unless women have economic and social equality, including full political representation - basic rights that all human beings deserve. Women's equality includes ending sexual harassment and violence against women within and outside the family.

We encourage voluntary reproductive restraint with the addition of positive incentives toward actualizing zero population growth. Freedom of reproductive choice means making safe, effective, and convenient methods of contraception accessible as widely as possible, and includes the right to terminate unwanted pregnancies safely and legally.

Population policies must address conditions that encourage large families. We encourage two children per family as the social norm & improved sex education in our schools, including responsible parenting concepts. Work may encourage women to limit their family size by providing them with sources of satisfaction and security outside the family. Funds must be allocated to these and other programs for our goals to be met.

### First Action Steps:

A. Support the statement submitted by Sierra Club to the Board of Supervisors in '92 for implementation under Measure C ("Decade of the Environment Measure"), which recommends that:

- the County institute an intensive and broad-based educational program directed at county residents regardless of economic or educational level (including schools) designed to increase their awareness of the direct relationship between large family size and the adverse consequences of population growth along with the advantages of small size and zero population growth.

- the County develop an adequate means of assessing and monitoring local population changes due to all major contributing factors (i.e. immigration from other counties, states, countries, and residential child-bearing) plus all environmental damage which results from any population increases - updated periodically, a basis for formulating population-related policies, and available to the public for review.

- Encourage the County to develop a plan to reach zero population growth as soon as possible - updated periodically, a basis for formulating population-related policies, and available to the public for review.

B. Organize and convene a forum on the diverse issues and impacts of immigration in our county; additional forums (or Town Meetings) may be planned to gather input and resolve other related issues.

C. The next Round Table meeting will address more fully the issues of social justice.

**Team Contact Person:** Lotus Maynor - 458-9070 (days)

Other contributors to date: Susan Waldron, Dan Miller, Jerry Simpson, Jeanne Nordland, Heidi Wehmeyer, Maureen Smith, Elizabeth Jones, Alená Smith, Theodore Kerry, Orly Heyman-Bole, Pat Kittle, Covey Potter, Mike Ossipoff, Rob Wheeler, & Susan Russell.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Vision Statement:**

Preventative health care must become the primary focus for the prevention of ill health through promoting wellness. People must be educated about the powerful effects their food choices have on the environment, their health, and all life on earth; and they must be encouraged to move toward a plant-based diet. By promoting the twin disciplines of disease prevention and environmental awareness, people can become stewards of their own well being and that of the earth.

**First Action Steps:**

- A. Go into schools to educate students and teachers about the health, environmental and economic benefits of a plant-based diet and why they should buy and eat healthy, low-fat, plant-based meals.
  - Provide students and teachers with low-fat, plant-based alternatives.
  - Work directly with food service directors helping them to navigate the labyrinth of obstructive policies so they can offer these healthy alternatives in the schools.
  - Work with the PTA to coordinate activities in the schools.
- B. Educate the local adult population about the benefits of low-fat, plant-based nutrition.
- C. Support the Single Payer Health System, which will provide equal access to health care for all, and support the voter initiative to put "Single Payer" on the California ballot.

**Team Contact Person:** - Paige Newman - 454-9609

Other contributors to date: Dr. Nora Wilson, Paul Gaylon, Joe Grossman, Scott Witt, Marilyn Johnson, Vasiliki Vassil, & Pat Carney.



**RESOURCES & RECYCLING**

**Vision Statement:**

Santa Cruz County will be an evolving model community for true sustainable management of human and natural resources. Ultimately, we envision no garbage being put into landfills. (By "sustainable," we mean future generations are equal to or better off than we are presently in terms of resource stock and quality of life.)

**First Action Steps:**

- A. Provide comprehensive education to the public about currently available recycling opportunities.
- B. Increase those opportunities; inform the public of changes in Spanish and English.
- C. Educate public about source reduction.
- D. Creatively promote the use of hemp and other alternative resources.
- E. Encourage corporate responsibility.

- F. Provide economic incentives.
- G. Encourage local government purchasing plans and possible mandates.
- H. Interface with the schools.
- I. Flood the media!

**Team Contact Person:** Debbie DeRose 423-9573

Other Contributors to date: Victor Aguiar (co-chair), Claudia Olalla, Ryan Phelan, Deidre Kerwin, Charly Fitzgerald, Dave Hope, Israel Zuckerman, & Betsy Herbert.

**TOXIC TECHNOLOGY/WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**Mission Statement:**

We identify that we have a condition of danger from toxic products and that we must eliminate said conditions to secure the health and well being of our community.

**First Project:**

We shall adopt as our first project an appeals campaign to the Santa Cruz County Government to stop buying toxic products.

**First Action Steps:**

- A. Santa Cruz County decision makers to be enrolled into stopping the use of toxic products in facilities under their jurisdiction.
- B. Group will undertake to provide the county with alternative products list.
- C. Undertake the education of public officials, health professionals, industry and agriculture, as well as, the general public in the same program to create a "Toxic Free Santa Cruz."
- D. Conscious campaigns to free the county of toxic technology in public places, buildings, recreational facilities, streets, parks and schools.
- E. Boycott toxins in industry, agriculture and household products. (Forexample: Join the Greenpeace campaign against use and production of chlorine.)
- F. Form coalitions to activate above campaigns.
- G. Form local protective agencies.
- H. Prepare map of local toxic "Hot Spots."

