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# Currents

A Publication of the  
Student Action Center

Vol. 1, No. 1

December, 1983

## Charlie Yerian; Modern Horse Farmer

Tom Robison

Today it seems inconceivable to run a farm without gasoline-powered machinery, but at least one man farms with only minimal help from the internal combustion engine. Charlie Yerian still farms the way he did fifty years ago, with horses.

The horses involved are not saddle horses but draft horses, bred for the task. His working team consists of two Belgians (a draft horse breed) and two with a combination of Belgian, Percheron, and Shire blood.

Mr. Yerian raises cows and alfalfa hay on his sixty acres near Corvallis, Montana, and with the exception of a tractor used to stack hay, the horses provide all the farm power. They are the genuine "horsepower" that prepares the soil and brings in the hay. They pull such implements as the plow, disc, harrow, seeder, mower, dumb rake, buck rake, and 1-ton sled.

"People around here used to laugh at me, for farmin' with horses," says Mr. Yerian. "But in the last five years some people have started to get real interested in what I'm doin'."

Mr. Yerian explains that his style of farming is very economical. Due to nominal fuel, fertilizer, and machinery expenses, he makes a comfortable living on a small acreage.

Charlie raises nearly all his own feed, and uses manure for fertilizer. He comments, "People ask me how much these horses eat, and I say, 'I don't know, I just give 'em what they want.'"

The strength of Charlie's work horses is considerable, the size massive. The Bel-

gians stand 15 1/2 and 16 hands high at the shoulder, respectively, and weigh approximately 1650 pounds. The other pair stands at 18 hands, and each weigh approximately a ton. The four of them have hooves the size of large saucers (a #7 shoe), and have thick thigh and shoulder muscles characteristic of the draft horse.

Mr. Yerian showed his infinite patience with untrained animals by letting a greenhorn journalist try his hand at driving the team, namely me. I was immediately struck by the need to keep the creatures under control. They had to know "who was boss," in effect, but it seemed to be more them than me. They plodded along at snail's pace until Mr. Yerian gave them a good prod with a stick, at which point they lurched ahead with such vigor

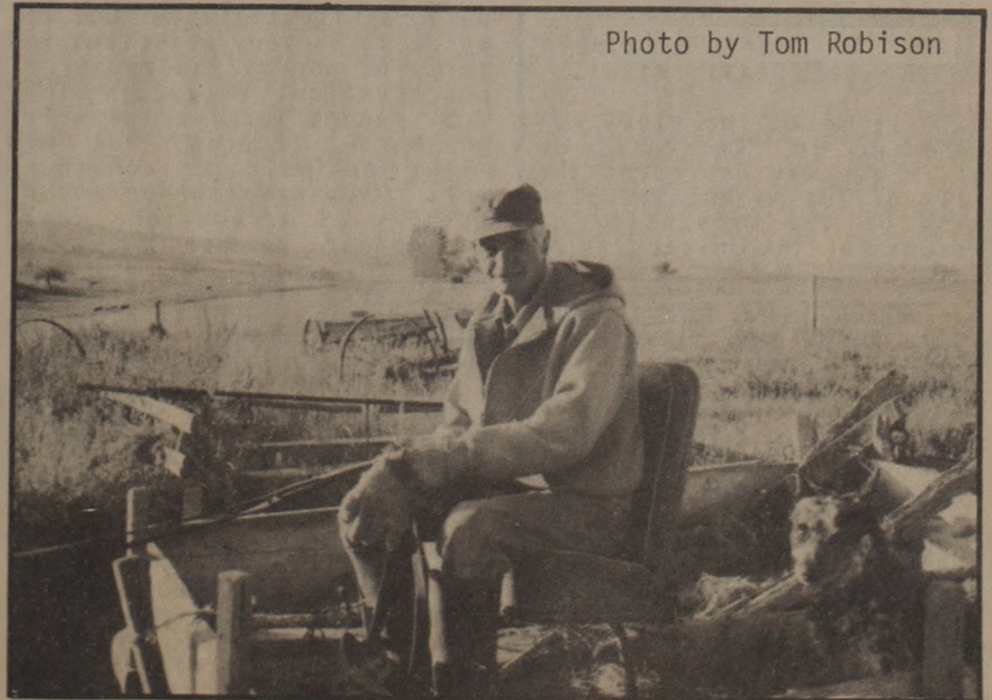
that we barely avoided a stampede. I thanked my lucky stars for those lines.

I was also struck by the vast difference between this and driving a car or tractor. Instead of merely operating pedals and levers, the operator must control the wills of two or more living beasts, which takes a special knack. The horses must respect the operator, but in order to work well, they also must like him or her. This is one kind of relationship which cannot happen between human and machine. A Trans-Am may get you where you are going in a hurry, but it does not knicker "Hello" in the morning.

Most Bitterroot Valley farmers now have balers which make round bales half the size of Charlie's horse barn. Their machines can do in one hour what Charlie spends five at. Why then, has Mr. Yerian stayed with horses?

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Photo by Tom Robison



continued from page 1

"The way farmers do things now just doesn't make sense to me," he explains. "They're working for the big companies."

Mr. Yerian contends that mechanized farming involves large investments which keep the farmer continually in debt. "A lot of 'em aren't even paying the interest," he comments.

In addition to thousands of dollars worth of machinery modern farmers use chemical sprays and petrochemical

fertilizer, things which Mr. Yerian suspects of undermining the long-term health and fertility of the land. He expresses concerns that modern farming doesn't allow the farmer the time and attitude to care for the quality of the land.

"Farmers nowadays ride around in air-conditioned cabs all day, then go into town and sit on a bar stool," he says. "Lot of 'em spend more time on the roads than they do in the field."

Mr. Yerian's place has a degree of self-sufficiency

land?

The small size of Charlie's place contributes to land conservation. Large farms consist of "monocultures," large fields planted to a single crop. These are particularly susceptible to the natural pressure of disease, insects, and drought. Smaller farms might well contribute to increased diversity which would mean less vulnerability to these pressures.

However, Mr. Yerian does not farm as he does to conserve energy or lessen environmental impact. He farms as he does because he enjoys working with horses. He has a special relationship with his horses. His control over them is absolute, yet the horses obey willingly. The trick in training, according to Charlie, is mutual respect.

