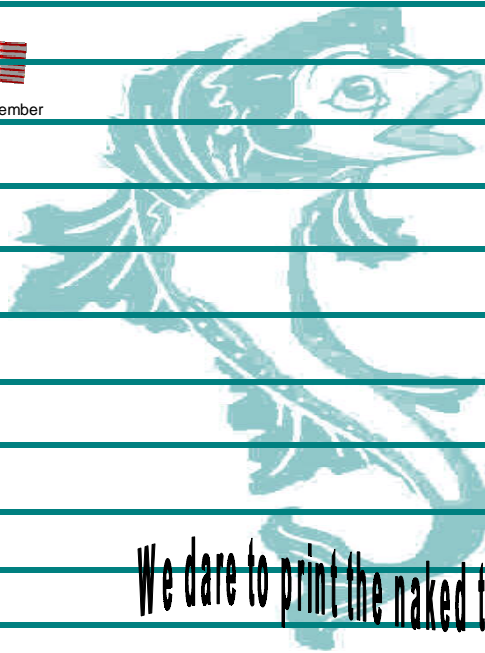




We Remember



# The Naked Fish

We dare to print the naked truth!

## KING COUNTY COMPLETES FIRST MITIGATION OF MAY VALLEY FLOODING

For years they said it couldn't be done. After 40 years of trying, King County has finally cleaned a few feet of May Creek Ditch. Early in October a crew from King County Department of Transportation cleaned about 300 feet of ditch on the McFarland and Nguyen properties near 148th. A full day of preparation led to about five hours of actual track hoe in the ditch. Another full day of cleanup and some tree planting and they were done.

While there are many positive aspects to the recently completed project, the cost is not one of them. The total project cost \$120,000 of which only \$20,000 was for the site prep time and actual cleaning. The other \$100,000 went for engineering and permits. At that rate the cleaning of the rest of the ditch will cost \$5,880,000 in today's dollars. That is an outrageous amount but still well under the cost of paying May Valley property owners for the destruction caused by King County's misguided rules and neglect.

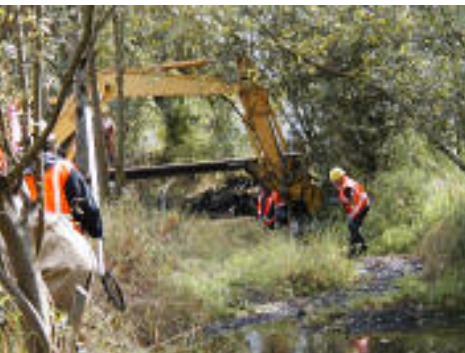
Permits cost the County only the administrative time to type up and sign the documents. The money paid for them simply transfers from one de-



Revolutionary Electric Fishing Pole

County biologists shocked, trapped and transported a variety of finger-size and smaller fish out of the project area before the cleaning began. The fish do a good job of avoiding human hands or pails (thus the shocking device and nets) but are presumed to be too dumb to move away from the track hoe bucket.

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Before



After

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Thinking cannot be carried on without the materials of thought; and the materials of thought are facts, or else assertions that are presented as facts. A mass of details stored up in the mind does not in itself make a thinker; but on the other hand thinking is absolutely impossible without that mass of details. And it is just this latter impossible operation of thinking without the materials of thought which is being advocated by modern pedagogy and is being put into practice only too well by modern students. In the presence of this tendency, we believe that facts and hard work ought again to be allowed to come to their rights: it is impossible to think with an empty mind.

J. Gresham Machen

*The Naked Fish* is published by May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC) a non-profit community group dedicated to sensible environmental management of private property. Articles in *The Naked Fish* cover subjects of concern both to local and national readers. We try to provide environmental information not commonly found in the major media. Articles with by-lines reflect the research, views and opinions of the author which may not reflect positions on the issues adopted by MVEC.

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## DICK COLASURDO'S PLEA

By Dick Colasurdo

When we bought our dairy farm in 1942, WPA had just finished digging a new channel through the middle of the valley from 164<sup>th</sup> Ave SE to below 148<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. This was done in 1939, '40 and '41. The existing bridges on 164<sup>th</sup> and 148<sup>th</sup> were built during this period. The dredging equipment was still sitting on the Buhler farm and below 148<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. They left huge piles of dirt, mostly topsoil, gravel and peat, along the banks of the ditch. They were left for the landowners to level off. I leveled the good soil into fields and used the gravel for road bed on both sides of our two bridges.

Before the ditch was dug the creek meandered through the valley below 164<sup>th</sup> mostly on the south side of the ditch. There is still evidence of the old creek bed. I filled in the old bed and leveled those fields when I cleared them. The finished ditch went through the entire valley so it was called the May Creek Ditch.

During the time I was dairy farming I was a member of our Soil Conservation District. In our farm plan they emphasized keeping the ditch cleaned and the banks mowed. I did this and dug out silt and gravel when needed from the mouth of two streams that entered May Creek Ditch. One was below our barn and the other was the mouth of Buhler Creek (Long Marsh Creek) on the Buhler farm. We were able to prevent flooding and our land would be dry in early spring for pasture and cultivating. If we had been allowed keep doing this, the buildup of sediment

*(Continued on page 3)*



**Dick Colasurdo's farm in 1986, before County help!**

## DICK COLASURDO'S PLEA

*(Continued from page 2)*

and gravel below Buhler Creek (Long Marsh Creek) would have never happened and the county could have saved a bundle of money.

During this time salmon would come up from May Creek below 148<sup>th</sup> and into the May Creek Ditch in abundance to spawn. Trout and steelhead fishing were excellent and later on the Dept. of Fisheries planted trout for juvenile fishing.

I can remember when the two houses that the county purchased were built, around 1950. The first house the county bought was built by a retired couple. It was a beautiful, landscaped two-bedroom home with lawn and pasture along May Creek Ditch. It never flooded and they had pasture all year long. They bought a couple of calves a year from me to raise for beef. In about 1970 the MacDonalds bought it and built a little barn for a few race horses. This was one of the nicest little ranches in the valley. Why the county wants to turn this parcel into wetlands I'll never know because I have never seen it as being wetlands all the years I've lived here.

The second house was built by the Gregocian family. When they built their home it would never flood. They kept a cow or two on the pasture next to May Creek Ditch. About this same time the Lee family built a home on acreage next to them. This house was destroyed by a fire; the foundation is still visible. The acreage they built on was high and never had a flooding problem back then.

Had the May Creek Ditch been maintained in the past years these two houses would still be livable and the country could have saved the purchase price and demolition costs on these two houses, and the high cost of dredging May Creek Ditch. **MAINTENANCE IN MAY CREEK DITCH WOULD HAVE SAVED KING COUNTY OVER A MILLION DOLLARS!**

Let the landowners on May Creek Ditch keep it cleaned and maintained to prevent flooding.



