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Rio Grande Chapter
Sierra Club
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April 4-5 Regional Mining Conference, Ft. Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. Topics: Environmental impacts of mining, citizen action, regulation and legislation. Contact: David Malloy, Jr., P.O. Box 2998, Durango, CO 81301.

April 4-5 Witness at Trinity: Stop Nuclear Testing & Proliferation, Trinity, N.M., Call (505) 833-2941 for more info.

April 30 Deadline for submitting Sierra Club Continental quilt squares: Call (602) 259-1922 for more info.

May 8-10 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Springtime Canyon Crimped?, Cibola NF.
June 20-21 Summer Solstice Rio Grande raft trip to benefit Forest Guardians. Call (505) 988-9126 for more info.
July 10-12 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Springtime Canyon Crimped, Cibola NF.
Sept. 11-13 Chapter Retreat/ExCom Meeting.

Legacy Out

March 6-8 Chapter Conservation/ExCom Meeting, Call (505) 438-3560 for location.
March 15 Deadline for April Sierran, (March 20 for camera-ready group material.)
Mar. 30-Apr. 2 Southwestern Rare and Endangered Plant Conference, State Land Office Building, Santa Fe, Call (505) 827-8330 for more info.
April 4-5 Regional Mining Conference, Ft. Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. Topics: Environmental impacts of mining, citizen action, regulation and legislation. Contact: David Malloy, Jr., P.O. Box 2998, Durango, CO 81301.
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Mining Law Reform Action Calendar

- Attend Meetings of the State Engineer's Office on March 10th to support the Land Mountain Ranch water application. Call Joan Lasater at (505) 473-9664 for time and place.
- Attend Meetings of the State Engineer's Office on March 12th to oppose the Pegasus Mining Company's water application. Call Joan Lasater at 473-9664 for time and place.
- Be Prepared to Attend Hearings on two weeks' notice on the Senate Bill to reform the 1872 Mining Law. (Bill no word on when or where these will be held.)

For more information, see article on page 7.

Welcome to the New Rio Grande Sierran

Beginning this month, the newsletters of the Rio Grande Chapter and its four constituent groups will be combined. Instead of receiving a separate newsletter from your local group, you'll now find news and announcements from your group inside these pages. (Some groups will continue sending announcements to their members, at least for a few more months.) The Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter made the decision to consolidate newsletters at its January meeting. The move is aimed at reducing costs to the groups, saving paper, and avoiding the duplication of effort. Newsletters were a major expense for all of the groups. Under the new arrangement, groups will retain editorial control over their allotted pages in the Rio Grande Sierran. The Chapter will continue to pay the costs of producing, printing, and mailing the Sierran, which will be published ten times annually.

Inside: Legislative Update • OLE • ADC Secrets • El Malpais • Ballot Controversy

Sierran
NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB • March 1992 • $1.00

Bingaman Introduces Bill to Protect Jemez Mountains

Recognizing the need to protect the Jemez Mountains in the Santa Fe National Forest, U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman introduced legislation to establish a Jemez National Recreation Area on February 3, 1992. Bingaman's action is a major move towards making the Jemez NRA a reality. His bill is legislation approved by the House last year. The House bill was introduced by Congresswoman Bill Richard, who fought hard to pass it. The Jemez NRA legislation calls for management emphasis that emphasizes recreation while allowing other uses of the land to continue, such as ranching, logging and, yes, even mining. The key points of the bill are as follows: 1) Primary management emphasis is to be on recreation. 2) The area will be withdrawn from future mining claims and mineral patents will be void after the date of introduction of the legislation; any lands mined within the NRA have to be returned to their original pre-mining condition. 3) Strong protection will be given for the major archaeologic sites within the area. 4) Timber harvesting will be geared to local economy and be limited to timber, slash, fuelwood and small timber sales. Letters of appreciation to Senator Bingaman taking a bold stand on this issue are much needed. In order, asking Bingaman for only hearings on the Jemez NRA is also important to help ensure passage of the legislation in this session of Congress.
Editor:

Your December article criticizing Senator Bingaman for a weak record on environmental issues was timely and his response to it was weak at best. While environmentalists have worked to elect and re-elect, he has voted with us on relatively low stakes issues (wild and scenic river designations) but he has sided with power companies in more difficult and controversial issues. As Sen. Bingaman is one of the most powerful leaders in the Senate, his leadership would be required to overcome special interests opposition to environmental protection.

Bingaman’s vote for the Bighorn (oil industry) Energy plan must be seen as a milestone in Bingaman’s career and any other politicians who voted for this legislation. One thing they must do is pass the legislation. Our glutinous waste of energy in all its forms is contributing significantly to the global warming emergency, ocean layer depletion, conventional air pollution, land and habitat destruction through mining, and surface and groundwater pollution.

It’s time to hold politicians to a higher standard than ever before. For voting for status quo energy plans in 1991, Bingaman showed he is dangerously ignorant of the global environmental emergency. He and Donnelly are the two worst offenders to be addressing the problems that threaten the future of our bleaker global warming, ocean layer depletion, and overall pollution. Saving humans and other species in the face of these crises will require true leadership and the space to stand up to special interests like the oil and mining industries. But few politicians will show such leadership, and at best Bingaman has become better at not listening when the average is fairly low.

Tom Ribe
Burgon, Oregon

To the Editor:

I’d like to respond to Senator Bingaman (probably a member staff, because Sen. Bingaman is too busy for environmental issues these days)! Bingaman is too busy for environmental issues than words. In the two years since I heard Bingaman introduce Gaylord

George A. Naylor
Rio Rancho

Environmentalists to Domenici: Don’t make us scapegoats

On February 7, Duke City Lumber Company—a subsidiary of the giant Landos-based Hanson PLC corporation—announced it was permanently closing its sawmill in Cuba, New Mexico, putting 45 workers out of work. The company’s decision to sell three timber-sale appeals by environmentalists and the Mexican spotted owl.