"Some men try to control a horse with force, but that breaks their spirit right off," says Mr. Yerian. "I've known fellas that have broken a horse by nearly starving it to death, then going right out and riding it. That's the best way to get a horse to hate you, right from the start."

"It's a lot better to win the horse's respect," he continues. "My horses know I'm not going to make them get hurt."

It is plain that Charlie's careful and patient training has paid off. Each summer and fall Charlie enters his horses in pulling competitions, and as he says, "It's easier for me to count the times I haven't won than the times I have. There's only been a few times my horses haven't won in their divisions."

The horses handle perfectly. Three and one half tons of horse will stop instantly at Charlie's softly uttered "Whoa." They are trained to synchronize their steps perfectly on the corners, with the inside horses taking short, mincing steps, the outside ones taking long, swinging strides. Surprisingly, the horses seem to enjoy hard work.

Equally important as the training is proper equipment, without which the horses cannot apply their tremendous strength to the implement. Charlie pays careful attention to the particular details of harnessing and rigging the animals. He says

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Photo by Tom Robison

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Editorial Note: The views represented in "Currents" do not in any way represent the views of The Associated Students of the University of Montana, or the University of Montana.

#### ADVERTISING RATES

Camera Ready Ads  
- 3" x 1 column - \$7.50  
- 3" x 2 columns - \$14.00  
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For ads that are less-than camera-ready - add %30  
DISCOUNT - 15% on consecutive runs of same ad, after first run.  
- OTHERWISE - \$2.50 per column inch.

which is rare. Fuel and fertilizer come from the stock and from the land. The soil regenerates itself with a minimum of outside resources.

The farm may seem out of date, at first glance, but it actually is very efficient in terms of energy and resource conservation. Certainly, the U.S. cannot turn exclusively to horse farming, but we might do well to consider more conservation-oriented methods of agriculture, and horsepower is one possibility.

A trip to the grocery store reveals pretty produce from California, chickens from Arkansas, and wheat products originating from the vast dryland wheat farms of eastern Montana, all of which are grown by means of large-scale methods using a good deal of chemical nutrients and machinery. The question arises, is the food grown in the best manner, and an additional question, how might the prevalence of smaller, less-machine-intensive farms change the quality of our food and the quality of the

# Progress in Missoula, the Place: A Generic Approach, Sort of....

TMoore

I finally read THE RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT this summer. (Admittedly, it's not the newest book on the market, but my stack of books to read goes back hundreds of years, so Norman Maclean's book is still hot off the press within my reading time-frame.) In his non-stop commentary on just about everything under the sun, the author provides his readers more "facts" of life than there are fruit trees in Missoula, but what caught my attention most was Maclean's comments about the days when a person needn't drive more than a hundred miles in Montana to reach a town with a brewery.

That set me thinking. About progress. And beer. The big breweries. Busch. Miller. Schlitz. The little outfits have faded. They've gone the way of baseball cards on the back of cereal packages and wooden canoes. It's progress. Like speed limit signs on mountain roads. And mail-in-vehicle registration, and hypalon rafts and speed bumps. It's all controlled now. I suppose that's not so bad. There are so many of us now, even in Montana, at least in the cities. They--whoever they are--must control the masses somehow, if not with speed bumps, then with computerized check out stands and supermarket products priced by those new-fangled, narrowly spaced black lines. And, control being what it is, those black lines seem perfectly at place in the new age of generic that is upon us.

Recently, I heard a woman in Buttrey's ask her man to take some generic crackers from the shelf. Ah, if the grocers only knew what they missed by the quirk of a letter. If the marketers only knew, if the advertisers could surmise. After all, 'r' is next door neighbor to 't' on the typewriter. I've mistakenly hit 't' for 'r' many times. But this is an instance when an error can work to humankind's benefit.

Think of the implications of buying genetic soup instead of generic soup. We'd be stronger four or five fold, at least. What about genetic mustard and genetic pickle relish? Why, eating hot dogs could even be healthy. But this about progress, not genes.

Soon, the newest sign of progress in Missoula will be the Sheraton Hotel. I departed Billings when they tore down the old post office to make room for the new (not so new anymore) Billings Sheraton. They razed the old to raise the new. Makes as much sense as trying to grow raisins. We'll tear down the old riverfront houses on Clay and LaVasseur streets to build a fancy new hotel, destroy the charm of a town and build it into a city.

Imagine all those sketches and paintings and posters and tee shirts of Missoula. You know, the ones that depict Mount Sentinel with its landmark M rising gallantly in the distance behind Main Hall's bell tower and the Clark Fork Station tower and the County Courthouse bell tower. In the future we'll still have the towers on our chests and closet doors, but will we see the M? No, it--at least part of it--will be hidden by the new Sheraton (the RIVERFRONT SHERATON sounds nice), which won't have a tower or a bell. Maybe we'll see part of the M from downtown. It will appear disfigured, mutated, worse than after the weekend the Bobcats play here. Instead of gazing at a blue M, we'll see only part of a letter, making it appear to be a catastrophic N or geeky V. Not that it will matter. People visiting our city will recognize Missoula by the new fifteen story monster Sheraton. We won't need the M anymore. Just as well. It's too hard to explain to friends that the M stands for either Missoula or Montana, take your choice. It's simpler to explain a new hotel.

But I don't mean to be maudlin. Life is change, as Norman Maclean intended to remind us by writing of the

demise of Missoula's Highlander and Helena's Kessler breweries. (He didn't even mention Great Falls Select, even though it survived the longest in Montana. I don't think Norman likes Great Falls. I don't blame him. Great Falls doesn't even have a Sheraton, just Malstrom Air Force Base, which to my knowledge doesn't even have a bell tower.)

Forget the negative; the positive abounds. And that gives rise to a question:

continued on back page

## Proposed Rate Hike May Force Choice of Roles

Lu Kindblade

Tack Montana Power Company's proposed 65% rate increase onto your average monthly power bill and see if you experience any pain. If this proposal does go into effect, most MPC customers will feel it - right in the wallet.

The reason for the proposed rate hike is to pay for the twin coal-fired generating plants otherwise known as Colstrip 3 & 4. These 700-megawatt power plants are producing surplus power. Because Montana already has plenty of power, this extra Colstrip power is being sold out of state at a fraction of what Montanans pay for power. A power plant is required by Montana law to be "used and useful" to consumers before it can be paid for by increased power rates. Where does that put Colstrip?

