



Western Washington University
Western CEDAR

The Planet

Western Student Publications


12-1980

Monthly Planet, 1980, December

Mark Gardner
Western Washington University

Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cedar.wwu.edu/planet>

 Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#), [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Journalism Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Gardner, Mark and Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, "Monthly Planet, 1980, December" (1980). *The Planet*. 137.
<https://cedar.wwu.edu/planet/137>

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Student Publications at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Planet by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.

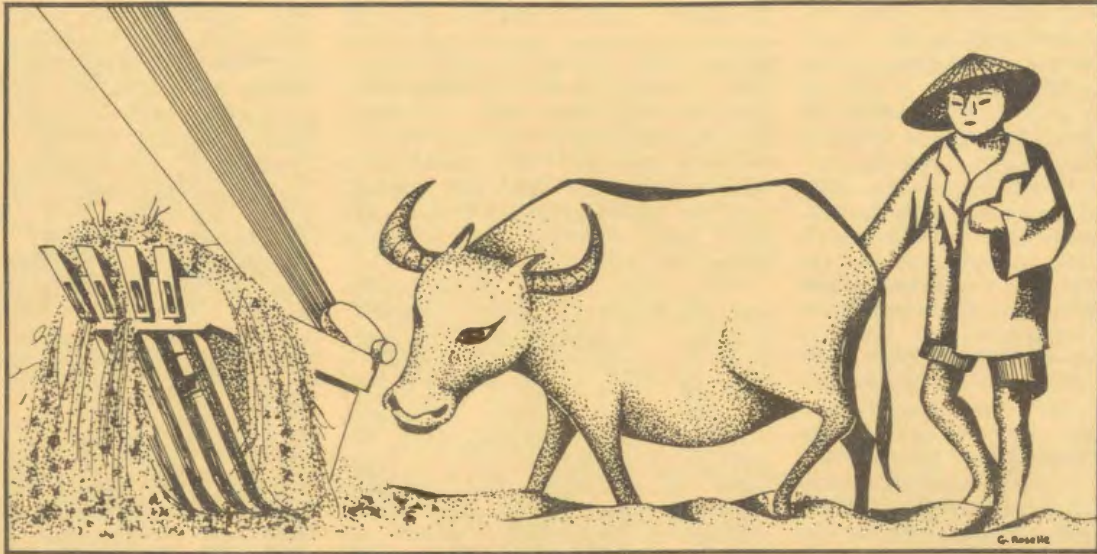
Monthly



Planet 2

DECEMBER 1980 VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



A Rice Paddy Ethic

By Chuck Blodgett

A rice paddy. The early morning sun set into motion a thousand pirouetting sunbeams dancing among the young shoots glistening from the night's dew. Silhouetted against the pink sky, farmers led their water buffalo atop the dikes that divide the flooded fields into an intricate patchwork. Beyond the paddies, clusters of trees and bamboo hid individual villages detectable only by the smoke of early morning cook fires. Farther to the west, the jungles and mountains of South Viet Nam brooded silently.

Turning my head slowly to the left and back to the right afforded me the same view. Squinting my eyes compressed the scene into shimmering surrealism: sky and water became one and sunbeams melt-

ed into a coalescence of liquid light. I closed my eyes attempting to drive the scene from my mind yet hoping to freeze it in my memory. All that I had seen and felt was to be destroyed if the military command were to have its way.

The rice paddies were to become land fill sites buried under the refuse of a war long past its purpose. An affluent America had overestimated the needs of its warriors; the excess, along with the waste of daily human needs, was to be dumped and buried on a nation of subsistence farming a thousand years old. South Viet Nam had become the dumping ground of a disposable society. My job was to push the accumulation into the rice paddies and cover it with dirt; I was to march off across the paddies until I was killed or the war came

to an end. It was for this purpose that I now stood looking beyond the paddies, beyond the farmers, beyond the villages, and beyond the mountains...trying to envision a world that once was.

"Tom, " I said to the man on my right, "I can't do it."

"Damn right." was his reply.

