

Sierra Club, Rio Grande Chapter  
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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

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# rio grande SIERRAN

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Nov/Dec 74



**Dr. & Mrs. Einstein after induction as honorary member of Hopi Indian tribe, Grand Canyon Natl. Park, Feb., 1931.**

To the center of the world you have taken me and showed the goodness and the beauty and the strangeness of the greening earth, the only mother, and there the spirit-shapes of things, as they should be, you have shown me and I have seen.

—Black Elk, 1890

I am satisfied with the mystery of the eternity of life and with the awareness and a glimpse of the marvelous structure of the existing world, together with the devoted striving to comprehend a portion, be it ever so tiny, of the Reason that manifests itself in nature.

—Albert Einstein, Ideas and Opinions

# VOTE

# VOTE

# VOTE

## RIO GRANDE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

**THIS YEAR** we have ten candidates running for office. Of these only seven will be elected, the four with the highest number of votes will serve a two-year term, the remaining three will serve one year. When you sit down to vote, please remember that these seven people, along with Dave Foreman and Frank Bond, will be the ones making the key decisions. They are the ones who represent our club, choose our goals, determine what we will and will not support, what our policies are. They are responsible for the direction of all our movements.

Read each of their statements. Does it match yours? Is it similar to yours? How does he feel about wilderness? Where is he placing his emphasis? It really doesn't matter if it is long or short, it is what he says that is important. Weigh this statement with his qualifications. How has he served wilderness and, more important, what does he have to offer wilderness? How can wilderness use his talents? Balance his statement and qualifications against your concepts, your ideas, your expectations, and your feelings about wilderness. The wilderness has no voice but ours, let us not be as reckless as the people who seek to destroy it.

End of speech. Before you begin to read, it might be wise to note that Marianne and I set up a very broad format of name, address, brief qualification, and a conservation statement in 100 words or less. Just to prove each candidate is unique and distinct, we received ten different versions of our format. We give you the candidates...

### BETSY BARNETT

Los Alamos.

Sierra Club member since 1966.

Offices held in Grand Canyon Chapter: Executive Committee 1968-70; Secretary 1968; Conservation Committee Chairman 1968-70; Coordinator, SC Grand Canyon Master Plan Proposal.

Offices held in San Diego Chapter: Chairman of Air Pollution and Herbicide Committees 1970-71.

Offices held in Rio Grande Chapter: Membership Chairman 1972; Chapter Chairman 1973-present; Secretary, Southwest Regional Conservation Committee 1973; Southwest Region's delegate to National Membership Committee 1972.

Also a member of: Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, The Wilderness Society, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water.

Statement: I believe this chapter's primary need continues to be to provide channels through which the general membership can participate more actively in both outings and conservation programs. As chapter chairman, I have worked to involve more members at the chapter and group level by supporting group initiative and working to improve internal communications. If re-elected, I will continue these efforts.

Chapter priorities should continue to be energy and land use planning. Chapter positions should be based on thorough investigation and adequate data, but since objective criteria are not always enough, non-material values must also be considered. Compromise is a function of the political arena and not of the Sierra Club; as advocates of certain human values, we should stick firmly to our positions, improving acceptance of our proposals through increased public education.

### HILDRETH BARKER

Graduate of the University of New Mexico, 1958.

Corporate Member of the American Institute of Architects since 1966.

President, Executive Committee, Alumni and Friends of the Department of Architecture, University of N.M.

Board of Directors and Consultant to the Community Design Center, U.N.M.

Board of Directors, New Mexico Society of Architects, A.I.A.

Chairman, Human Resources Council, Albuquerque Chapter, A.I.A.

President, Save the Volcanoes Committee, Inc.

Planning Consultant to the Village of Corrales 701 Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Consultant for the Martineztown Redevelopment Project.

Planning Consultant for a New Community in San Juan County on the Navajo Reservation.

Vice President, Albuquerque Arts Council.

Board of Directors, Y.M.C.A., Central Branch and Camp Committee

Committee on Land Use for Albuquerque 701 Planning Project.

Instructor for third year architectural design, Department of Architecture, U.N.M.

Design Awards: Paak residence, Honor Award, Albuquerque Chapter, A.I.A.

Design Awards: Plaza East Office Complex, Award of Merit Alumni and Friends of the Dept. of Architecture.

I feel my background and experience in planning and architecture would be worthy of consideration. It is my opinion that land use and all those related subjects are of critical importance to our particular area, especially in New Mexico where land use legislation is now being formulated. I have also worked with developers and could provide insights into their modes of operation and philosophies. I would hope that I could also provide some expertise as to how one provides for human habitat with the least harm to the total environment.

As we begin to feel the pressures of urbanization, it is of critical importance to realize the benefits to the entire public of wilderness areas and go about establishing more of these natural lands as wilderness. I am an avid backpacker and trout fisherman and have wilderness experience in most of the mountains of New Mexico and southern Colorado. This summer I spent two weeks in the Wind River Wilderness area of Wyoming. Finally, I feel that I do have a positive contribution to make to the Chapter.

### DAVID BATES

My name is David Bates. I live in Taos, New Mexico; phone number is 758-8581. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for one year, having joined the Albuquerque group while living there.

I have a B.A. in philosophy and am teaching in the Taos school system. My outdoor interests include backpacking, winter sports, bicycling and farming.

I consider the control of population, energy consumption and resource extraction and waste to be the most pressing issues facing environmentalists. With particular regard to New Mexico, we should be working for legislation that will prevent private and governmental exploitation of what is left of the state's natural areas and resources.

The Club must learn to work closely with local citizen groups, such as the Navajos whose lands are being stripped and devastated, and small farmers whose water rights are being threatened by developers. In most cases, our interests coincide with those of the people who live closest to the land. We need to share the struggle with these people if our efforts are to be politically effective.