The "Colstrip script" was written with the Montana rate payer cast in a major role. A role that the MPC consumer did not even audition for! The Montana rate payer was not included in the decision to propose this increase, yet if the proposal is passed, Montanans will be actively involved. That is, actively paying substantially more to MPC monthly.

Although Montanans are cast in this role, they need not accept it. The consumer can take on the other role of actively voicing opposition to the proposed increase. This is our show, we have a choice of how we want to run it.

Montana's Peoples' Action is currently working on a consumer campaign opposing the increase. MPA invites you to lend your support.

# PERSONAL VIEWS

## Tensions Increase Between USSR and USA

(Former SAC Staffer)

A United Nations delegate recently said, "Tensions are greater now between the Soviet Union and the United States than at any time in the past twenty years. The immediate cause of this strife, of course, is the shooting down of a Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter plane. It was a horrible act, one which strikes us all deeply and vividly. Even more frightening, though, has been the subsequent actions of the militarists in the United States. Their first step was to distort the facts surrounding the plane's downing.

To begin with, we were told repeatedly that tapes of Russian communications proved that there were no warning shots before the firing of an air to air missile. Then, our government changed its story and admitted that the tapes showed that warning shots were actually fired.

Also, the American public was told, by President Reagan himself included, that it was impossible for the Soviets to have confused the Boeing 747 for a spyplane. Only later have we learned that an American spyplane, an RC-135, was in the vicinity of the doomed airliner and that such spyplanes regularly violate Soviet airspace after approaching in the same commercial airplane that Flight 7 was using. Now, a government analysis of the incident shows that the Soviets believed they were, you guessed it, tracking an RC-135 spyplane. Government sources say that the Reagan administration took information and drew conclusions that went far beyond what was really known, in an effort to strengthen the case against the Soviet Union.

Listening to Reagan's Labor Day Speech, a friend who was in Austria in 1939 thought it was all too similar to Hitler's speech justifying the invasion of Poland. My friend saw both as containing the same blind emotionalism built on a foundation of exaggerated and

imaginary facts. We may never know the full story of what happened on September first. The Soviets may have maliciously killed these civilians, or the CIA may have intentionally misdirected the plane. Both are capable.

Does the lack of credibility of the Soviet and U.S. governments indicate that no blame can be laid? Absolutely not! The murder of the two hundred sixty-nine passengers was, in fact, militarism. Paranoia, belligerence and weaponry generated by both superpowers killed these innocent victims. During the Vietnam War, American soldiers mercilessly gunned down unarmed peasants at a village called My Lai. In 1973, Israeli fighters shot down a Libyan airliner, killing 108 civilians. And now KAL 007. These are not unique events. They are the expected results of a world gone mad with reverence for military might and brinkmanship.

Few of us can doubt that Reaganism contributed to the paranoia which brought about the plane's destruction.

The shooting down of Flight 007 should sadden and anger us. It deserves condemnation, but it should be looked at in the context of U.S. support for the government of El Salvador, murderer of forty thousand. It should be kept in proportion to U.S. bolstering of the brutal, repressive President Marcos of the Phillipines.

Look at what's happening in this country. Anti-Soviet hysteria is at a fever pitch. The U.S. has already violated one treaty by not allowing the Soviet United Nations delegation to land at civilian airfields. What other treaties might be next? Further, the U.S. House just passed a military authorization bill which included funding for chemical weapons. We are now in the business of producing "moral" U.S. chemical weapons, which, as everyone knows, are completely different from godless communist chemical weapons. Incidentally, Representative

Williams voted against this defense authorization while Representative Marlinee, and Senators Baucus and Melcher voted for it.

During his Labor Day speech, Reagan accused the Soviets of an act of barbarism, a crime against humanity. At the same time he called for support for the MX missile, which, because of its first-strike capability, has to be one of the most barbaric, inhumane weapons yet devised. As a monument to the passengers of Flight 007, Reagan and the other hawks wish to build a vast new arsenal. They would risk adding all humanity to a funeral pyre that now contains two hundred sixty-nine. We cannot allow this to happen. The fact of these deaths occurring, calls us to work for peace, not for war, to stop our country's increasing militarization, not spur it on.

[Note: Since this article was written many important changes have taken place. Most important to note is the vote in the House on Thursday Oct. 20, voting down covert military aid against Nicaragua. The Senate has still to vote. It is noted here that Rep. Ron Marlenee voted for military aid.]



Weapons do not make us secure.  
Вам мир оружие не обеспечит

## The Conflict of The Americas

Kim Barta

There has been much tension and attention devoted to Central America lately--and for good reason. With millions of dollars of U.S. tax money being poured into the region and American military people being killed there (over 2,000 people have died in battles between C.I.A.-backed forces and the Sandanista army), it is time the American people start paying attention, studying what is happening and voicing their opinions to those who have been chosen to represent us in the land where the decisions are made.

Nicaragua has been cited as the central nation responsible for the unsettling actions of the area. With fighting going on across most of its borders, the highest military budget of the area, and the fact that it provides the major highway for movement of arms from Cuba to the El Salvadorian "rebels", this appears to be a reasonable conclusion.

On the other hand, the U.S. has been pouring millions of dollars of military aid into Honduras and has filled the region with troops, ships, spy planes, and surveillance equipment. Furthermore, the U.S. has been supplying and supporting Mr. Robello (head of the anti-Sandanista rebels) to invade Nicaragua. This band is not as small as is often thought. Nicaragua reported that on April 30, they were attacked by 1,200 men and when the Sandanista army drove them back they retreated to Honduras where they regrouped to form a band of 2,000 Somonist warriors plus another 2,000 mercenaries. Apparently, the U.S. plans on supporting the anti-Sandanistas for sometime. Henry Kissinger, head of a residential committee to establish a long term policy for Central America, has met with Mr.