We spent the rest of the day sitting in the shade provided by the truck and bulldozer discussing the possible repercussions of our actions. Neither of us fully understood why we were refusing to begin work; we only knew a terrible injustice was being committed. Our conversation was punctuated with silent pauses as we pondered our fate and the future of the rice farmers and their fields.

Tom and I returned to camp later that afternoon and informed Lieutenant H. of our misgivings about the assignment. Watching us from behind a veil of pipe smoke, he listened patiently as we argued our case, attempting to make him understand the farmer's plight. We also felt he should know that personal ethics necessitated we refuse to bury the rice paddies.

Continued on page four

The MX: Unacceptable Damage

By Mark Gardner

The President and the Air Force are currently asking the Congress and the American people for their support of the construction and operation of the massive MX missile system. The system, which would be the largest public works project ever attempted, will, upon completion consist of 200 missiles each surrounded by twenty-three alternate shelters, making 4,600 shelters in all. In exchange for the the security the missiles would supposedly provide, citizens of the U.S. are being asked to give up 10,000 square miles of public lands in Nevada and Utah, 60-100 billion dollars of national income, 121 billion gallons of water in those moisture scarce areas, thousands of tons of building materials and thousands of kilowatts of electricity, as well as to endure disruptions of the economic system and live through many other adverse environmental and social consequences. Criticism of the project on these grounds should undoubtedly carry more weight than it does at present, but all such arguments have failed in the face of the contention that the MX is absolutely essential for our nation's security.

The national security position has been very effective in convincing the majority of congress to support the project, yet even a minimum of study soon reveals gaping holes in the analysis used to support MX. Part of the position used to justify the missile is the military planners' insistence that the Soviets do not ascribe to the policy of Mutually Assured Deterrence (MAD), but are intent on achieving superiority and the

ability to fight and win a nuclear war. This fear of Soviet intentions has resulted in the recent Presidential Directive 59, which allows for the retargeting of warheads from Soviet population centers to Soviet missile bases and silos. In case of Soviet aggression, Directive 59 will supposedly give the U.S. the option to engage in a "surgically controlled", limited nuclear war. For this policy to be effective, there is, according to the military, a need for much more powerful and accurate missiles, hence MX.

Yet, this policy is dangerous and fallacious on many accounts. For one, it implies that the Soviets are quite willing to launch a nuclear attack on the United States or one of our allies. However, there is little evidence that the Soviets have planned or will plan such an attack. What rational leaders, even those with world-dominating ambitions, would see anything but disaster in such a nuclear exchange? Even if the Soviets could survive such an attack and claim victory over the United States, the global chaos resulting from the collapse of the U.S. economy would have such severe destabilizing effects on the entire world as to make any such effort absolutely self-defeating. Leonid Brezhnev has stated rather plainly his views on nuclear war: "I am convinced that even one nuclear bomb dropped by one side over the other would result in general nuclear exchange--a nuclear holocaust not only for our two nations but for the entire world... ..the starting of a nuclear war would spell annihilation for the aggressor himself."

Could there be such a thing as a limited nuclear war? President Carter's own Defense Secretary Har-

old Brown doesn't think so, and as such he has been rather uncomfortable defending Presidential Directive 59. Brown stated his own views in the 1981 Defense Dept. annual report: "In adopting and implementing this strategy we have no more illusions than our predecessors that a nuclear war could be closely and surgically controlled. There are, of course, great uncertainties about what would happen if nuclear weapons were ever used again...My own view remains that a full scale nuclear exchange would constitute an unprecedented disaster for the Soviet Union and the United States. And I am not at all persuaded that what started as a demonstration, or even a tightly controlled use of strategic forces for larger purposes, could be kept from escalating to a full scale thermonuclear exchange."

The concept of a limited nuclear war, which the MX is designed to enable the U.S. to fight, also assumes that the damage to either side could be contained and would allow America to survive the exchange. Such a view was articulated by Defense Secretary Schlesinger in 1974, as he supported the then growing trend toward the counterforce or limited nuclear war strategy. Schlesinger said such a policy might result in "hundreds of thousands of civilian casualties as opposed to "tens and hundreds of millions", in the event hostilities were started. This view was backed up by Department of Defense computer calculations which indicated that an attack on U.S. missile silos which was terminated by a limited retaliation by the United States would lead to about 800,000 deaths. This figure was challenged by several legislators, resulting in a study by the Office of Technology Assessment. The study indicated that an attack on the entire U.S. system would lead to twenty million deaths as well as massive economic and social disruptions. Thus, even a "limited" nuclear war is nothing short of an absolute disaster.