### BRANT CALKIN

Resident of New Mexico for 37 years; graduated from the University of New Mexico with a BS in Biology.

Profession: Full-time executive director of the Frontera del Norte Fund, a branch of the Sierra Club Foundation.

Organizations and offices: Member of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club's Executive Committee 7 years; Chairman of the Rio Grande Chapter—two terms.

Member of the state board of New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water.

Also a member of the Wilderness Society, New Mexico Wildlife and Conservation Association and numerous other organizations.

Governmental Affiliations:

1. Member of Governor's Advisory Committee on Air and Water Pollution.
2. Member of Health and Social Services Subdivision Study Committee.
3. Member of Health and Services Council of Ecological Advisors.
4. Member of Governor's Energy Task Force.
5. Member of Land Subdivision Task Force.
6. Member of N.M. Legislature's Land Use Advisory Council.
7. Has testified before numerous state and federal agencies on pollution, wilderness, etc.

Statement: The Rio Grande Chapter is developing into an organization which can work systematically toward its goals with decreasing reliance upon "brush fire" response. Although fast reactions to crisis situations will continue to be necessary, I would like to devote my efforts toward building an effective Sierra Club presence in the state legislature, alliances with other organizations, and a long-range funding program. I would also like to enlarge our use of the media, particularly on conservation projects and outings.

### DON CAMPBELL

338 East de Vargas, Santa Fe 87501,

35, Director of the Wilderness Study Project operating out of the Central Clearing House in Santa Fe.

Sierra Club member since 1969, full-time volunteer in the San Francisco office from November 1970 to June 1971 working on a water pollution lawsuit under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; has worked for the Central Clearing House full time since June 1971—primarily on projects related to wilderness; producer and moderator of the "Environment—New Mexico" TV show on Santa Fe cablevision; considerable experience in publicizing environmental issues; active with **The Sierran**; Vice-chairman of SWRCC.

Statement: The Sierra Club has become the powerful voice that it is partly because it has learned to use the tools of organization and communication effectively. I have always had an interest in these areas and will work to sharpen these tools within the Rio Grande Chapter. Since I work full time on wilderness issues at the Central Clearing House and am in constant communication with the Wilderness Society, I will automatically be deeply involved in the wilderness issues which come before the executive committee.

### JOHN COLBURN

Address: 1501 Lomaland, #242, El Paso, Texas 79935; Phone: 915-598-7988.

Occupation: Teacher, Corrective Reading, Eastwood High School, El Paso, Texas.

Conservation and Outdoor Experience:

Sierra Club member since 1970.

El Paso Regional Group Outings Chairman 1972-1974.

Sponsor—Eastwood Packing Co. (backpacking club) 1972-1974.

Regional Group Outings Leader 1971-1974.

Completed Southwest Regional Outings Leader Training 1974.

Member Rio Grande Executive Committee 1974.

Conservation Philosophy: West Texas and New Mexico contain many undeveloped areas that are unique and deserving of preservation for future generations. While preservation of every area is neither practicable or desirable, the long-term advantages of preservation must be considered as well as the short-term gains from development and exploitation. In addition, every effort should be made to prevent the deterioration of our environment and, where possible, to restore the environment where deterioration has taken place.

Goals for Rio Grande Chapter:

1. Increase public awareness of environmental problems.
2. Increase public participation in the legislative processes where environmental issues are involved.
3. Expand Chapter Outings program to provide more opportunities for outings.

### JOHN GAVAHAN

Montezuma, New Mexico; age 49; resident of New Mexico for 28 years; Sierra Club for 5 years.

Occupation: Environmental Supervisor, Region II, Environmental Improvement Agency. Employed by Agency and its precursor: Environmental Division of Health Department for 20 years.

Education: BA, Anthropology, 1950 UNM MPH, Environmental Science 1959 U. of Pittsburgh.

Member of Rio Grande Executive Committee for 2 years.

Statement: I see our major problems as those involving land and energy resource management. I believe that especially in the realm of land use planning we must involve ourselves in local decision making. Until now the field has been left to the speculators and developers and we have been forced into the role of reacting after the decisions have already been made.

### ROBERT E. [BOB] HOWARD

1522 Stanford Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106; (505) 268-8185.

Occupation: Physician; Associate Professor, UNM School of Medicine.

Sierra Club Experience: Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee member, 1973-present; RGC Secretary 1973; RGC Vice-Chairman 1974; SWRCC Delegate 1973; Council Delegate 1974. Member of organizing group and moderator for Wilderness Symposium held in Albuquerque in April, 1974. Active in development of Albuquerque Group, frequent speaker on environmental topics. Formerly on Lone Star Chapter (Texas) Executive Committee and active in San Antonio Regional Group.

Other conservation experience: New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, Zero Population Growth.

Statement: I believe that man must learn to live in ecological balance with the rest of the environment of the spaceship Earth. To do this we must develop habits and patterns of life

Continued on Page 6

## Law of the Land

## Sc's Legal Arm: Legal Defense Fund

Environmentalists have spearheaded legislative programs firmly entrenching environmental protection in American public law. Nevertheless, planning goes forward on new fossil-fueled power plant complexes whose air pollutant emissions will exceed federal standards; the harvest of the nation's forests proceeds in the face of multiple use-sustained yield legislation; massive inter-basin water transfers are proposed without an adequate review, as required by law, of long range environmental impacts. Putting good laws on the books is not enough. These laws must be enforced.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (SCLDF) backs up the Club and its chapters by insuring, to the extent of its resources, that the environmental protection laws which conservationists have won and continue to win in state and federal legislatures are upheld. SCLDF challenges administrative policies and priorities that violate legislative mandates protecting the environment. SCLDF calls government officials to account in court for unlawful actions favoring the special economic interests at the expense of the environment. In its first three years of operation, SCLDF has won more than 85 court decisions—some of which will affect environmental quality into the next century.