The automation would claim a mill response from New Mexico Senator Pete Domenici, in February 7 press release, Domenici said that he was "agreed to the mill closures, and blasted environmentalists, particularly Forest Guardians, for misusing the timber sale appeals system." Domenici claimed that such appeals had resulted in the loss of jobs and millions of dollars of revenue to timber dependant communities.

Domenici countered with an open letter to the Senator, penned by Jim Norton of the Wilderness Society, excepted below.

Dear Senator Domenici:

Your report release shows that you have been misled by the timber industry that a "procedural maneuver" by environmentalists stoped timber sales. But there aren’t any timber sale appeals or lawsuits pending on the Duke City National Forest. You stated that "the maneuver of the appeal process (is) preventing Duke City from selling timber for a sawmill program." But last year the Santa Fe National Forest sold 231,000 board feet of timber. You stated that "$180 million in payments to timber dependent counties has been lost." But Sandoval County, in which the Duke City mill is located, will receive exactly the same amount of revenue from the Peterson Act of Taxes (PILTF) program even if there are no timber receipts. In every New Mexico county but one, timber receipts simply offset payments, the counties would get anyway from the PILTF program.

The real reasons for Duke City’s decision to close the mill are economic. First, this London based corporation is rebuilding its mill in Espanola which burned down last year. The new mill will supply only nine workers, compared to 50 at the old mill, and the new mill requires a larger volume of timber. It is more efficient to truck the logs from the forest to the new mill in Espanola than run them through an old mill in Cuba. It is modernization that is costing timber jobs in New Mexico and this trend has been going on for more than three decades.

The Duke City mill has been in an intense bidding war with the Albuquerque-based Bates lumber Company for January. At these prices, bids on the timber, their costs rise and the environmental sense to stop buying.

The nation is in a long and severe recession. Housing starts are down and, as a result, the demand for lumber is down. At times like this, timber companies close mills to avoid an unfavorable economic climate. We have no control over these macroeconomic factors. Several of us participated, at your request, in a task force last spring to resolve timber conflicts in New Mexico. We worked hard and in good faith to reach an agreement to keep the sawmill in Cuba open while complying with all environmental laws. In doing so, we gave up our rights as citizens to appeal several key timber sales—an unprecedented and very painful decision for us to make. Now, Duke City has reneged on that agreement by closing down the mill prematurely.

Senator, we represent more than 12,000 New Mexico citizens who care about the natural and cultural wonders of our state. None of our members want mill closures to lose their jobs. But they do recognize the long term economic trends that are causing all of the extractive industries—logging, mining, grazing, and others—to play a steadily declining role in the economy of our state. As your constituency, we hope that you will consult with us to get a better understanding of the facts before swallowing the hollow rhetoric of a few logging industry executives.

Sincerely,

Joanie Barde, La Comunidad
Ted Davis, Save the James
Janie Dohrmann, Santa Fe Nat. Forest Watch
David Hambrecht, Nat. Aud. Soc., NM Office
Tom Jarvis, Sangre de Cristo Aud. Soc.
Jim Norton, The Wilderness Society
Holly Oatley, Forest Preserve Coalition
Michael Stewart, Lighthawk
Janice Varela, Upper Pecos Assoc.
Danny Marshall, Rio Grande Chap. Sierra Club
1992 Santa Fe Wrap-up

By Ken Hughes, Rio Grande Chapter Lobbyist

The emphasis during the recently completed 1992 New Mexico Legislative session was on budgetary matters, leaving little room for discussion of the environment. On a bright note, the Rio Grande Chapter’s top priority—mining reform—was one of the most prominent issues of the session. The public’s interest in the issue was evident. Though the outcome was less than we hoped for, environmentalists were able to build industry lobbyists to a draw on this and most other issues.

Responsible Mining
Rep. Gary King once again pressed a bill that focused on reclamation, to be accomplished through a bonding program. The bill was supported by a mining commission under the auspices of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. The Sierra Club worked to strengthen the bill with provisions for siting and landuse criteria, protection of wildlife and habitat, reclamation requirements, public participation, notice and citizen suits requirements, disclosure, and financial assurance.

The bill received three days of hearings before the House Energy Committee (highly unusual in a 30-day session) before being tabled. Voting with mining industry key amendments were Reps. Mora, Barber, Knowles, Light, Sandefur, and Wallach. Voting with environmental groups were Reps. Salazar, Shirley Bach, Madalena, McSorley, Morgan and Pierson. The latter deserve letters of praise.

Memorials were then introduced by Rep. King, calling for a task force to make recommendations to the Legislature, and another calling for a direct election of the governor. Sen. Means pushed bills to improve surface mining regulations and coal; but they suffered the same fate. Rep. Porter’s tire recyling bill, which would have imposed a $6 per tire fee to recyle funds for localities to buy or lease tire shredders, died in House Appropriations.

Air Quality and Hazardous Wastes
The Legislature passed amendments to the Air Quality Control Act, introduced by Rep. King, which increased the Environmental Department’s enforcement and permitting capabilities as needed to comply with the Clean Air Act. Civil penalties were increased to $1-15 thousand per day, and violations of regulations regarding commercial and industrial incineration, federal standard of performance, hazardous air pollutants, or toxic air pollutants were made subject to civil penalties. Sen. Harvey carried a bill, also passing, which increased penalties for illegally, knowingly and willfully damaging hazardous waste. Penalties under the bill basically mirror those in the air quality bill. Together these were the biggest victories of the session.

Groundwater
Bills were introduced by Rep. Sandefur and Sen. Bradley to limit liability on the clean-up of contamination at leaking underground storage tank sites. Once again, the McBride-Sanchez special interest connection was prominent. After the Senator assigned Bradley’s bill to a committee, McBride was seen rushing to the phone. The Speaker picked up his phone moments later and then changed the committee assignment to just one committee. The bill subsequently passed.

Recycling
Bills were introduced again this year seeking the imposition of “green taxes” on items that pollute, paid by those who produce or consume the item. Sen. Robinson pushed a bill to tax or restrict products with environmentally unsound packaging, but it never got out of the “Nack hole” of Senate Committee.