Continued on page seven.



Yadzi Imports - Fairhaven

*quality clothes + ethnic pieces, lots of
Christmas goodies, SALE items now!*

*Caboose at 12th + Harris
Monday - Saturday 11:00 - 5:30*



"Making a sonic America sounder"

CELLOPHANE SQUARE, LTD
Used & new, records & tapes.
207 E. Holly, phone 676-1404.

2

Chicago Bridge and Iron: Citizen's Choice

By Rick Adams

The success of the United States has been measured by the success of its industry. In days gone by, people welcomed industry with open arms in hopes that their community would prosper and provide a better life for its residents.

Today, however, we have a new generation that seems hesitant to welcome industry with so much enthusiasm. With new generations, new questions arise. Today, people are not only concerned with their employment but show great concern for environmental and cultural quality as well.

Residents of Whatcom County are in the process of making decisions on many of these questions today. Chicago Bridge and Iron, based in Oakbrook, Illinois, has proposed to use 270 acres of land between the Arco and Intalco piers at Cherry Point to build offshore marine structures, including oil rigs. The company is working on the project in conjunction with Snelson Anvil, Incorporated, Anacortes, which does similar work on a smaller scale.

A 25-foot deep pit would be built on the landfill. The structures then would be assembled, the pit flooded and finally the structures would be towed to locations all over the Pacific region.

The company expects to employ 200 to 300 people in building the project, now projected to cost \$40

million, which is double the original price estimate. Company officials expect to eventually provide an average of 1,000 jobs, with an annual payroll of about \$20 million.

However, before the construction can begin the company needs five permits, a lease agreement and zone change. A major development permit, a shorelines permit and a building permit are needed from the county. In addition, the company needs a hydraulics permit from the Department of Fisheries and a lease from the Department of Natural Resources, which owns the tidelands.

From the federal government, the company has to obtain a dredging and filling permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The company will also need a zone change or variance permit to meet requirements of the county's shorelines management program.

An environmental impact statement is also necessary. CBI had paid for the draft environmental impact statement which was done under the direction of the county Planning Department. A hearing was held last fall, and the statement was criticized by virtually everyone present, including company officials. Supporters and opponents agreed at the public hearing that critical questions were not answered by the preliminary statement. Army Corps of Engineers official Steve Dice expressed concern about the project because

the Corps did not have jurisdiction and control over how the E.I.S. was conducted. Since CBI must obtain a dredging and filling permit from the Corps, the Corps felt that it should have been involved in the E.I.S. process from the beginning.

The County Council will approve or reject recommendations made by the county Hearing Examiner on major development and shoreline permits, but the state Dept. of Ecology will have the final review.

Despite the hurdles of government regulation that CBI obviously must go through before construction begins, its hopes are still high.

CBI has many other supporters, including Governor Dixy Lee Ray. Governor Ray had publicly endorsed the project and had received campaign contributions from Swansan's law firm, project manager Dave Powles, and other CBI supporters.

Pacific Concrete Industries also supports CBI and feels that the problems of CBI can be successfully solved. Pacific Concrete stated at the first public hearing that it expects to employ about 200 construction workers, which should aid the local economy. The industry also stated that CBI would be a low energy user and would be a non-polluting addition to the county's industrial base; in addition, Pacific Concrete states that the taxes that CBI would have to pay could greatly help public services.

The opposition to CBI is well organized and growing. It includes those voicing environmental concerns, members of the local fishing community, and also the Lummi Indian tribe.

The local fishing industry is concerned about the herring spawning ground that will be destroyed by the project. There have been suggestions of providing a new type of spawning ground, but officials are not certain it will work. If the relocation of the spawning ground is not successful then the local fishing industry stands to lose 350 jobs, because of the loss of the herring fishery.