**Dick Colasurdo's farm with County help! 1996**

## AMERICA'S SILLIEST LAWS

By Bill Winter

*This is the second part of an article started in last month's Fish. It succinctly points out that not every perceived problem can be successfully fixed by government.*

**O**K, there must be something that politicians don't regulate. How about...bathtubs?

Try again. Seemingly innocuous, bathtubs can be used illegally as a sleeping place for donkeys (a crime in Arizona), as a location for singing (a crime in Pennsylvania), or as a storage place for alligators (a crime in Arkansas).

Meanwhile, in a brilliantly unpredictable move, lawmakers in Kansas City, Missouri, made it a crime to install a bathtub with four legs resembling animal paws.

After bathtubs, serious criminals graduate to swimming pools, which is why politicians in Baldwin Park, California, made it a crime to ride a bicycle in one.

And, in a related law, lawmakers in West Virginia made it a crime to whistle underwater.

Bad words are also a constant problem, and have been dealt with harshly.

Politicians in Logan, Utah, made it a crime for women to swear. Long Beach, California, had a more specialized problem, so they banned

*(Continued on page 8)*

## SHADE DOES NOT CONTROL

### STREAM TEMPERATURE

The biologists that work for King County have a love affair with riparian trees. Like the proverbial man who thinks all problems are nails because he only has a hammer, they think the solution to all problems in King County are more trees on the stream banks because that is all they can afford. Rather than tackling the real solutions to problems, they just plant more trees even if that makes the problem worse, as here in May Valley.

As part of their recently completed project near 148<sup>th</sup>, they planted 20 trees to “mitigate” for the shade lost by trimming limbs to make room for the track hoe. That the trimmed trees were on the north side of the ditch made no difference. The mantra is “Shade keeps the water cooler.” The accompanying article “Riparian Shade and Stream Temperature” is a refutation of that hypothesis by respected scientists that was originally published in the August 1996 issue of the science journal *Rangelands*.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 18)

right to create Urban Separators and will probably win. It will come too late for Cliff & Lee, however. Meanwhile King County foists ever more regulation on property owners in unincorporated areas to keep the values up inside the urban growth boundary. Where is the ACLU, supposed defenders of the little guy?

## RIPARIAN SHADE AND STREAM TEMPERATURE

By Larry L. Larson and Shane L. Larson

**R**eductions in salmon populations over the past 20 years have created a sense of urgency for improved management of watersheds, fish habitat and water quality within the Columbia River Basin. One management approach that has gained in popularity is to increase woody vegetation in riparian zones. The intent behind these plantings is to increase bank stability, stream debris and provide shade for stream temperature control (Beschta 1991).

Oregon Department of Forestry (1994) has established forest rules and regulations for riparian zones of 40 live conifer trees per 1,000 feet along large streams and 30 live conifer trees per 1,000 feet along medium streams. Similarly, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is developing water temperature standards for streams throughout the state. In northeastern Oregon the Upper Grande Ronde River Plan established watershed standards that require meadows to have at least 80% of the banks covered with shrubs, of which, at least 50% should be more than 8 feet tall (Anderson et. al. 1993). These approaches reflect the view that streamside forests profoundly influence habitat structure and food resources of stream systems. Additionally, tree height and distance away from the stream are considered meaningful indicators of aquatic habitat components including wood recruitment and degree of shade (Thomas et. al. 1993).

Activities by man that modify the amount of shade over streams have been associated with changes in water temperature (Brown et. al. 1971). Some researchers have concluded that loss of vegetation in a riparian area due to grazing, logging, or overuse by other activities can be directly linked to undesirable water temperatures due to the loss of shade (Anderson et. al. 1993).

The establishment of vegetation shade along streams to control stream temperature may seem reasonable upon first review. However this is a simplistic view of a complex and dynamic system. The purpose of this paper is to provide a discussion of energy exchange within a body of water and to consider the contribution of vegetation shade to that process. This discussion will occur in two sections: 1) Characteristics of water, water heating, and water cooling, and 2) The creation of woody vegetation shade in riparian areas. This paper is not intended to provide a complete review of the physics of energy exchange. nor will it provide discussions of more complicated forms of energy exchange in streams. Four equations (boxed) are provided as reference material in this paper. They are not required to read the text of this paper.

(Continued on page 5)

## RIPARIAN SHADE AND STREAM TEMPERATURE

(Continued from page 4)

### Characteristics of Water, Water Heating, and Water Cooling

Energy exchange is described by the First and Second Law of Thermodynamics (Halliday and Resnick 1988). These laws tell us that we can transform but not create or destroy energy and that the direction of energy exchange will occur from areas of high concentration toward areas of lower concentration.

The heating of a natural body of water is governed by two primary radiation sources: the sun, and the ambient radiation emitted by the atmosphere and the earth. A representative value for this daily incoming radiation in the Temperate Zone on a clear summer day would be  $332 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  of solar radiation and  $330 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  of ambient radiation (Satterlund and Adams 1992). The distinction between radiation sources is necessary because rock, vegetation, water, road surfaces etc. absorb, emit and reflect radiation differently, and can significantly affect radiation inputs in a given area.

An average of 19% of the solar radiation striking the atmosphere actually reaches the surface of the earth as direct radiation. An additional 28% will arrive at the earth surface as diffuse and scattered radiation (Trewartha 1968). Shade is created by intercepting direct solar radiation and preventing it from reaching the surface of the earth.

Visible solar radiation is predominantly in the range from violet to red (400 nanometers to 700 nm).

These wavelengths are mid-range to the total solar radiation that reaches the earth. Water is transparent to visible solar radiation (the radiation is not absorbed) and is least likely to absorb the energy contained in the blue (400 nm) and green (500 nm) color bands (Hollaender 1956). Approximately 95% of visible radiation will penetrate a column of clear water to a depth of 3 feet and over 75% will penetrate to a depth of 30 feet (Hollaender 1956, Sellers 1974). This characteristic permits us to see objects in the water and photosynthesis to occur beneath the surface of the water.

In contrast, water is opaque to near-infrared (700-1,000 nm) and ambient (>1,000 nm) radiation. Nearly 90% of this radiation is absorbed in the top 0.5 inch of a water column and 100% will be absorbed within the top 4.0 inches (Hollaender 1956, Sellers 1974). The absorption of this energy warms the top 4 inches of the water column without directly warming the water at greater depths. These interactions (visible, near-infrared, and ambient radiation) vary with the season of the year, time of day, water turbidity, and surface turbulence.