**Team Contact Person:** Dr. Rev. Benét Luchion - 429-9623

Other contributors to date: Daliya Robson, Anna Marie Stenberg, Susan Brechenberry, Kim Notley, Michael Cronin, Crys-Vad Hyphus, & Pat Arnold.



**TRANSPORTATION**

**Vision Statement:**

As a community we make the most efficient use of the existing transportation system, while at the same time encourage automobile trip reduction. Traffic congestion is noticeably reduced and air quality is improved. State emissions for vehicles are monitored and penalties severe enough to effectively deter violations are enforced. Public policy encourages pedestrian and transit-oriented development, with higher densities and mixed uses along mass transit routes (rail and bus) thereby reducing dependence on gasoline powered autos.

Public subsidies are shifted from exclusively funding highway construction, road maintenance, policing traffic, and publicly funded parking to developing and promoting transportation alternatives. In accordance with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, more public transportation resources are made available to support the use of clean, alternative modes of transportation.

New development is oriented toward energy efficient public transit-conveniently designed to support pedestrians, bikes & mass transit (including ultralight rail and bike-carrying transit), rather than gasoline fueled cars. Caltrans bikeway standards are improved by greater use of contra flow bike lanes, wide curb lanes, parallel bikeways on state highways where safety standards can be met, and by other bikeway standard upgrades.

Ecotourism thrives, showcasing alternative clean modes of transportation, as well as an extensive interconnected transit network. Certain roadways are dedicated to ultralight vehicles, and there is general promotion of electric and human-powered vehicles. In the immediate future, innovative clean fuel and retrofitting technologies are supported and promoted for the upgrade of existing automobiles, to aid in the transition period. Eventually, existing neighbor-hoods could be rebuilt or modified to enhance the use of non-polluting transportation.

**First Action Steps:**

- A. Work with and support existing commissions, organizations and programs, such as the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), the Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association (TMA), the Santa Cruz Share-A-Ride (SAR) program, People Power and others - to advocate trip reduction, ridesharing, rail planning, and bicycle planning. Participate in and strengthen access to information and resources via communication technology, reducing the necessity for travel (eg. electronic networking and telecommuting).
- B. Support legislation that is currently being discussed in the California Legislature to replace our current car emissions testing program with a better controlled system of testing-only stations; to require more realistic dynamometer testing, with simulated acceleration & deceleration; to have cars tested more often; and to repeal the maximum repair cost limit for emission controls. Reps. Mello & McPherson, & Tom Hayden should be encouraged to promote these reforms.

*ACTION Santa Cruz County* could also write to Caltrans asking for the above mentioned bikeway standards improvements.

C. Investigate the possibility of driver's "pay per use" directly through the annual registration process or a tax on gasoline, so drivers would pay fees based on the number of miles driven each year, thereby placing the financial burden for highway and road maintenance more directly on the users.

D. Investigate and support new technologies and alternative modes of transportation that are clean, efficient, safe and convenient.

**Team Contact Person:** Jessica Denevan - 462-5968

Other contributors to date: Teresa Buika, Tegan Speiser, Frank Barron, Martin Krieg, Buryl Payne, Ron Swenson, & Diana Nikkel.



## ECO TEAMS

*ACTION-SCC* has launched the internationally renowned Household EcoTeam Program to answer the need for bringing households into environmental balance. The Program is a fun-filled team approach to making choices and taking action in 6 different areas: 1) reducing garbage, 2) water efficiency, 3) home energy efficiency, 4) transportation, 5) eco-wise consuming, and 6) empowering others through household, workplace, and community action. It includes an easy-to-use workbook,

special accounting of savings, and personal coaching from experts. By achieving the "Agenda for the Green Decade" goals, outlined in the program, an average family of four can save each year: 104 cubic feet of landfill, 3,120 lbs. of garbage, 73,000 gallons of water, 10 trees, 10 tons of CO2 emissions, 140 lbs. of acid rain pollutants, 600 gallons of gasoline, and \$1,200 - all while improving the quality of their lives! If you are interested in finding out how you can participate in the EcoTeam Program, contact Jeanne Nordland at 338-6013.

C. Support county efforts to develop public/private partnerships to actively retain and expand locally owned and operated firms and to pro-actively address the economic challenges facing the Central Coast region.

D. Work with industry groups to develop a marketing program for appropriate crops, for quality and sustainable products, and for exported programs and services, labeling them as "Santa Cruz Select."

**Team Contact Person:** Rob Wheeler - 476-7230

Other contributors to date: Patrick Greer, Chase Price, Pat Arnold, Alan Brady, Sylvia Caras, Michael Cronin, Randolph Morgan, Rick Longinotto, Ron Wolf, Paul Johnson, Lynne Basehore, Mike Bauer, Dan Ehrler, Jeff Ringold.