Robello. (Although they refuse to meet with any other revolutionary leaders in the area like these of El Salvador), Mr. Robello is stationed in Honduras and much of the "aid" going to Honduras seems to find its way into the hands of the anti-Sandanista rebels. These rebels are attacking Nicaragua from Honduras, Costa-Rica, and from the sea (they have been particularly successful at sea lately, destroying cooking and crude oil imports). The nation has been on rations for sometime now, and their last shipment (from Canada) was demolished and bombed by the rebels. Costa-Rica has previously warned Mr. Robello that he will be ousted from their territory if he continues to raid Nicaragua from their country. Originally, they had allowed Mr. Robello to station there solely for political space. He has taken this one step further and has been using Costa-Rica as a military base. This annoys Costa-Rican officials who are trying to maintain a neutral stance in all the maylay of the region. (It is no wonder why Nicaragua is seen as the center of Central American problems by so many; they are the center of U.S. military and economic attacks, which would also account for why they have such a high military budget.) This is no secret, of course. It has been the subject of many debates in Congress over the last few years.

At the United Nation's Meeting in May of 1983, Nicaragua called for a discussion of the area. President Reagan's thesis, that the U.S. has the right to proclaim illegitimate, those governments which it did not like and then proceed to overthrow them (so a Nicaraguan spokesperson said), poses the greatest threat to international peace and security. At the U.N. meeting Nicaragua asked for two things: 1) stop U.S. aggressions and establish immediate withdrawal of invading troops, and 2) set up a dialogue between Nicaragua and Honduras and between Nicaragua

and the U.S., in co-ordination with the Contradora group to take place at the U.N.. (The Contradora group is a group composed of four nations, Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, and Columbia--countries who have been recognized around the world as being particularly respectable in their attempts to solve the pains and problems of Central America.) Both Honduras and the U.S. declined bilateral negotiation with Nicaragua. Nicaragua invited the president of Honduras to visit Nicaragua--the invitation was declined. The Contradora group proposed a meeting of the two nations in the presence of the group, Nicaragua agreed, Honduras again declined.

A vote at the U.N. unanimously supported the efforts of the Contradora group. It was agreed that all involved should put all their efforts into solving the Central American problem with the Contradora group acting as mediary. U.N. spokespersons from all over the globe agreed that outside intervention should be stopped, that the problem was regional and should be settled by those directly involved. Many U.S. congresspersons agree that the U.S. should cease its interventions in Central America. A recent WASHINGTON NEWS poll showed that the majority of Americans in the U.S. believe the United States should not intervene in the area. It appears the whole world is against U.S. intervention in Central America, including most U.S. citizens. However, the U.S. continues to intervene, tax money continues to be spent. Arms continue to be shipped, U.S. troops are still in Nicauaguan sea waters, Mr. Robello continues his attacks supported by U.S. aid, and people continue to die. 00000

Bibliography:  
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NEW YORK TIMES  
U.S.A. TODAY  
WALL STREET JOURNAL

# Please Recycle This Paper

# Will The West Be Won Again?

Lance Olson

During the 1800's, white settlers began crossing the Mississippi River to claim the West; the same process seems to be starting again.

The latest U.S. Census Bureau report indicates that the U.S. population is leaving some parts of the country to settle in other parts of the U.S. People are leaving the Northwest and the Midwest, and moving to the South and West. The population in some states may increase as much as 45%, or nearly half again as many people as the number living in those states now.

The population in Montana is also expected to increase in the next few years. By 2000, the Montana population is expected to be increased by as much as 20% to 39%. That is a possible increase of more than 300,000 people in a state that has just over 800,000 people now. Adding this amount of people would almost certainly have an impact on presentday Montanan's use of their favorite places for fishing, picnicking, hunting, or hiking. As the number of people increases, the space available for each person decreases.

The West has already been changed since the first white settlers began crossing the Mississippi. Most of the change has taken place in recent years. The land is more settled than ever. The 1980 census also revealed that human occupation of the land increased sharply in the 1970's. The increase of homes built on rural land was greatest in the West, where 45% of all existing homes on rural land were built in the 1970's. Land once available for wildlife and agriculture is now under new houses and new roads.

Montanans have a long history of protecting the wide open spaces of their state. As early as 1889, some Montanans were saying that restrictions should be put on the number of new-

comers entering Montana. The May 1976 issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC included an article titled "Should They Put a Fence Around Montana?". This attitude has irked people who say it creates a bad climate for business, but it is an attitude with a long history. It has even worked its way into Montana humor. A popular T-shirt displays Montana in outline and proclaims, "Gut Shoot 'Em At The Border".

The early settlers came to the West for many reasons. Some were simply fortune hunters. Others had other reasons. One family left the Midwest in the 1800's because they felt that the area was already too crowded. The reason this family left was that another family had settled only twelve miles away. As a result, they and other settlers moving west increased the population here.

There were people already living in the West when the white settlers came. Those people also tried to have some control over the number of newcomers. They lost, and the West was won. Now the same process is beginning again. However, the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC article ends with these words: "There is still time in Montana; even amid the storms, there is still time."

## Timber Unemployment May Increase

Lance Olson

Miners in Butte lost their jobs when the company that employed them closed down its operations and left. Montana loggers may face a similar problem in the future. The timber companies are apparently planning to go south after the timber is cut in the Northwest. Unemployment and reduced spending may not be the only problems created.

Last July, the WALL STREET JOURNAL reported that timber companies are leaving the Northwest because the timber supply is diminishing. It is diminishing because of a heavy rate of cutting. A Forest

Service economist quoted by the WALL STREET JOURNAL said that the timber in the region is being cut faster than it can grow back. He said the supply has been dropping dramatically. Without a good supply, the companies would have no incentive to stay in the Northwest.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL article reports that timber companies have already begun to move to the South. According to the July 19 article, only two new mills have been opened in the U.S. in the past few years. One was in Mississippi. The other was in Alabama. The reason that the timber companies are moving their operations to the South is that 5% of the supply of softwood on earth is in the southeastern U.S., but people in the South are concerned about the effect that cutting these forests would have on their wildlife.

Forest products workers who are dependent on timber companies would lose their jobs if the companies moved away. That would create another bout of unemployment. A recent period of unemployment, due to decreased housing construction in recent years, has been improving as housing construction improves. This recent improvement in the employment rate of forest workers has also improved the economy of local communities. If the WALL STREET JOURNAL article is correct, these recent improvements would vanish once the timber supply was cut down to levels that would be of no interest to major timber companies. Nothing restricts the economic opportunity provided by timber as much as losing the supply. Heavy cutting in the Northwest seems to be leading to that result. It could also lead to problems for wildlife, water, recreation, and tourism which are other economic opportunities still existing in the region.