Headquartered in San Francisco, SCLDF operates as a non-profit public interest law firm, supported by grants from the Ford and Sierra Club Foundations and by individual donations. John D. Hoffman, Yale Law School and a Fulbright Scholar, who as a former associate in New York and San Francisco law firms has varied trial and appellate experience, is Executive Director.

In addition to carrying its own caseload, the SCLDF professional staff coordinates and provides backup to a nationwide network of volunteer attorneys who undertake Club cases, receiving only out-of-pocket expenses from SCLDF or, on occasion, modest fees.

SINCE THE ORGANIZATION'S establishment in 1971, SCLDF attorneys have been defending environmental protection laws in all jurisdictions—the federal and state courts and in administrative proceedings. Major cases whose outcomes will affect the environmental quality of the entire country include: SCLDF's two-year old battle to force the Environmental Protection Agency to uphold the Clean Air Act of 1970. At stake is approximately 80 percent of the air of the U.S. which is presently significantly cleaner than it would be if allowed to degrade to the

minimum federal air quality standards.

Because SCLDF has proven in court that indiscriminate clear-cutting is illegal under the 1897 Organic Act establishing the Forest Service, the National Forest System may be spared further scars from this destructive brand of forestry.

As a result of another SCLDF suit, the federal government may be forced to comply with the Resource Recovery Act and play a leadership role in resource recovery from solid wastes by instituting recycling and reuse programs at federal installations.

SCLDF IS ALSO involved in cases focused on regional environmental problems. Often these regional cases set precedents for similar issues elsewhere. Proposed fossil-fuel power plants are being examined in the light of their multiple adverse environmental impacts in the Southwest and Northern Great Plains states; wilderness resources within the National Forests are being defended in suits in California, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska; freeway construction which threatens parklands and other scenic resources is being challenged in Alaska, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Florida, and Tennessee; environmentally destructive water development projects—dams, river channelization and inter-basin water transfer schemes—are being fought in courts throughout the country.

Compliance with federal environmental protection laws is not SCLDF's only objective. SCLDF's docket shows concern for the enforcement of state environmental laws as well. The Sierra Club has intervened in hearings before the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Federal Power Commission to contest the construction of the one million-kilowatt Breakabeen pumped-storage facility in pastoral Durham Valley. The Club has brought suits against California's Coastal Commission to insure that the California Coastal Zone Conservation Act is upheld and coastal development is regulated accordingly. The Club has intervened in several different state Public Utilities Commission hearings on rate increases to argue for the elimination of substantial discounts to large power users.

The cases listed above are representative of the scope of SCLDF's ever-expanding docket. With SCLDF as its voice, the Sierra Club and its chapters can turn to the courts to enforce environmental legislation and to defend the natural resources that determine the quality of our environment.

Two Cities Fund  
Recycling Program

Two cities are innovative enough to begin experimental programs in civic recycling. Brookhaven, NY (a city of 315,000 on Long Island) is composting 200,000 cubic yards of leaves a year. After six months of decomposition, they are used as topsoil in parks and the rest is given away to citizens.

Waste motor oil is held in approved containers for contractors and citizens to pick up. A \$500,000 demonstration project for spray irrigation of sewage serves as fertilizer for public areas.

Bridgeport, Connecticut's large-scale operation handles everything from cellophane wrappers to refrigerators in one continuous process. A whopping 92% of the waste from area communities will be transformed into usable fuels for electric power plants and raw materials for bottle makers and smelters.

The state is spending \$295 million beginning with construction of the Bridgeport \$30 million prototype this year. Ten similar plants will be built, one per year. It is expected the state will recover 60% of its throw-aways.

The closest New Mexico can come to matching these impressive stats is the Keep NM Beautiful Committee's efforts to introduce our voters and legislators to the need for recycling solid waste. Under a two-year \$50,000 contract with the EIA, the Committee has established pick-up points in 14 New Mexico cities. When 44,000 lbs. or more of glass is collected, Kimbell Foods, Inc. of Albuquerque and Ft. Worth is under contract to load it and truck it to Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in Waco, Texas for re-use. Markets for steel, aluminum, paper have been found and local businessmen provide for storage space and trucking.

given numbers in  
specifically allocated,  
arbitrarily spaced slots  
and called time  
-s. alsop



## Automania Lives

Automobiles in the U.S. gobble up 60% of all rubber used; 10% of all aluminum used; 20% of all the steel; 7% of all the copper; 13% of all the nickel; 35% of all zinc; and 50% of all lead.

They contribute 90 million tons of pollution a year and account for 60% of all air pollution in the U.S. In 1970, there were 110 million registered vehicles. No less than 9 million are retired from use each year. Some 2500, on the average, per day are abandoned, almost a million a year.

Over 3.71 million miles of good land were paved by the end of 1970 and highway departments are still tarring anything they can get their hands on. At this rate, the moon's crater landscapes are looking better than ever.

Tourists, Packers,  
and Rodents  
Co-exist

HOW DOES ONE describe the Grand Canyon? Like the Canyon itself, the statistics are mindblowing. The Colorado River once followed a 1400-mile course before emptying into the Gulf of California, falling over 10,000 feet in the process. Of course, its waters no longer drain into the Pacific; instead they are diverted to satisfy the expanding energy and water demands of a burgeoning Southwest. This has curtailed an invaluable flow of nutrients into the Gulf. The effects on the estuaries and marine lifeforms that once thrived on these nutrients have yet to be determined.

