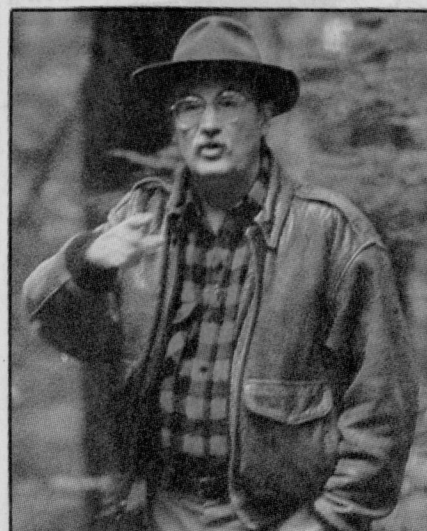


IDEAS

Statesman Journal
Salem, Oregon
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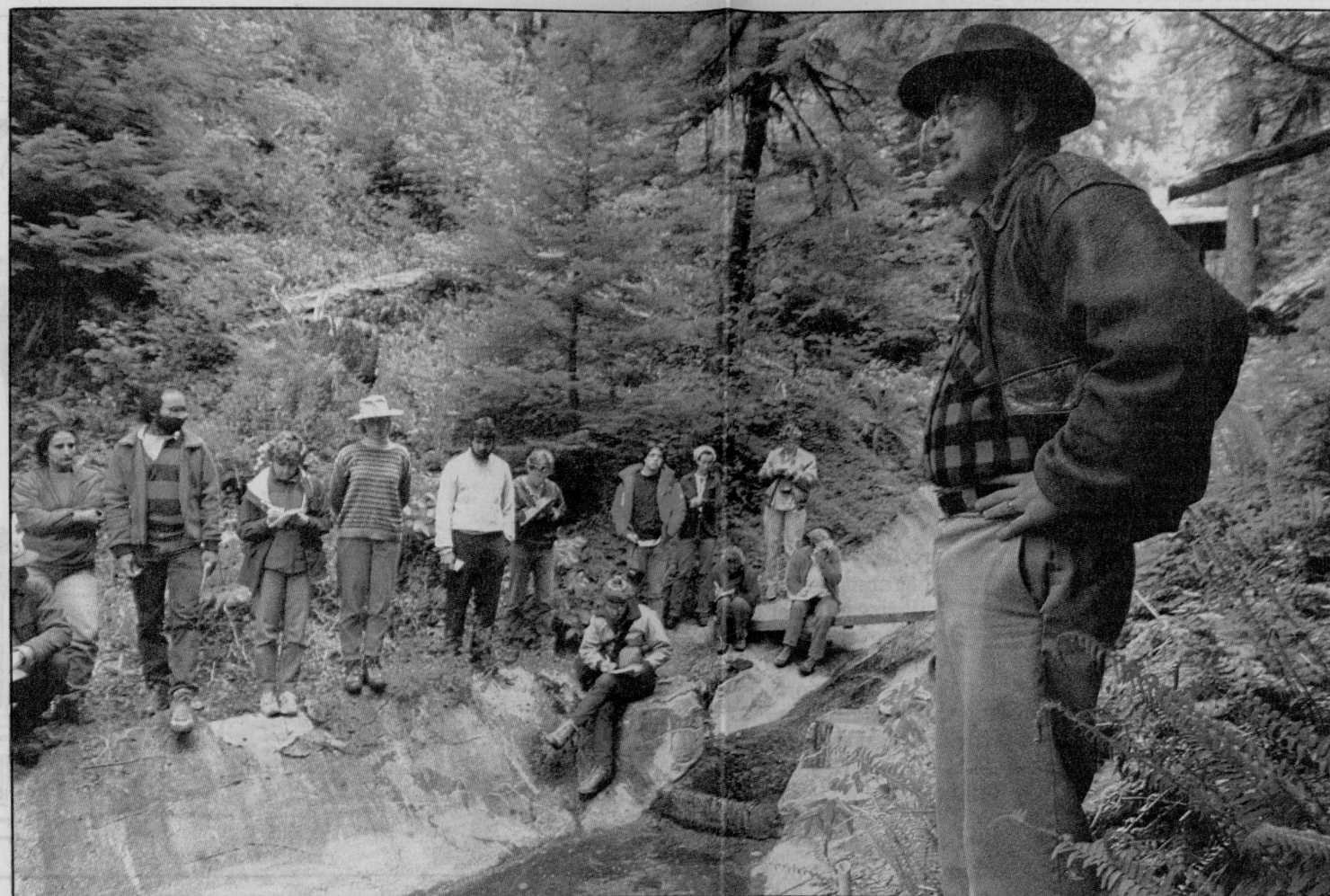
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Opinion: **2,3G**
Books: **5G**



"We've been trying to settle conflicts by allocations setting aside areas for intensive management and for natural reserves. The victims of that are biological diversity and sustainability of the forest."

— Jerry Franklin
New forestry advocate



Jerry Franklin guides students through a new forestry experiment near Eugene.

Photos by Bill Haines/Statesman Journal



Commentary

Ron
Blankenbaker

So who is Independent Al Mobley?

There is evidence that the conservative religious splinter that is splitting Oregon Republicans is splintering itself.

This is contrary to a general perception that the religious right is unified in backing the Independent candidacy of Al Mobley for governor.

Mobley, a retired U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee residing in Monmouth, is viewed as a serious threat to the gubernatorial hopes of Republican Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer.

The point is that statewide races often are decided by margins of less than 10 percent of the vote.

Ironically, it was a similar situation in 1984 that made Democrat Barbara Roberts secretary of state. Roberts captured only 43 percent of the vote but that was more than her Republican opponent, Donna Zajonc.

The spoiler that year was a Eugene broadcaster, Don Clark, who ran as an independent but is thought to have taken votes away from Zajonc.

With Roberts now running for governor and Mobley switching from a GOP registration to Independent, the possibilities of history repeating at Frohnmayer's expense seem imminent.

But the religious right isn't as unified as Mobley's backer, the Oregon Christian Alliance, might want people to think.

A broadside mailed by lobbyist Craig DeMo to several thousand Evangelical Christian Church members takes apart in a one-two-three manner the likelihood of Mobley being elected.

DeMo, a legislative lobbyist from Portland for the Oregon Association of Evangelicals, identifies himself as an Alliance insider, a former member of its executive committee. He was finance director of its 1988 ballot measure that

Tide turns in forest practices

Gannett News Service

SEATTLE — A century of routinely clearcutting the Northwest's forests is nearing an end.

And the half-century-old practice of burning and replanting harvest sites, with the sole goal of generating more wood, is being cut back drastically.

Taking their place probably will be what is called the new forestry, an agglomeration of techniques and attitudes aimed at perpetuating the biological diversity of old-growth forests while cutting as much as 80 percent of the trees in such areas.

"We're at the end of an era," said Jerry Franklin, a University of Washington-U.S. Forest Service plant ecologist viewed as the revolu-

Experts debate old ways, new ideas

Gannett News Service

SEATTLE — In the eyes of some new-school foresters, old-school foresters can't see the forest for the trees.

Under the new way of thinking, the forest comes before the trees.

The difference between the old school and the new is in the eyes of the beholder. When the chain saws move through a timber stand, traditional foresters look at what comes out; the new pay as much attention to what's left behind.

According to Jerry Franklin, a professor at the University of Washington, dogmas central to old forestry are:

- Old-growth forests have no value.
- Uniform forests are as good as or better than natural, complex forests.
- Good forest stewardship simply involves regenerating trees.

we were taught they were 20 to 30 years ago." They require "ecocentric" thinking — making an effort to maintain or duplicate the complex characteristics of old growth.