"People don't realize that we were each given the Universe as a birthday present on the day we were born. It's amazing how so few people even bother to take off the ribbon and look inside."

(author unknown at this time)

THE STUDENT ACTION CENTER

The Student Action Center is an action-oriented student resource center that encourages and supports active participation in current political and social issues. That encouragement and support is provided in a number of ways, including: access to community resources, information on current issues and events, education on and assistance with project organization and communication skills, and limited financial support for "needy" projects. Some of our past involvement has included the organizing or co-sponsoring of: newspaper articles, lectures, films, workshops, letter-writing campaigns, rallies, radio and newspaper ads, poster and pamphlet printing, and fund-raising events.

Below is a questionnaire which we hope will give us a better idea of what you, the members of the Student/Faculty community, are interested in, concerned or otherwise uninformed about on a local, national, and global scale in regards to the events and dilemmas of the present day. Your feedback will help us choose the ideas to address which are of the greatest importance to you.

Please fill out the form and return it to the collection box outside the SAC office (University Center, room 105, across from the ASUM Programming office, on the main floor of the UC Mall). Your response will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,  
The Student Action Center Staff

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If after completing the questionnaire, you feel that you would like to get more involved in a particular issue (or issues) and/or you would like SAC's involvement in that issue as well, please make a note in the "COMMENTS" section and leave your name, address, and phone number in the space provided....or simply stop by the SAC office (U.C. 105) and corner one of our friendly staff members.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



INSTRUCTIONS

Please identify 5 topics in each of the three geographic categories (i.e. local, national, and global), which are of the greatest concern to you, by numbering them "1" through "5" in the space to the left of each topic (there should be 15 numbered spaces by the time you are finished). If you have a more specific interest related to one of these topics, please indicate it in the space provided to the right of each topic, or in the "OTHER" column at the end of each section.

LOCAL ISSUES

Environment

- Water Pollution.....
Grizzlies / other Endangered Wildlife.....
Montana Wilderness Legislation / Protection.....
Pesticides / Herbicides.....
Timber-related Issues.....
Mineral Exploration in Montana.....
Sale of Federal Lands.....
Water Rights.....
Rangeland Preservation.....
Transport of Radioactive Materials Through Montana.....
Toxins and Communities (Milltown).....
OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Energy

- Coal Slurry Pipelines / Coal Gasification.....
Air Pollution in Missoula.....
Coal Mining and Reclamation.....
Centralized Thermal and Hydro Power in Montana.....
Alternative Energy.....
Energy Conservation.....
The Northwest Power Planning Act.....
BPA Power Corridors in Montana.....
Local Effects of Canadian Power Development.....
The Kootenai Falls Dam.....
OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Human Conflicts / Human Rights

- Tribal Rights / Issues.....
Women's Issues in Montana.....
Alcoholism / Drug Abuse.....
Domestic Violence.....
Hmong Settlement in Montana.....
Education in Montana.....
Child Abuse.....
Montana's Mental Health Care System.....
Local Hunger and Malnutrition.....
The Montana Peace Movement.....
Health Care in Montana.....
The Montana State Judicial System.....
OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL ISSUES

Environment

- Soil Erosion.....
- Nuclear Waste Disposal.....
- Toxins and Communities.....
- Acid Rains.....
- Sale of Federal Lands.....
- Land Use: Urban vs. Agricultural.....
- Wilderness Preservation.....
- Endangered Plant and Animal Species.....
- Air and Water Pollution Laws / Enforcement.....
- Depletion of Natural Resources.....
- OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Energy

- Off-shore Oil Drilling.....
- Thermal Energy Development.....
- Alternative Energy (large and small scale).....
- Energy Conservation.....
- Centralized vs. Decentralized Power.....
- Nuclear Power.....
- "National Sacrifice Lands" for Energy.....
- OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Human Conflicts / Human Rights

- Minority Issues.....
- Women's Issues.....
- Domestic Violence.....
- Child Abuse / Neglect.....
- Immigrants and Illegal Aliens.....
- Poverty and the Welfare System.....
- Education and the U.S. ....
- Aging in America.....
- Health Care.....
- Television and the Media.....
- Nuclear Weapons Deployment.....
- The Draft / Draft Registration.....
- IRS vs. the Right to Privacy.....
- The Federal Judicial System.....
- Organized Labor.....
- Religion and Politics.....
- Asian Refugees.....
- Government Power / Corporate Power.....
- Malnutrition in America.....
- Military Spending.....
- Satellite Weapons Development.....
- Chemical, Biological, Nerve Gas Weapons.....
- Euthanasia Laws.....
- Capital Punishment.....
- OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

GLOBAL ISSUES

Environment

- Biosphere Reserves.....
- The Greenhouse Effect: World Climate Change.....
- Acid Rain.....
- Deforestation in the Equatorial Regions.....
- Endangered Plant and Animal Species.....
- Pesticides / Herbicides.....
- Land Use: Urban vs. Agricultural.....
- Effects of Energy Exploration in the Arctic.....
- Politics of the Antarctic.....
- Politics of Space.....
- International Whaling.....
- The World's Oceans: Food Supplies.....
  - Mining & Drilling.....
  - Pollution.....
- Disposal of Toxins and Nuclear Wastes.....
- OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Energy

- Oil and War in Latin America.....
- Oil in the Middle East.....
- Soviet Oil and Western Europe.....
- Energy and Politics.....
- Energy Sources in the Third World.....
- Nuclear Power.....
- Alternative Energy (World-wide).....
- OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Human Conflicts / Human Rights

- Lebanon.....
- Grenada.....
- Exploitation of the Third World: Gov't & Corporate.....
- Hunger / Populations / World Health.....
- Poverty / Distribution of Wealth.....
- Native People's Issues.....
- War in the Middle East.....
- Conflict in Latin America.....
- "Civil War" in Ireland.....
- Political Prisoners.....
- Human Rights and the Eastern Block.....
- Terrorism.....
- Asian Politics.....
- Refugees.....
- Nuclear Weapons (World-wide).....
- The "New" Cold War.....
- Religion and Politics.....
- Genetic Engineering.....
- The United Nations.....
- South Africa and Apartheid Politics.....
- OTHER (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

## Milltown, Love Canal Topics at Conference

NEWS RELEASE FROM  
MONTANA PEOPLE'S ACTION

On Jan. 20, 1984, Lois Gibbs, founder of the Love Canal homeowners association, will arrive in Missoula for a three-day conference on hazardous wastes, sponsored by Montana People's Action.

