



We Remember.

We dare to print the naked truth!

The Naked Fish

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June 2002

MVEC Encouraged by Fed's Response

For years now, King County's DNRP has said they can't touch May Creek/Ditch because "the Feds won't let us." Tired of these silly shenanigans, MVEC arranged a meeting, held in a DDES hearing room, that had all interested parties in one room at the same time. The results? The Feds essentially said, "We don't see a problem here. Send us a proposal."

Sweet Sofia* where are you?
By Douglas Bandelin

"I am glad we had this meeting. Now people may realize what I am facing!" That is a close facsimile to the words spoken by a King County bureaucrat at the end of the meeting between DNR, DDES, U.S. Corps of Engineers, NMFS, the prosecutor's office, members of the press, county council representatives, citizens from Panther Creek and members of May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC). The meeting had become a great show and tell; a

justification for King County's foot dragging on the May Valley ditch cleaning project. I for one was appalled.

Had it come to this? A county bureaucracy whining about county bureaucracy. Is this what I had spent 7 years, countless hours and a small personal fortune to see? Egads, what a farce! It is, after all, just a ditch. A ditch filled with intrusive material and vegetation. A ditch neglected by 40 years of inaction by King County

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A Plea For Sanity

A low-cost alternative plan for cleaning May Creek Ditch

We have a terrible conflict in May Valley. On the one hand we have a citizenry who, through no fault of their own, have been maligned of character and robbed of untold thousands of dollars. This outrage continues in broad daylight, even as I write. On the other hand, we have a known perpetrator—King County—who understands the problem and has publicly stated its desire to help. Yet the government of King County is incapable of action, either through the recalcitrance of certain individuals or due to bureaucratic red tape, that swampy quagmire of rules and regulations that has grown up over the years and has tied the hands of decency and common sense. King County, of course, takes every opportunity to blame it on some higher-level government's red tape. In contrast, the unregulated action of Chuck Pillon on the Muncy property

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Agency Meeting (con't)

The Music Of Life

By Reggie Hopper

Suddenly one day
While in my field of green things
Joy overcame me
And turned my world into light

The air danced in delight
With the sun's brightness
The flowers swayed in rhythm
With my heart

I was at peace
With my surroundings
One with my universe
And alive with my God

I moved through liquid joy
My worries gone
Life was not a trouble
And my spirit flew with the birds

Time stood still
My mind talked with the trees
I understood the grass
Everything played its song

We played soul music
And it was good
And then it was over
Yet the memory lingered on

And today
Today I can remember
Sometimes
And I touch it again

Touch the joy
Of the oneness that comes
with hearing
The music of life
And all is in its proper place

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officials. But in the final analysis, just a ditch; and now we are going into the third year of planning on how to clean it out.

I thought of the great empires of the past. Those civilizations that flourished then stagnated and eventually collapsed under their own weight. Rome? Gone! Mandarin China? Gone! Even the evil empire (the Soviet Union)? Gone! Now we struggle not with external enemies although they are there (those enemies have always been there). We struggle with the unbeatable enemy. We struggle with ourselves. It is like trying to hand wrestle yourself. Neither hand can win and finally the body will collapse from exhaustion.



“Now people will know what I am facing.” I left the meeting of May 15th with those words ringing in my ears. I wondered if the person who uttered them knew. I wondered what they felt when they saw their enemy in the mirror every day. I knew what I felt looking at them. I felt disgust, anger and frustration. Disgust in that the county seemed only concerned

with itself and its enlargement. Angry because of all the time and treasure that I have wasted trying to reason with such a beast and frustration in how little effect I seem to have had.

But tomorrow is a new day. Perhaps tomorrow someone will hear. After all, it is only a ditch. The Corps doesn't care if we take a track hoe, dredge, drag line or back hoe into it. NMFS says no matter what we do, it will not affect the endangered salmon downstream. If we work in the fish window (July through August) what we do will not hurt any fish, endangered or otherwise. So then it is back to the County and whether they have the will to help. For forty years the answer has been no, but there is always tomorrow and hope springs eternal in the hearts of people. After all, Sims told me I could grow blueberries, that my ditch would get cleaned.

Meanwhile I sit on the corner and cry softly “Sofia, sweet Sofia, where are you when we need you so?”



* They say that Sofia (wisdom) used to come into the towns and sing her song in the streets so that men could hear, become reasonable and stop being brutish.

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Environmental Litany - Fact or Fiction?

by Rodney McFarland

Population Bomb Blame it on Malthus

This month we will take a long look at the Environmental Litany item that says, "The population is ever growing, leaving less and less to eat. We are fast approaching the absolute limit of viability, and the limits of growth are becoming apparent. The overpopulation of humans is destroying the earth. Our resources are running out." We will show that this item of the Litany is not true and why it is not true. In fact, humans are a valuable resource not the scourge of the earth that the Litany would have us believe.