## VIABLE ECONOMY

### Vision Statement:

As we move towards the 21st century new businesses tend to be small, locally owned and operated firms, which provide economic diversification, reinvestment monies, and vitality. Local government provides expanded public services to the community through increased revenues, resulting from new economic development.

Economic development activities and agricultural practices recognize and respect the natural limitations of the local environment, are protective of human health, and are based on the use of renewable energy and other natural resources.

It is our intention to improve employment opportunities for low-income and other residents, emphasizing the creation of "livable" wage jobs. Providing employment opportunities for the existing population, focusing on community and economic sustainability, and slowing population growth, we can preserve both the quality of life and the environment in Santa Cruz County.

### First Action Steps:

A. Develop community support for a Hotel and Conference Center in Santa Cruz and ensure that it includes a primary focus on Community Sustainability and related focal areas. Work with the Conference and Visitor's Council to promote Santa Cruz County as a conference, visitor, and film destination with a strong focus on ecotourism, health and personal growth, and community sustainability.

B. Work with the Committee for Economic Vitality and encourage the development of an Economic Development Task Force which will facilitate and foster entrepreneurial business efforts, develop a small business loan program, and leverage private investment capital formation by accessing public sector funding. Develop means to provide technical assistance and disseminate information regarding business plan development, marketing, operations, management, and accessing working capital.



## The County Comes on Board

The County Board of Supervisors agreed in January to participate actively in *ACTION Santa Cruz County's* "Local Agenda 21" process. This adds to the likelihood that Santa Cruz County will be selected as one of 21 communities around the globe to be recognized a model for how we can live sustainably.

The County Administrative Officer was directed to work with various department heads in designating staff to participate in this community wide planning process. It has also been recommended that representatives of county government sit on our community's developing Council on Sustainability. Departments are also being encouraged to read the global Agenda 21 document and discuss both its implications on the local community and what we can do to support its goals.

Other community organizations and leaders are encouraged to contact *ACTION-Santa Cruz County* regarding the Council on Sustainability and their possible participation on it. Up to 24 community members will be selected to represent our county in all areas of community life. The Council will meet once every month or two. Duties of the Council will include overseeing the "Local Agenda 21" process, ensuring the inclusion of the primary community concerns, and cooperatively planning for community well-being regarding social, economic, and environmental development. We refer to "development" as growth in the quality and health of community life.

## Earth Day '94

### Right in our Own Backyard !!

Earth Day, April 22, is just around the corner! This year we will be focusing on what each of us can do "right in our own backyard" - for example, joining an EcoTeam. Watch for a Calendar of Activities and Earth Day-related News in mid April. Local groups will be sharing what they are doing for the community and the environment, as well as how you can participate. The Earth Day Committee needs both "worker bees" and advertisers to help with publicity and activities. Call Jeanne Nordland at 338-6013 to get involved or to join an EcoTeam.

This year the CalPIRG Earth Day Festival will be a family event! There will be a wide variety of entertainment, educational playshops, and activities for grownups and kids as well. Renowned folk singer John McKutcheon wrote a song with kids from our own neighborhood. It tells about what we can each do to play our part in caring for our Earth Home. Aptly enough, it's called "Right in Our Own Backyard," and we'll all be singing it this year for Earth Day. You can make up your own verses telling about what you're each doing that matters. Music is available from Robby Wheeler at 476-7230. Come and join in the FUN on

\*\*\*\*\*

## Donations Welcome!

*ACTION-SCC* was able to convene the S.E.E.D. Summit by obtaining a small grant from the U.N. for expenses. However, funds have run out, and we are faced with finding the means to continue the important work of bringing people together to work on sustainability. Donations would be warmly received and very much appreciated! Send to 325 Crows Nest Drive, Boulder Creek, CA 95006, or call (408) 338-6013 to volunteer.

**ACTION-Santa Cruz County** wishes to thank the following contributors for making possible this report to the community! Please support them!

**\*Upcoming Conference on Sustainability at UCSC**

On April 30 and May 1, *The California Student's Association* will be hosting a Conference addressing the environment, the economy and equity. It is entitled, "Sustainable Development in California: From the Roots Up." Registration is only \$15 for students and \$20 for non-students, and includes 2 full days of speakers and workshops + 3 meals. It will be an excellent opportunity to gather together and explore topics of vital interest to us all. ACTION-SCC is one of the sponsors and highly recommends participation in the entire conference. Special Focus Area Round Tables will be reconvening on May 1 in the afternoon to gather additional input & carry our "Local Agenda 21" Action Plan to the next stage of development. On April 29 Howard Lyman from *Beyond Beef* will be speaking at UCSC on "Sustainable Agriculture and Ranching Practices." For information and registration, call Amber Evans at (408) 459-2189.

\* **Alliance** - business opportunities that benefit you AND the Campaign for the Earth. Call 338-6013.

\* **The Education Connection** - a Resource Center for Educational Programs, 543 Frederick St, S. Cruz. 459-0491

\* **Malabar Cafe** - serving excellent vegetarian food for the community at 1116 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz. 423-7906

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