According to People's Action Co-chair, Melody Fuchs, "I invited Lois to come to Montana because what she went through fighting toxic waste in Love Canal is like my struggle to clean up arsenic in Milltown. There are now 94 EPA-recognized hazardous waste sites in Montana and if people aren't concerned now, they will be when more and more communities find their air or soil or drinking water contaminated."

The Gibbs visit will kick off Montana People's Action's grassroots campaign against hazardous waste. The group organized Milltown residents to obtain EPA Super Fund Money for the clean up of arsenic and five other heavy metals that exist in toxic quantities in the four wells that serve 33 families in Milltown. MPA also organized citizens to lobby successfully for passage of Montana House Bill 200, the "Mini-Super Fund" Bill, that creates state monies for hazardous waste clean up. Through the summer and fall, MPA also organized residents of the Anaconda area to obtain a 24-hour monitor of the smelter demolition process there.

Fuchs says, "One of the goals of our campaign is to educate Montanans on the effects and extent of hazardous waste in our state. But we also want to address the jobs issue, because when it

comes right down to it, it's industry that causes hazardous waste. But they've got us afraid to say anything about our health or environment because we're afraid to lose the few jobs around. What kind of choice is that: a job or good health."

Gibbs will attend a reception in Milltown, Friday, Jan., 20 at 3:00 p.m. to learn about Montana's toxic waste issues. At 7:30 p.m., Friday night, she will speak at the University of Montana Underground Lecture Hall, telling people what happened at Love Canal and urging them to organize against hazardous waste contamination.

Saturday, Jan. 21, at 1:00 p.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gibbs and Fuchs will moderate a panel discussion. Invited to sit on the panel are Governor Schwinden, Steve Pilcher, chief of the State Water Bureau, and Dick Montgomery of the Helena EPA office. Some of the questions anticipated from the community include:

--What is the role of the state and the EPA in identifying, monitoring, and disposing of hazardous wastes?

--What state legislation will be added or improved to make control of hazardous waste in Montana more effective?

--What will Montana do if Idaho succeeds in passing legislation prohibiting other states from using their class one dump site? (Currently, Montana has no dump site for the most toxic classification of waste. Our waste is sent to Idaho. But citizens are organizing against the leaking dump

which is poisoning hundreds of families in the Grandveiw area south of Boise. If Montana is prohibited from dumping in Idaho, will the state attempt to make the old Anaconda smelter our class one dump site?)

On Saturday, Jan. 21, also at St. Paul's, there will be a community potluck supper followed by a slide show of the Love Canal disaster. Love Canal, a middle-class community near Niagara Falls, New York, was a school and hundreds of family homes built on top of the Hooker Chemical Company's chemical waste dump. In 1978, Lois Gibbs, an ordinary housewife with no skills or experience in in community involvement (like our Melody Fuchs) began to organize her neighbors to ask questions about the effects of the chemicals buried beneath their homes. The result was the eventual relocation of hundreds of families suffering from various illnesses, cancerous diseases, birth defects, miscarriages, and unexplained deaths. The Love Canal incident resulted in the establishment of the EPA Super Fund Program and in recognition that hazardous wastes are a community crisis facing our entire nation.

Gibbs went on to form the Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste to assist other communities. The public is invited to attend all events and activities during Gibbs' three-day visit. For more information, call Montana People's Action in Missoula at 728-5297, or in Helena at 449-6597.

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# PERSONAL VIEWS

## On Conservation

Bill LaCroix

Been feeling frustrated lately? Have you been reluctant to look at the front page of a newspaper? Or wondering where the world is heading these days, where the country is heading, where you really fit in, or if your little old self really makes any difference at all? Have you been looking for some answers, lately?

Well, don't feel like the Lone Ranger. So have I. So have a lot of people. However, after reading through the recent newspaper accounts about the Marines in Lebanon and the Marines in Grenada and the Marines to-be flooding the recruiting offices, I got the idea that what I was wanting was a little perspective. I got the idea that I was wanting a little food for thought, because the latest news was hardly digestible; it was just plain scary. Now 'perspective' is a fickle word, subject to much interpretation. Let those chips fall where they may, I took my interpretation down to the library, sat myself down in a dark little nook and began flashing microfilmed copies of old headlines and front pages before my eyes. I would have preferred the real papers, but I guess I can forgive the library, in their consideration for space, their preference to microfilm. That microfilm sure is hard on the eyes, though.

Anyway, I was interested in a specific time--1980, between late August and early November, when presidential candidates' rhetoric traditionally runs at fever pitch, when presidential candidates traditionally vie to sell themselves and their 'line' to the American public. And I concerned myself mostly with what Reagan was selling back then, what he was promising and saying. I was looking, for what the American public thought it was buying back then. From that, I thought I might garner a hint as to how we have come to find ourselves where we are today. Thus, I jotted down a few quotes.

I lifted the standard Reaganisms of the day, the

ones about taking 'government off the backs of the American people', and about the U.S. standing for 'the last best hope of man on earth'. I found what I thought was a real gem on the pages of August 21, 1980, when he asked a crowd of aging veterans the rhetorical question, "How is military superiority dangerous?". As I twisted the dial on that microfilm machine, fighting off a headache from the mixture of flashing light and bad, old news, I kept running across a major theme in Reagan's speeches, and also a major issue in the campaign--old news now, long ago thrown out with the fish bones, but which seemed to say something to me.

The issue was this--that Reagan ended up winning the election of 1980 on domestic issues, not on foreign policy, that Carter continually lambasted Reagan's foreign-policy stands as 'simplistic' and 'dangerous', and that Reagan, seeming to accept the consensus that Carter's strong point over him was foreign policy, stuck to domestic issues as his strong point over Carter. He beat the 'Reaganomics' drum of course, everybody remembers that, and the removal of Government from select backs. He also promised something else. Reagan, in his verbal attempts to woo voters away from the Democrats, offered the people 'more'. Throughout the campaign, over and over again, Reagan assured the country that they could maintain their standard of living, if only they would vote him into office.

"For three years and eight months, Mr. Carter has led us to believe that there is an acute shortage of energy resources in this country. The truth is America has an abundance of energy," Reagan said on September 11, 1980.