Wildlife/Endangered Species
The Legislature passed two memorials regarding endangered species. The good one, introduced by Rep. McSorley, supported education of New Mexicans on endangered species. It passed the House 44-17 before being greatly weakened in Senate Committee.

A highlight of the year was a child testifying before the House Judiciary Committee on the need to have wildlife live in their natural surroundings. Much of the low point was seeing Senator Moreow, Chair of the Senate Conservation Committee, explain why he could not support the bill. Displaying a superficial lack of understanding of the current human-caused extinction problems as needed to comply with the Clean Air Act. Civil penalties were increased to $1-15 thousand per day, and violations of regulations regarding commercial and industrial incineration, federal standard of performance, hazardous air pollutants, or toxic air pollutants were made subject to civil penalties. Sen. Harvey carried a bill, also passing, which increased penalties for illegally, knowingly and willfully damaging hazardous waste. Penalties under the bill basically mirror those in the air quality bill. Together these were the biggest victories of the session.

Public Service Commission to Hold Hearings on OLE Power Line

By Ted Davis, M.D.

Many people are aware of the costly and unnecessary 345 K.V., 50 mile long power line known as the Ojo Line Extension project (OLE) that Public Service Co. of New Mexico (PNM) would like to slash across the Jemez Mountains.

The NO WAY, OLE coalition (Save the Jemez, Sierra Club, All Indian Pueblo Council, several individual Puebloans, and Consumers for Utility Responsibility and Efficiency) has been effectively fighting this project in federal court and before the New Mexico Public Service Commission (PSC). In addition, the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office and a number of individual intervenors are actively opposing OLE before the PSC.

People will soon have an opportunity to show and voice their opposition to OLE at the upcoming PSC hearings in Santa Fe. This is the utility regulatory forum that will decide whether or not PNM will be allowed to build OLE.

Although the PSC hearings will last several weeks, the first day or two of the hearings are for public comments. All concerned citizens should attend if possible, and provide comments to the PSC at that time.

The hearing is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will be held at the New Mexico Public Service Commission Building, 224 East Palace (corner of East Palace and Paseo de Peralta) in Santa Fe.

As always, hearing dates can change, so check with the Sierra Club at 983-2703 in Santa Fe, or Save the Jemez at 268-7822 in Albuquerque, to confirm time and place.

People may also want to present at different times during the course of the hearings to hear several and internationally recognized expert witness testimony.

The author is President of Save the Jemez and a practicing Albuquerque physician. For more information, contact Save the Jemez, Box 4087, Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505) 266-7623.
An advertisement similar to the one shown below appeared recently in The Albuquerque Journal. Pegasus Gold Corporation is seeking the necessary permits from the State Engineer and Santa Fe County to go ahead with its plans to mine for gold in the Ortiz Mountains using the controversial open pit cyanide heap leach process. We asked our mining expert, Bob Salier, to respond to the ad.

**Mining Law Update**

Federal Action Expected Soon

The hard-rock mining industry has targeted for defeat much of the environmental agenda. But wilderness advocates are fighting back to preserve old growth, to grind fees through its front group, People for the West! It has pursued this strategy in an effort to find allies in its fight to retain the economically and environmentally sustainable.

The TIME FOR ACTION BY CLUB MEMBERS IS NOW. A House reform bill may move through the House Interior Committee to consider this Spring. Representative Bill Richardson is an important vote on this committee, so please write (handwritten is fine) to him to address the issues shown on page 23.

Urge him to support strong mining reform legislation containing an end to potentional royalties for federal lands; mineral management district to prohibit and control mining; and infringed reclamation requirements. H.R. 918 by Rep. Nick Joe Ralabak will probably be the vehicle for reform, but it presently lacks some of these crucial elements.

After a bill passes out of committee, it will go to the House floor, where votes by representatives Schiff and Skelly will be important. Those living in these districts should also write soon.

New Mexico Gold Rush is On

The failure of the New Mexico Legislature to place a moratorium on hardrock mining until protective regulations are in place (see report on page 4) couldn't come with a worse time. Gold mining is booming. Besides Pegasus in the Ortiz Mountains, and Santa Fe and Caballito Minerals above Pecon, there are 12 other gold exploration and development operations underway in New Mexico.

But Only Some States...

When hearings on H.R. 918 to reform the federal 1972 Mining Law were held in Santa Fe last May, representatives of the hardrock mining industry argued that federal action was unnecessary because regulation by the states was more appropriate.

Taking industry at its word, State Rep. Max Coll of Santa Fe introduced a bill in the recently completed 1993 legislative session on behalf of State Land Commissioner Jim Baca. The bill would have levied a 2 percent severance tax on any mineral production up to which no royalties are paid (i.e., on federal lands).

This would have made state mineral resources more competitive with the federal resources which are currently free.

Borrowing to considerable opposition from the mining industry, the House Taxation and Revenue Committee gave the bill a swift execution by voting 14-0 on a motion to table.

Baca Supports Federal Cyanide Tax

State Land Commissioner Jim Baca recently announced his support for the cyanide tax legislation being introduced by Rep. Les Aspin of Oregon. "Because New Mexico is one of only two mining states without a "hardrock mining" statute on the books," Baca said, "we must look in the Federal government for action. I commend Rep. Aspin for his proposal, and hope for early passage in the Congress."

**Hike Planned to Promote Gold Mine**

By Norma McCollum

On Saturday, April 25, the Santa Fe Paces and Albuquerque Paces are sponsoring a trip to the proposed Pegasus Gold Mine in the Ortiz Mountains. This is an opportunity to see first-hand the federal and New Mexico-owned mine that will dwarf any previous mining activity in New Mexico.

To extract the minimum amount of gold through the new open pit cyanide heap leach process, some 1,000 acres of old-growth timber will be cleared; 30,000 tons of explosives will be detonated; and a 10-mile pipeline will be constructed. The landowners will be relocated. The post-mining reclamation process may take decades.