The 277 mile long Grand Canyon is one of 19 major canyons created by the surging currents of the Colorado tributary system. One September day, in 1927, a flood was estimated to have carried over 55 million tons of rock, suspended and dissolved matter past a gauging station. That was the equivalent of 11,000,000 five-ton dumptrucks passing the station at a rate of 125 per second. Try to think about it... but remember this was before the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam. Today, below the dam, which catches most of the region's brown-red sediment, the Colorado, once named for its distinctive reddish coloration, flows green and at a greatly reduced rate; the flow regulated by municipal, agricultural and industrial needs. Nevertheless, on my recent trip, I witnessed one unwitting fellow in an attempt to recover a cheap canteen, swept briefly through some rather mild rapids. Seemingly, even the tamed, post-Glen Canyon Colorado demands some respect.

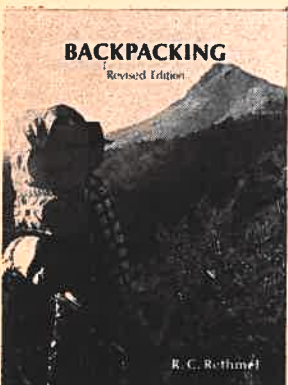
A population roughly equivalent to that of Philadelphia camps out annually on the South Rim of the Canyon. The only mammals I saw here were a poodle and a great dane. Falling asleep to the nocturnal lullabies of cool breezes, a few bird chirpings, and Mick Jagger, I couldn't wait for the upcoming descent into The Canyon.

The Canyon's mule deer still flourish, its natural enemies eliminated by man in his attempts to be earth's sole terrestrial carnivore. As I decided through time and the seasons, and entered the dominion of the reptile and rodent, a truly humbling experience ensued. The ghostly skeletons of ancient oceans; monolithic red sandstones and shales, and then rocks interminably old; stone twisted, heated, and distorted by unfathomable forces.

Approaching the chasm's bottom, the searing heat of the Lower Sonoran desert and an unceasing roar overwhelmed my senses, until around the final switchback, that most awesome cutting tool, the Colorado River, was unveiled. The river has surgically revealed, for those who wish to see, an unparalleled perspective of man's proper place in natural systems.

While backpacking the Grand Canyon, I began to realize that this sort of educational and spiritual experience was not meant solely for the "elitist" backpacker. I heard many dialects and languages trying vainly to verbalize their excitement, and perhaps melodramatically, revelation. The old and young from all parts of our planet had converged on this, if you will, Mecca for those who revere nature.

Though it meant that plumbing and power lines hug many of the trails, that pickpocket rodents are now co-evolving with the tourists rather than their natural community, and park rangers have mostly janitorial duties, I can still sympathize with this brand of ostentatious development. It is reassuring to this conservationist that those who really see the Grand Canyon want to go back.

Before your next  
backpack trip...

... check this practical guide for details on the latest equipment and techniques. You'll find brand names and ratings, menus, recipes, clothing suggestions, safety measures, advance preparations, and many how-to-do-it hints for more enjoyable backpacking.

Ask for BACKPACKING, revised edition, by Robert C. Rethmel (1972; 8½ x 11"; 144 pages; illus.; spiral \$3.95; cloth \$6.95).

Available at backpacking and mountaineering supply stores or by mail from Burgess Publishing Co. / 7108 Ohms Lane / Minneapolis, MN 55435

# VOTE!

(Continued from Page 1)

which are in equilibrium with Earth's renewable resources, and we must stop wasting Earth's non-renewable resources. A relatively few environmentally active citizens can greatly benefit society by insisting on ecologically sound goals, serving as watchdogs of the public interest, and securing administrative or legal correction of environmentally unsound situations. I will continue to work to make the Rio Grande Chapter as effective and respected as an ecological conscience in New Mexico as the Sierra Club is throughout America.

## R. GLEN KEPLER

9004 Bellehaven Ave., NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112, (505) 298-5652; physicist at Sandia Laboratories.

I began backpacking in 1940 and have had extensive experience in the Sierra Nevada of California as well as the mountains of New Mexico and Southern Colorado. My wife and I led Sierra Club Wilderness Threshold family camping trips from 1968 through 1970 and attended leader's meetings and a leadership training conference in California. I have led many Boy Scout backpacking trips, including several 50 mile treks.

I am in favor of organizing trips to encourage individuals to experience the wilderness and of taking a positive approach to conservation primarily by attempting to learn and disseminate the facts on the issues.

## BOB WATT

Bob is a nuclear physicist (PhD) employed by the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, and lives at 1447 45th, Los Alamos, N.M. His telephone number is (505) 662-3728.

In addition to organizing the Chapter's raft trip through White Rock Canyon each year, Bob's activities include:

1. Wilderness (member of the Club's Wilderness Committee).
2. Reclamation of strip-mined lands (his soil analyses and testimony helped get better reclamation requirements in coal surface mining permits)
3. Conservation problems stemming from energy production, particularly nuclear energy.

Bob serves on the Club's Nuclear Energy Policy Committee and an American Nuclear Society's committee to propose standards for some nuclear wastes.

Bob has been on the Rio Grande Chapter's Executive Committee for about ten years and has served as Treasurer, Vice Chairman and Chairman, and represented the Chapter as a delegate to the Club's Council and to the Southwest Regional Conservation Committee.

### Chapter Goals:

The Rio Grande Chapter needs more member participation in both outings and conservation activities.

In order to have more outings we need to attract more trip leaders by offering them more support.

Governmental officials are making important and essentially irrevocable decisions without adequate public participation. Our Chapter needs an active recruiting program to involve more members in research and lobbying activities.

If reelected, Bob will continue to work for the Club and Chapter's interests through all available channels.