New forestry seeks what nature achieves when left alone: biological diversity. That means focusing on interrelationships of what's on and below the ground in landscapes and timber stands, rather than on individual forest resources, be it wood or northern spotted owls.

And new forestry involves more than the forests themselves; it has a social side as well, from tax policy to education. But through it all is what practitioners see as a need to bring more citizens into the process of making forest decisions, and doing so sooner.

don't want the AMA (American Medical Association) setting national health policy. But we are close to doing that" with the forest industry.

The absence of such involvement in the past meant that when timber land-use disputes arose, people and government responded with an approach that Franklin called simplistic.

"We've been trying to settle conflicts by allocations setting aside areas for intensive management and for natural reserves," he said. "The victims of that are biological diversity and sustainability of the forest."

Today, he said: "People are looking for alternative solutions, and new forestry has elements of win-win — a high level of ecological resources with a level of commodity production.

trees in such areas.

"We're at the end of an era," said Jerry Franklin, a University of Washington-U.S. Forest Service plant ecologist viewed as the revolution's leading light. "For one reason or another, we have this incredible attack of sanity going on."

The bulk of new forestry research has involved lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. But in varying degrees, elements of the concept also are being used — or at least considered — on other lands.

Doug Decker, a spokesman for the Oregon Forestry Department, said agency officials had discussed the possible effects of using new forestry techniques on state-owned lands.

But the state's Forestry Board has proposed no changes in the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which controls logging practices on private land.

Adherents to what is being dubbed a kinder, gentler forestry include key members of Congress. Among them are most of the Washington and Oregon delegations.

"This is the key to an environmentally sustainable industry," U.S. Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-Wash., said. Turn to **Forestry**, Page 4G.

■ Old-growth forests have no value. ■ Uniform forests are as good as or better than natural, complex forests.

■ Good forest stewardship simply involves regenerating trees.

"Foresters grew up with the unstated understanding that what's good for production was good for all other forest values," Franklin said, calling that kind of thinking "woodcentric."

Rather, he said, "Forests aren't like

side as well, from tax policy to education. But through it all is what practitioners see as a need to bring more citizens into the process of making forest decisions, and doing so sooner.

That's not always popular with career forest managers.

"Professionals always resist; they always think they know best," Franklin said. "And professionals are almost always inappropriate to set policy. We

Today, he said: "People are looking for alternative solutions, and new forestry has elements of win-win — a high level of ecological resources with a level of commodity production.

"But it's not cost-free. You don't get full ecological integrity and the highest production. But you do get more responsible stewardship of forest resources, and society gets a more balanced mix of the goods and services it wants."

How new forestry timber practices work

Gannett News Service

Among the elements of new forestry:

Forest landscape

Actions:

Dispersing clearcuts through the landscape.

Integrating harvest areas with non-harvest areas, such as streamsides and land with unstable soil.

Developing vegetation corridors among the zones.

Fuzzing or feathering edges of harvest areas.

Keeping tree patches large enough to allow an appropriate mix of interior forest and edge environments to develop.

Cutting areas of trees in predetermined patterns.

Results:

Creates an overall landscape design.

Minimizes fragmentation of forests into small pieces.

Provides more habitat for plants and animals.

Increases flow of plants, wildlife and other organisms through the forest.

Reduces rigid borders between forest patches that allows one to affect the climate and composition of another.

Regulates temperatures.

Admits more sunlight to forest floors.

Regulates stream flows.

Produces high-quality water runoff.

Individual stands

Retaining a mix of coarse, woody debris on a logged site, including downed logs and dead standing trees, or snags. The debris pieces vary in size, density and states of decay.

Leaving some cut or fallen trees in streams.

Allowing green trees in a variety of heights and species to remain.

Keeping some surviving trees in groups.

Harvesting young, even-aged stands early.

Love Canal may get new lease on life

The Washington Post

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — The old Love Canal neighborhood is an eerie suburban ghost town.

On tree-lined streets, rows of shoebox houses stand deserted, windows broken and aluminum siding curling off. Mailboxes are rusted shut, doors padlocked. Dead vines lace a broken trellis. A lost parcel-delivery man cruises block after block looking for somebody, anybody, to ask for directions.

A close look reveals signs of life. Every porch light is on, even in daylight, to deter vandals. A gardener mows the lawn of a boarded-up house. Roofers crawl about laying new tar paper atop an empty ranch-style home.

Love Canal, abandoned by homeowners more than a decade ago when it became the nation's most infamous toxic dump, is about to experience a rebirth. Within weeks, 70 of these empty houses north of the dump site are to be auctioned.

Remarkable as it may seem, people seem willing to move their families into a neighborhood whose very name is synonymous with chemical contamination.

More than 200 families have applied for the houses, attracted by bargain prices and the suburban setting. Many said they consider Love Canal no particular risk because they already live in Niagara Falls, the state's dumping capital, or labor in its myriad chemical plants.

"Anywhere here in Niagara Falls is dumps, just about anywhere you go," Delford Rowh, a prospective homeowner, said. "You've got the Forest Glenn, the Bloody Run, the S Dump — we don't know what the 'S' stands for — and now where the mall's going to go in, there's a dump in there. Either way you go, doesn't matter. Niagara Falls is chemicals."

Not everyone is moving in.

Unless environmentalists, including former Love Canal residents, obtain a court injunction to halt resettlement, families may be moving in late next month.

New residents technically will not live in Love Canal, however. The area has been renamed "Black Creek Village."

"When I was pregnant ... I was there a lot. I never had a problem, so I don't see anything to be afraid of."

—Donna Baptiste
Prospective new resident

Twelve years ago, Love Canal became a national symbol of the dangers of toxic-waste dumping and catalyzed establishment of the federal Superfund cleanup program.

It began with the discovery that thousands of drums containing 21,800 tons of toxic chemicals were leaking from a 10-block pit in Love Canal into backyards and basements, through cinderblock walls and a schoolyard.

The pit was left from a canal dug in the 1890s by William T. Love, who planned a model city downstream. It was abandoned in the 1940s and became a waste dump for Hooker Chemical and Plastics Corp.

Among the leaking chemicals were PCBs and dioxin, which has been linked to cancer and until recently considered highly toxic. Some scientists are re-evaluating its risk. State surveys in Love Canal found above-average rates of miscarriages, birth defects and other health problems in houses nearest the pit.

Families in these houses were evacuated, their homes razed, and the dump covered with clay and planted with grass. Residents in neighboring blocks asserted that chemicals had seeped into their houses and yards, too, and fought to have the government buy them out. Within two years, 1,030 families sold residences to the government for an average of \$35,000. About 60 families remained.

The studies, cleanup and buyout cost the government about \$275 million, part of which is to be borne by Occidental Chemical Corp., corporate successor to Hooker Chemical, which buried 22,000 tons of toxins at Love Canal.

The houses, ranging from 940 to 1,040 square feet, are to be resold for an average of \$50,000 to \$60,000, although a few choice parcels may bring as much as \$100,000. James Carr, the planning director at the state's Revitalization Agency, said the houses would be discounted 20 percent from area market prices for what he calls "Love Canal stigma" — 10 percent for the dump's notoriety and 10 percent for agreement to live in a largely vacant neighborhood.

"We have a very desirable neighborhood, we feel," Carr said, smiling and assuming a salesman-like tone. "It has a lot of amenities. The trees are green, the street pattern is good, a major shopping mall is located a couple hundred yards away."

"I would live here. I wouldn't be working here — there's the canal right out there," Carr said, pointing out the agency's large picture window, "if I felt like I was lopping years off my life."

Donna Baptiste grew up in the neighborhood and wants to move back. Her parents, Mary and Cecil Litten, remained in the family's blue-shingled two-bedroom house on the east side of the dump. It is now scheduled for evacuation.