In 1798, Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus, an English economist and demographer, proposed one of the central doctrines of modern environmentalism. In *An Essay on the Principle of Population* he asserted that human population always grows faster than food supplies, leading to misery and the destruction of

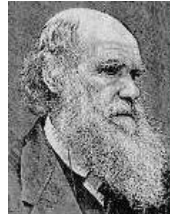


nature. Malthus based his case on two propositions he considered completely self-evident: "Food is necessary for the existence of man" and "the passion between the sexes is necessary

and will remain nearly in its present state."¹ Based on these propositions, Malthus concluded that "the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power in the earth to produce subsistence for man. Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence increases only in an arithmetical ratio. A slight acquaintance with numbers will show the immensity of the first power in comparison with the second ... This implies a strong and constantly operating check on population from the difficulty of subsistence."²

Malthus' theory has had wide ranging impacts. In his autobiography, Charles Darwin credited his reading of *An Essay on the Principle of Population* with giving him the insight leading to his theory of

natural selection. Ever since Darwin, naturalists, biologists, and ecologists have been the champions of Malthus' theory. It has in fact proven very useful in the ecology and population biology of species other than man. It entered the Litany due to the work of such biologists as Stanford University entomologist Paul Ehrlich. In his book, *The Population Bomb*, published in 1968, he predicted: "The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970's, the world will undergo famines—hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked on now."³ In 1970 Ehrlich outlined a scenario in which 65 million Americans and 4 billion other people would die of starvation in the "Great Die-Off" between 1980 and 1989.⁴



Ehrlich was not alone. In 1967 William and Paul Paddock stated in *Famine 1975!*: "The famines which are now approaching ... are for a surety, inevitable. ... In fifteen years the famines will be catastrophic. ..."⁵ The Worldwatch Institute is headed by Lester Brown. In 1981 he wrote, "The period of global food security is over." In 1994 he wrote, "The world's farmers can no longer be



counted on to feed the projected additions to our numbers. Rising food prices will be the first major economic indicator to show that the world economy is on an environmentally unsustainable path."⁶

As an economist, Malthus would have understood that rising food prices would indeed be an indicator of declining supply as food ran out due to overpopulation. Coincidentally, as he was writing his essay, France became the first country in the world in which fertility began to decline. We now know that the world was then on the brink of the largest

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A Plea For Sanity

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has done wonders for the health of that property as well as the land above 164th Street. This benefit was even acknowledged by the two young fellows who recently surveyed the creek for the County. Their condensed report from March 26, 2002, states, "This reach is relatively clear of debris or other obstructions, though there is evidence of recent beaver activity along the banks." The only complaint of the denizens of May Valley seems to be that Chuck did not finish the job. Chuck is being fined \$21,000 for his unregulated act by DDES and \$4,000 by the WA State Department of Ecology. That is about \$50 per foot for 500 feet of cleaned ditch. Compare that to all the fol-de-rol the County is going through spending years and many thousands of dollars obtaining permission from itself and other governments to do the same work.

According to County staff, some \$300,000 has been set aside for work in May Valley this year. Both the citizens residing in May Valley and King County employees want to get

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Environmental Litany—Fact or Fiction (con't)

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something accomplished this year. Yet nothing happens. In order to stop the dithering, bring relief to our battered properties and ecosystem, and save some money to boot, MVEC proposes the following solution.

MVEC will supply the track hoe, the driver and the expertise to do the job. We will do about 4,000 feet of restoration this year and about the same in 2003. In the spirit of government/citizen cooperation we would like DNR to use the money allocated to May Valley to pay the fines that will be levied for not following the rules. 4,000 feet of restoration would only be \$200,000 in fines leaving \$100,000 to be used elsewhere.

Perhaps a similar project could be done on Panther Creek. As Mr. Sims stated at the May Creek Rally last summer, "If you don't follow the rules, you must be prepared to pay the penalty." We do not advocate not paying the fines the rules prescribe. We feel the County can make the best use of its money by paying the fines after the work is completed

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surge in economic and population growth ever experienced. Between 1820 and 1992, world population quintupled as the world's economies grew 40-fold.⁷

In his *Essay*, Malthus claimed that he had proven "that population does invariably increase when the means of subsistence increase."⁸ His modern heirs insist that Malthus was right. UC Santa Barbara ecology professor Garrett Hardin, writes, "Making food still cheaper and more available for more people will encourage more population growth and thus ensure that life will, in many important respects, become worse."⁹ Jay Forrester wrote, "Population is regulated to food supply," in his book *World Dynamics*.¹⁰ His computer model assumes an abundance of food will raise the birth rate by a factor of 2. In the race between food and population, famine is the winner!

Contrary to such predictions, it turns out that the countries that have the greatest access to food—the United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, France and some 50 other countries—are the countries that have the lowest



birth rates, all below replacement levels.¹¹ For developed countries, more food doesn't mean more children, only fatter adults. Demographers have found that economic growth

and steep declines in fertility rates go together. Demographer Robert Kates identifies four reasons:¹²

1. Less need for child labor, more need for educated children.
2. Less need for more births because more children survive.
3. Less time for childbearing and rearing, more time and need for education and work.
4. More access to birth control technology to achieve fewer births.