\*\*\*\*\*

Listed below are the ten candidates. You are to vote for seven candidates. You may mark less than seven, or you may write in names, but there should be only seven x's.

When you have completed the ballot, please send the ballot form to Marianne Smith, 10044 Suez Dr., El Paso, Texas 79925.

Ed. Note: Tanya Nowell and Marianne Smith are both members of the El Paso Group.

HILDRETH BARKER.....
BETSY BARNETT.....
DAVID BATES.....
BRANT CALKIN.....
DON CAMPBELL.....
JOHN COLBURN.....
JOHN GAVAHAN.....
ROBERT E. (BOB) HOWARD.....
R. GLEN KEPLER.....
BOB WATT.....

## House OK's

### Grand Canyon Bill

By Bob English  
Los Padres Chapter

By a vote of 180-147, the House approved the transfer of 185,000 acres of Grand Canyon National Park and National Forest lands to the Havasupai Indian tribe. Lujan voted against the land transfer, Runnels in favor. The Senate version passed last year differs considerably in that it would only study the possibility of land transfers to the tribe. The Senate is being pressed to accept the House bill and thus the land transfer.

Brock Evans, SC Washington representative, stated the conservationists' case succinctly in the Angles Chapter newsletter, **The Southern Sierran**:

1. The issue was settled when the Havasupai filed a claim with the Indian Claims Commission in 1949. The Commission, in following its original policy determination of resolving Indian claims not by compensating in lands but in money, paid \$1.24 million for these same lands.

2. A major "get more" policy is being made here, allowing an Indian tribe to break an agreement once a settlement has been made.

3. The intent of this bill is to improve the economic situation of the tribe vis the transfer of lands. The argument is that the land will be used in the "traditional manner," i.e., grazing and limited homesites. If they already have lease rights for grazing purposes, how can their situation be improved by the acquisition of National Park lands? By leasing them out for mass recreational development. In 1969, the tribal council passed a resolution supporting tramways in the Grand Canyon. In addition, the Havasupai are on record in 1966 and again in 1967 as supporting dams in the Grand Canyon. Although this bill doesn't give them any lands next to the river, it could create a new political entity with their brother tribe, the Hualapai, just down the stream in renewing agitation for dams.

Mr. Evans voices conservationists' plea by noting that through the creation of a vast network of forest and park systems and bills to protect them, "the people of this nation have established a great reserve of magnificent public lands, in trust for all America, including the Indians.

Please write Senators Domenici and Montoya opposing the land transfer and insisting on a conference committee. Their addresses are U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

As the Army takes the wild youth  
And crops his rampant hair  
And forces into mirrored boots  
The feet that once were bare,  
And rubs some starch in slouching back  
Till shoulders come up square,  
We shall take the rivers wild  
And make them mend their ways  
By confining them to channels  
For the rest of their days.

We are the Corps of Engineers!  
In all the world we have no peers  
In carving out such fine careers  
By building dams by the lot  
(Whether needed, whether not)  
And making channels straight and wide  
And locking streams safe inside.

Unruly is the chaparral  
That grows from hills of clay.  
And wanton is the mustard plant  
That tempts the stream to stray.  
And wasteful is the splashy bath  
Of the brazen jay.  
Frivolous are the marshland reeds  
Which cause the stream to hide.  
And shifty are the sandy banks  
Where rivers join the tide.

Unbridled ways shall be no more!  
Come the Puritans of the Corps!  
Flow, O Stream, the straight and narrow!  
Direct and true as an arrow.  
Devious ways shall be of yore,  
As the men who man the Corps  
Pour cement from shore to shore.

Where willy-nilly water fell,  
Now it's guided parallel,  
Through uniform and even banks  
Which stand like soldiers stiff in-ranks,  
Bordered once by live oak dense,  
Now fringed by silver cyclone fence.  
Where rock to rock the children hopped,  
And frogs in panic leaped and plopped,  
And lovers stole to be alone,  
There's now a sign: RESTRICTED ZONE.

Oh, WE are the Corps of Engineers!  
WE haven't changed in years and years,  
Since West Point days. Let's give three cheers!  
There we learned of bridge erection;  
That the slide rule makes perfection;  
That Mother Nature needs direction;  
And even God can stand correction—  
By the Corps of Engineers.

From Palm and Pine

We are sorry to announce Dorothy Hoard has resigned as Outings Chairman. She did a tremendous job laying the groundwork for a state outings program. We welcome John Colburn, El Paso Group, as the new chairman and can anticipate an active program.

**NEW MEXICO'S FINEST  
BACKPACKING  
SHOP—RUN BY  
BACKPACKERS**



**Mountain  
Chalet**

Packs  
Boots  
Tents  
Sleeping Bags  
Foods

1406 EUBANK N.E. 298-4296

## Capitol-isms

(Continued from Page 4)

exceeded one or more bacteriological or chemical limits set by Public Health Service standards.

Ford Foundation Energy Policy Project includes a long-awaited study of energy and taxation. Tax expert Prof. Gerald Brannon recommends: 1) effluent taxes; 2) abolition of oil and natural gas percentage depletion allowances; 3) abolition of expensing of intangible drilling costs for oil and gas; 4) restriction of oil industry's use of foreign tax credit.

In a speech before the American Nuclear Society in Oregon, SC Dir. McCloskey had this to say: "How else does one explain the fact that only five of 38 reactors last year were able to operate at full capacity, with 1/2 the total shut down at any one time? How else does one explain the fact that in April of this year when 43 plants were ostensibly on line, the AEC reported 51 major shutdowns? How else does one explain the fact that these plants were ready to deliver power only 60.9% of the time on the average compared to 75% for fossil plants? How else does one explain the fact that the predominant reasons for delays in bringing new plants on line in 1973 were poor productivity of labor (84 months combined delays), shortage of construction labor (18 months of delay), late delivery of equipment (68 months of delay), and equipment failure (15 months of delay). Legal challenges from all quarters were a relatively minor factor (only 9 months of delay).