"When I was pregnant ... I was there a lot," Baptiste, a supermarket meat clerk, said. "I never had a problem, so I don't see anything to be afraid of. My sister's daughter has asthma, but you can't say it was caused by Love Canal. A lot of kids have asthma."

Baptiste's husband, Levi, is a furnace operator in a factory where workers have been warned not to drink from the tap. Across the street is an enormous pyramid-shaped dump fortified by a continuous caravan of trucks arriving from throughout the Northeast.

"They have to dump it somewhere," said a tour guide at the Gray Line information station across the street from the pyramid dump and not far from the magnificent, roaring American Falls. "But does it have to be at the site of the eighth wonder of the world?"

Delford and Banda Rowh were the seventh family to Turn to **Love Canal**, Page 6G.

Portland for the Oregon Association of Evangelicals, identifies himself as an Alliance insider, a former member of its executive committee. He was finance director of its 1988 ballot measure that repealed Neil Goldschmidt's executive order prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals.

DeMo dissects the "50-40-30 Theory" put forward by Lon Mabon, the executive director of the Alliance.

According to the theory, Mobley is more than a spoiler and can be elected governor because he'll garner 50 percent of the independent vote, 40 percent of the Republican vote and 30 percent of the Democratic vote.

Supposedly, 50 percent of the independent vote is assured because independents usually vote for independents when they're on the ballot.

The 40 percent GOP vote is supposedly his because in 1986, Joe Lutz of the religious right captured 43 percent of the vote against U.S. Sen. Bob Packwood in the primary.

As for the 30 percent Democratic support, Mobley supposedly would get that because of his anti-abortion stand.

Not so, DeMo says.

First, he points out that Mobley is "a no-name candidate." Don Clark got 22 percent of the vote for secretary of state in 1984, but Clark, a TV broadcaster, had a name.

As for Mobley picking up 40 percent of the GOP vote because that's what Joe Lutz did against Bob Packwood, DeMo notes that it is one thing to run as a Republican in a Republican primary and something else to run a Republican as an Independent.

On the idea of Mobley getting 30 percent of the Democratic vote because of the abortion issue, DeMo has this to say:

In 1988, the measure against the governor's executive order protecting homosexual rights passed with 53 percent of the vote.

"But what OCA fails to remember is that 53 percent of Oregon's voters also cast their ballots for Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis, a liberal, card-carrying lawyer and governor who signed an executive order similar to the one that Measure 8 repealed."

"The fact is, voting for issues and voting for candidates are two completely different things," DeMo concludes.

DeMo's feelings on the Mobley candidacy are shared by a number of conservative and moderate Republican officials including Tim Nashif, the chairman of the Multnomah County Republican Committee.

Nashif says: "The question no one has answered: Who is Al Mobley?" Nashif is right. It is high time to find out exactly who Mobley is.

□ Ron Blankenbaker is a Statesman Journal writer. His column appears regularly.

Editorials

Compromise may be possible

New forestry promising

A sloppy, messy clearcut that tries to imitate nature might be the answer to the Northwest's search for a way to preserve forests and jobs.

The fact that the so-called "new forestry" has critics from both major players in the timber dispute — the industry and the environmentalists — means that it might be what we need.

Mostly, it's just natural suspicion of untested techniques that has some worried. We think that the new theory — espoused by Jerry Franklin, a University of Washington professor and a respected expert in timber ecology — has a sound foundation and needs to be given an extensive tryout to prove its case and to dispel fears on both sides.

New forestry already has proved itself in a test forest near Eugene. Supervisors in the Willamette and Siskiyou National Forests have begun experimenting with it. Foresters in Deschutes National Forest already practice something similar.

Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, D-Wash., wants to make it official with a law that would require trials in three or four spotted owl areas. She wants to see whether new forestry will save the owl — and the ecosystem that it is an indicator for — and provide enough timber for Northwest jobs and the nation's lumber demands.

That's a tall order but one that deserves a try.

Nature has done a good job of preserving and perpetuating our forests for thousands of years. Franklin's idea is to imitate nature. This means abolishing two other harvesting techniques, clearcutting and selective cutting, and switching to a modified clearcutting.

Nature regenerates partly by destroying



File photo

Clear cutting forests may be on the way out.

through fire. But fires do not level the forest. The flames leave scattered trees untouched, and they deposit logs and other organic debris on the ground.

From this scar will rise a forest of trees of mixed ages and species that thrives on

the nutrients provided by the decaying logs and that depends on birds and parasites to kill harmful insects and on animals to spread the vital micorrhizae fungi that help tree roots absorb nutrients.

In new forestry, loggers cut a patch of forest, but they leave behind 20 percent or more of the standing timber and some of the logs and do not burn all of the slash.

This means a cluttered forest for a time, but certainly it will be no worse than the mountainside gashes that we see today.

Franklin thinks that it's close to the ecologically sound way that nature follows. If he's right — and most experts agree with him — it means that we could have a continued, although reduced, timber harvest without upsetting the balance of nature.

Many in the timber industry criticize new forestry as a scientific-sounding excuse for reducing the timber harvest.

Many in the environmental movement worry that it is a ploy to allow the industry to continue cutting but in a new guise.

In truth, new forestry appears to be a sound way to manage those forests that must be made available for producing lumber and plywood. It should not be an excuse to destroy the last traces of our ancient forests.

We are at a turning point in the management of our forests. We must look at any idea that shows promise for maintaining the forest ecosystem without depriving us of the timber we need.



Letters

Just imagine crowds gazing at construction

While reading the May 25 article about construction of a parking facility in front of the State Capitol, several reflections came to mind.

The Department of General Services plans to assemble a bleacher for spectators. Forgetting any frivolous feelings I might have on the location and cost of this project, I could visualize the Oregon State Police being responsible for ticket sales and crowd control. The Department of Human Resources could "man the concessions," and the Oregon State Library could prepare the daily programs schedule and highlights.

During the lunch hour, the Department of Insurance and Finance and the Department of Transportation could handle "half-time" entertainment, and at the end of each day the Executive Department and the Department

On owls vs. timber

About the spotted owl vs. timber cutting. Surely there must be an effective compromise. Surely some of the environmentalists can work it out that we live in a country where many people are already unemployed and homeless.

Many worthwhile workers in this country do not wish to be, nor are they qualified to be, doctors, lawyers, or school teachers. They therefore have to survive by working in jobs such as tree-cutting, woodcutting and lumber mill work. Unless all of us choose to live in plastic houses, we still will need wood for houses and furniture.

It is very difficult for me to understand how people who use wood can truly be committed to stopping its harvest. Maybe the way it works is that after you have everything you require in the way of wood products, then it's time to stop using wood and protect the spotted owl.

Mrs. Lewis Hanke
Otis

What's more important, owls or people? I've seen this question asked in several letters to the editor lately. In all cases, the myopic point of view of these letter writers was that we should continue to destroy the last of our old-growth forests even if it results in the extinction of the northern spotted owl.

I don't really know how important the spotted owl is in the whole scheme of things, but I do know how important it is that the Endangered Species Act not be circumvented. What is the next animal or plant that would be deemed "not important" because it stands in the way of the lunge for the dollar?

Workplace must accept individuals

Workplace must accept individuals

Hiring minorities a beginning

There is an apparent dilemma in the Bush administration's stand regarding bias in the workplace.

President Bush says he will not tolerate discrimination in hiring. Yet he refuses to accept any minority hiring quota system.

Without some yardstick, such as quotas, it may be difficult to measure how well employers are complying with the spirit of civil rights laws.

Minority workers were hurt by a series of 1989 Supreme Court decisions that made it harder for them to prove that they were victims of job discrimination.

The White House and Congress are deadlocked on new legislation to soften the effects of those high court decisions.