It turns out that the real birth rate correlation is not food but poverty. Improve the economies of the poor nations of the world and the population will stabi-

lize and then decline. Current UN population projections for the peak world population range from about 11.5 billion in 2075 at the worst case to a best case of 8 billion in 2040. Their medium projection of about 9.3 billion by 2050 may be most likely.¹³



The best case projection is based on fertility trends of the last 30 years continuing everywhere except sub-Saharan and Northern Africa. It is possible that world populations may decline by as much as 30 percent per generation after 2050. Even if population doubles again to 12 billion before stabilizing, we will not run out of food.

Food is primarily a way to transfer energy from the sun to us via photosynthesis. The solar energy influx is currently equivalent to about 7000 times our present global energy consumption, of which photosynthesis is a very small part.¹⁴ Until the sun goes out, there is plenty of energy available for photosynthesis to produce human food. We just need to keep finding new recipes for increased production. The arguments that we will run out of agricultural land and that pesticide and fertilizer use are worse than starving will be addressed in future articles in this series. Neither argument is insurmountable or even very challenging.



The population of the world has doubled since 1961. In that time, our global calorie intake has increased 24 percent. Calorie intake for developing countries has increased 38 percent. Even though the earth's population has risen by almost 3 billion, we produce 23 percent more food per capita.¹⁵

The price of wheat has fallen from over \$17 per bushel in 1950 to just over \$3 in 2000 while the population of the world has doubled.¹⁶ Remember, price is an indicator of supply. Global grain production per capita rose from about 260 kg

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per person in 1961 to 306 kg in 2000 as the population doubled.¹⁷ Production in the developed countries stabilized at about 650 kg per person in the 1980s because we simply can't eat any more even though we feed most of it to animals whose meat we eat. The price of wheat has been falling since 1800 with no indication the trend will stop. It is now 10 times cheaper than the relatively stable price of the 500 years before 1800. Why?

The answer is a number of technologies known as "The Green Revolution." The original vision was that of Norman Borlaug whose work to get more food out of each hectare of soil led to him receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. The revolution can be summarized as:

- ◆ High-yield crops
- ◆ Irrigation and controlled water supply
- ◆ Fertilizers and pesticides
- ◆ Mechanization—tractors, mechanical harvesters, etc.
- ◆ Farmers' management skills.



Some argue that the Green Revolution has reached a "wall" and has leveled off. Worldwatch Institute promotes that idea based on a slight decrease in worldwide grain production during the early 1990s. The decrease was primarily due to intentional production decreases by the European Union and the Soviet breakdown. Grain production has since resumed its upward trend. There are huge production increases available by increasing production in the developing world. Even amongst developed nations there is room for improvement. The EU produces twice the amount of wheat per hectare as the United States.¹⁸ They farm more intensively because of their lack of farmland. Projected production increases for corn and rice are even more optimistic. Our current global distribution system also allows production in the most suitable area for each crop thereby increasing yields.

But the theory of diminishing marginal

returns says that you can't increase production forever! Malthus' theory was one of the first applications of that theory. As J. E. De Steiguer states in his "Three theories from economics about the environment"¹⁹: "While he argued that the quality of arable land was fixed and someday might be completely occupied by farms, Malthus also recognized that land could be made more productive through intensive cultivation. With greater effort, farmers could gradually squeeze more produce from the same fixed amount of land—and herein lies the rub—at decreasing rates per each additional laborer. Thus each new worker sent to the field produces incrementally fewer crops or, as later economists would say, with diminishing marginal returns." In more modern farming methods, the return per pound of fertilizer would decrease as more and more was applied.

The law of diminishing returns certainly applies to many human activities. The last bite of the quart of Ben & Jerry's ice cream you just ate didn't have the same impact on your taste buds as the first bite. The medical advantages of the fifth prostate exam for the month are questionable. The 360th King County Water and Lands Resources staff person is not as valuable as the first one was way back when—even if the payroll costs would make it seem otherwise.²⁰

At the same time, many human activities are better characterized by increasing returns rather than decreasing returns. It may cost \$150 million in research and development to make the first vial of a new vaccine. But every vial after that is essentially free because the value of the vaccine is not the cost to manufacture it but the cost of devising the recipe for making it. While the first copy of Windows XP may cost Microsoft \$500 million, the second and each subsequent copy costs the price of the CD it is stored on. The value comes from the recipe or ideas embodied in the product, not the value of the physical atoms. We make ourselves better off not by increasing the stuff on planet earth, but by rearranging the stuff we have to provide us with more

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A Plea For Sanity

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rather than buying indulgences from the regulators before the work starts. Everyone wins.

- ◆ Residents of May Valley—our ditch is clean which reduces flooding.
- ◆ Residents of lower May Creek—May Valley storage is returned lessening erosion in the canyon.
- ◆ The fish—May Creek/Ditch is returned to the condition it was in when fish were abundant.
- ◆ King County—Paying the fines would merely transfer money from DNRP to DDES. No net cost to the County.
- ◆ DDES—They have already established a price per foot for the work so they get \$200,000 with no additional effort.
- ◆ State Department of Ecology—They get their \$8 per foot with out expending any effort.
- ◆ Surface water management fee-payers—more efficient use of their tax money.

I cannot but hope that sense prevails and we all win!!! Please stop the maddening cycle of study and failure. Only the insane continue the same process over and over again expecting a different result. Let us all win together!