Lummi Indian Business Councilman Stephen Zulalik expressed concern about the destruction of herring spawning grounds and loss of employment to fishermen that could result from the project. Councilman Zulalik also voiced other concerns at the hearing relating to: industrial waste from the project, ground water availability for the

Continued on page five

3



Home Energy Center

WOOD STOVES
SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS
SOFT ENERGY BOOKS
GREENHOUSES AND SUPPLIES
WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS
PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAYS

301 West Holly Bay Street Village
Bellingham, WA 98225
(206) 676-0443



Good selection of clothing
and rain gear

for your winter cycling needs
Freh, Sekai, and Takara Bicycles

Community work space
Repair Classes

932 N. State Street 733-6440
Tues.-Sat. 10-5

from page one

Carefully wording his response, Lieutenant H. assured us the military was fully aware of the impact burying the rice paddies would have but the decision had been made and had to be implemented. Since Tom and I were the only two qualified equipment operators, the task was ours. We were dismissed with a warning of what refusing to obey orders would mean to our military careers; our orders were to return to the site the following morning and begin work.

Tom and I returned the next morning and every morning for the next three weeks. The bulldozer sat quietly sweating diesel fuel and collecting dust. Trash trucks arrived from outlying camps but were sent on to the dump near Da Nang airbase. Life on the rice paddies continued undisturbed. Farmers appeared every morning leading their plodding water buffalo; returning in the late afternoon, they would pause and stare at the two men and the slumbering metallic monster that had yet to show life. Occasionally, one would nod his head then slowly continue onward.

On the fourth day, Tom and I were approached by a group of children. They hesitantly invited us to meet with the village council; thus began our incorporation into the lives of the farmers and their families. Tom would remain in the village working with the children and old women while I worked with the farmers in the fields. My first attempt at planting was comical. Pant legs rolled up, I sloshed along gently planting each individual shoot. Standing upright, I turned and surveyed my first completed row; it was as crooked as a mountain road. The farmers were too polite to laugh but when they saw me begin to laugh they joined in with gusto. After much back slapping and pantomime of my technique, they patiently showed me how to plant straight rows.

With each passing day, I learned more about the people and their ancestral ties with the land. Watching the rice farmers work, I recalled the words of one old man who had told me of the intricate human/land bond. He said his ancestors were born near the rice paddies, had lived and died, and were buried in the paddies. A complete cycle existed; all the people for generations had been nourished by the fields; upon death, they were buried beneath the

fields to provide nourishment for succeeding generations. (I never understood if he meant an actual physical or spiritual nourishment.) Thus, each generation was assured food for its physical needs and spiritual link with its ancestors and the land. This way of life was now threatened with wholesale destruction by technocrats of a nation ten generations old--a nation that had long since lost its bond with the earth.

I realized the frustration of attempting to make the military command understand all that I had come to know. Human lives, ancestral links, and a human/land bond were intangibles unless they could be included in body counts. I chose, therefore, to continue working with the farmers to preserve their rice paddies and a way of life I respected.

At the end of the third week, Tom and I were called before Lieutenant H. who informed us that Headquarters had been notified about our refusal to open the landfill site. Lieutenant Commander A., of HQ, had requested our presence at an informal meeting with him. Lieutenant H. asked us once more to give up our cause. We reaffirmed our position on the matter, thanking him for his concern.

We reported to Lieutenant Commander A. the following day. For the better part of two hours he explained the gravity of the situation, graphically illustrating what could happen to our military careers if we continued. I countered with an impassioned plea to allow the villagers to retain their rice paddies. Their lives had been disrupted far beyond what any human being should have to endure. Allowing the construction of the landfill was condoning the destruction of a culture; future generations of Vietnamese would inherit a nation bombed over, burnt over, and buried beneath the waste of war.

In closing, I argued for a touch of sanity in an otherwise insane war. Allowing the villagers to continue farming those particular fields would in no way undermine the military cause; the war was busy enough that one cluster of villages and their rice paddies hardly rated merit. More than that, one's personal ethics should make one realize the wrong in destroying a people's livelihood and culture. Regardless of the large destruction, we needed to preserve even the smallest vestiges of human

co-existence with the land, especially a bond one thousand years old. We should do so for humane reasons: hell, we could at least say we tried. One night, in the future, each of us would awaken from a dream about this place; I wished to believe I would dream about a thousand pirouetting sunbeams dancing among the shoots in the rice paddies. Perhaps this dream would cushion the nightmares I would surely experience.