An amendment drafted by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and John Danforth, R-Mo., was criticized by White House aides. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said the plan set such tough standards on hiring that employers would be forced to set their own quota system to avoid lawsuits.

But numbers alone aren't the only measure for nondiscriminatory hiring.

Felix Gutierrez, a vice president for the Gannett Foundation, recently warned against becoming complacent about minority hiring. He said it was important to respect the rights of those workers to be different once they were on the job.

Gutierrez attacked what he called the "melting pot myth" of our society. Women employees must not be made to emulate men, and blacks must not be forced to model themselves after white employees, he said.

U.S. society has changed and grown more pluralistic, Gutierrez said. The change means that people should be accepted into the workplace with their individual strengths and weaknesses.

It is clear from the debate in Congress, the White House, and in the workplace that there still is much to be done before we can claim to have arrived at the kind of society, free of discrimination, that we seek.

Video wilderness

Nature is best in person

There may be some truth to the view that we are becoming a nation of couch potatoes.

One sign is that while concern about preservation of our natural environment appears to be growing, the proportion of our population that has any direct experience with it is declining.

We have become a nation of city dwellers, dependent on others to provide our information and to help organize our recreation — even here in the Northwest.

A declining share of our society is taking part in hunting and fishing, two of the traditional modes of outdoor recreation. And only a small segment of our society has any first-hand experience with wilderness areas or wild rivers.

Responding to this, there is an expanding industry of environmental filmmakers. If the public won't go to the wilds, these people will carry the wilds to the public via television or the theaters.

A recent festival brought together

environmental filmmakers in Vancouver, British Columbia, to share their made-for-television films about whales, forests, and other aspects of the environment.

Their concern is that if people lose touch with nature, they also will lose interest in preserving it.

Most people agree that the best way to stir public interest in nature and in preserving wilderness areas is to take people into the wilds for firsthand experience. But the second best way to maintain that interest is with films and videos.

Perhaps these filmmakers are continuing an honorable tradition set by Jacques Cousteau and others.

Those who capture the images of nature for us deserve our thanks. But it is worth remembering that their images are a second-hand look at our world. The best experiences are those that we get by going out and looking for ourselves.

Statesman Journal

The Statesman Journal strives to publish accurate, unbiased information on its news pages. On this page, and where noted by the words **opinion**, **commentary**, or **analysis**, the newspaper's editorial board, along with readers and columnists, offers opinions on events and people. The objective of the opinion page is to promote discussion of issues affecting our community. The Statesman Journal is the successor to the Oregon Statesman, founded March 28, 1851, and the Capital Journal, founded March 1, 1888.

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nance and the Department of Transportation could handle "half-time" entertainment, and at the end of each day the Executive Department and the Department of Agriculture could handle clean-up sterilization.

I was perplexed about how to handle parking, when it dawned upon me that parking was the problem being solved, and that spectators would not be able to drive to the big show.

As my thought began to fade, I saw the Department of Economic Development and the Legislature agonizing about how to protect users from "Oregon Sunshine" as they rush to the appropriate state building.

My thoughts end watching large numbers of governmental employees and interested citizens "gazing in awe" at this magnificent facility — which is precluded from their use, by cost or restrictions.

Glen W. Knickerbocker
Salem

School finance vote favored new sales tax

If Sen. Jane Cease and Rep. Carl Hosticka learned mathematics in Oregon's schools, then we need more than just a refinancing of our educational system.

According to them, 54 percent

I don't really know how important the spotted owl is in the whole scheme of things, but I do know how important it is that the Endangered Species Act not be circumvented. What is the next animal or plant that would be deemed "not important" because it stands in the way of the lunge for the dollar?

Herbert Preuitt
Dallas

We recently drove around the Olympic Peninsula and came home to the front-page article stating that 75 percent of the old growth there had been cut.

It's true, folks, and I wish everybody would go take a look at what 75 percent looks like. It is ugly. It left me with a sick, frightened, disconsolate feeling. It reminded me in a strange way of the women in the Nazi concentration camps whose beautiful hair was shaved from their heads to make wigs for the officers' wives.

It is not the owl alone for which I grieve; it is for our whole lovely Earth that is being raped and stripped of its beauty in so many ways and so many places.

Please, leave us the little that remains of our ancient forests.

K. Carlson
Scio

of us would vote for a sales tax.

Of course, these legislators don't seem to realize that the entire advisory vote is inaccurate, because each person, on the average, voted "yes" 1.2 times and "no" 2.7 times to the four options on ballot Measure 5. They also fail to consider that 23 percent of us want no change in the finance system.

Isn't it strange that there was no option 5F, "none of the above," for those of us who wanted a

change but didn't like B through E?

The advisory vote was set up so that somehow the results could be distorted to look as if we wanted a sales tax.

So get ready Oregon. When Jane and company get through patting themselves on the back, they're going to waste their time and our money one more time.

Reed K. Mulder
Independence

'Tooth fairy' column on school taxes was off base

Normally I agree with Ron Blankenbaker's Sunday column and enjoy it, but May 20 he was way off base.

No, Oregonians don't want the "tooth fairy" to pay for our schools. All we want is for those in charge to spend money wisely, the way we have to run our households.

I cannot believe that they think that we Oregonians are stupid enough to vote in a sales tax or any other added tax, for that matter.

I, as a voter, have every intention of voting down every new tax package until those we voted for, because we were told they would do the best job for us, get their heads on straight.

What's wrong with the lottery money going for schools? No, they seem to have a better place for that.

Have you ever walked in a school and seen the number of people working there? Why does each school need such a large staff? Is it because that way we are assured that the job will get done — even though it could be accomplished with far fewer people?

I'm sorry, but I am so sick of hearing about taxes and school support. Then when we do vote

in more money, where does it go? First, to the administration. Then, if there's any left, to the teachers (who are the education's backbone and who I feel are underpaid).

No, the only solution we want to hear is that our money is being spent more conservatively and wisely.

Jo-Ann Gum
Salem

This is in reference to the May 20 commentary by Ron Blankenbaker. I thought his article was rather demeaning. To me, it implied that the taxpayers (I being one of them) were stupid for the way we voted in the primary election.

To quote Blankenbaker, "We want the tooth fairy to pay for us." Well, as a parent and a taxpayer, I, along with all other taxpayers, have been and are the "tooth fairy."

These tooth fairies have reached a point where automatic, excessive increases in property taxes must stop.

Yes, we said we wanted to change the way we pay for schools, but all four choices we were given were not definitive about how, when, and what would take place.

I voted for the sales tax. I

think that if people were told how this would affect their property taxes, renters also would probably vote for a sales tax, because each time property owners get an increase in property taxes, rents go up.

It also is vividly clear that we must curtail spending in some manner.

Earl McDonald's letter, which was printed the same day as the Blankenbaker commentary, noted that the position of the president of Portland State University had been filled by an out-of-state candidate after being vacant. It would appear that the vice president had been filling the duties of the president as well as his own job. Why then hire someone from out of state at a salary of \$105,000 a year?

If our state management people were to really look, there would be many, many other places in which the state could cut spending.

If something isn't done soon, perhaps the taxpayers should take a close look Oregon adopting a measure similar to California's property tax limitation Proposition 13.

Dan Gatti, Sr.
Salem

Stunning Opal Creek area is a natural treasure

I sat on a rock in the river looking up at the most spectacular waterfall in this part of Oregon. The force of the deluge created updrafts carrying spray aloft in white, wispy trails. The sun set the white foam glistening as it cascaded over black basalt on the way down.

I, along with 20 others from the Chemeketans Hiking club, bushwacked nearly a mile last weekend through brush and swamp and down a precipitous slope to get this view that few people see, of Opal Creek Falls.