A study by the National Academy of Sciences supports the EPA's air quality car pollution standards. The auto industry expected an independent study would find the 1970 Clean Air Act's primary standards too strict.

In addressing a conference on Control of Hazardous Material Spills, SC Research Dir. Dr. Robert Curry earmarked the AEC as the agency most likely to overlook spill threats. He noted the proposed Kansas waste depository site lay beneath one of the largest groundwater aquifers in the U.S., which supplies the South central farm belt. A molten collapse of the repository chambers would create "one of the most spectacular and biologically devastating spills of all time," he said.

For the first time, the right of eminent domain to appropriate land for a power line has been denied. Russian and U.S. studies have shown that biological damage results from exposure to high electric fields under such lines. Detroit Edison Co. request was denied after 11 landowners had taken the case to court.

11 million gallons of oil spilled into the Strait of Magellan, befouling 40 miles of Chilean beaches as a Royal Dutch Shell supertanker was impaled on an underground rock ledge. The ship is the same size as some of the supertankers planned for transport of Alaskan oil. It normally takes 3 to 4 miles for a ship that size to stop at the rate it was traveling, but in this case it stopped in 74 meters (224 ft.).



Classified

Tents, packs, ruck sacks, ponchos, 60-40 jackets, boots, sleeping bags, stoves, foods, accessories, and many more quality items to help make your next trip a safe and enjoyable one. Our store welcomes your visit to The Trail Haus, 1031 San Mateo SE. Since 1967 New Mexico's hiking & backpacking specialists. Join our coop and save. Phone 256-9190.

In a Federal District court case, HUD was brought under the provisions of NEPA and must prepare an impact statement on a major second home development proposed on the banks of Oklahoma's scenic Illinois River.

In 1969, the Forest Service negotiated a 50-yr. sale of timber rights (8.4 billion board feet) in Southeastern Alaska to U.S. Champion Plywood. In 1970, Alaskan conservationists (including SC) filed suit, charging violation of the sustained yield act, which specifies the timber supply in a sale area must meet the needs of the citizens and other needs, such as recreation, must also be considered. Most of the timber would in this case be going to Japan.

A serious attempt at minimizing growth impact on the environment through careful land planning came in the form of the Petaluma Plan. The small California city drew up a 5-yr. plan to limit growth rate to less than 500 subdivision housing units per year; establish an environmental design plan; and establish a residential development control system. The plan was defeated in a District Court after the Construction Industry Assoc. filed suit in 1973. The right to travel guaranteed by the Constitution was cited as the basis for the decision.

## Hollywood Moves to Yosemite

Music Corporation of America (MCA), a Hollywood-based conglomerate, now owns 96% of the stock of Yosemite Park & Curry Co., the principal concessioner in Yosemite National Park.

MCA is reaping the promotional benefits of a TV series, "Sierra," at the expense of Park visitors and nature. At this writing, the National Park Service is expected to issue its Yosemite Master Plan. They consulted MCA on each draft of the Master Plan. Development alternatives within the Plan include replacement of tent cabins with multi-story cluster units, construction of additional lodge units, modernizing cabins, construction of new camps, expansion of overnight concession accommodations, and providing year-round access to Tuolumne Meadows.

Write a short letter voicing your opposition to these plans to:

Leslie Arnberger, Supt.  
Yosemite National Park  
P.O. Box 577  
Yosemite, CA 95389

Ask that your letter be "included in the public record" and be sure it is submitted after the Master Plan is issued but within 30 days of last public meeting.

## ABQ City Plan "Tuned"

by Ken Smith  
City Planning

On October 11 at the Convention Center, the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Planning Department sponsored the "Second Annual Conference on Albuquerque's Future." The theme for this year's meeting was **The Comprehensive Plan: Strategies for Implementation**. Over 350 persons participated in this successful event and heard keynote speaker Harold F. Wise (an urban planner of national note) mention the need for constant citizen input and participation if the Comprehensive Plan is to shape public policy.

The Environmental Planning Commission and County Planning Commission have held public hearings on the Plan and are now deliberating on land-use, environmental protection, and community service proposals contained in the Plan. The recent Conference has given new insights which will help the planning commissions "fine tune" these recommendations, and within the next few weeks, a final draft will be prepared for review by the Mayor and County Manager and subsequent submission to the City Council and County Commission.

## Wilder-Freaks Gather in Guads

by John Colburn

FROM CALIFORNIA, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas they came—cavers and climbers, backpackers and birdwatchers—more than seventy "wilder-freaks" with a single purpose: to preserve the wilderness in the Guadalupe Mountains that stretch across southeastern New Mexico and into southwestern Texas. The occasion was the Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness Workshop at the University of Texas at El Paso on October 5-6, 1974, sponsored by the U.T.E.P. Centennial Museum, New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee, National Speleological Society, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, and Cave Research Foundation.

After an introductory session conducted by Dave Foreman of Glenwood, NM, chairman of the workshop, Corrie McDonald and Milo Conrad of Albuquerque presented the Wilderness Study Committee's proposal for a "Unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness," composed of the undeveloped portions of Guadalupe Mountain and Carlsbad Caverns National Parks and the connecting portion of the Lincoln National Forest, a total of some 150,000 acres. Don Dayton, superintendent of the two National Parks, discussed the National Park Service's wilderness proposals, and Chuck Jourden of the Lincoln National Forest presented the Forest Service's proposal for its portion of the escarpment wilderness. John McComb, Tucson, AZ, and Rich Weisbrod, Mar Vista, CA, discussed other wilderness proposals including the concept of underground wilderness to protect caves and caverns in the Guads.