Energy exchange between water and incoming radiation can be estimated mathematically

{Equations derived from Sec. 7-6, Eqn. 21 and Sec. 20-3, Eqn. 3 are provided in the following box; Halliday and Resnick 1988).

$$T = \frac{P}{SA}$$

**Where**

$$Q = mc(T_f - T_i)$$

Here, t is time (s); P is the total energy delivered to the water per second (W); Q is the amount of heat deposited in the body of water (J); A is the surface area of the body of water exposed to the radiation ( $\text{m}^2$ ); m is the mass of the body of water (kg); c is the specific heat capacity of water ( $4,190 \text{ J kg}^{-1} @ 288^\circ\text{K}$ );  $T_f$  is the final temperature of the body of water (K);  $T_i$  is the initial temperature of the body of water; and S is the radiation at the surface of the water ( $\text{W m}^{-2}$ ).

To illustrate, assume there is a stationary column of water (12 inches x 12 inches x 12 inches deep at  $60^\circ \text{ F}$ ) that is receiving the radiation amount (average) received at La Grande, Oregon at Noon and 2 PM,  $734 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  and  $674 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  respectively (Solar Monitoring Lab. 1987). Also assume that none of the incoming radiation is reflected by the water surface and that none of the radiation can escape once it penetrates the surface of the water column. Given these constraints it would take 16 minutes to raise the temperature of the water column by  $1^\circ \text{ F}$  at Noon and 17.5 minutes at 2 PM. However to be accurate this estimation would need to be corrected for changes in the water

(Continued on page 6)

## RIPARIAN SHADE AND STREAM TEMPERATURE

(Continued from page 5)

surface reflectance, the transparency of water to visible radiation, heat exchange with other thermal bodies (i.e. soil), and the mixing associated with a stream environment. These factors increase the length of time required to detect a measurable increase in water temperature. If shade were introduced into this example it would intercept direct solar radiation. It would have little influence on diffuse, scattered or ambient radiation sources.

The problem of water cooling is a more complex issue both conceptually and mathematically. Water must convert and radiate its internal energy (in the form of heat) out into the thermal reservoir of the atmosphere. This process is governed by a partial differential equation known as the 'one dimensional heat equation,' or the 'diffusion equation' (Sec. 8-3, Eqn. 8-60, equa-

$$\frac{a^2 T}{ax^2} - \frac{1aT}{Kat} = 0$$

Where

$$K = \frac{k}{\rho c}$$

Here x is the position in the water column (m), K is a constant depending on the thermal conductivity k, the heat capacity c, and the mass density  $\rho$ .

tions are provided as follows; Matthews and Walker 1970).

The solutions to this equation de-

pend strongly on the initial temperature distribution assumed for the body of water, and the temperature of the air mass over the water. For simplicity we will use the water column previously described and assume that there is no heat exchange through the sides or bottom of the water column. In addition, we assume that the water and air each have uniform temperatures (water, 77°F; air, 68°F) before the onset of cooling, then as it cools, a temperature gradient forms between the top (coolest) layer of water, and the deepest (warmest) layer. Given these constraints, the rate of cooling will be a strong function of time and water depth, slowing down as the water and air mass approach the same temperature. In this example, water at a depth of 4 inches will cool only 4.5°F in approximately 1.5 days. This demonstrates that cooling water by diffusion is a relatively slow process. It does not illustrate the influence of stream mixing or any of the more complex thermal exchanges that could occur within a water channel. This example would seem to be contrary to one's ideas about cooling. When one steps from full sunlight into shade, it appears to be cooler. This is not because of a rapid cooling effect brought on by shade, but rather a manifestation of a human body's response to full sunlight. **Shade does not produce cooling, but rather prevents heating by direct solar radiation.**

If the water is in contact with an energy source (i.e. air, soil, etc.) that has a greater temperature, energy will be transferred into the water

body. As a result water traveling through shade will gain energy if the air mass temperature is greater than the temperature of the water.

### The Creation of Woody Vegetation Shade in Riparian Areas

Shade creation is bound by a number of constraints. The angle and direction of solar radiation is controlled by global position, time of year and time of day. The greatest solar angle during the summer in the Northern Hemisphere occurs at Noon on June 21 and decreases on the days preceding and following the summer solstice. Similarly, the greatest daily solar angle occurs at Noon (standard time) and decreases in both the AM and PM.

The greatest intensity of solar radiation occurs when the sun is directly overhead. Deviations from the zenith position reduce the intensity of radiation by spreading energy over a larger surface area (Trewartha 1968, Satterlund and Adams 1992). Therefore the greatest reduction in direct radiation through the use of shade would occur at the time of the greatest solar angle.

An illustration of the influence of the solar angle on shading is provided in Figure 1. In this illustration the trees are 20 and 50 feet in height and July shadows (45° N Lat.) are being cast at 12:00 Noon and 2:00 PM, respectively. The trees are 10 feet from the edge of a 40-foot wide water channel that flows from east to west. Given these parameters the 20-foot tree does

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## RIPARIAN SHADE AND STREAM TEMPERATURE

(Continued from page 6)

not cast a shadow on the water at either time. The 50-foot tree would cast a shadow extending 12 feet into the channel at noon and 15 feet into the channel at 2:00 PM. The implication of this illustration is that a 'windbreak' of 50-foot trees

stream to buffer against temperature increase is directly influenced by water volume and the size of the surface area that is exposed to the energy source. This capacity can be modified directly through the addition of snowmelt and interflow.

Similarly, over-night low air temperature will modify the daily temperature range of a stream by influencing pre-dawn water temperature.

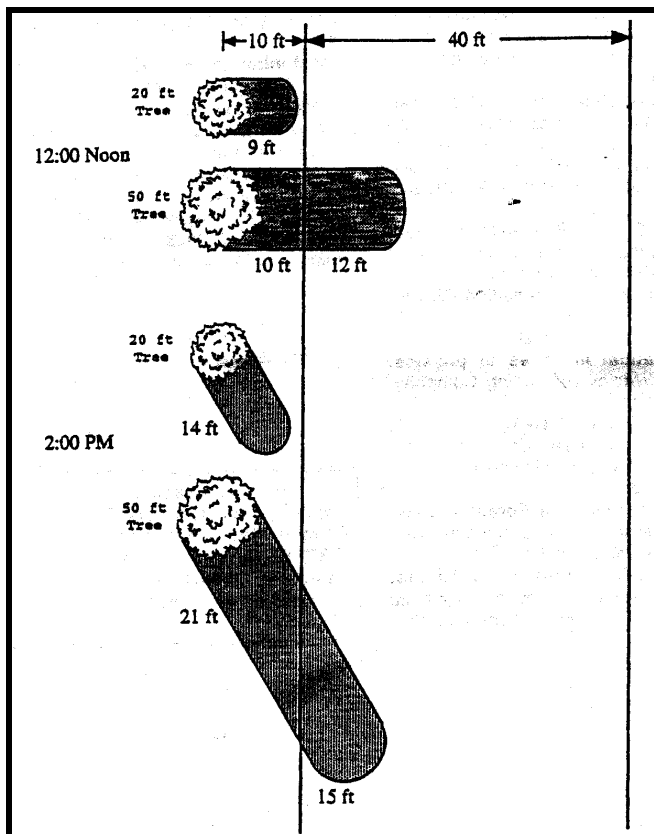
The specific heat of water allows water to absorb considerable amounts of energy before its temperature will increase. Similarly, a warmed stream must release significant amounts of energy before cooling can take place. The minimum temperature that water can be cooled will be the lowest temperature in the local environment (i.e. air or stream bank temperature). This means that it will be difficult to cool a stream in a warm environment. This statement is true whether the stream is shaded or not.