"Air pllution has been substantially controlled," he blurted on October 10. "We don't have inflation because the people are living too well--we have inflation because the government is living too well", he assured us on October 28, during the famous television debate.

on Oct. 30, less than a week before the elections, Reagan's message was that, "in just four years, his

(Carter's) policies have done more to reduce the standard of living than any president in recent memory."

Speaking of memory, remember Carter's 'policies'? Remember his "moral equivalent to war"? His conviction that conservation was high on the list of priorities for this country? Remember how Carter attempted to have people stare face-to-face with the prospect of reducing, if only somewhat, their high standard of living? That sat uncomfortable with a lot of people, to be sure, and Reagan picked up on this. He promised those people, he promised all of us, that austerity would not be necessary, that we could be 'great' again, if only we would assert ourselves more. He promised us comfort, he promised us the moon, and many people in this country accepted him at his word. The irony is, though, that with the help of so many of us, his domestic policy became his foreign policy. That is my conclusion, now allow me to explain.

I believe that it is an awfully simplistic impulse to merely blame politicians for the unpleasantness in the world, because, although they certainly do carry their fair share of the responsibility, so does everybody else. In a democracy such as ours, even with all its faults, politicians are more the visible symptom of a problem; the manifestation of what people let them get away with. Rather than look for an easy out, people have to look at themselves to find the deeper answers to the complicated problems of the day and to consider--albeit among other things--how each of them contribute to the high level of per capita energy consumption that has set politicians' mouths in motion for the past thirty years. Answers to what has caused politicians to promise us over and over again that they will give the public 'more', (for the small consideration of voting them into office). In other words, I wonder how many people during the 1980 elections equated a 'strong America' with a 'comfortable America'. And I wonder how many people, who don't even agree with or understand Reagan's policies, still want

to remain 'comfortable'.

Of course, one can point to the boom in economy-car sales or the huge upsurge of interest in home-insulation since the energy crises of 1973, and say, "But what more would you have us do?" So let me put it another way.

Picture Higgins Avenue on any Friday or Saturday night, the highschool kids cruising the drag in their hopped-up Chevies and glistening new 'four-by-fours', getting hyped on the power of their machines, and yet with no conscious thought towards the energy they are being allowed to burn up so senselessly, with no one trying to tell them that they might very well be asked to lay down their lives in the future for the gasoline they are unconsciously burning today. The assumption that 'there's always more where that came from' still remains a comfortable one, despite the oil crunch of '73, and it is one that parents are obviously, still passing onto their children.

Or picture the scene down at the mall, where people go to shop for the little knickknacks that seem to make up our material wealth--the hair dryers, and the juicers, the televisions sets, the disposable diapers, the bras, the Teri-cloth towels, all manufactured in the sweatshops of Latin America, much of which uncannily finds its way to the local dump, discarded without thought, to make way for the newer knickknacks. Picture the huge parking lot, outside the mall, and consider that malls, representing the highest expression in consumer convenience in this country, almost without exception have huge parking lots surrounding them. They are built for people to drive to. And people do, thus more malls and parking lots are built.

At least picture this--the campus parking lot at nine a.m. on any given week-day. Picture a legion of students flicking in for their morning classes, for their lectures on history and political science, for economics and business, for science labs, i.e., for their morning doses of higher education. Consider that almost every one of the cars they drive to school in

has a sole occupant, and that sole occupant probably never considered that he or she could have ridden a bike to school, or walked, or at least car-pooled with someone else. Riding in a car all alone can be a comfortable experience. Some consider it their right.

So I see a connection between politics and wasted energy. I see a thread that ties the individual in this country to the turmoil in the Third World, where the U.S. and the Soviets are parrying and thrusting at each other in an ever more determined manner as they compete for the 'vital' and also limited resources that fuel these two economies. I also see something you can do about it.

President Reagan let something slip out in his address to the nation last October 28 when he attempted to provide some answers for our recent actions overseas. "We are not somewhere else in the world protecting someone else's interests," he told us. "We are protecting our own." And "our own interests" is in large part, of course, oil. Oil to fuel our industries that crank out the knickknacks that fill up our garbage dumps. Oil to fill up our gas tanks and oil to keep America affluent. Oil that comes from volatile regions and oil that we will fight for. Oil has turned a selfish domestic concern into a ghastly foreign policy.


Obviously this country needs oil for certain things that can be termed "vital". Oil is not the only consideration that goes into foreign policy decisions. There are ideological riffs and raffs that go very deep indeed, but oil is one of the major considerations without doubt, and this country does not 'need' all the oil its citizens waste.

Economy cars are good, insulated houses are great, but folks--they alone are not enough. They only represent compromise. I am talking about a basic change of attitude, and yet such a simple change.

We are not going to change the world next week by making individual efforts in our lives to quit wasting gasoline and other resources so blatantly, but if enough

people would take on the responsibility of adjusting their lives to the present world situation, maybe we could take a little of the desperation away from our foreign policy makers, maybe we will start earning a little real respect among the world community, (which must be a valuable commodity, if the vast amounts of energy spent by the present administration towards the attainment of 'respect' can be used as a yardstick) and maybe we could learn to quit confusing knickknacks with the quality of life. Besides, a person has to believe that his or her actions can make a difference, or else a person might just as well stay drunk 'til Armageddon for all the good he or she is doing.

The time has come to act, folks, and if you are wallowing in frustration over how little you mean in the scheme of things, quit it. If you are wondering what effect you really have on anything, I offer you these suggestions as a starting point; as a thing to do while you are sorting through other, more complicated thoughts and feelings, inevitable in a world of crises, because what I am saying is really ridiculously simple. Drive less, conserve energy creatively and try to live a responsible lifestyle, and if you need a bottom line to goad you into action, I guess I have one that works just as well as any. You are welcome to use it too, if you want to. It goes like this: You have nothing to say about the mess this world is in if you are not at least trying to do something about it.

The time has come, people. Start giving a little. 



## Elk Population Headed For a Fall

Lance Olson

Every herd of elk and deer needs a place to go in winter. They migrate to winter range in order to find food. Their food supply is covered by snow at higher elevations, so their winter range has to be found at low elevations. They return to the same areas, year after year. These low elevation areas feed and shelter the animals in winter, and recharge the mountains with elk and deer each spring.