The three of us were silent for several moments. Lieutenant Commander A. cleared his throat and stared beyond Tom and me through a window. His view was of war machinery stacked and sitting in silent anticipation. Without looking at us, he indicated the meeting was over and dismissed us.

Tom and I returned to our unit wondering the outcome of the meeting. We did not speak to each other nor did we speak to the other men in the unit. Their manner towards us was cautious yet respectful. It confused me until I remembered most of the men had been farmers and were the sons and grandsons of farmers. Their silent acceptance explained why none of them had taken the job Tom and I had refused. They were as closely tied to the land as were the rice farmers; they could not destroy that most intimate bond the farmer shares with the land--a bond most humans have lost.

Whatever charges the military had anticipated filing against Tom and me never came about. The incident quietly ended with a request, from Headquarters, that Tom and I seek re-assignment. We asked for and received assignment to a Civic Action unit. Ironically, our notoriety preceded our arrival; we were assigned to work in the same villages whose rice paddies we had fought to save. Acting as liasons,

Alpine
West Ltd.

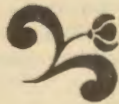
1415 Railroad Ave.
671-3640
Bellingham

Cross Country Skis
Warm Winter Clothes
Sales and Rentals

4

we mediated in disputes between the villagers and the military.

A decade has passed. History records the war's outcome while new crisis' take their toll. America rushes headlong into ecological disaster, threatening the existence of humankind. I observe these events, and the memory of an obscure rice paddy is the impetus driving my involvement in environmental and human issues. I hope to make others aware that history may record this era as one when humans co-existed with each other and the earth, rather than as a time of wholesale destruction. The current mind-set is to reap the profits, however possible, at the expense of resources, the Earth, and human dignity. We exist together; the loss of one is the loss of the others.



Chicago Bridge and Iron
from page 3

local farmers, and population increase. Population is due to increase because of an expected influx of people from other communities coming into Whatcom County with hopes of finding jobs at CBI.

Most of the organized opposition from those with environmental concerns is coming from Citizens for Sensible Industry (CSI). David Seymour, a spokesperson for this group, is concerned about: lack of study on the endangered species in the area, oil release that might occur because of the project, type of chemicals that CBI plans to use, and the reduction of the crab population due to the extension of the shoreline by landfill.

Along with Dave Seymour, Fred Wepprecht, County Extension Agent, has raised questions about social concerns such as: lack of housing for those entering our community due to CBI, possibilities of inadequate schooling and medical services, and an increase of traffic on roads and highways. Many fear that the increased tax base created by CBI may not cover the increased cost of improving these services.

Expansion of CBI not only represents a growth for the corporation, but it also represents growth for industry as a whole. In past generations there was room for seemingly endless growth, but now we are realizing that not all growth is beneficial.

The environment that this generation has shared must be available for those generations yet to follow. Citizens of this community do have a choice in what direction we will enter the future.

By continually keeping aware of community activities and by attending public hearings the community can voice their opinions about tomorrow's future. (Hearing times are posted in the local papers.)



O, Enchanted Earth
how beautiful you are.
Let us purify ourselves
before we come to you.

Let us be born in ice
cliffs of white thunder
that explode to the sea.

--Leslie Hulbert--

Beauty is not beauty
unless it reveals
the inner form

--Leslie Hulbert--



Alpine larch 2/3 actual size



Mountain Azalea 1/2 actual size

NORTHERN LIGHTS BOOKSTORE
Across
from
Jimbo's

112 Grand Ave. Bellingham, Wa. 98225
(206) 676-9544

Christmas hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 9:30-6:30
Sun. 12:00-5:30
Fri.-Sat. 9:30-9:30

This month's botany lesson, courtesy of
U.S. Forest Service.