Environmental Litany—Fact or Fiction (con't)

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of what we want. Humans have been doing that for a long time. Some Stone Age hunter/gatherer figured out that, instead of eating all the grass seeds he had gathered, he should plant some of them in one spot. That made it much easier to gather the next crop and increased the ecosystem's capacity to feed more people than hunting and gathering could. Thus, farming grass seeds led to increasing returns whereas just gathering and eating them led to decreasing returns. Both hawks and men eat chickens, but while more hawks mean fewer chickens, more men mean more chickens.



By using better and better recipes including modern birth control, humanity has avoided the Malthusian trap while at the same time making the world safer, more comfortable, and more pleasant for ever larger numbers of people. If our population had been able to grow to present levels but no recipes had come about, the impact of humanity on the natural environment would have been calamitous. The wealth of recipes comes not from restricting human population but from governmental and economic systems that encourage initiative and invention. Meanwhile, the misplaced belief that population growth slows economic development and consumes irretrievable resources erroneously provides support for programs of coercion and denial of reproductive liberty such as that taking place in China.

Economist Julian Simon was one of the first to question the law of diminishing returns as well as much of the rest of the Litany. In his "Population growth is not bad for humanity" he argues that humans are an asset not a liability. In his words:



"...if the resources with which people work are not fixed over the period being analyzed, then the Malthusian logic of diminishing returns does not apply. And the plain fact

is that, given some time to adjust to shortages, the resource base does not remain fixed. People create more resources of all kinds. When horse-powered transportation became a major problem, the railroad and the motor car were developed. When schoolhouses become crowded, we build new schools -- more modern than the old ones.

"Extraordinary as it seems, natural-resource scarcity -- that is, the cost of raw materials, which is the relevant economic measure of scarcity -- has tended to decrease rather than to increase over the entire sweep of history. This trend is at least as reliable as any other trend observed in human history. And demographic growth has speeded the process rather than hindered it.

"The most extraordinary aspect of the resource-creation process is that temporary or expected shortages -- whether due to population growth, income growth, or other causes -- tend to leave us even better off than if the shortages had never arisen, because of the continuing benefit of the intellectual and physical capital created to meet the shortage. It has been true in the past, and therefore is likely to be true in the future, that we not only need to solve our problems, but we need the problems that accompany the growth of population and income.

"The doomsayers of the population control movement offer a vision of limits, decreasing resources, a zero-sum game, conservation, deterioration, fear, and conflict - concluding with calls for more governmental intervention in markets and family affairs. Should that be our vision? Or should our vision be that of those who look optimistically upon people as a resource rather than as a burden -- a vision of receding limits, increasing resources and possibilities, a game in which everyone can win, creation, the excitement of progress."²¹

The data certainly support an optimistic view. I think our glass is well more than half full. In fact, it is actually spilling over the rim. The only people that the Litany feeds are its purveyors. Environmental gloom and doom is an expanding industry that creates nothing while shackling the very initiative needed to solve the problems.



The cure for earth's problems is ever more intelligent recipes, not reduction in cooks and restrictions on ingredients.

¹Malthus, T.R., *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, (Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), p. 12.

²Ibid, p. 13.

³Ehrlich, Paul, *The Population Bomb* (New York: Sierra Club Ballantine, 1968), p. i.

⁴Ehrlich, Paul, "Looking backward from 2000 A.D.," *The Progressive* (April 1970), 23-25.

⁵Paddock, William, and Paddock, Paul, *Famine 1975! America's Decision: Who Will Survive!* (Boston: Little Brown, 1967).

⁶Brown, Lester, *State of the World Report 1994*, p. 178.

⁷Wallace, Paul, "The rebirth of Malthusian gloom," *New Statesman*, (January 9, 1998), p. 21.

⁸Winch, Donald, *Malthus*, (Oxford/New York, Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 61.

⁹Hardin, Garret, "Limits to growth are nature's own," *Insight on the News*, (December 20, 1993).

¹⁰Forrester, Jay, *World Dynamics*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, MA: Wright-Allen Press, 1973), p. 27.

¹¹Eberstadt, Nicholas, "World Population Prospects for the Twenty-first Century," *Earth Report 2000*, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 69-71.

¹²Kates, Robert W., "Population, technology, and the human environment: A thread through time." *Daedalus*, (Summer 1996), p. 43.

¹³Bailey, Ronald, ed., *Earth Report 2000*, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2000), 242-243.

¹⁴Lomborg, Bjorn, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2001), p. 133.

¹⁵Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2001.

¹⁶International Monetary Fund (IMF) 2001a, CPI 2000.

¹⁷FAO 2001.

¹⁸USDA 1998, 2001a.

¹⁹De Steiguer, J. E., "Three theories from economics about the environment," *BioScience*, 45, no. 8 (September 1995) p. 552.

²⁰This example may erroneously place value on WLR staff. Their main function seems to be transferring surface water management fees to salary and benefits which, off course, is a value only to them.

²¹<http://www.juliansimon.com/writings/Norton/NORTON02.txt>.