As I sat there, I tried to put in perspective what little I know about the Opal Creek controversy. The fate of that area is still in doubt, with the next chapter to be written this fall when the Forest



Commentary

J. Wesley Sullivan

Service completes its plan for that section of the Willamette National Forest.

I first saw Opal Creek many years ago when some of us got permission from the people who operate the mines at Jawbone Flat to hike up the bottom end of the creek to Blue Pool and to walk along where the creek runs deep down in a rock crevasse. This is on

the lower end of the creek, perhaps six miles below the waterfall.

Our primary destination last weekend was Opal Lake, from which Opal Creek descends past Jawbone Flat to the Little North Fork of the Santiam a few miles above Elkhorn. To get to the lake, we turned off at French Creek Road, just before the town of Detroit.

At about 10 miles, after crossing a pass, we saw the little jewel of a lake down below us. A trail leads to the lake — actually it runs down an old skid road used to drag mammoth trees out in the early days. At the bottom of this eroded, rocky slide, the so-called trail turns into a swampy morass at this time of year.

But while fighting our way

around it through the brush, we were treated to a fine array of wildflowers, including trillium, lamb's tongue, marsh marigold and shooting star. In the moss among the rocks later on we saw the delicate purple calipso orchid.

Surrounding the lake itself is an old-growth forest with its great variety of trees and plants. I saw huge Alaskan cedar and towering silver fir. It's a true wilderness, but we kept finding jarring evidence of humanity, from the ditched motorcycle alongside the trail to a golfball, discovered while we were bushwacking through dense ground cover.

The trees crowd up to the shore of Opal Lake, which is clear and cold. We followed a fisherman's trail to the outlet and down the

stream as it gathered momentum. At a rocky outcropping, we caught our first view of the chasm into which Opal Creek Falls drops 300 feet.

A backpack tent sat atop the rocks with clothes spread out on nearby brush drying in the sun. Their owner was nowhere to be seen. The solitary backpacker probably believes he spent an isolated weekend in the wilds, not realizing that 21 people spent 15 minutes resting at his campsite.

Opal Creek Falls is in three parts. We had lunch at the upper falls, on the lip of the giant second drop. At lunch we nerved ourselves for the steep descent, while our leader, Wally Eubanks, scouted the route. It was worth all the effort.

Nothing in Silver Falls Park can compare with it.

Like many other Oregonians, I'm torn between the need to supply logs to our sawmills and the need to protect our watersheds and the forests surrounding our natural scenic wonders.

I went on the Opal Creek hike for exercise. I certainly got it. But I came away with more than tired muscles, with the conviction that the lake, the waterfalls and the creek are an important part of our natural heritage. We owe it not only to ourselves but to future generations to protect them and their environs.

□ J. Wesley Sullivan, retired chairman of the Statesman Journal Editorial Board, writes a weekly column.

More Letters

Lesson in government still hasn't caught on

Twenty years ago, I had a job distributing Republican literature door-to-door and gathering campaign contribution. I was among a idealistic bunch of empty-headed activists who wanted to revolutionize America to the radical right.

A few of this pack of political ignorants were progressively conditioned into being the same kind of ravid ideologues that we were being paid by, to set their variety of arch conservatism in the American mindscape in stone forever.

These young people became gung-ho cheerleaders who pushed getting that one more leaflet out, that one more dollar collected, that one more naive recruit gathered. They were the individuals who took as gospel the arch conservative Republican harangue that the U.S. voter was a worthless slob.

In theory, we all live in a free open democracy. In reality, the operating authority of the Republic is vested in the hands of a small cross-section of political mentors who call the shots for everyone . . . for the benefit of the inner few. I thought that was wrong then. And I said so at the time.

About letters

The Statesman Journal welcomes letters of general interest from readers. All letters are subject to editing and abridgement. Because of the large volume received, we cannot return or acknowledge letters that are not used. Letters must be signed and include a street address or post office box number, and a telephone number (not for publication, but for verification). They should be sent to Letters to the Editor, Statesman Journal, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, Ore. 97309-1036.

hoax, it was a cruel one because I love my husband very much and I'm constantly concerned about him.

Helen Lorentz
Salem

Behind issue of bad art is stifled expression

In his May 26 guest opinion about the Mapplethorpe flap, Glen L. Bledsoe states that Robert Mapplethorpe's seven controversial photos are "bad art." He continues:

"No culture, however free, is obliged to exhibit bad art. Bad art is bad art and nothing to do with Jesse Helms or any political persuasion."

Bledsoe's premise is questionable and misses the point. He presumes that there is a generally ac-



cross-section of political mentors who call the shots for everyone . . . for the benefit of the inner few. I thought that was wrong then. And I said so at the time.

Recently, I was asked again to pass out political campaign literature, gathering money this time for conservative Democratic candidates. But now it would be a straight cash deal per 100 leaflets certified distributed and a rake off the top of all money gullible citizens handed me a cold business arrangement to purchase the electorate.

I realized that in 27 years, the political office seeker types have not learned the crucial lesson the conservative Republicans taught: Political office seekers must convince the citizens to take personal charge of their own public decisions, rather than let some stuffed shirt buy that authority.

No one can say or do for you and me what we need to do for ourselves. In the representative substitution of your and my will, something is lost of our mutual freedoms.

We become less able to distinguish what are freedoms and become more kept children of the state.

Don Baarstad
Corvallis

Why is 'icky' book OK if Bart Simpson is bad?

Your headline May 23 read "Bart back talk — Educators say smart-aleck misleads kids." The accompanying article made it clear that this cartoon character was not promoting good values for kids to emulate.

If educators can see that relationship, how come the Salem-Keizer school board can't?

In the same paper is an article that states, "Salem-Keizer school board keeps icky book in school libraries." If the only word about this book about "corpse-filled coffins and blood-covered feet dangling from a chimney" is "icky" — what's it doing in our schools?

Marie Chinn
Salem

Phone call was cruel, be it hoax or mistake

On May 14, a few minutes after 5 p.m., I answered the phone and a male voice said he'd heard the day before that Lyle Lorentz had passed away. I asked how to spell the last name and he hung up.

My husband, Lyle, is 88 years old, with heart problems. With the help of good doctors I still have him with me and he is able to be on the tractor mowing and tilling, the jobs that he enjoys very much.

If the call was a mistake, I wish he'd stayed on so I could have found out more. If the call was a

Jesse Helms of any political persuasion."

Bledsoe's premise is questionable and misses the point. He presumes that there is a generally accepted definition of good and bad art. In fact, that determination is subjective and changes with the times.

Bledsoe's conclusion that "no culture is obliged to exhibit bad art" is 180 degrees from the real issue, which is: Should a culture, through restrictions in federal funding, be prevented from exhibiting bad art?

Such censorship cannot help but chill artistic expression. Art has always been advanced by artists such as Mapplethorpe who have been willing to challenge conventional forms and themes. As Bledsoe notes, not all of these attempts are successful. And those that are successful frequently do not achieve initial critical or public acceptance.

A healthy culture demands that artists be allowed to express new ideas without fear of censorship, either directly or by loss of critical financial support.

Jeffrey G. Condit
Salem

Stories about Francke incomplete, one-sided

After following your coverage of the Francke case, I have come to the conclusion that your newspaper should change its name to the *Enquirer*.

A good reporter would get both sides of a story before going to press.

For instance, Shelley Thomas violated her parole and was arrested. She was let out of jail in the early morning hours when the space was needed for a more dangerous offender. The other side of that is that the state has no obligation to provide a return-home-limo-service. You stated that she was given several lie detector tests. What were the results of those tests? If you can't report the results, then don't lead us to believe she's a victim of police ineptness.