Return of the Dam Builders

by Jim Lane

Once again Skagit Valley has the dubious honor of being selected as the scapegoat for Seattle's energy needs. The newest issue centers around a proposal by the Seattle City Council for erecting a dam on the Skagit River just north of Marblemount. Earlier this year, Seattle City Light issued a report called "Resource Analysis 1980". The utility reviewed specific energy resources available to the city through the year 2000. The study concluded that even with current energy resources from thermal plants and its own hydroelectric dam, plus power that can be purchased from other utilities, Seattle faces an energy deficit by the end of the century. This will result in a deficit of about 270 megawatts per year by the end of the century. The proposed Copper Creek dam is expected to make up for about one quarter of these deficits, or about 3.5 percent of the city's projected 1990 electrical demand.

There are presently three dams operating on the Skagit River that provide power to the Seattle area. These are the Gorge, Diablo, and Ross dam systems. If the Copper Creek dam was built, it would flood 10.2 miles of the upper Skagit Valley, and create a reservoir covering 3.4 square miles. The estimated cost for building the dam is approximately 153 million dollars. It would cost about a million dollars per year to operate, and 1.6 million per year to transmit and distribute the power it produced. Economically it is thought to be a feasible investment that would provide net benefits totaling 328 million dollar over the fifty year lifespan of the project.

This economic analysis only considers the financial costs of the project itself, however, and does not take into account other costs associated with the building of the dam in this limited economic analysis. In terms of recreation, the dam would flood the last stretch of whitewater rapids on the Skagit, an

area that is referred to as the "Gateway to the American Alps". This section of the Skagit River is one of the most popular whitewater rafting areas in the state.

The Copper Creek project would also cut deeply into Puget Sound's largest natural salmon spawning runs. All five species of Pacific Salmon plus steelhead trout spawn in the river and its tributaries. According to the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the Copper Creek dam would wipe out 22.5 percent of the Skagit's pink salmon spawning beds, 14.8 percent of the Coho salmon spawning areas, and 11.7 percent of the Chinook salmon spawning beds. This would have serious economic consequences on commercial and sport fishing in the area. Losses of commercial fishing revenues could range from 100,000 to 600,000 dollars a year. Sport fishing losses would range between 20,000 and 50,000 a year. According to the draft E.I.S., the flooded ten miles of salmon spawning grounds would also damage Indian fisheries economically and culturally. The loss to the Indians, who account for seventy percent of the commercial catch on the Skagit, would be about 70,000 a year at current production levels. Because of the recent Boldt II ruling that protects Indian fishing rights and the environment around the fisheries, Seattle City Light would almost certainly have to go to court if they persist in pushing for the dam at Copper Creek.

Besides flooding an area that is the home to bear, deer, otter, and other animals, the Copper Creek Project would also deprive the Skagit River's bald eagle population of a major habitat and food supply. Each winter about three hundred bald eagles come to the Skagit to feed on the carcasses of salmon which died after spawning. The dam would have a significant effect on the movement of salmon carcasses from spawning grounds to the area below the dam. This could permanently limit the number of eagles

supported by the Skagit River. An endangered species and our national bird, the impact on the bald eagle population in the Skagit River should be a major factor in any decision regarding the proposed Copper Creek Project.

In assessing the issue, it seems like its about time the "Magic Skagit" received a break from developers and the city of Seattle. The Guemes Island aluminum plant has been driven off. Seattle City Light's Hiket Island nuclear project was stillborn. And just recently, geologists' discovery of a fault in the area, plus hostile referendum results, forced Puget Power to take its nuclear projects elsewhere. Now with the Copper Creek dam, Skagit Valley residents are again being asked to sacrifice the beauty of their river in order that Seattle residents can maintain their artificially low electrical rates throughout the twentieth century. The residents of the Skagit Valley receive few if any benefits from the dam, but are being asked to shoulder alot of its costs. If Seattle is determined to push for more electricity, it should explore the alternatives offered by the Environmental Impact Statement. These include the use of centralized wind systems that would be built adjacent to existing transmission corridors, decentral-ized solar development, and the use of municipal solid waste and on site cogeneration.(capturing industrial waste heat.) These were all chosen because of their abilities to meet the projected energy needs of the city.