It is true that shade can be used to intercept direct solar radiation over water. However, in reality this interception will yield only limited benefit in many situations. Total surface radiation is comprised of solar ra-

diation (direct, diffuse and scattered) and ambient radiation. Direct sunlight only accounts for approximately 20% of the total, and as a result, shaded areas can receive up to 80% of the total radiative energy available at the surface. Furthermore the ability of woody vegetation (the physical limitation of height growth) to shade a stream decreases with increasing stream width. The value of shade is further influenced by the structure and orientation of the woody vegetation that creates the shade. A stream running east or west will have an entirely different shading pattern than one running north or south. Shade generated from a tall canopy of cottonwoods with an open understory will result in a different shading influence (i.e. canopy closure and air movement) than a mixed conifer community with multiple vegetation strata. Shade generated by the topography and/or stream channel will also contribute different levels of shading and exposure for water. Consequently, shade standards should indicate the amount of shade needed, not the quantity and size of woody vegetation.

Woody vegetation is only one component in a riparian ecosystem. Its importance is dependent upon site conditions and is site specific. Watershed attributes such as air mass characteristics, elevation gradient, adiabatic rate, channel (water) width and depth, water velocity, surrounding landscape, and interflow inputs all influence water temperature and can be of equal or

(Continued on page 8)



**Fig. 1. Shadows cast by 20 and 50 foot trees in July (45° North Latitude) at 12:00 noon and 2:00 PM along a 40-foot wide stream channel flowing east to west. Shadow lengths are measured along the centerline of the shadow. The trees are planted 10 feet from the stream channel.**

would expose 60 to 70% of the water to direct solar radiation.

### Observations and Conclusions

Based upon the above discussion there are a number of observations that can be made. The capacity of a

## AMERICA'S SILLIEST LAWS

*(Continued from page 3)*

cursing only on mini-golf courses. And in Texas, politicians decided to protect people who weren't going to complain anyway: They made it a crime to curse in front of a corpse.

Spitting is another vice that can only be dealt with by ~ yes! ~ more laws. (What did you expectorate?)

In Burlingame, California, it's a crime to spit anywhere, except on a baseball diamond. (Making you safe from the state's three-strikes law.) In Freeport, Illinois, it's illegal to spit from any second-story window. In Alabama, it's a crime for men to spit in the presence of women. And in Lafayette, California, it's a crime to spit within five feet of another person.

When it comes to music, the statutory song remains the same.

Felony melodies are a constant problem, which is why in Santa Monica, California, it's illegal to play percussion instruments on the beach. In Oneida, Tennessee, it's illegal to sing the song, "It Ain't Goin' to Rain No Mo'." In Salt Lake County, Utah, it's illegal for a trombonist to advertise a public auction. And in Cicero, Illinois, it's even a crime to hum ~ but only on Sundays.

Fishing is another topic that tapped lawmakers' "let's-legislate" reflex.

In Utah, they made it a crime to

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## RIPARIAN SHADE AND STREAM TEMPERATURE

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greater importance to stream temperature than vegetation shade. The history of land management in riparian zones includes periods of channelization, tree removal, the development of stream structures, the removal of large woody debris, and corridor fencing. All of these management strategies, like the current desire to control stream temperature with vegetation shade, were intended to meet a recognized land management need. Unfortunately the application of a standardized management strategy that does not account for the dynamic nature of a riparian zone will likely lead to more failures than successes. Land management decisions need to be site specific and they need to be made by qualified land managers. Streamside vegetation can improve bank stability, increase habitat for some species of wildlife, and serve as a component in the system as a whole, but **shade does not control stream temperature.**

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## AMERICA'S SILLIEST LAWS

*(Continued from page 8)*

fish from horseback. In Kansas, it's illegal to catch fish with your bare hands. In Tennessee, it's a crime to use a lasso to catch a fish. In Chicago, it's illegal to fish while sitting on a giraffe's neck. (And don't even think about tying your giraffe to a telephone pole.)

Back in the days when men totally dominated politics, they spent considerable time legislating what women were allowed to wear.

In Tucson, Arizona, and Sidney, Illinois, it's illegal for ladies to wear pants. In Merryville, Missouri, it's a crime for a woman to wear a corset. Meanwhile, in Norfolk, Virginia, it's a crime for a woman to appear in public without a corset.

In Cleveland, Ohio, women are banned from wearing patent-leather shoes. In El Paso, Texas, it's illegal for a woman to wear a "lewd dress" in public. And in California, it's a crime for a woman to drive a car while wearing a housecoat.

Trying to balance the scales a little, lawmakers in Carmel, New York, made it illegal for a man to publicly wear trousers and pants that don't match. In Blythe, California, it's a

crime for a man to wear cowboy boots unless he owns at least two head of cattle. And in Nogales, Arizona, they banned men from wearing suspenders. (So you can uphold the law, but not your trousers.)

Politicians, undaunted by the stench of corruption wafting from state capitols and city halls, also declared a War on Bad Smells. Call it Law and Odor.

In Alexandria, Minnesota, it's a crime for a man to make love to his wife if he smells of onions or sardines. In Port Arthur, Texas, it's against the law to emit "obnoxious odors" in an elevator. And in Gary, Indiana, it's a crime to get on a street car within four hours of eating garlic.

In a related law, in Houston, Texas, it's illegal to sell Limburger cheese on Sunday.

Sometimes, politicians simply get the urge to ban something.

In Evanston, Illinois, they banned bowling. In Purdy, Missouri, they banned dancing. (Calling Kevin Bacon!) In Sidney, Illinois, they banned kite flying. In Washington state they banned lollipops. (Which

ticked off the Lollipop Guild in no small way.) In Lodi, California, they banned Silly String.

Sometimes, politicians get the urge to mandate something.

In Acworth, Georgia, every citizen is required to own a rake. In South Carolina, fortune tellers are required to get a business license. (Hopefully, they saw that law coming.) And in Utah, it's a crime NOT to drink milk. ("Got milk?" Better get it.)

Then there are politicians who get mad at misdemeanor mispronunciations. In Arkansas, it's a crime not to pronounce the state's name Arkan-SAW. And in Joliet, Illinois, you face a \$5 fine if you pronounce it Jolly-ETTE, instead of the correct Joe-lee-ETTE.

Let's end this list of senseless statutes and outrageous ordinances by breaking a law. By federal statute, it's a crime anywhere in the United States to give a false weather report.