However, these low elevation areas are not public lands, but are private lands being lost to land developers who sub-divide them and sell them to people who want to have a place in the country. No one can argue that country living does not have its advantages, but it can take a toll on elk and deer. The deer and elk are evicted from the land that supports them during their most difficult season. Their populations are already starting to decline because of this loss of valuable winter range.

The importance of winter range is demonstrated by the number of animals that move onto it when snow is deep at higher elevations. A winter range of just ten square miles may support all the elk usually found scattered over a hundred miles of mountains in summer and fall. The loss of winter range can leave a lot of country empty of elk and deer.

The human population is growing. As it grows, it spreads across the land, taking up space that has historically been used by wildlife. The space humans

seek is usually at low elevations--the same space that has provided winter shelter and food for the wild herds.

The State of Montana recognized the importance of winter range many years ago. To keep populations of elk and deer from dying out, the state began to buy important winter range. This policy has kept elk a part of the state, for enjoyment by photographers, hikers, picnickers, hunters, and tourists who go into Montana mountains in summer and fall.

Elk are a very well-liked animal in Montana. During the recent effort to select a state animal, elk came in as the second choice of Montana school-children. Only the grizzly bear led the elk as the children's choice for a state animal. However, the state's effort to protect elk winter range has fallen far short of the actual need. Only 10% to 15% of the state's elk spend their winters on range owned and protected by the state. Much of the remaining winter range is vulnerable to the land developers.

The state has had trouble raising the money needed to protect elk and deer in winter. Land prices have soared, and the state legislature has always found other uses for state money. Meanwhile, elk risk coming to their familiar winter range to find a subdivision there instead.

A solution does exist: Organizations such as "Elk Unlimited" could raise the needed money for purchase of elk winter range, and

turn the acreage over to the state for management and protection. People could also encourage the state legislature to be less reluctant about purchase of lands needed by elk in winter. Such a purchase may be more of an investment in Montana than it would be an expense. Millions of dollars are brought to the state by people who come to hunt--or just to see Montana's elk.

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continued from page 2

that the fit of the collar is especially critical. "It's just like fitting one of us for shoes," he says. He also explains the correct adjustment of the singletree, doubletree, and evener. These devices, constructed from wooden shafts, bolts, and chains, serve to distribute the weight evenly between the horses. Mr. Yerian's "old-fashioned" methods actually involve a fairly sophisticated level of technology.

Charlie's style of farming could share a place with modern agricultural techniques. The use of simple animal-powered technologies may be useful for small operators, and it would be sad to see them fade away entirely. Happily, one may still observe a man who drives a team, one man who can still hear his own self whistle.

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# Please Recycle This Paper

# Roads in Wildlife Habitat Can Cause Problems

Lance Olson

Everyone is familiar with the old adage that, "It's not the long fall that kills you. It's the sudden stop." But not everyone yet knows that roads can have similar effect on grizzly bears, mountain caribou and wolves, elk and other wild life.

Roads reduce the security wild animals need from poachers and other human disturbance. A well-known example is that five grizzly bears were killed illegally this past spring in northwestern Montana. All but one were shot from roads.

Road construction in grizzly, caribou, wolf, and elk country has increased sharply in recent years. In an article in the November/December issue of MONTANA OUTDOORS, author Mike Aderhold pointed out that road construction increased by 500% since 1960. The road problem was getting "out of hand", Aderhold reported. He stated that road closures were not keeping up with the construction of new ones. He said that, for every mile of road closed, two more were being built and twenty more were being planned. The animals have fewer secure areas where they have the edge on hunters.

Road closures are fought by snowmobilers, firewood gatherers, and people who believe simply that roads built with public funds should stay open for public use, Aderhold said. Conservationists and concerned hunters have expressed fear of building new roads because it can be so hard to close them.

Roads change the style and meaning of hunting. Aderhold pointed out that, "Hunting success, once a function of skill and luck, has become in some cases a function of time and the ability to buy gas and drive the roads. A whole generation of hunters has grown up with this road-hunting option and has come to believe that additional access (more roads) will continue to provide fresh opportunity."

But roads may actually undermine opportunity. They seem to have already undermined the opportunity to see and hunt the big bull elk that so many hunters dream of. In another article, in issue of MONTANA OUTDOORS, author Gene Allen stated that the average age of elk killed by hunters has been declining. It seems that the lives of elk are being cut short by the increased access that roads create.

The U.S. Forest Service plans widespread road construction in Montana forests. One national forest--the Kootenai National Forest, plans to double the amount of roads built on land in its trust. About six miles of road would be built in every square mile of land, according to the Kootenai National Forest's proposed plan. That's a road density about equal to New York City.

The State of Montana has taken a different approach to road policy. In 1982, the Fish and Game Commission adopted a policy of holding roads to the present level instead of increasing road mileage in forests. The state policy did not prevent new roads from being built. It merely suggested that one mile of road be closed for every mile of new road being opened. If the U.S. Forest Service adopted the State of Montana policy elk hunters would start seeing those big bull elk again. And more security would help the grizzly, the caribou, the wolf and also the other wildlife in need of roadless land.



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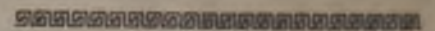
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besides the obvious new addition, the Sheraton (maybe the HELLGATE SHERATON), what will distinguish Missoula in the future? I know, the domed stadium. The Mini-Dome. Far in the future, of course. The stadium will not come into existence for another two or three head football coaches, after Larry Donovan hustles off to become coach of Purdue or Hawaii, and other optimistic young assistants from Kansas State or San Jose State or West Texas State (but not from Stanford or Yale or Michigan) surface to lead the Grizzlies and rally the alumni and community to bigger and better things. Then the stadium shall complement the new Sheraton and the cockeyed V on the hill: (Welcome to Missoula, Home of the Big Dome Conference Champions).

And in time we'll have lifeguards on Jacob's Island and Rent-a-Tube on the Rattlesnake, and those of you who remain can go to Happy Hour at the Sheraton Sun Deck Lounge and sip Rainier or Schmidt or Oly or Hamms, and finally come to realize that the beer you are guzzling does indeed taste different than Norman Maclean's bottles of stashed Kessler, and might for all the world just be genetic after all.

And that is progress.  
SORT OF.....



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