Detective Glover probably was right when he said that Jeanne Schwartz was a liar, if in fact he said that. You didn't report how many years Jeanne has been in prison and why.

You reported that those close to the case wonder why Glover is still on the case. Isn't Glover the guy who discovered where Diane Downs was hiding after she escaped? Why do the editors accuse Glover of bias toward supposed friends and professional associates in corrections? Didn't he arrest a captain of corrections in that 1986 investigation that you so monotonously refer to?

James and Shirley Leiper
Salem

"IF THERE BE ANYONE PRESENT WHO OBJECTS TO THE UNIFICATION OF THESE TWO WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIST POWERS IN THE HOLY BONDS OF NATO, LET HIM SPEAK NOW OR...."

But victim set caller straight

Cruel hoaxers prey on women's fears

Angels don't use the telephone — not good angels, anyway.

Somewhere on Salem's streets is a man — maybe more than one — who delights in frightening elderly women with crank calls.

One of these callers identified himself as the angel Gabriel and told a woman — badly crippled with arthritis — that he was coming to kill her in her home that night.

In another incident, a similar-sounding caller said he had heard that the woman's husband had died, asked how to spell the last name, and hung up.

The husband is alive but recently had been in the hospital.

Both women wrote to the *Statesman Journal* to complain — to someone, at least — about cruel treatment by the callers.

The would-be angel's victim said she thought that other people — perhaps old, sick, alone like herself — would feel better if they



Commentary

Marvin Callaway

knew that they were not the only ones getting such calls.

Salem Police report getting complaints about four or five such harrasing calls a month.

It is seldom easy to discern the motives of the callers. They may be insane, as was the Oregon man who made 400 or 500 calls from rented motel rooms last year before being caught and committed for treatment.

Sometime, the caller may want to get even for some real or imagined complaint against the vic-

tim, or perhaps a relative, friend or neighbor, police said.

What the caller probably wants most is to know that he is disturbing his victim. And, of course, he is. But police advise that the best response is to not let him know that by hanging up. If the calls persist, police should be called. There are ways to track down and prosecute the repeat caller.

In both of the cases reported to the *Statesman Journal*, the caller did not call back.

What bothered the women most, however, was that the caller seemed to know something personal about them.

How much real danger do crank callers represent to their victims?

Probably not much, according to Sgt. Larry Stephens of the Salem Police Department's Crimes Against Persons Division, which investigates such cases. He said that in his 22 years in Salem, he knew of no violent crime linked

to a telephone threat.

A telephone threat is a cheap shot. It allows the caller to work out his aggressions or frustrations without risking being identified. The caller probably is someone too timid to make threats in person, according to Salem detective Sgt. Roger Vinyard.

Incidentally, the would-be angel got a disrespectful reception from his victim.

She told him that he behaved a most un-angel-like way. And she knew that he had his angels mixed up when he said he was the angel of death and called himself Gabriel.

Anyway, the victim said, no self-respecting angel would need to use the telephone.

The bogus angel hung up in disgust — we hope for the final time.

□ **Marvin Callaway** is a *Statesman Journal* editorial writer.

United States needs to focus

Flag burning seems least of our worries

In years to come, if any historians look back at the United States' entry into the 1990s, I expect they will be very puzzled.

At a time when the world was being reshaped by the collapse of the Soviet empire and the emergence of powerful new economic blocs in Europe and Asia, they will surely wonder why Americans were preoccupied by such topics as flag-burning, dirty records and government funding of offensive art.

My friend and former colleague, Michael Barone, has written a weighty history of the past 60 years, *Our Country*, which argues that cultural issues often have played a larger role in our politics than most scholars have recognized.

If one thinks of race, religion, social status and moral values as the sources of cultural conflict, Barone certainly has a point. Debates on civil rights, abortion, foreign interventions and many other issues were driven by the cultural divisions in this republic.



Commentary

David Broder

But the incidents that provoked the headlined cultural controversies of recent days occurred on the fringes of American society. The 2 Live Crew recording, *As Nasty as They Wanna Be*, was commercially dying — until a judge in Florida gave it a huge shot of free publicity by ruling it obscene.

The paintings, sculptures and performances that have enmeshed the National Endowment for the Arts in controversy represent a tiny sliver of its grants — and have a comparably small audience.

As for flag burning, if the television cameras did not compulsively cover these attention-seeking protestors, most in the United States

would pass through their entire lives without having that offensive spectacle inflicted on them.

These are events which U.S. society would have dismissed or ignored in times past, because we had far more important fish to fry: a frontier to settle and civilize; industries, homes and schools to build; a world to save.

These cultural disputes preoccupy us now, because we are floundering. No U.S. leader in 25 years has discovered or articulated a popular goal to focus the nation's energy and attention.

As we drift in our debt-financed, synthetic prosperity, we are losing confidence in our future. So we let ourselves be upset by fringe characters whose goal is simply to shake us up.

How do you suppose we managed to survive for more than 200 years in this country before forcing the Supreme Court to decide, twice in 12 months, the constitutionality of statutes protecting the flag from physical abuse?

We were too busy with matters

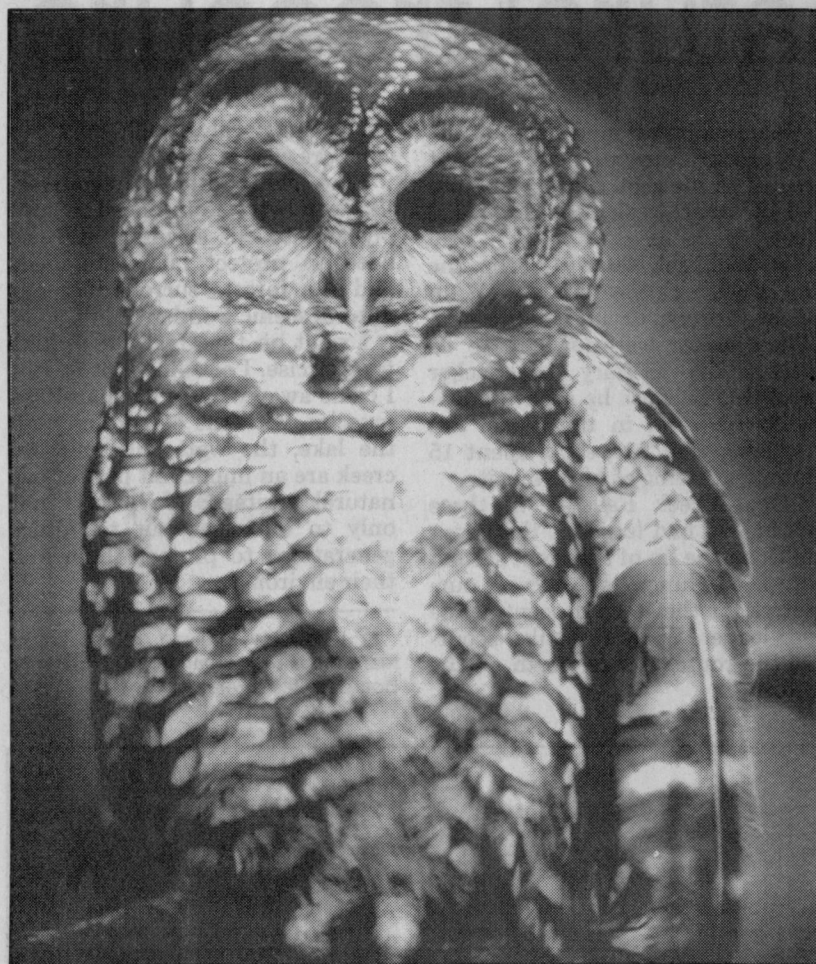
of real importance to be distracted by such a question. State and federal laws protecting the flag go back more than a century, doing no visible damage to the First Amendment or the exercise of free speech. Violations were rare and occasioned little controversy.