So, here's our forecast: Tomorrow, it will be warm and sunny. And tomorrow, busybody politicians ~ perhaps in your town ~ will pass yet another foolish, useless, intrusive law.

Looking over the list of silly laws already on the books, you might be tempted to say: "There oughta be a law...against ludicrous laws."

But don't go there. It only encourages them.

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## THE INHERENT INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

By Allan C. Brownfeld

[This article was written about the federal bureaucracy in 1978. The statistics have only gotten worse in the following years. Unfortunately, the King County bureaucracy has followed the lead of the federal agencies and now has us in the "Budget Crisis" with which we are currently faced. Keep this article in mind as our King County elected officials try to reorganize us out of this mess!]

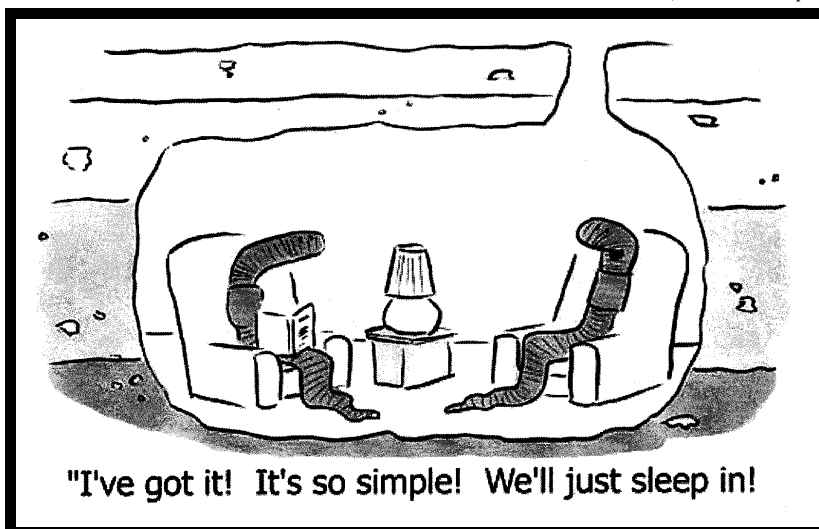
There are few who will disagree with the fact that, in recent years, the governmental bureaucracy has grown dramatically while its efficiency has deteriorated in an equally dramatic manner.

The data is instructive with regard to this state of affairs. In the twenty years between 1952 and 1972 the non-defense government payroll jumped 117 per cent. At the present time, there is one government employee in domestic services for every 5.5 workers in private employment, with a ratio of 1:9.3 twenty years ago. More individuals were added to government service in these twenty years than in the preceding 163 years since the founding of the United States.

From 1952 to 1972, the cost of the public payroll multiplied more than fourfold, from \$35 billion to \$150 billion [Ed. Currently \$697 billion]. The 330 per cent increase over that period exceeds the 247 per cent growth of employee compensation in private industries (\$161 billion to \$557 billion). In 1952, the average worker in private employment earned 5 per cent more than his counterpart in government. By 1972, he had fallen 10 per cent behind<sup>1</sup>

The growth of the government bureaucracy has been accompanied by a

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## FLOOD MITIGATION

(Continued from page 1)

partment (DNR) to another (DDES). Are we who live in May Valley the only ones to recognize that one King County department paying another King County department for permission to do a project mandated by a County Council-passed basin plan is foolish? Are months of surveying and engineering really needed for such a trivial project? Dick Colasurdo used to clean the same stretch in an afternoon before regulation prevented landowners from maintaining the ditch.

Weren't the regulations intended to protect the valley they have destroyed rather than form the basis for ever-increasing bureaucracy? Paying county employees to bless the project and do the work does not justify wasting all that money even though King County did cause the problem. Spend it on police or firemen or teachers and let the landowners care for their own property.

**When tillage begins,  
other arts follow.  
The farmers, therefore,  
are the founders of  
human civilization.**

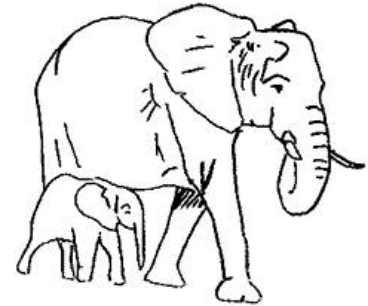
Daniel Webster

**MVEC meets every  
Monday at 7 PM at  
Leonard's Bar and Grill  
See you there!**

## THE PERFECT PLAN

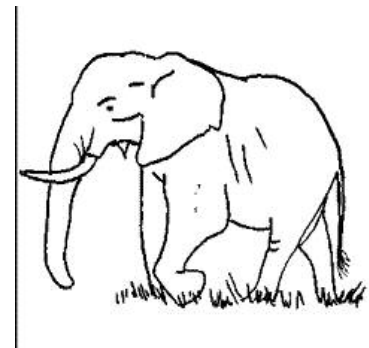
By Douglas Bandelin

One day at the pseudo-scientific eco-lab, while doing research on new sources of environmental panic to fill the day for underemployed King County bureaucrats, my partner Seth came across a terrible and amazing supposition concerning elephants and their breeding habits.



“My God, Fred, do you realize the implications of all this?”

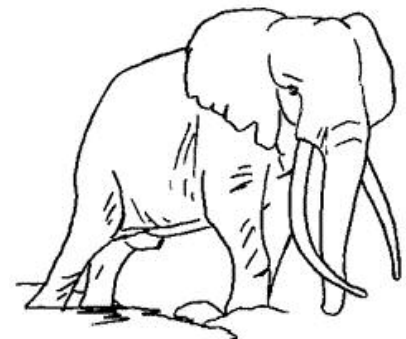
I looked over my bifocals at my excited partner. He was a typical pseudo-scientist. Pocket protector, strap to hold on horn rimmed glasses, button down short sleeve shirt from the 50’s, outlandish tie—he had all the external traits, and after working with him for awhile I came to understand he had all the internal traits as well. Nevertheless, not really knowing what esoteric minutia set him off this time, I responded courteously, “Not really.”



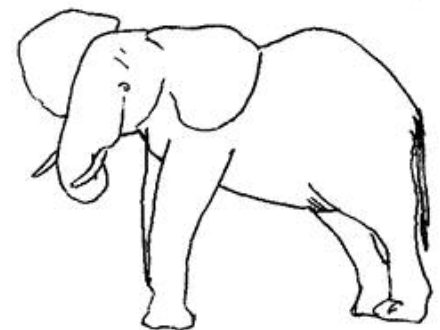
“Why, it’s the elephants! The elephants are breeding!”

“Okay, so?” I looked a little quizzical. Inside I was wondering if I should press the emergency button for the butterfly net team.

“My God, man, can’t you see! You take two elephants, they have to be a boy and girl, of course. Anyway, take these elephants and put them someplace and let them do the elephant thing. Presto! Soon there are three elephants, then four, then 8 elephants, then 16, and . . . AND!”