The tour itself will take at least four hours, so bring a lunch box and wear sturdy hiking boots, since the area will be muddy. Most of the tour will be via 4-wheel drive, but we may walk up a couple of canyons.

New Mexico Taxpayers

A joint state-federal land-use group has identified a number of problems with the proposed mining operation in the Ortiz Mountains.

Dave Foreman’s Books of the Big Outside

Hike planned to promote gold mine

New Mexico Taxpayers

New Mexico Gold Rush is On

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The Fight to Learn ADC's Secrets

by Pat Wolff

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was passed twenty-five years ago to protect the American public's right to know what its own government is up to. It sounds good in theory, but in practice, the law is frequently undermined by bureaucrats who would rather operate their agencies without public scrutiny. That's what I discovered when I filed a FOIA request for information last August from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control (ADC) program. ADC poisons, traps and shoots thousands of animals every year on public and private land in New Mexico and other states, allegedly to protect livestock.

Under FOIA, any citizen can request and receive documents from any federal agency, provided the re- quested information is not exempted from disclosure under one of nine exemption categories. Too frequently, however, the government uses these exemptions - just to cover up bureaucratic bungling and avoid public embarrassment.

I decided to ask for the information that I felt should not be exempted. My request was comprehensive - necessarily so, given ADC's history of withholding information from the public. I sought:

1. Documents that revealed the education and training level of field personnel.
2. FAA numbers of all fixed-wing aircraft used in aerial gunning of coyotes.
3. Copies of written agreements with cooperating federal and state agencies.
4. Documents of each request for service, including admissions and ownership of property, nature of request and action ADC took in each case during 1990.
5. Policy criteria that justify lethal control activities.

After four months of waiting, I received a three-page letter from ADC, saying that the type of information I was seeking would be "obtained" on a weekly basis. This seemed to indicate that the agency would be providing the information. Unfortunately, the agency did not provide the information I requested, including the number of requests for service, the number of animals killed, and the number of reports provided to local and state agencies.

The response from ADC was disappointing, and the outcome of my request is a concern. The Freedom of Information Act is a powerful tool for ensuring that the government is held accountable for its actions. If the government can simply refuse to provide requested information, the Act becomes little more than a piece of paper. We must continue to monitor the government's compliance with the Act, and support measures that ensure transparency and accountability.

Environmentalists Say El Malpais Management Plan Should Be Scrapped

Several environmental groups and individuals, including 720 environmental groups and individuals, have joined together to appeal the El Malpais National Monument Final General Management Plan (GMP) for the El Malpais National Conservation Area (NCA) near Grants, N.M.

Environmentalists have criticized the GMP for favoring development over conservation of resources. The plan calls for the development of visitor centers, parking areas, interpretive and other trails, and other improvements. Visitor impacts to the area are projected to increase dramatically.

The El Malpais NCA was established in 1987 by Congress and includes two wilderness areas, a Wilderness Study Area, and other land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The El Malpais National Monument was also created by the same Act, and includes adjacent land administered by the National Park Service.

The NCA includes over 250,000 acres of land featuring some of the most spectacular lava flows in North America as well as many other natural and cultural resources. Additionally, the area is used by several Native American groups for religious purposes.

The appeal was made by the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition (of which the Rio Grande Chapter is a member), the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, and several individuals. Nicholas Persampieri, an Albuquerque lawyer, filed the appeal on behalf of the environmentalists to the Board of Land Appeals of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The basis of the appeal is the failure of the BLM to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the plan. The BLM had reached a "finding of no significant impact" (FONSI), in formulating the plan. Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a finding of no significant impact is required to prepare an EIS if a project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

The BLM claims that the GMP and associated Environmental Assessment is sufficient to assess the impacts of the proposed management plan and its alternatives. (An Environmental Assessment is less comprehensive than an EIS.)

Environmentalists argue that the plan constitutes a major federal action, and that the proposed developments could have a significant negative effect on the area. The appellants also maintain that BLM has failed to assess the cumulative impacts of its management plan.

Persampieri said it could be several months before the board hears the appeal.

[The author is the National Wilderness Chair for the Rio Grande Chapter.]

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National Sierra Club Threatens Chapters
by Marc Redder

This year, the Sierra Club members will be asked to vote on the power to remove members of the chapter and executive committees. The proposed amendments would give the Board of Directors the power to remove members of the chapter and executive committees.

Proposed Ballot Measures Stir Controversy

Sierra Club members will be asked to vote on controversial proposed changes to the Club's bylaws at this year's elections. Voting will take place from February 28 to April 11. Members will also be asked to elect cre- dentials of the Club's Board of Directors.

The proposed bylaw amendments were prepared by a bylaw panel.

Committee in response to a request from the Sierra Club Council to clarify the Club's organizational structure. Elements in support and opposition to the proposed changes are printed below. They have been added for

Proposed Bylaw Amendments Make Sense
submitted by the undersigned Sierra Club members

The Board of Directors and the Sierra Club Council, representing 38 chapters, adopt the membership of a number of bylaw amendments on the presidential ballot mailed out last month. These amendments were drafted by a committee consisting of a past president of the Club, a Club officer, and two directors of the Sierra Club.

March Meeting: Hiking the Southwest Circle
by Ralph Wrons

It's a goal of many, but accomplished by few: chart a course through the wilderness, leave the troubles of work behind, enjoy the solitude and majestic beauty of hiking off the beaten path and explore your inner self.

Just another reminder: In conjunction with the Sierra Club Centennial, we are commemorating John Muir's birthday on April 21. We have changed our usual meeting day (third Monday in April in the 2000s) to the next day. Please make a note of it on your calendars.

Although he has traveled extensively in the West the last ten years, he's a newcomer to the incredible outdoor beauty of New Mexico. He shares his experience in a slide show that has brilliantly assembled since completing his Vision Quest.