Following lunch the group went into discussion session where the problems peculiar to each of the administrative units were explained and alternatives and solutions to the problems were explored. At a summary session the views, findings, and conclusions of each group were reported to the entire body. Most of the "wilder-freaks" met for dinner and fellowship and returned to the Student Union where slide shows on the Guads and wilderness areas were presented and informal discussions were held.

ON SUNDAY MORNING, somewhat reduced in number by the absence of the church-goers and weakened by overindulgence in fellowship the night before, the group discussed why all participants should support a unified wilderness of maximum size commensurate with wilderness values. The consensus was to work for the adoption of the Unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness proposed by the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. After reaching agreement, separate sessions were held to discuss the ways and means of obtaining community and legislative support for the wilderness proposal.

At the final session on Sunday afternoon an *ad hoc* committee to coordinate the activities necessary to place the entire escarpment under the protection of the Wilderness Act of 1964 was organized. Wes Leonard, Marianne Smith, and Charles Thorn, all of El Paso, were appointed chairman, secretary, and treasurer, respectively, and Barry Best of Alamogordo, NM, was named newsletter editor. Each of the conservationist and environmentalist organizations represented designated a member to represent it on the committee and pledged its financial support.

Residents of Alpine and El Paso, Texas, and Alamogordo, Albuquerque, Carlsbad, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, volunteered to act as liaison between their communities and the committee.

All who attended the workshop felt they had a better understanding of the problems involved in getting a Unified Guadalupe Escarpment Wilderness and that, while the process would be long and hard, a good start had been made to preserve the wilderness in the Guads. For additional information and to offer physical, financial and/or moral assistance, contact Wes Leonard, 3500 Sun Bowl Dr., #24, El Paso, TX 79902. Any contributions to the newsletter should be sent to Barry Best, P.O. Box 3716, Alamogordo, NM 88310.

Photo Courtesy of Guads Task Force (NSS)



# capitol-isms

The AEC recently admitted 861 "abnormal events," including radioactive leaks, occurred in 1973 in the nation's 42 nuclear powerplants.

\$3 billion San Joaquin nuclear powerplant (to be completed in mid-80's) is 32 miles from California's San Andreas fault.

Stripping Bill at this writing still in conference. Seiberling amendment giving incentive for deep-mining high BTU coal in east and midwest instead of low BTU coal in west was defeated, along with the Hechler amendment to ban steep slopes stripping. The Evans amendment banning stripping on some alluvial valley floors was struck. Conferees are at this writing deadlocked on the issue of surface owner consent. Rep. Dingell offered a floor amendment in the House which would prohibit stripmining in the National Forest System; the language was dropped by the conferees, thereby opening up the National Grasslands, a vital part of the National Forest system.

The BLM Organic Act originally intended to inventory roadless areas for possible wilderness classification; repeal the 1872 mining law two years after enactment of the Organic Act; and give BLM land management and enforcement authority. Congressional review was established, in addition, 1) for exclusion of a multiple use from an area of 2500 acres or more; and 2) if suitability of a roadless area over 5000 acres was determined. Pet projects have been tacked onto this bill, giving it the nickname "Christmas Tree."

SC, National Parks and Conservation Assoc., Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council are suing to require AEC, State Dept., and Expo-Impo Bank to evaluate under-NEPA alternatives to nuclear exports program.

Efforts by electric utility and coal industries to sabotage the Clean Air Act of 1970 still underway. The original act set primary standards to be met by 1975. States began implementing their own plans to meet secondary standards by 1975. Industries' request for relaxation of standards to enable plants to burn coal instead of oil was met with conference decision to allow conversion in areas where primary standards are already met only if EPA certifies standards will not be violated. A conference committee agreed to exempt utilities converting to coal, but only till 1979, after which they must burn low-sulfur coal or install scrubber systems. In 1972, a court order came out of a Sierra Club lawsuit—EPA was to promulgate final regulations effectively prohibiting significant deterioration of existing air quality in any

part of the state. EPA regs issued in August give states power to designate pristine areas in any one of the following classes: 1) no pollution allowed; 2) pollution allowed to extent that a 1000 megawatt power plant with advanced air pollution controls could operate; 3) pollution up to national secondary standards, i.e., visibility on some days could be reduced to 12.5 miles but designed to protect health and plant life. All regions would be classed as Class II unless states choose another within six months. These new regs essentially emasculate the 1970 Act for the following reasons: 1) requirement that best available technology for pollution control be applied in all cases was dropped; 2) baseline for determining "significant deterioration" changed from 1972 existing air quality to air quality existing at time of promulgation of new regs; 3) monitoring of ambient air quality no longer required; 4) sources given 6-month grace period before submitting to review; 5) time limit for reclassifying clean air areas open.

An EPA study shows a national conversion to returnable beverage containers would increase employment 5.4% and pass down a savings of \$1.5 billion/yr. to consumers.

Mass transit funding was chopped from \$20 billion to the Administration's suggested amount of \$11.6 billion. The House bill lowered federal matching funds from 50% to 33% and brings mass transit under NEPA requirements.

House-Senate conferees' Toxic Substances Control Act needs to require pre-market testing for new chemicals.

House Comm. rejected a move to set aside 200 acres in the Grand Canyon for a dam site. The Grand Canyon bill still gives 185,000 acres to the Havasupai Indians, a move strongly opposed by conservationists on the basis that the tribe has been compensated for these lands. The bill would also add FS and BLM lands, increasing the Park's present size of 897,935 acres to 1.4 million acres. Lujan voted against the land transfer, Runnels for.