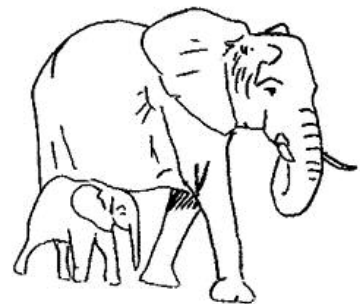
“Calm down, Seth. Take a deep breath; you are stuttering. Relax, relax. Deep breath, now . . . slowly . . . slowly . . . yes, that’s it. Now, “16 elephants and . . .”



“And? Why, the ‘and’ is that it keeps going until you know what?”

“What, Seth?”

“Elephants have taken over the world, Fred. There is no room for any other life form. Just elephants as far as the eye can see. Elephants trumpeting with their snouzers, stamping with their feet. Breeding, Fred; making more elephants. It’s an awful future for us—gloom and doom, Fred. No chance for us . . . no way out. My computer model proves it.”



“Well yes, Seth, I admit a world of elephants would be a doom and gloom scenario even though the chances for it are less than King County voting Republican. But do you have any ideas on ways to protect us from

*(Continued on page 13)*

## THE PERFECT PLAN

*(Continued from page 12)*  
the possibility?"

"AHA!" the volume of Seth's voice almost broke my eardrums. "THE RIGHT QUESTION! A+, FRED, A+! AND I JUST HAPPEN TO KNOW WHAT TO DO!"

"What, Seth? My eardrums can only take a limited exposure to this noise level, I am trying to save them for rock concerts."

"Oh, was I loud? I'm sorry. It's just that I am so EXCITED!"

"A little loud, yes; but that's okay. Come on Seth. Out with the solution."

"Well okay, agreed that a world of elephants is bad, right?"

"I agree."

"And agreed that elephants are breeding toward that end. That they are breeding to make ever more elephants right."

"I agree again."

"Solution: Limit breeding! Behold the Seth plan to save the world from tooter plague." Seth holds up something large made from some kind of rubber product. "Of course, we'll need a program to educate the elephants in its use."

"Great idea, Seth. And of course, we'll need studies on how best to dispense the product."

"And studies to identify the progress we are making."

"How about we study the impact the program would have on other species."

"Excellent, Fred. We could incorporate satellite imagery and mapping."

"Incorporate, hell, we could launch our own satellite."

"And helicopters, could we have helicopters?"

"Of course. Helicopters, too. Through our educational effort and media blitz, we could indoctrinate—I mean educate—the young and bring them into the fight against tooter plague."

"Absolutely. And through non-profit groups we could raise money and elect people to high office who hold our views."

"Soon government will come on line to fight the tooter menace. We would need an enforcement division to go on private land and make certain people were not hiding elephants."

"Yes, Seth; and we could have worldwide conferences to push our agenda on third world countries. It will be marvelous. The world will be made safe from this menace. One thing, though."

"What's that, Fred?"

## DWIGHT PELZ VISITS

King County Councilmember Dwight Pelz recently visited May Valley. He met with several residents at Leonard's and then took an abbreviated MVEC tour hosted by Douglas Bandelin, Rick Spence and Rodney McFarland.

Mr. Pelz was attentive and asked good questions. He was particularly interested in our assessments of why King County has acted as it has in May Valley and how the bureaucrats have justified their actions here. When told that hops had once been grown in the valley he understood immediately that May Valley was not wetlands at that time.

The tour concluded at the recently completed project at the McFarland/Nguyen reach which prompted a discussion of how to get similar projects done without the incredible costs of that project.

Mr. Pelz, we appreciate your interest and support.

"How will it work?"

There was silence for a moment as Seth mulled my question over. Finally he said "Um, I don't know. But it'll be expensive!"

"Perfect!" I replied. "Absolutely perfect! I'll call Pam right away."\*

\* For those who are interested, Pam Bissonette is the head of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). If you would like to call her about this and other perfect plans that fill the days of over 1,500 bureaucrats, her number is (206) 296-6500.

## THE INHERENT INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

(Continued from page 11)

decrease in its rate of efficiency. Consider several examples: Employment in the Department of Agriculture went up 47 per cent between 1952 and 1972 (78,000 to 115,000) although the number of farms in the U.S. dropped by 45 per cent (from 5.2 million to 2.9 million) and the farm population shrank 56 per cent (from 21.7 million to 9.6 million). More significantly, the cost of stabilization of farm prices and incomes multiplied seven times in this twenty-year period—from \$689 million to \$4,243 million.

In the Internal Revenue Service, the staff grew 28 per cent between 1952 and 1972 (56,336 to 72,085), almost parallel to the number of tax returns filed, which increased 26 per cent, from 89 million to 112 million. Yet, the number of tax returns per employee dropped from 1580 to 1554, even though during this same period the I.R.S. underwent its most intensive computerization and mechanization. At the same time, audits declined from 4.4 million to 1.7 million and delinquent notices from 19.8 million to 8.8 million.

### Trends in Public Education

In the field of public education, enrollment almost doubled between 1952 and 1972 while the number of teachers and other school employees tripled. In 1952, there was one employee for every 14.8 students, while in 1972 there was one for every 9.2. Comparing the trends in public education and in

other areas, Professor Roger Freeman notes that, "Trends in public education and in the American economy generally have been running in opposite directions. While throughout most of industry and agriculture, employee productivity, that is, the ratio between man-power input and product output, has increased consistently and substantially, it has just as consistently and sharply declined in public education."

The fact is that there seems to be a decline in American educational standards just as the expenditure of money and the number of personnel have dramatically increased. Results of scholastic aptitude test scores show a decline in almost every knowledge and skill area. In yet another area of public employment, police protection, we find precisely the same trend. During the 1952-1972 period there was an increase of 129 per cent in the number of employees while the U.S. population expanded only 33 per cent. There were 1.6 police employees per 1,000 population in 1952 and 2.8 in 1972. Despite this increased ratio of protection, crime did not decrease — it increased. Between 1957 and 1972, the U.S. population grew 22 per cent, the number of police employees increased 84 per cent — nearly four times faster — while the estimated number of crimes jumped 309 per cent, from 1.4 million to 5.9 million.

These examples are, of course, only skimming the surface of the avail-

able material. A look at the regulatory agencies, the Civil Aeronautics Board, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, and the like will bring us to the same conclusion. So will a look at the U.S. Postal Service and, unfortunately, at almost every other U.S. governmental agency, including the Department of Defense.

### Reasons for Inefficiency

There are some who look at this data, which is difficult to dispute in itself, and argue that the bureaucracy needs to be reorganized, supervised in a better manner, be made more responsive to the people, and so on. The proposition they seem to accept is that bureaucracy is not necessarily inefficient and uneconomical in itself, but can be corrected. The more legitimate conclusion to be drawn from the data, however, is that it is governmental bureaucracy which is inherently inefficient — and for a number of very good reasons.