(March Meeting continued on page 2)

Energy Conservation
Second of Seven Parts
by Ralph Wrons

Reducing your energy consumption has important environmental consequences. It worked at a coal-fired power plant for three years. Public interest in the amount of fossil fuels that are gobbled up in delivering electricity to your house, as well as the resultant pollution. Depending upon your situation, you can implement energy conserving measures at home and at work. You can also educate others as you learn.

As noted last month, the handbook, Simple things You can do to Save the Earth, is a good resource of ideas. That includes energy conservation tips. An even better reference is the 1991 Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings, with foreword by Denis Hayes, originator of Earth Day 1970. You can find it for $7 in most bookstores. (continued on page 2)
ALBUQUERQUE GROUP - page 2

March Meeting - continued from page 1

Brett started and finished his trek in the San Francisco Peaks of Northern Arizona. He traversed the Wilderness Area and four National Parks and went as far north as the La Sal Mountains of Utah (“my intent was to go over mountains, not around them; I wanted to see where I was going and where I had come”). His slides of Park Canyon (Utah/Arizona border) and the Colorado Rockies are accompanied by music.

For those of you who have not attended our public meeting before, it begins at 7:30 PM and is held in room 2401 of the UNM Law School, corner of Constitution and Stanford. Please be aware that there is $5 parking for utilizing the street. Hope to see you there.

Energy Conservation - continued from page 1

rowing the line used by Fayers, “Buy it, treat it and be guided by it.”

The scope of conserving energy is so broad, that we will keep it to household applications. If you don’t mind, I’ll cite measures we’ve implemented at home:

1) Within days after moving in, I installed an R-10 blanket around our water heater and insulation on the hot water outlet pipe.
2) I upgraded the attic insulation value to R-36 and I’m counting on a 2-year simple payback. If you recall last month’s Wildline, I mentioned cellulose insulation. That’s what I used; it’s very satisfying to know that we used recycled newspaper to save energy (twice, if you get my meaning).
3) I’m installing compact fluorescent transformers where applicable. That is, it is when the light is not switched on and off frequently.
4) We’re making and installing insulated window shades; “warm windows” can increase the R-value of your single-pane window 10-fold.
5) If you don’t use your open fireplace (you wouldn’t if you read the latest Sierra magazine), blank it off on the inside. We don’t use it and we do (even with danger closed you could see daylight).
6) We use our solar dryer. If you don’t have one, put one up. Solar energy is the most underestimated resource in this state and the most obvious use is for drying clothes.

The list goes on, but I’ll stop. The City of Albuquerque has not set a goal of 10% energy usage reduction by 1995. To help attain that, the City is planning to implement cost-effectiveness recommendations from a one-day “Sustainable Energy Future” workshop. On the State level, the Sierra Club, in concert with other groups and the NM Solar Energy Industries Association, is trying to convince State legislators to adopt the same goal. On a Federal level, there is the same 10% goal, mandated for Federal agencies. To do our part, we should set an even loftier goal: 25% by 1995.

Thank you for your efforts. NEXT MONTH: Water Conservation

ALBUQUERQUE GROUP - page 3

Science Fair Judges Needed by Ellen Lehman

Last year, the Albuquerque group awarded prizes at the regional science fair to middle and high school students presenting projects of environmental interest. The winners were awarded a certificate and a year’s membership in the Sierra Club. At any parent of middle school students will tell you, it’s science fair time again.

We need members to judge the many worthy projects. You don’t have to be
(continued on Page 5)

Outings Notes: Pegasus Mine Tour

Pegasus cancelled 3 days prior to the scheduled tour under a variety of unusual circumstances. Seventeen people from Santa Fe and Albuquerque still showed up for a discussion with Bob Salin and Janene Orland regarding Pegasus mining problems. – David Morrison

Thanks to all Wildline Mailers

Most of us don’t realize how many different steps there are in getting a newsletter, and that volunteers are involved every step of the way. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank a group that did it quietly, efficiently, and with little fanfare: the Mailin Party. Led by the ever-pleasant Denise Kall, this group of 12 meet regularly on the last Thursday of the month to assemble, staple, and label our newsletter. With the consolidation of the Sierra and the Wildline, these jobs will get a little time off. We hope, however, that we can enlist their help in getting the Sierra out in the future. – Heidi Flischman

Wanted: Software

Now that we have a computer, we need some software. Our computer consultant (aka. Marc Bednor) is hoping that some kind and generous member can help us out. We are looking for any standard word processing program for a Mac Plus computer. We would also like an external floppy or hard disk drive. Please call Marc at 299-2004.

CALENDAR

Meetings: Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.

Mar 5: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM
Mar 7: Deadline for all articles for combination Wildline / Sierra on disk. Jessica Bailey (537-0286) is the April editor.
Mar 9: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM
Mar 10: Science Fair judges planning meeting; 7 PM. (see article above)
Mar 16: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, rm. 2401, 7:30 PM
Mar 20: Science Fair, 11:45 AM - 3:15 PM. (see article above)
Mar 23: Conservation committee meeting, 7:30 PM.
April 4: Annual Petroglyph National Monument Cleanup, 9AM - 3PM. (see article above)
the LORAX

Sierra Club El Paso Regional Group

SOME EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL

April 11       Leader's Workshop
April 18-20    Easter Backpack to the Gila Meadows (3-day)
April 25-26    Carcarrup to San Mateos Coffee Pot
April 25-26    Backpack to Gila Little Bear

MAY

May 2         Reserved for John Muir Dinner
May 3         John Muir Celebration Dayhike to Hillsboro Peak
May 16-17     Beginner's Backpack
May 23-25     Memorial Day Gila Backpack and Key Exchange (3-day)
June 27-28    Kiddie Backpack to Diamond Creek

GROUP DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:  Ted Metz, 582-3011
Vice Chair:  Joe Rodriquez, 583-5005
Second:  Francisco DeBaca, 584-5979
Treasurer:  Kathy Strobel, 584-3201
Member:  Carolina Greenfield
Member:  Terry Julius, 584-9311
CONSERVATION:

Environmental Quality:  Tim Bushfield, 584-8739
Planning Mins:  John Spiegel, 584-3017
Political Action:  Jim Bell, 581-8804
Pep Report:  Peggy Pagliarini, 582-7485
Public Lands:  Ted Metz, 582-3011

ADMINISTRATION:

Environmental Center:  Linda Malloy, 532-9645
Group:  Bill Phillips, 532-4876
Hike Leaders:  Barbara Metz, 532-2011
LORAX Mail:  Jeanie Fomich, 532-1600
LORAX:  Bill Phillips, 532-6003
LORAX:  Carolina Greenfield, 532-2011
Office Rep:  Neil O'Neal, 565-4735
Outing Rep:  Carol Morrison, 585-0077
Programs:  Terry Julius, 584-5741
Sierra Club/Environmental Center:  800 S. Piedras, 532-9645, 532-4876

Sierra Club/Environmental Center:  800 S. Piedras, 532-9645, 532-4876

EL PASO SIERRA CLUB OUTING LEADER'S WORKSHOP

Our annual Leader's Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, at 9 a.m. Brunch will be served. This workshop is open to the approximately 30 leaders presently leading outings and to prospective leaders.

Todd Daugherty will kick off the session with a review of first aid kits. The second portion of training will focus on trip administration, regulations and legal responsibilities. The last part of the training will be open to all participants who choose to stay, but will target prospective leaders who need basic map reading/compass skills.

A later scheduled training session will provide a more extensive session to develop map/compass skills required for many Sierra hikes.

It is our goal to widen the Club's options for leaders and hikes...so call Carol Morrison for reservations if you are interested in attending this session. (915) 585-9077

BEGINNER'S BACKPACK MINI-SERIES

The second of a three-part series on backpacking will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 1992, from 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. prior to the general Sierra Club meeting. This session will focus on "How to Stay Alive and Comfortable on the Trail" and will cover weather, clothing and boots issues. Betty Fisbeck will help new and experienced backpackers make wiser choices about fabrics and layering. Raingear, parkas, longjohns, etc. will be available, and we will even include some reminders for those of you who dayhike while out on a backpack - common sense for everyone.

The third session in April will cover rules of the trail, minimum impact camping and personal safety. At the completion of the three month mini-series, Betty Fisbeck will lead the traditional Spring Beginner's Backpack, which is open to all less experienced backpackers. As always, a pre-hike mandatory planning session will help everyone be ready for a memorable and pleasant experience in the wilderness.

Join us for the remaining two events...it's not too late to be a part of the beginner's backpack trip. We'll help you if you missed the first session on "How To Pack A Backpack" (both internal and external frame), where several great basic equipment lists from pros were given out. We'll have hints on weight, convenience and weather safety.

MARCH EVENTS

BIG BEND OUTDOOR MOUNTAIN LOOP HIGHLIGHT TRIP

Date:  Thursday p.m., March 5 - Sunday, March 8
Place:  Big Bend National Park, Texas
Class:  Strenuous, both hiking and driving
Limit:  10, reservations and leader approval required
Leader:  Gary Williams, 562-3540

This is a repeat of last year's highly successful trip. We will be able to hike the entire Outer Mountain Loop (32 miles) in 3 days without having to carry backpacks or look for water. Distances will be long all 3 days, the terrain rugged, and an elevation gain from 2000' to 2500' each day. This outing is strenuous and will be limited to experienced hikers prepared for such a challenge. Raincoats, rain pants, long johns, etc. will be available, and we will even include some reminders for those of you who dayhike while out on a backpack...common sense for everyone.

We will hike from the Basin through the Chisos Mtns. and down Juniper Canyon to the junction with the Dodson Trail.
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS DAYHIKE
Date: Saturday, March 14, 1992
Place: Franklin Mountains State Park
Class: Easy +
Limit: 20, reservations required
Leader: Claus Christiansen, 532-4066 H 594-2505 W

This hike will go to a canyon on the east side of the Franklin's that we have rarely visited. The hike is about five miles long, with very little elevation gain.

It is an excellent hike for beginners and children. Please come and join us for an enjoyable time.

GUADALUPE PEAK DAYHIKE
Date: Sunday, March 22, 1992
Place: Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Class: Moderate
Limit: 16, reservations and leader approval required
Leader: Cindy LeBleu, 584-3303 evenings
We will depart El Paso at 7:00 a.m. for an energetic day of hiking. Guadalupe Peak is a treat, eight miles roundtrip with about 3000' elevation gain. You'll need to bring your water and a lunch to enjoy atop the highest point in Texas.

ACHEMEN CANYON DAYHIKE
Date: Saturday, March 28, 1992
Place: Organ Mountains, New Mexico
Class: Moderate +
Limit: 20, reservations and leader's approval required
Leader: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042
We will meet early Saturday morning and drive to our trailhead east of Las Cruces. Our route follows a trail up a grassy canyon, over a ridge, then down a dry stream bed with two dry waterfalls. We will then hike across the desert back to the cars. This is a fairly long day hike of 7-8 miles, with a lot of walking on a stream bed of loose rocks. Bring water and a lunch.

ROBLEDO PEAK CARCAMP
Date: Saturday & Sunday, April 4-5, 1992
Place: Robledo Mountains, New Mexico
Class: Moderate
Limit: 20, reservations required
Leader: Ted Mertig, 852-3011
We will leave Jewel-Osco on the west side at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, drive to Radium Springs, and take the side road to Robledo Peak. We'll carcamp, climb Robledo Peak, and have a great time.