Project Independence hearings disappoint SC spokesmen. In N.Y., long-scheduled SC spokesmen were not called to speak until 7:30 p.m. of second day of hearing, despite the fact that last minute witnesses were given earlier slots. In Boston, FEA biases are shown in direction of questioning to conservationists as compared with that of oil company personnel.

Safe Drinking Water Act would permit EPA to set standards for public drinking water, leaving enforcement to states. A 1969 HEW survey revealed 36% individual samples taken

Continued on page 5

# Public Can Prepare Pollute for Water Hearings or Dilute?

by Phyllenore Howard

A SYMPOSIUM to acquaint the public with federal water quality law was well-attended on Saturday, September 14, despite the State Fair and rain. Kay Grotbeck and I headed a committee of representatives from the League of Women Voters, New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air and Water, and the Sierra Club. Together we planned the symposium which was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The symposium opened with a slide show which introduced the fifty participants to the water quality problems of New Mexico. During the remainder of the day we explored these problems in detail, with help from the staff of the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency. We also discussed how the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 can help solve water pollution problems. Major sources of water pollution in New Mexico are urban and rural land runoff, irrigation water return flow, septic tanks, other sewage treatment facilities, industrial discharges and mining operations.

Three aspects of the Act are of particular interest to us; regional planning for wastewater treatment, federal assistance for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities, and a discharge permit system called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

ALL WASTEWATER DISCHARGERS will have to obtain a NPDES permit to discharge. The permit will specify the amount of pollutants which will be allowed to be discharged into surface waters. Thus, at the present time municipal wastewater treatment facilities, mines and milling operations, feedlots, dairies, power plants, and a variety of industries are applying for permits.

One very important aspect of the Act is that public discussion and comment is required during all phases of implementation of the law. So there will be numerous public hearings during the next several years as new industrial discharge permits are considered, as sewage treatment plants are planned, as regional planning is carried out, and so on. It is our responsibility as concerned citizens to be alert for the announcements of these public hearings (usually in the legal section of the newspaper), to become informed about the issues, and to speak out.

The Water Symposium in September was the beginning of our effort to inform the public about water quality programs and solutions. During 1975 EPA has offered another grant of \$1,200 to fund a continuation of this effort. We will travel to all parts of New Mexico to speak to people in all walks of life, trying to enlist everyone's help in the very important task of achieving and protecting good water quality.

If you think you may be able to help in any way—as a speaker, arranging publicity in your community, contacting groups to whom we can speak—send a note to me at 1522 Stanford NE, Albuquerque 87106. We have some pretty good water in New Mexico. Let's keep it that way!

## Letters . . .

*The void speaks for itself!*

by Shirley Alsop

LAKE ERIE IS DEAD. Its blue waters have been suffocated by human flotsam and jetsam. "Today Lake Erie, tomorrow the Atlantic or Pacific" has been the cry of scientists and environmentalists. But the cry of the American housewife drowns out their feeble efforts at enlightenment. The Christian ethic, cleanliness is next to godliness, has become a household ethic. We salvage Johnny's ketchup-stained shirts with Salvo, dredge clogged up drains with Drano, scour bathtub scum with Ajax, Handi-wipe our walls with disposable dishrags and Mr. Clean, sheen pots and pans with SOS pads . . . our homes, clothes, yards, and cars sparkle with the glitter of cut diamonds while our insides are being slowly poisoned by the effluent affluence of aromatic America.

One of the deadliest of these effluents is the phosphorus contained in municipal and industrial wastes. Seventy percent of the phosphorus in Lake Erie comes from these wastes; 50-70% of the phosphorus content of the lake comes from detergents. One of the most common types of phosphorus appearing in detergents is sodium tripolyphosphate. It entraps calcium and magnesium which appear in hard water and simultaneously nibbles at bacteria on clothes. The metals and bacteria are broken down into a soluble substance and no noticeable traces of their existence are left—at least not on your clothes or bathtub. They subsequently wreak havoc on Lake Erie, et. al., but then how many times a day do we feast our eyes on water as noticeably polluted as Lake Erie. For that matter, we can't see pollutants in the Rio Grande and what we can't see won't hurt us.

ENZYMES WERE INTRODUCED into the US in 1968 from Europe. Proctor and Gamble, Lever Brothers, Colgate-Palmolive all jumped on the bandwagon for shinier white and brighter bright. Enzymes attack stains other detergents can't remove—blood, urine, milk, meat juice, and chocolate. They are produced by cultures of Bacillus subtilis, which secretes enzymes during its digestive process. When inhaled, they sensitize lungs causing allergic reactions similar to hay fever and asthma. When injected into mice, they produced potentially toxic substances causing disintegration of blood elements and agglutination of red blood cells.

Shaklee and Amway products introduced us to biodegradable detergents early in the game. They don't exactly work wonders on the M & M stains, but for those of us whose consciences are bothered by the whole mess it's a tolerable substitute. Biodegradables, or linear alkylate sulfonates (LAS), are produced by a modification in the chemical structure of alkyl benzene sulfonate (ABS). The persistence and toxicity of LAS by-products have not been completely determined, but foam, odor and taste produced by ABS by-products have been virtually eliminated.

If Boraxo damages trees and shrubs, soda ash is injurious when ingested, and Basic H may still leave toxic by-products behind, what's left? Do we wait for technology to come up with a magical formula for cleaner cleans for our clothes and our streams? Or do we learn to live, as our ancestors did, with less suds and duller duds?

While you're trying to figure that out, check the phosphate content on the detergent container. (Trend, made by Purex, has no phosphates; Wisk follows with a 3.5% phosphorus content.) Or check the phone book for a Shaklee or Amway distributor near you. Their soap is more expensive but it's also concentrated and, if used correctly, will last longer.

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