A year ago, when the Supreme Court first ruled, 5-4, that the government could not punish a physical abuse of the flag, I thought the decision wrong. The reaffirmation last week is no more persuasive. Speech is speech, and should be protected, no matter how offensive to majority opinion.

But Chief Justice Rehnquist made the obvious point when he said that "flag burning is the equivalent of an inarticulate grunt or roar that . . . is most likely to be indulged in not to express any particular idea but to antagonize others."

□ **David Broder** is a Washington Post columnist. He won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

Experiment runs risk of too much, too little



File photo

Experts hope to save the northern spotted owl yet continue timber harvests.

Gannett News Service

Take new forestry and mix it with northern spotted owls in a large, old-growth forest and voila! a recipe for saving hundreds of owls and thousands of jobs.

But there's a catch: No one knows the proportions. That risks a recipe for disaster. Experiment with too much new forestry, and owls as well as ancient trees will die. Try too little new forestry, or none at all, and the jobs may disappear, without giving the new ways of working the woods a chance to coexist with the birds.

That's the dilemma facing the Northwest's congressional delegations as they plan for the showdown on what they've all come to call simply "Jack Ward Thomas."

Thomas is the U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist who led an inter-agency scientific committee that studied what it would take to spare the owl, considered an indicator species, from extinction.

Spotted owls can't survive outside old growth, or habitat with old-growth characteristics. There are 1,692 known or suspected owl pairs in Washington, Oregon and Northern California, only 40 percent of the birds that scientists said existed 200 years ago.

To save half of them, the committee concluded last month, 8 million acres in Washington, Oregon and Northern California must

"Forestry scientists tell us that spotted owls have been found in second growth that has remnants of old growth. That could be new forestry working by accident."

— Rep. Jolene Unsoeld
Proponent of experiment

be viewed as owl terrain, and kept free of chain saws. Forty percent of that is in wilderness or parks, where logging is already banned.

Setting aside the remainder as Habitat Conservation Areas, or HCAs, would cut Northwest timber harvests by 30 percent, the Thomas committee indicated. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service probably will modify the recommended set-asides.

In the meantime, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan is expected to list the owl as a threatened species.

Among other things, that would outlaw endangering the birds or their habitat.

At the same time, the Northwest's Congressional delegations are working on a plan designed to protect the bird while trying new forestry methods.

The harvest and regeneration techniques include leaving behind live and dead trees and debris, fostering multi-species, multi-storied mixes of trees and reducing forest

fragmentation.

Their goal is to retain enough characteristics of the bird's natural environment to allow its survival there, while still taking out up to 80 percent of the timber in such areas. If that works, many of the estimated 28,000 timber-related jobs in jeopardy might be saved.

For openers, lawmakers are scratching their heads about how to get permission for the experiments without challenging the law that protects threatened species.

Even if a way is found, can enough terrain be opened to produce conclusive results?

Trying out new forestry on the fringes of owl habitat, or where the birds are struggling to survive, could be worse than no experiments at all, said Jerry Franklin, a University of Washington professor and new forestry champion — and the Forest Service's chief plant ecologist. If the birds die or disappear, there's no assurance that new forestry was responsible;

they may have been on their way out anyway, he said.

Instead, experiments must be undertaken across large stretches of habitat, where owl populations are strong. Only then could new forestry be fairly blamed for owl deaths or disappearances, or demonstrated as a viable method to use near the creatures.

U.S. Rep. Jolene Unsoeld, a Washington Democrat, has written a bill for discussion purposes that would allow new forestry experiments on no fewer than three habitat conservation areas in each affected state, and on an equivalent amount of federally managed forest destined for intensive timber harvest. They would serve as control areas.

"Forestry scientists tell us that spotted owls have been found in second growth that has remnants of old growth," Unsoeld said. "That could be new forestry working by accident."

"I want to lay the groundwork for proving that. To do so, you have to have real owl territory to prove it in. If you see evidence that something's going haywire, you can stop and change direction."

However the debate resolves itself, Franklin said, one thing was certain: "There's going to be pain for people, pain for trees and pain for owls."

Forestry/Tide soon may turn on Northwest's traditional timber practices

Continued from Page 1G.

"We should have done it 10 years ago. Twenty would have been better. But we didn't know enough to do it. The crisis allows that now."

The crisis is the projected loss of cutting rights on half of the Northwest's federal lands in the next decade, wiping out an estimated 28,000 jobs in the logging, lumber and paper industries of Washington, Oregon and Northern California, according to the federal government.

The jobs would be casualties of a logging ban on as much as 8 million acres to protect the old-growth habitat of the northern spotted owl.

The spotted owl is one of many species whose survival depends on the kind of biological diversity associated with old-growth forests. As a result, the owl was designated as the indicator species for the well-being of tree stands that

role in coal mines. Miners knew that if the canary keeled over, everyone was at risk.

Next Saturday, if not sooner, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. is expected to declare the owl a threatened species, triggering steps to seal off vast stands of ancient trees from chainsaws.

The crisis is giving the new foresters and their congressional and administration allies the glue to bind two decades of research into law and public policy.

That effort is driven by two major forces: rampant conflict about traditional harvest practices and shrinkage of the Pacific Coast's old-growth stands to less than 10 percent of the 70,000 square miles that once stretched from southeast Alaska to Northern California.

Under growing fire is the system of high-yield forestry, a package of practices, including clearcutting

New school foresters say high yield reduces the complexity of natural forest systems. They prefer less artificial actions, such as leaving behind scrap wood instead of burning it, and promoting a mix of tree species, ages and shapes.

Some environmentalists greet new forestry with enthusiasm, although few want its methods applied in remaining old-growth forests. A new and powerful coalition, the Ancient Forest Alliance, wants those stands left untouched, whether owls are thought to live there or not.

It's a fundamental change from a management philosophy that plant ecologist Franklin calls "woodcentric," whose only purpose is to grow and cut as much marketable wood on a tract as possible, to one that is "ecocentric," considering the presence and future of natural elements.

Woodcentric foresters are par-

giants have been toppled. Single species are planted to achieve stands of identical ages, shapes and heights, forming virtually unbroken canopies over sunless forest floors.

But natural forests have a mix: There are young, rich-foliaged living trees; the centuries-old, still-living giants; and the dead but biologically rich ones standing, on the ground and in streams. There are the once-hated hardwoods, as well as marketable softwoods. There are the healthy and the sick.

Their structures vary, as do the densities of their foliage and stands. And so do their purposes. Among other things, the giants serve as sky combs, raking millions of gallons of moisture from cloud banks. Sunlit growth beneath them shades and nourishes complex soils that grow seemingly everything, from exotic mushrooms to ordinary shrubs.

Society's Adopt-a-Forest program, said: "We fail to grasp the significance of the soil in the growing process. It's a very delicate organism, and it needs to be treated very delicately."

Clearcutting, Williams said, "drastically alters the community of organisms in the ground. We don't understand that process."

Ignorance notwithstanding, "we're trying to use agricultural techniques on our forests," Williams said. "What's missing in the equation is how nature grows those trees."

Franklin said, "Our practice has been to simplify forests; now our purpose is to diversify them." That diversity includes a place for both high-yield practices such as clearcutting and high-preservation actions such as wilderness set-asides. "But the dominant practice would be integrated manage-

variety at specific forest sites, but managing far larger chunks of the landscape for far longer periods.

"One patch over five years won't do," Franklin said. "We must think in thousands, not just hundreds, of acres." Otherwise, he said, humans will perpetuate forest fragmentation and fail to deal with, or even recognize, cumulative degradation of the landscape.