Pegasus Gold Mine in our Ortiz Mountains (south of Santa Fe) will be the feature story at our March meeting. A half hour video tape showing the environmental devastation wrought by the new cyanide heap leach process of gold mining will be shown. This mining process is fast destroying huge areas in the Western states. The proposed Pegasus Gold Mine, if allowed, would use 27-56 million pounds of sodium cyanide, remove 90-120 million tons of waste rock, and consume daily 720,000 gallons of water. As we speak, Pegasus is attempting to obtain the appropriate permits from the NM State Engineer and from Santa Fe County. Jeanne Cragnil and Brenda Fox of the Friends of Santa Fe County Citizen Action Group will show the video and answer questions. Paula O'Neill will show slides of other Pegasus mines and what the implications would be for the state if the mine is allowed to open.

The general meeting is free and open to the public and will be held at the Unitarian Church on Barcelonos between Don Gaspar and Galisteo, Tuesday, March 17, at 7:30 PM.

Kay Carlson, Editor

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

March Chair — Carolyn Keshusha* 982-9570
Vice Chair — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Secretary — Judy Oster* 982-1558
Treasurer — Lorel Scoot* 982-6725
Constitution — Sue Harrod 986-8125
Chapter Representatives — Sue Harrod 986-8485
Legislation — Ken Hughes 988-4927
Membership — Pat Stevens 592-5551
Fund Raising — Web Kitchel* 471-7530
* Member of the Santa Fe Group Executive Committee
Treasurer expire 12/92: Freeman/Keshusha/Kitchel/McCallan
12/93: Dohrmann/McCallan/Moore/Oster/Scoot
Publicity — Judy Oster* 982-1558
Outings — Norma McCallan* 471-0005
Armed Forces — Arnold Keshusha 982-9570
Publications — Betty Fuller 982-5950
Education/Reaching/Office — Carolyn Keshusha* 982-9770
Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson 982-3286
Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman 438-0909
John McCoo* 987-1916
Janie Dohrmann* 985-2520
Randy Freeman* 982-5220
Last Movers* 988-7711

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SANTA FE

********** SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS **********

Sat Sun March

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★

1 David Morrison (1-344-8693) Downhill Ski Trip in the Tresque Basin to review area of proposed ski basin expansion. Call to arrange meeting place and time.

8 Paul Miller (473-3107) Easy/Moderate Hike on Chimney Rock Trail by Ghost Ranch, with optional climb to Mesa Montosa (this part is steep, off-trail & may be snowy) – leisurely pace, 1500' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.

14 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate Hike to Otwai Ruins. Leave 8 AM.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★

14 Randy Freeman (982-5220, work 986-1152) Easy Cross-Country Ski Tour of areas which would be significantly affected by proposed Santa Fe Ski Basin expansion. Group will tour the Nordic (Norki) Loop, the Tresque Basin and/or Ravens Ridge. A member of the Norki Racing Club (who put in the loop) may also give a presentation. Actual skiing will be easy, but participants must be able to ski – no time for instruction. Leave PERA at 8:30 AM.

15 Steven Mertler (983-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Hike on Sanchez Canyon Ridge Loop and Cerro Picacho. All off-trail. Leave 8 AM.

15 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM. Call for destination.

21 John McClure (473-1910) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.

22 Arnold Kesvalla (982-9500) Easy Hike Ponderosa Ridge. Leave 9 AM.

28 Charles Crooks (471-0056) Easy Hike La Bajada Hill. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.

29 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous hike in La Cienega. Call leader for reservations and further details.

29 Victor Aytas (471-7545) Easy Hike in Diablo Canyon. Leave 9:15 AM.

Sun Mon April

4 John McClure (473-1910) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.

5 Charles Crooks (471-0003) Easy Walk with dogs & friends. Leave 9:30 AM.

12 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Hike on La Luz trail to Sandia Crest and return via La Cueva Canyon. Leave 7:30 AM.

18 Brian Johnson (438-2087) Moderate Hike Leave 7:30 AM.

19 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike to sunrise on Aspen Vista Road. Conditions permitting (call leader first). Leave 5:30 AM.

19 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Moderate/Strenuous Hike Leave 8 AM.

25 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike in Ojo Caliente. Leave 8 AM.

★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR MARCH ★

25 Norma McCaughen (SF coordinator 471-0005) Tour of proposed Pegasus Gold Mine in the Ortiz Mountains. [see write up elsewhere in the bulletin for details]


April May

25 - 3 Peter Klefer (662-6092) Week-long trip to Grand Canyon, including a 4-day Backpack into Havausipai Canyon. Leave Saturday, April 25. Call soon as possible for reservations and more information.
THE LOG
Southern New Mexico Group

SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP GOALS
1992

WORK TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS TO INCLUDE:

- Wilderness Protection and Legislation
- Grazing Management Programs and Practices
- National Forest Management Plans and Practices
- Protection of Cultural Sites such as Lucero Canyon Petroglyphs

Contact: Ben Zerby, 526-6207
Contact: Storm Serurry, 521-3348
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532
Karen Fuller, 1-824-4602
Contact: Myra Price, 524-0261
Contact: Storm Serurry, 521-3348

REDIRECT MANAGEMENT OF RIO GRANDE & EBID CANAL MANAGEMENT TO INCLUDE:

- Public Access
- Restoration of Natural Conditions
- Wildlife Habitat

Contact: David Pengelley, 525-8286
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532

WORK TO PROTECT & IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO TO INCLUDE:

- Investigate Pollution, Solid Waste, Toxics, Hazardous Materials & Groundwater Policy
- Encourage Las Cruces & NMSU to become more bicycle-friendly
- Support Environmental Candidates for 1992

Contact: Marianne Thoeler, 522-3421
Contact: Karen Fuller, 1-824-6602
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532
Contact: Marianne Thoeler, 522-3421

RECRUIT AND ENCOURAGE MORE ACTIVISM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

- Encourage and Enlarge Student Group Chapterwide
- Increase Activism within Group
- Establish Group Office as part of Southwest Environmental Center
- Produce Hiking Guide for Southwestern New Mexico

Contact: David Pengelley, 525-8286
Contact: Susan Worley, 696-5522
Contact: Kevin Bixby, 525-1532
Contact: Cheryl Blevins, 524-4861

WE NEED COMMITMENT

Wouldn't it be nice if we all agreed and our government was in harmony with the ideas we must all do our best to protect Earth and all her inhabitants? Well, unfortunately, what is being heard are all too many voices throwing around rhetoric like "wise use" and "development" which mean: logging, mining, drilling, grazing, paving, raping. Business as usual at whatever peril to biodiversity and sustainable use. As cancer kills its host, it simultaneously corrupts its own demise. A lemon some business and their government sponsors fail to grasp.