That we are faced with gross inefficiency is clear. In a review of recent academic studies of government bureaucracy in *The Public Administration Review* (March-April, 1974), Kenneth F. Warren concludes: "The authors' consensus, with Mainzer dissenting, is that American bureaucracy is guilty of gross mismanagement of the public interest. The real accountability crisis is that even if our bureaucrats act inefficiently and against our interests, as is too often the case, we cannot

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## THE INHERENT INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

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realistically hope for administrative abuses to be checked by the present 'watchdog' system."

Similarly, in the book, *Democracy and the Public Service*, Frederick C. Mosher found that professionalism in governmental bureaucracy and the power of the civil service pose a distinct threat to democratic control; that is, they are self-serving rather than serving the public interest. In another study, Richard S. Rosenbloom, in the *Harvard Business Review* (September-October, 1973), noted that, "The largest employee group in the U.S. has shown the least concern for worker productivity. This seems absurd in a society that prides itself on management and efficiency, but the fact appears to be indisputable.... Not only is productivity in these groups lagging, but little is being done about it ... One is less surprised at the absence of evident productivity growth in government when it is recognized that none of the major forces operating in the private sector applies in government."

The fact which must be remembered is that inefficiency is by no means an accident in public enterprise but is built into such noncompetitive endeavor. In his important book, *The Growth Of American Government*, Dr. Roger Freeman makes this point: "We must recognize that, in contrast to private industry, where competition and the profit motive impose pressure for greater efficiency and a natural and generally reliable gauge of productivity,

governmental programs have built-in counterproductive trends. It is a natural tendency for a public employee to want to handle fewer cases, pupils, tax returns, welfare families, crimes in the belief that he could do a better job if he had a smaller workload, and most certainly have an easier life. For the supervisor there is a definite gain in stature, position and even grade by having a larger number of subordinates. This and the ideological commitments to the program goals and methods of their professional fraternities provide a powerful and well-nigh irresistible incentive for empire building.

### The Direct Beneficiaries

Government programs are so structured that the incentive is never to solve whatever problem is being dealt with but to see to it that it is exacerbated, and that more money becomes necessary to fight it. In the so-called "War On Poverty," for example, programs were not designed to give money to the poor, whatever the merits of that would have been, but, instead, to give money to people who were to provide "services" to the poor.

The result has been that the only poverty such legislation corrected was that of its own employees. Today, many thousands of well-organized individuals and groups have a vested interest in the continuation of many otherwise useless and costly programs. This is the "Education-Poverty-Social Worker" complex discussed by many who do care about the poor.

The cost of Medicaid, which is only one of many such costly programs, is now approaching \$15 billion annually [Ed. Currently \$94 billion], more than triple the cost in 1970. The beneficiaries, largely, are not the poor, but the ever-growing number of professionals who receive the money. The incentive is to spend as much as possible, not as little. The poor are simply pawns in someone else's game. The same is true of urban renewal, job training, and a host of other bureaucratic programs. The poor are not helped, and are often harmed, while the building contractors and "job trainers" get rich with public funds. "Poverty," as Barron's correspondent Shirley Scheibla has said, "is where the money is."

### Child Care

The same is true with Federally sponsored child development and day care centers. The motivation for such programs is not the idea that the poor need help. It is, instead, the notion that the government is better equipped to take care of children than are their parents, a presumption which flies in the face of most medical evidence. Dr. John Bowlby, a distinguished British physician, has done extensive study on the effect of material deprivation, entitled "Maternal Care and Mental Health." His conclusion: "It is plain that, when deprived of maternal care, the child's development is almost always retarded physically, intellectually, and socially, and that symptoms of physical and mental illness may appear." This conclusion is corroborated

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## THE INHERENT INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

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rated by Dr. Jack Raskin, director of the Seattle Children's Orthopedic Hospital Psychiatry Service: "There is no good substitute for the mother's presence. The best day care center in the world cannot begin to compete in this regard with the average mother."

Whether we turn to medical care, housing, jobs or day care, the presumption of those who urge expensive government programs is always that government is best equipped to efficiently deal with the problem. In fact, the idea of social programs to help people to help themselves has itself come to an end. Now, we seem content to place whole classes of people upon welfare or some other form of public support, with little concern about their long-run well-being or the well being of society as a whole. Unfortunately, a class of people, government bureaucrats and those hired by government, profits from such a system. Professor Aaron Wildavsky summarized the situation: "Middle class civil servants hired upper class student radicals to use lower class Negroes as a battering ram against the existing local political system." In his book, *In Our Time*, Eric Hoffer points out that, "Those in charge were less interested in healing and conciliating the weak than in aggravating their illness and sharpening their grievances. Thus, by a perverted dialectic, our wholehearted effort to right wrongs was shown to be proof not of our concern for righteousness but of our present and past incurable wrongness."

### A War to Lose

Unfortunately, those who instituted the War on Poverty had a vested interest in losing it. If poverty were ever to come to an end, so would their jobs. The incentives in almost all such government programs are negative, for, if they were positive, those carrying out the work would find themselves, before too long, unemployed. That is why, as was indicated earlier, the number of employees at the Department of Agriculture increases each year while the number of farmers declines.

We have thus come to the point where the real constituency of government's expensive social programs are the bureaucrats themselves. Former Senator James Buckley notes that, "We must count not just the numbers of intended beneficiaries, but the enormous influence and wealth of the interests that are their indirect beneficiaries, interests that can play an extraordinarily persuasive role in defining the areas of 'compassion' they are called upon to service."

### Ludwig von Mises on the Nature of Bureaucracy

The evidence is persuasive that government bureaucracy is inherently inefficient precisely because it is not faced with any of the forces which make private business management its opposite. This point has been made frequently. In his book, *Bureaucracy*, Ludwig von Mises goes to some length to explain it. He declared that, "It is a

widespread illusion that the efficiency of government bureaus could be improved by management engineers and their methods of scientific management.... What they call deficiencies and faults of the management of administrative agencies are necessary properties. A bureau is not a profit seeking enterprise; it cannot make use of any economic calculation.... It is out of the question to improve its management by reshaping it according to the pattern of private business." To those well meaning but ill informed observers of bureaucratic inefficiency, Von Mises addressed this message: "No reform can remove the bureaucratic features of the government's bureaus. It is useless to blame them for their slowness and slackness. It is vain to lament over the fact that the assiduity, carefulness, and painstaking work of the average bureau clerk are, as a rule, below those of the average worker in private business ... In the absence of an unquestionable yardstick of success and failure it is almost impossible for the vast majority of men to find that incentive to utmost exertion that the money calculus of profit-seeking business easily provides.... All such deficiencies are inherent in the performance of services which cannot be checked by money statements of profit and loss."