Financially, the Copper Creek project is less costly than any of the alternatives suggested. This cost doesn't take into account the impact the dam would have on fisheries, wildlife, and recreation in the area, however. Viewed in this light, viable alternatives such as wind and solar energy, as well as conservation, could provide electricity for Seattle at a lower overall cost to society and the environment than the Copper Creek Dam Project.



PLEASE RECYCLE

MX. From page two

Even if the Soviets had intentions of launching a first strike, there is little evidence that they would be capable of disabling a large enough proportion of our nuclear arsenal to avoid their own destruction. Even in the highly unlikely case that the Soviets were able to destroy all of our land based intercontinental ballistic missiles, the U.S. could still rely on its submarine and air based missileer to launch a devastating counter attack. Thus, the supposed "window of vulnerability" created by more accurate Soviet missiles, if it exists at all, is certainly closed when all 12,832 U.S. nuclear warheads (1985 projected figure) are considered in total. This obviously highly deterring situation has been successfully ignored by military planners because of a defense dogma which asserts that each leg of the U.S. strategic triad should be able to survive in sufficient numbers to inflict unacceptable damage to an attacker.

Even with the assumption that each leg must remain essentially invulnerable there is still no evidence that the mobile MX is needed to avoid I.C.B.M. vulnerability. In order to destroy the present land based missile force an enemy must have a force of sufficient size and accuracy to destroy all 1054 missile silos simultaneously. According to the November 1979 issue of *Scientific American*, the ability of the Soviets to accomplish this extraordinary feat has been greatly exaggerated. It is quite probable that the rated accuracy of a Soviet warhead has been overestimated due to the neglect of the possibility of systematic aiming errors and the inherently approximate manner in which accuracy data are gathered by

U.S. intelligence activities. A miscalculation of .13 of a mile in Circular Error Probable (CEP is the estimate of the probable error in radius away from a specified target) could lead to a prediction of twice the actual destructive capacity of a single warhead.

In addition to the uncertainty in the calculations themselves, the actual figures obtained by the C.I.A. are never released to the American public. Thus legitimate suspicion has been raised concerning the truth of the figures released, as they are likely to be subject to "powerful political pressures generated by highly motivated interests", according to *Scientific American*.

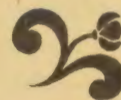
In addition to the uncertainty of calculating the accuracy of one warhead, the probability for error is greatly increased when vulnerability figures for the entire U.S. land based missile arsenal are calculated. A rather ludicrous method of extrapolating the figure obtained for one warhead to the entire Soviet force needed to carry out such a feat leads to greatly inflated vulnerability figures. According to *Scientific American*, the figures are inevitably inaccurate because "they ignore the many additional uncertainties inherent in the complex operations of launching hundreds of missiles carrying thousands of warheads cross-targeted on more than 1000 targets. Systematic departures from designed performance criteria are bound to happen." Such an attack could obviously never be rehearsed beforehand, adding to the already considerable logistical difficulty in engineering such an attack.

It would seem, then, that the MX is unnecessary. The first strike potential the MX would give the U.S. would add greatly to the considerable paranoia that currently

determines so much of military policy, leading to another round of escalation in the arms race. The 1980's are a crucial time in the history of civilization; we literally hold the future of humanity in our hands. Only with increased knowledge and participation of all citizens in this crucial issue can we hope to control the arms race and allow life as we know it to continue.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

There is currently talk in official circles that the Reagan administration may seek to modify the MX program, particularly the basing mode. The Monthly Planet will try to inform its readers on current developments with the project in future issues.



Notice to Knowledge Seekers

The Environmental Resource Library, located in room 518 of the Environmental Studies Center, is now open from eight to five, Monday through Friday. New books bought during the summer are currently being catalogued and placed on the shelves for all who want to read them. So far the following books are ready: Atomic Soldiers, Vanishing Birds, Radical Agriculture, How to Influence Congress, The Sun Betrayed, Radical Technology and Agriculture in the City. Besides new books, the ERL has a wide array of journals, magazines, and newsletters. Among these journals you will find: "Audubon", "Alternative Sources of Energy", "Environmental Ethics", "Not Man Apart", and "Northwest Environment". Not only is the ERL an excellent source of information, it is also a comfortable relaxing place to search for information. The staff of the library invites you to come up and check out the facilities. Also, if you have any ideas about books you'd like to see bought by the library the staff is open to suggestions.

PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND
~~~~~

7



**VILLAGE BOOKS**

*in old fairhaven*

THE BOOKSHOP FOR BROWSING

1260 Eleventh Street  
Bellingham, Wa. 98225  
671-2626

## Wonderland Tea and Spice

Bulk Herbs

Black Teas

Tea Blends

Tea Cups

Fresh Ground Spices

Books

1307 Railroad Bellingham, Wa.

733-0517

98225



# Outdoor Calendar of Events

**Skiers:** Beginning Christmas vacation and every Saturday until the end of February, buses will be running to Mt. Baker and Stevens Pass from Bellingham. The bus to Baker will be leaving approximately 7:30 Friday morning, as the ski resort will be open for 3 day weekends this year. Tickets can be purchased at local ski shops. For more information call 733-5888.

The following is a schedule of events and classes put on by the Whatcom Parks and Recreation Board.

## Cross Country Skiing/Winter Travel

Max. 20. This seminar covers cross country skiing, how to avoid hypothermia, avalanche safety, map and compass, what to do in emergencies, reading alpine weather, etc. Field trip to be arranged. Fee \$25.00  
Dec. 2, 9, 15.

## Basic Cross Country Skiing

Max 12 per class. This course includes 2 evening sessions to cover equipment, waxing, safety, trip planning, and films. There is one day of instructions at Mt. Baker followed by a weekend at Family Adventures near Leavenworth. Fee includes instruction, group equipment, and transportation. Fee \$38.  
Section 1) Evening session Dec. 2,9  
Field trips Dec. 6,13,14  
Section 2) Evening session Dec. 30,  
Jan. 6, Field trips  
Jan. 3,10,11  
Section 3) Evening session Jan. 6,13  
Field trips Jan. 10,17,18

## Avalanche Safety Course

Max. 20 people. Class lectures and field trips will cover avalanche formation, how to detect potential slides, the use of probes, cords, and avalanche rescue. Classes Dec. 4,11 7-10 pm. Fee \$25.00  
Field trips Dec. 6,13

## Eagle Watch Float Trip

Max. 20 people. Rafting from Marblemount to Rockport on the Skagit River. An estimated 300 eagles can be found feeding on this section of the river. Jan. 17, fee \$30.00

Payments for classes can be made in person or by mail to: Outdoor Recreation Program, 3373 Mt. Baker Hwy., Bellingham, WA 98225. For more information call 733-2900 or 592-5161.

For those of you with a love of the outdoors and a little less cash to spend, check into the Outdoor Program on the bottom floor of the Viking Union. They invite you to check out their excellent selection of maps and plan your own trip in the outdoors. The O.P. also periodically presents guest speakers, slide show presentations, and outdoor seminars.



## Find the Cost of Freedom

I see no escape from nuclear power, the industry has grown too big. We've spent too much money to back out now, on this, our government has agreed. They say these plants are clean and safe, and many more we should build, but the light will shine on this public kept dark, only when people are killed. Then the truth will be known from the lies, which the government used to close our eyes. I hope when this accident happens, it's only nuclear power that dies.

-- Gary Wright

8



## CREDITS

The Monthly Planet is brought to you by the following hard working people:

EDITOR: Mark Gardner  
GRAPHICS, CALLIGRAPHY: Gay Roselle  
LAYOUT: Rick Conner, Mark Gardner, Chris Tiffany, Gay Roselle  
ADVERTISING: Melanie Peck, Chuck Blodgett, Gay Roselle, Mark  
STAFF WRITERS: Chuck Blodgett, Rick Adams, Jim Lane, Gary Wright, Mark Gardner  
TYPIST: Shawn Overstreet  
ADVISOR: John Miles

**Fountain BAKERY**  
"OLD DOOR"  
DELICATESSEN

2400 Meridian St.  
Bellingham 734-1760