Kipp Heads For Greener Pasture

Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) Director Greg Kipp is headed off to a new job with the Health Department. After finally getting a useful dialog going with DDES, MVEC will now have to start over with new Director Stephanie Warden. MVEC wishes Greg Kipp well in his new endeavors. We appreciate his involvement and assistance overcoming regulatory hurdles as we implement the basin plan.



Late Breaking News:

Energizer Bunny arrested!
Charged with battery.

Maybe It's Time To Leave

By Douglas Bandelin

In 500 BC, or close to it, Socrates was dead, Aristotle but a mere boy, Plato taught in the lyceum of Athens and the brilliance of his mind shone forth, illuminating all of Athens if not all of Greece. At least that is what my history teacher led me to believe. Plato's penultimate book, the one by which we all remember him today and the one still being used to teach advanced college courses around the world, is *The Republic*. Now Plato starts out his book with a little wisdom. He writes, "all systems have been tried including this one, but I believe this one [the one in the book] is the best one."



Plato's republic is not the republic we think of here in the USA. In Plato's republic only a very few run the government. The vast majority of the citizenry merely receive the benefit of the elite rule. In this "best" of all worlds, the citizenry is divided into three classes referred to as gold, silver, and bronze. The bronze, of

course, is where most of us are. It makes up the working populace. The shop keepers, artisans, farmers, teachers etc. The silver are the guardians. The keepers of the culture and basic stewards of the state. In Plato's time most of these were the army but there were also the bureaucrats. On top were the philosopher kings. These were men who were both wise from philosophy and strong in moral fiber to be the rulers of the land. Now the one democratic thing in the republic is that these golden ones were selected from all the babies of the *polis*, or city. The process of selection, however, was not democratic. Only the philosopher kings had the wisdom to assign tasks to the babies. Some would get the best and become gold, others less and become silver and then there were the bronze. So that is how it



worked: the gold passed the laws, the silver administered them, and the bronze received the benefit of enlightened rule and supported the

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Blair Defends Science

May 20, 2002, LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair said he is ready to defend Britain's scientists against attacks by "misguided" environmental and animal rights activists he accuses of standing in the way of progress.

In an interview published Monday in The Times newspaper, Blair said activists would not be allowed to jeopardize legitimate scientific advances.

"It is completely unacceptable for people to try to disrupt and destroy legitimate research on which these issues will ultimately be judged," The Times quoted him as saying. "It is time to speak up for science."

In the past few years, protesters have destroyed government-sponsored test fields of genetically modified crops, and animal rights activists have threatened scientists conducting research on animals, in one case setting off a car bomb.

Some critics have also accused scientists of allowing the development of mad cow disease, which has been attributed to the practice of mixing ground up sheep remains into cattle feed.

The Times said the prime minister was furious at such protests. "It is time ... to make clear that the govern-

ment is not going to allow misguided protests against science to get in the way of confronting the challenges of making the most of our opportunities," it quoted him as saying.

Blair did not elaborate on steps that could be taken to protect scientists. In a speech scheduled for Thursday, he is expected to warn that research work could be lost to other European countries if activists go unchallenged.

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Critter Report

by Mick Zevart

Did you know that there was bear up on that there hill? Recent sightings of these black-haired creatures, and findings of their droppings, have been reported to me sometime back. We have been aware of this for many a year.

One day back in the early 1970s, the girls were returning home from a horse ride up on the mountain in the Ellingwood area. When rounding a sharp turn in the trail the lead rider and horse came face to face with a black bear eating blackberries. The bear stood up on his hind legs and looked the horse square in the eyes. The bear grunted, the horse snorted, the girls screamed, and the bear ran away. Judging from the size of him as the girls described it, the bear must have weighed some four hundred pounds.



Some years later my neighbor, Alona Pettit, ran across a "bear trail." Alona had quite a

garden, and one fall they found piles of bear dung full of pumpkinseeds on the trail behind the house. At that time I

knew of several sightings of small black bears crossing 900 at the campgrounds.

Mrs. Jon Vukov, who lives on May Valley Road, sighted a bear recently in her front yard.

Every time I hear of droppings being found, I ask whether they are fresh. The way to tell is by touch. If it is warm you had better look around; if it is cold you are OK.

This reminds me of one of my trips to Alaska to do volunteer work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We were doing nest studies of the Dusky Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis occidentalis*, on the Copper River delta, the summer nesting grounds of this bird, in 1989. We were trying to determine the cause of the depletion of the population of these geese after the earthquake of 1964. During this quake the tidal flats heaved up some ten to twelve feet. This dried out the nesting area of the Dusky Canada Goose, making it more accessible to four-legged predators like bears, wolves, and coyotes.

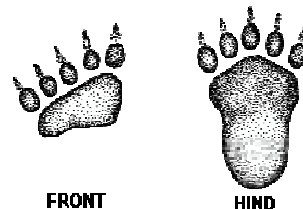
It was thought that the bears were responsible for most of this damage to the goose nests. We were working in

scrub alder thickets, which were growing on the flats now because of lack of salt in the soil. We worked in pairs.

When we'd find one of these destroyed nests, there would be a pile of feathers, a metal leg band, and sometimes a plastic neck collar. These were placed on the birds back in the early 1980s.