### The Reorganization Snare

It is high time that those speaking of governmental "reorganization" understand that this is not, in the long run, the proper manner in

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## THE INHERENT INEFFICIENCY OF GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

(Continued from page 16)

which to approach the question of an ever-increasing and increasingly expensive and inefficient governmental bureaucracy. In an important article, Rowland Egger, writing for the National Tax Association, discussed the whole notion of "administrative reorganization." He provided this assessment: "The attempt to sell administrative reorganization legislation on the basis of tax reduction, however honorable the motives and however laudable the hopes of those who support administrative reorganization for this reason, is a snare and a delusion.... Administrative reorganization never saved large sums of money.... The plain fact is that the only way to save significant sums of money in the federal establishment is to eliminate activities and reduce

the scale of operations.... There is no royal road, no painless way, to government economy."

### The Trends Projected: All Government!

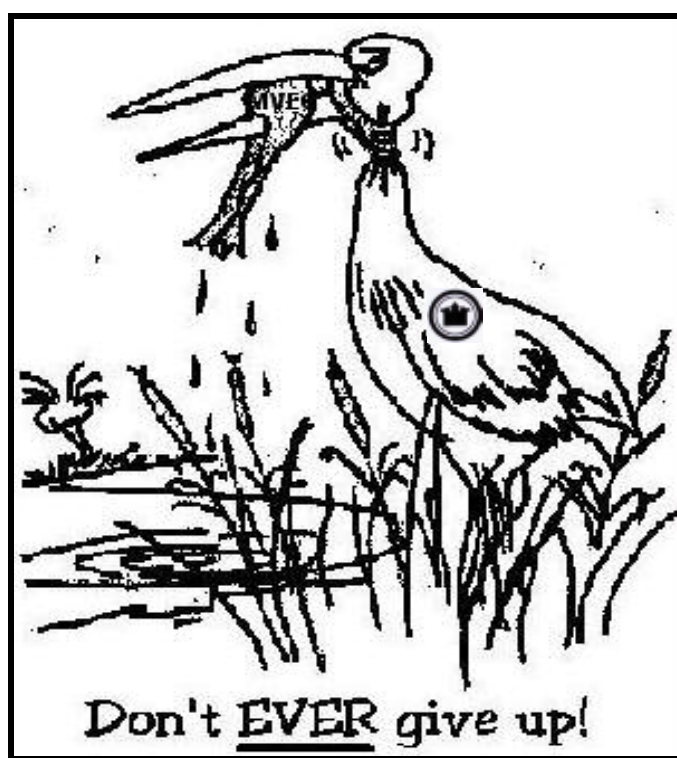
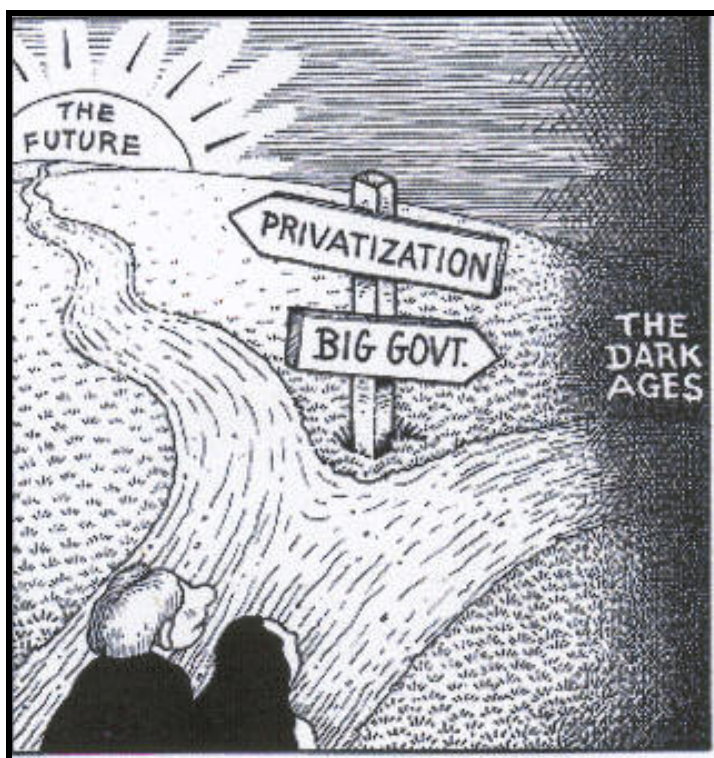
Professor C. Northcote Parkinson in 1958 calculated that if the trend in Britain's public employment were to continue at the prevailing rate, everyone in Britain would be working for the government by the year 2195. In 1971, New York's Morgan Guaranty Trust Company applied the same idea to the U.S. and found that if things continued at the present rate, every American would be on the public payroll by 2049, a century and a half sooner than in Britain.

The illusion that bureaucratic inefficiency can be corrected should

come to a rapid end. Such inefficiency is inherent in public enterprise. Once this premise is accepted, it will rapidly be seen that the only form of government reorganization which will be effective is to reduce government itself. Whatever the reformers of bureaucracy may tell us, the inefficiency of the bureaucrats is no accident.

*At the time of the original publication, Mr. Brownfeld, of Alexandria, Virginia, was a free-lance author, editor and lecturer especially interested in political science.*

<sup>1</sup> These and other statistics that follow are from *The Growth of American Government* by Roger A. Freeman (Stanford, California: Hoover Institution Press, 1975).





## A Message from the President

The erosion of personal, often called civil rights, in conjunction with the war on terrorism is currently a hot topic. The consolidation of power via the creation of the new cabinet-level Bureau of Homeland Security has many people fearful that many of the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights will be further compromised. As stated by Laura W. Murphy, Director of the ACLU Washington National Office, "Any consolidation of power in the government brings with it inherent risks. When J. Edgar Hoover ruled the FBI as his own private fiefdom, abuses of civil liberties were rampant."

While the ACLU actively protects

some of the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, they are curiously silent on the last clause of Amendment V which reads, "nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation." The major media all ignore this clause – usually referred to as the "takings clause" – as well. Apologists for regulatory takings by government argue that government must actually transfer full title to themselves before they must pay the property owner. That makes as much sense as letting a car insurance provider refuse payment for a damaged car if the car is not a total loss. If a hoodlum throws a rock through a window of your house the courts will make him pay restitution even though you still had use of all the other

rooms in the house. Only if the rock thrower works for a government regulatory agency is the damage ignored.

Cliff and Lee Broussard are perfect examples of the victims of regulatory taking by government. They worked for many years to acquire their property on May Valley Road. It was their retirement fund. The property is inside the urban growth line and they had a developer lined up to purchase it when King County, at the urging of special interests, declared the area to be an "Urban Separator" and their property value fell to a fraction of what it had been and their purchaser went away. Auburn is challenging King County's

*(Continued on page 4)*

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Historic  
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