As European and Mediterranean countries know already, the capacity of soil to grow trees eventually disappears, Williams said, and no one knows how much life is left in Northwest soils.

Even though sustained-yield timber practices have been required by Congress for decades, "we don't know whether high-yield forestry is sustainable," Franklin said. "We haven't devoted a whole lot of attention to this."

the kind of biological diversity associated with old-growth forests. As a result, the owl was designated as the indicator species for the well-being of tree stands that never have been cut.

The owl's role in virgin timber is comparable to the canary's former

square miles at once stretched from southeast Alaska to Northern California.

Under growing fire is the system of high-yield forestry, a package of practices, including clearcutting, used by foresters to obtain the greatest amount of wood off timber lands.

Woodcentric foresters are partial to biologically uniform tree plantations, the most wood-productive approach once the ancient

cloud banks. Sunlit growth beneath them shades and nourishes complex soils that grow seemingly everything, from exotic mushrooms to ordinary shrubs.

Larry Williams, a landscape gardener and the former chairman of the North Cascades Audubon

both high-yield practices such as clearcutting and high-preservation actions such as wilderness set-asides. "But the dominant practice would be integrated management."

To the new foresters, that means not only more options and

quired by Congress for decades, "we don't know whether high-yield forestry is sustainable," Franklin said. "We haven't devoted a whole lot of attention to this. It's like global change; it's something that happens over a long period of time."

Women bridge race gap

South Africans, black and white, meet one-on-one

The Los Angeles Times

TEMBISA, South Africa — Sue Ingram felt sick with fear. She didn't know where she would sleep or what she would eat. She imagined bugs crawling on her feet and throngs of black people who might resent her, even kill her.

Her bags stood beside the door of her warm, secure home. She had packed carefully, nothing too fancy but nothing too casual.

She took a last look at herself in the mirror: She was 55 years old, a descendant of the first white settlers in South Africa, the product of a life of white privilege. And she was about to take her first step into a black township.

Half an hour later she was in Tembisa, her throat burning from the haze of coal smoke. Crowded taxi-vans sped past. Thousands of blacks walked the dirt paths.

Down a rutted dirt road, past an overflowing trash bin and houses with only candles for light, she found Joyce Mkuwane's house.

"Thank you, Sue, for coming to my home," Mkuwane said. "And thank you for not thinking we're animals."

Ordinary women

So began an emotional and eye-opening voyage for two ordinary women, one white and one black, across generations of fear and distrust in South Africa.

Black and white leaders are talking to each other as equals these days about the country's future. But deal-making alone cannot bridge the divide carved by 42 years of legal racial segregation and centuries of master-servant relationships.

Closing that gap begins not with news conferences and formal agreements but with people like Sue Ingram and Joyce Mkuwane, in places like Tembisa.

Tembisa is a sprawling ghetto of 450,000 people, one of the satellites created by South African social engineers as a repository of cheap black labor for the white-run factories and homes of Johannesburg. Like most townships, Tembisa is hidden from the main thoroughfares and the eyes of white motorists. It is not on the way to anywhere.

Joyce Mkuwane lives here with her husband, Thomas, a son and

daughter-in-law and a granddaughter.

Their home stands in a barren tract with thousands of look-alike concrete houses known as "matchboxes," each with four rooms and an outdoor toilet. But the Mkuwanes have used their money and carpentry skills to expand their matchbox to 10 rooms that cover their small plot of land.

When Sue Ingram stepped through the front door, she found Thomas watching television in a living room overstuffed with soft furniture, plants and paintings. It was "nice and warm, clean-smelling," Ingram remembers.

Ingram lives 10 miles away on a quiet, middle-class street in Germiston, an industrial suburb of Johannesburg. The road in front of her house is paved, and no two houses are alike. The manicured lawns and lush shade trees are protected by short fences and private security company signs that promise a quick armed response to reports of prowlers.

Church exchange

Ingram decided to visit Tembisa when she saw an item in the church program one Sunday morning about a weekend "Christian encounter" between whites and blacks in the township.

Soon after she had signed up, though, Ingram began to have doubts. Concerned friends asked her again and again: Was she sure it was the right thing to do? Could the actions of one person really make any difference in South Africa?

Most of her worries began to fade the first night, when she sat down for dinner in Tembisa. Thomas covered the table with chicken and mealie pap, a thick maize-meal porridge that is the staple of most African meals.

"It was amazing, really," she recalled. "They were chatting to me as if I was one of them."

Life in a township

The Mkuwanes own a car, but the purpose of the encounter was to introduce their visitor to life in a township, so Joyce and Ingram walked two blocks to the taxi stand. Black strangers waved, and Ingram, with her host's tutoring, began greeting people in Zulu — "Sabona" for one person and "Sa-

bonane" for a crowd.

The women squeezed into one of the private taxi vans that carry millions of blacks to work each day. Ingram was nervous, but she tried not to let it show.

"You're in this black taxi with all these black people, and I guess you're a bit scared that they might turn on you or something," Ingram said.

Walking the streets of Tembisa and riding taxis turned out to be "much safer than I thought," she said, adding: "But there are still some blacks who look at you with eyes of hate. They hate white people because of apartheid."

Women saw similarities

As Ingram and Mkuwane talked, they discovered that they shared many of the same values and concerns about life, but differences in their background and experience were apparent, too. They didn't talk much about those.

Joyce Mkuwane had spent most of her life as a nurse, working in whites-only hospitals and white homes, seeing the inequities of apartheid up close.

"Our blacks know about whites," she said. "But whites don't know blacks at all."

Sue Ingram, on the other hand, had seen little of the effects of apartheid. She grew up on a farm near Johannesburg.

She married and raised her children in an environment of white schools, white hospitals, white neighborhoods, even white parks.

Although she supported racial reform in South Africa, the only blacks Ingram knew were her maid, her neighbors' maids and the black customers at the pharmacy where she worked for a time.

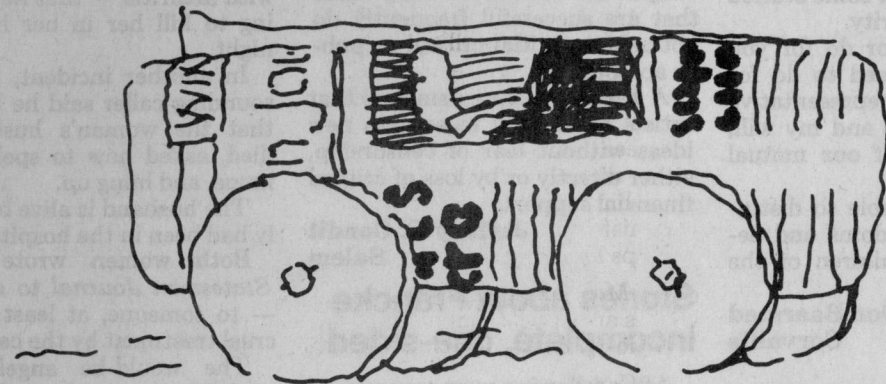
On Sunday afternoon, Ingram and Mkuwane said goodbye to each other with a hug in the rain.

"I love Sue," Mkuwane said. "I only wish there were more whites like her."

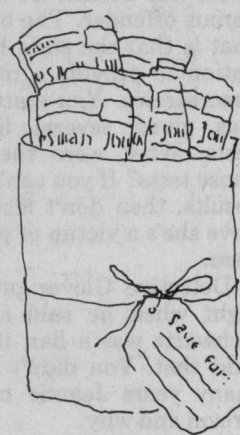
Ingram was more hopeful. "At least there were a few pink faces in Tembisa," she said. "And we have something to tell our friends about."

A day later, Sue Ingram picked up the phone in her white neighborhood and placed a call to her new friend, Joyce Mkuwane. Just to say hello.

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