Also, one might find a pile of bear dung.

Whenever I'd find one I'd place my hand close to it to see whether I could feel any heat coming from it.



Most of us carried side arms, and a few carried pepper spray cans. I carried a borrowed .41 magnum in a shoulder holster, and it was so long the tip of the barrel was in my front pants pocket.

Sometimes my partner would wander off far enough so I could not see him, but I could hear him going through the brush. I came upon a bird nest that had been freshly torn apart. Not hearing my

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As Seen On TV

By David Rockabrand

Coverage of homelessness has not been "aired" for quite a while mostly due to the events of 9-11 and its fallout. But it's coming back and here is why.

Show: Hanity and Colmes
Topic: Bias in the media
Subject: Homelessness in America and how we are spoon fed misleading information

Several weeks ago a segment aired on the Fox News channel which featured three homeless advocates discussing today's homeless problem. The three were Patrick Markey, Brent Bozel and Ted Hayes, all representing differing political viewpoints.

It has been widely acknowledged that the news media has a liberal slant especially in television and print. Radio seems to be more conservative. During the first Bush administration (1988-1992) there were 232 stories devoted to homelessness in his four years in office. During President Clinton's tenure (1992-2000) of eight years there were just over 100 stories aired. Let's do the math—I come up with four times the number of stories per week/month/year during senior Bush's administration than during Clinton's. What is even more distorting is the fact that the number of homeless actually rose during the nineties. The numbers vary according to which survey/report you read but it's generally accepted we have from 600,000 to 800,000 (census

1996) homeless in America. Some reports had the number at 250,000 in a 1990 census. Keep in mind what constitutes a homeless person is one who at any point during a given year did not have a permanent residence. Most people eventually find permanent shelter within that year.

But there is more! In 1989, Charles Osgood reported for CBS that, by the year 2000, 19,000,000 (that's right, 19 million!) would be homeless. Also that year CNN reported 49,000,000 people in the United States were on the "knife edge of homelessness." During congressional testimony, when asked where he got a figure of 3,000,000 homeless, Mitch Snyder said he made up the number.

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Critter Report (con't)

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partner, I found what I thought was a fresh pile of bear dung. As I bent over to check for heat I heard a grunt. I pulled the hammer of the gun back and my partner yelled, "It's just me!" It was his manner to grunt, but after that incident I didn't hear any more grunts from him.

Now we'll leave the Alaska Brownies and get back to our neighborhood black bear. The black bear (*Ursus americanus*) is divided into sixteen subspecies with minor differences in appearance. Some of these go by different names, like Kermode bear, Cinnamon bear, or Glacier bear, but all are black bears. Some refer to males and females as boars and sows, like pigs. Like brown bears, black bears are omnivores. But black bears and brown bears are different animals.



The black bear is approximately four to seven feet long from nose to tail, and two to three feet high at the withers. It has small eyes, rounded ears, a long snout, a large body, a short tail, and shaggy hair. The body fur is usually black or brown but occasionally yellow, or, rarely, white, as among the Kermode subspecies of coastal British Columbia. The muzzle is brown. White chest patches are not uncommon in most populations. The skin color is light gray. The eyes, blue at birth, later turn brown.

Bears have color vision and can see well close up. The frequency range of their hearing exceeds that of human beings, and their ears are twice as sensitive. Their sense of smell is extremely good, though its limits have not been tested.

Wild males of breeding age weigh between 125 and 500 pounds. Very well fed bears can be heavier. The record weight is 880 pounds. That specimen was found in North Carolina. Wild females weigh between 250 and 300 pounds, with the record being 520 pounds. Males are generally larger than females.

The black bear mating season is from late May to early July. Implantation is delayed until November. Births take place in late January or early February. First litters are generally one or two cubs. Older bears may have up to 6 cubs; this has been recorded in the eastern United States. The sex ratio is nearly 50:50 at birth. At birth, cubs weigh from ½ to 1 pound. Depending on food supply, they will grow by fall to anywhere from as little as 15 pounds to more than 50 pounds.

Females will only breed again when their cubs stop nursing, which can be as long as 17 months. Females will leave the mountains and go elsewhere with their cubs to protect them from being slaughtered by big males that want to breed with the cubs' mothers. When we were in the delta in Alaska the bears were mostly females with cubs or males under three years old. Depending on food supply, black bears will produce cubs for 2 to 11 years. Typically two years pass between new births, but this period can extend to three to four years when food is scarce.

The black bear is found only in North America. Its population is estimated at about 750,000. It lives in forests as far



south as Florida and New Mexico and as far north as forests grow on the continent, in Alaska and Canada. They like large forests with many different types of wild berries. In our area they will feed on elder, both red and blue, huckleberries, both red and black, and all types of blackberries. They love to feed in old, abandoned orchards. Lowlands and wetlands provide tender and juicy vegetation. Bears will eat dead and decaying fish. The flesh of a bear properly hunted in the fall which has fed on vegetable foods and not on fish, has



the taste and consistency of pork.

The other day black bears were featured on the news. A female of some 200 pounds ran up a tree in the Fairwood area, in someone's back yard. Apparently she wouldn't come down on her own, so a Wildlife agent shot her with a sedative dart, after which they lowered her by hand using rope.