We would like to believe our elected representatives will make sustainable decisions. Somehow it seems not so. Even now that President Bush has finally decided to admit the scientists are right and something must be done about CFC's. I believe if he is re-elected, Quayle's Committee on Competitiveines will only evade protection. Rather like what is likely to happen to the Endangered Species Act; protection of business, not environmental concerns.

I speak to you as the relieving editor of the Sierra Club Southern New Mexico Group. I say relieving, because Storm Serurry worked long as a wonderful editor, but asked for some relief. She is a very active Environmentalist. Something all of us need to become. ACTIVE. There is often a gap between being and doing.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years, but have been UNactive. I suddenly realized that sitting around murmuring under my breath wasn't going to change the things that concerned me. We need MANY voices. People committed to sharing their ideas, being part of the process to change business as usual and committed to adding their voices in protest of irresponsible, unsafe and unsustainable practices.

As you can see, our group has set forth goals upon which all of us should become active participants. These goals include various categories of interest and they are all important to our region and our future. As a newly committed activist and relieving editor of your newsletter, I ask you: Please make a commitment to one or more of the areas included in our Group Conservation Goals.

If an area has been overlooked, please alert us. NOW is the time to begin forming committees to work on these very important issues. SO, GET OFF YOUR DUFF TOO. AND GET INVOLVED! Pick up the phone and make a commitment to join a committee on whatever area or areas interest you.

We would also appreciate your comments, ideas and any drafts or completed articles that you would like to submit:

Karen Fuller
651 Tumblinweed
Chaparral, NM 88021

Group Executive Committee

Myra Price, Chair (524-0260)
David Pengelley, Vice Chair (525-8286)
Kris Paulsen, Secretary (525-7415)
Ann Macbeth, Treasurer (526-8066)

Kevin Bixby, Gp Conservation Chair & etc. (525-1532)
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity (524-4861)
Pam Brunson, Outings (521-4070)
Karen Fuller, Newsletter 1 (525-1532)
Steven Kaelvity, NMSU Student Facilitator (524-8439)
Paul Nashman, Population (523-8439)
Storm Serurry, Conservation & Wilderness (525-3348)
Susan Worley, NMSU Student President (646-5522)

March 1992
U.S./Mexico Plan Flawed

By Amanda Vasyey

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing an "Integrated Environmental Plan" for the U.S.-Mexico border area in the context of negotiations for a North American Free Trade Agreement. NMIPRG responded to the EPA's invitation to comment on a draft of the border plan in September.

Although the goal of the EPA plan is sustainable development, NMIPRG found that the plan lacked the stringent and enforceable measures needed to protect environmental, public, and occupational health.

In particular, the plan failed to identify the means of securing sufficient resources for regulation and infrastructure. It also lacked adequate provisions for public participation and for oversight of the plan's implementation.

NMIPRG recommended binational compliance with the strictest regulations of either country and that no local, federal, or federal regulations protecting environmental, public, or occupational health be preempted by the agreement or open to challenge as a non-tariff trade barrier.

Another shortcoming was the plan's focus on a narrow area extending only 100 kilometers on each side of the international boundary. Because the effects of free trade go beyond the border area, NMIPRG recommended a comprehensive plan addressing environmental issues in the entire sovereign territories of the participating nations.

Rather than negotiating the border plan as an integral part of the Free Trade Agreement, the Bush Administration is negotiating it as a parallel agreement, not subject to congressional oversight or approval. The Free Trade Agreement itself will receive only minimal consideration by Congress, under a legislative procedure called "fast track" which allows Congress just a "yes" or "no" vote on the completed agreement with no opportunity for reconsideration.

The outings listed below are a compilation of the four groups' outings schedules for March, as of press time. It is hoped that this list will provide all members with the opportunity for the broadest possible interactions.

It is recommended that the leader to confirm details of time and meeting place. Dogs are allowed only as noted. For everyone's well-being, leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone whose clothing or equipment appears unsuitable for that particular trip. Carpooling is usually arranged at the meeting place.

Nike McCallum
Chapter Outings Chair

Albuquerque Group

RINCONADA CANYON HIKE, PICURIS PEAK, MONDAY, 3/16
Come and see for yourself the proposed west face of Picuris Peak. Meet at the entrance to the community of 78 acres. Leader: RSVP, for Thursday 253-447.

RIO PUEBLO WILDLIFE REFUGE HELD PROJECTS will improve the existing viewing areas and facilities by an area 540 acres. You may hike to the west in the San Ildefonso National Forest and tour the refuge entrance. Meet at the BLM offices, 4390 Mora Rd. Meet 1000-1140. RSVP: 346-4000.

KINZACASONA WILDERNESS STUDY AREA Hike in the proposed wilderness for Alder. We will walk to a trail of 25 feet, pass a driveway at the entrance and out to the south. Bring rain gear for the hike. Meet at BLM office off NM 346. Meet at 1000. RSVP: 346-4000.

KINZACASONA WILDERNESS STUDY AREA This is an easy program for Alder. We will look at the 255 feet of the area near the west side. Meet at the BLM office off NM 346. Meet at 1000. RSVP: 346-4000.

EL PASO GROUP


RIO GRANDE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS Spring outing of canoes on the Rio Grande has been a favorite event for the last 80 years. Meet at US 84 and tour the city of El Paso. Meet at 2100. RSVP: 692-6677.

LA CONCHINA HIKING TRIP This trip allows you to explore the area of Otay Mountain and tour the city of El Paso. Meet at 2100. RSVP: 692-6677.

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