So if some morning or evening just before dark you see a black animal in your neighbor's pasture, up against the timber line, or in your back yard, its possible you are looking at something other than a black lab.

Black bears are generally timid and are much less likely to harm humans than grizzlies, which account for the great majority of human fatalities due to bears. Black bear mothers have not been known to kill any human in defense of their cubs. If I saw one, though, I would be very careful nonetheless.

Kingdom: *Animal*
Phylum: *Chordata*
Class: *Mammalia*
Subclass: *Theria*
Infraclass: *Eutheria*
Order: *Carnivora*
Suborder: *Fissipedia*
Family: *Ursidae*
Subfamily: *Ursinae*
Genus: *Ursus*
Species: *americanus*

Information gathered per conversations with neighbors, clients, and colleagues.
Reference cited: "Black Bear Facts" (<http://www.bear.org/black/black/blackbearfacts.html>)

The Night Watchman

by Douglas Bandelin

Once upon a time the government had a vast scrap yard in the middle of a desert. Congress said someone may steal from it at night, so they created a night watchman position (GS-4) and hired a person for the job.

Then Congress said, "How does the watchman do his job without instruction?" So they created a planning position and hired two people: one person to write the instructions (GS-12) and one person to do time studies (GS-11). Then Congress said, "How will we know the night watchman is doing the tasks correctly?" So they created a Q.C. position and hired two people, one GS-9 to do the studies and one GS-11 to write the reports.

Then Congress said, "How are these people going to get paid?" So they created the following positions, a time-keeper (GS-09) and a payroll officer (GS-11) and hired two people. Then Congress said, "Who will be accountable for all of these people?" So they created an administrative position and hired three people: an Admin. Officer (GM-13), an Assistant Admin. Officer (GS-13) and a Legal Secretary (GS-08).

Then Congress said, "We have had this command in operation for one year and we are \$18,000 over budget, we must cutback overall cost," so they laid off the night watchman.

MVEC Meetings

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Maybe It's Time To Move Away (con't)

(Continued from page 7)

other two classes. Sounds a bit like a South American dictatorship to me, or the People's Democratic Republic of (North) Korea. But my professors at the University of Washington revered Plato and thought his ideas most splendid.

According to my professors this system, this republic, produced the maximum benefits for the maximum citizens (sounds Marxian, doesn't it?) and I am convinced that King County believes every word. For such is the system we seem to have. We the rural folk are a tightly-governed people, yet we have no say with our overlords. We



live not in a democracy. Alas, the democracy is dead and we live in Plato's republic. Recent events prove it.

Consider the sports stadiums. The people said no, and yet they are built. The people said \$35 car taxes, yet mine cost something like \$70 last year for a car that was old, old, old. The people of rural King County said no to urbanized control and were told "No, you cannot form Cedar County." And on it goes. All the silly rules about buildings and no cottage industry have not enjoyed our support, yet they pass anyway. We are prisoners inside the republic, the good bronze people upon whose strong backs all else resides. Yet we are also square pegs in a county hell bent on having only round pegs, and so the county goes about pushing square pegs through its round holes and we cry in pain. But few listen. They are too busy smelling magnolias or listening to fine European music to bother themselves with the needs of the bronze country folk. The gold rulers of King County clink their glasses and compliment each other on the nice work they have accomplished, and yet there is widespread suffering in the county. Widespread? Just ask rural county people what they think of King County government.



The guardians, the silver of society, have also lost their way. Rather than



be guardians of the sheep they are now the fleece-ers. And voracious ones, at that. Guardians are no longer satisfied with the pure joy of service, unlimited job security and low pay. No, now they want power and with that power they want wealth. \$69,000 is the average annual wage for King County employees. The thought of that number almost brings tears. I look at my family of six wage earners over 25. We have 1 Ph.D., 2 MA's, 1 BA, and 2 AA degrees with a combined total income of under \$200,000, no job security, and few benefits. That makes us worth about half of a county employee.

I listen to the news that the county is out of money. "Gee," I ask myself, "does that \$69,000 average wage have something to do with that?" Of course it does. Lower the salary to \$60,000 and free up millions to spend on parks and trails. Cut back on staff and free up more. Bloated staff? Yep, you betcha. The government likes the idea of comparable worth. They point out that in the private sector a manager of X-number of staff gets more money. And so the game is to accumulate even more staff to raise your salary. But this kind of thinking spins out of control quickly. Because what the government forgets is that the private sector produces something of value. The operative words here are "produce" and "value." Either a staff produces something of value or their whole enterprise, like Enron, will collapse. Unlike Enron the government does not need to produce anything of value, and so the government has no such check. The government is a destroyer and will eventually destroy us all if not brought to heel. In *The Republic* he held forth the notion of Divine retribution. That is to say, if the gold or silver began to lose their way then God would intervene. I would like to believe Plato



was right. But I wonder. Maybe I should move away. Before God intervenes.

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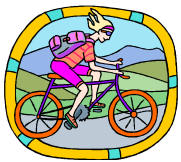
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Project: Noah

The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "Noah, in six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are destroyed. But, I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build an ark." And, in a flash of lightning, he delivered the specifications for the ark. "OK," Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints, "I'm your man."

"Remember, six months and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You better have my ark completed or learn to swim for a long, long time!" Sure enough, in six months the sky began to cloud up, and the rain started to fall in torrents.

The Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping, and there was no ark. "Noah!" shouted the Lord, "where is My ark?" A lightning bolt

crashed into the ground right beside Noah. "Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best, but there were some big problems.

First, I had to get a building permit for the ark's construction, but your plans did not meet their code. So, I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a fire-sprinkler system." "My neighbors objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning board. Then, I had a big problem getting enough wood for the ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch them, so no owls." "Next, I started gathering up

the animals but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to me taking along only two of each kind. Just when the suit got dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being."

"Then, the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plain. I sent them a globe! Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire." "The IRS has seized all my assets claiming that I am trying to leave the country, and I just got a notice from the state that I owe some kind of use tax. Really, I don't think I can finish the ark in less than five years."



Ecology Award

Tri-State Steelheaders to receive Ecology's highest award

SPOKANE--They have removed garbage that prevented fish from passing safely. They have vastly improved fish habitat, and they've taught hundreds of Walla Walla-area students to care about the fate of steelhead in the Walla Walla River and its tributaries.

Now the volunteers in the Tri-State Steelheaders organization are receiving the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) highest honor for environmental excellence.

Victoria Leuba, an Ecology employee who works on water issues in the Walla Walla watershed, will present the Environmental Excellence Award at the Tri-State Steelheaders' annual meeting and crab feed on Thursday, May 16, in Walla Walla.

"The Steelheaders have done considerable work to restore streambanks for fish habitat," said Leuba. "They are a group of hard-core volunteers, deeply committed to this task."

In the last two years, the Tri-State Steelheaders helped the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife plant 160,000 steelhead smolts in the Walla Walla River. The group has planted countless trees and shrubs along streams to improve fish habitat and also removed illegally dumped concrete, other debris and an old dam so fish could swim freely.

The Steelheaders also taught a conservation and angling-ethics classes to hundreds of local students in elementary and high school and conducted the course in Spanish at a Walla Walla County farm-labor camp.

"If we agree that the success of salmon recovery efforts largely rests with the next generation, this may be their most valuable contribution of all," said Leuba.

Steelhead were listed as a threatened species in 1999.

Contact: Jani Gilbert, public information manager, 509-456-4464; pager, 509-622-1289 Ecology's Web site:



As seen on TV (con't)

(Continued from page 8)

"Clearly there's a media wide Institutional bias to convince the people that watch these news shows that the Republicans are causing "homelessness" - Brent Bozel.

How does this issue tie in with our lovely little May Creek, er, I mean Ditch, issue? It shows how the media can help or hurt a cause if the reporting/facts are erroneously presented. If the diatribe fed to the populous favors a political or social stand, then who among us are going to back a fair, just

and righteous cause when painted with black brushstrokes.

Love him or not President Bush has done at least an admirable job during our security crisis and you can bet the "Left" will bring up homelessness as a wedge to separate him from his well-earned popularity.



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A Message from the President

U.S. Constitution: Amendment IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

WA State Constitution: Section 7
No person shall be disturbed in his private affairs, or his home invaded, without authority of law.

While the two articles cited above seem clear to most people, King County code enforcement officials have their own interpretation. They think that their employees can come onto your property at any time, with or without your permission and without a warrant. It isn't so!

MVEC friend Preston Drew recently consulted a local attorney who regularly deals with code enforcement cases. The attorney stated, "The basic rule is that a property owner or tenant must consent to entry or a warrant must be obtained prior to entry. Importantly, the County cannot obtain a search warrant for a mere civil code enforcement case under any circumstances, a crime must be alleged. (see *City of Seattle v. McCready II*)."

The County attempts to skirt the rule by declaring willful violations a criminal nuisance—a misdemeanor. Because of the hassle of having to show probable cause of willful action, the County rarely gets search warrants. Instead they rely on consent or simply enter property when no one is there. The State Supreme Court in *State v. Shoemaker* found that advising the person of the right

not to consent is important to ensure that any consent is voluntarily given.

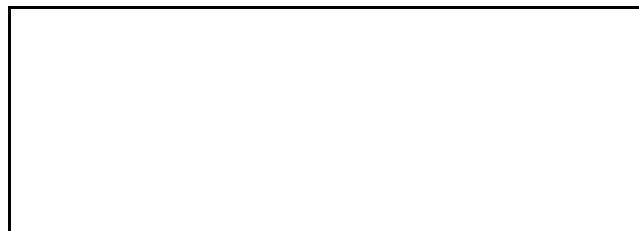
Any intrusion by King County employees that you believe to be unlawful for any reason should be reported to the Sheriff's office and to Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng.

Both the federal and state constitutions guarantee us specific rights. Rights that cannot be swept under the rug by overzealous County enforcement agencies. But we must sometimes stand up and fight for those rights. Take the time to read the laws that govern us and how they have been interpreted. Ignorance of the law is not bliss. It is an invitation to those who would ignore it to further their own agenda.

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