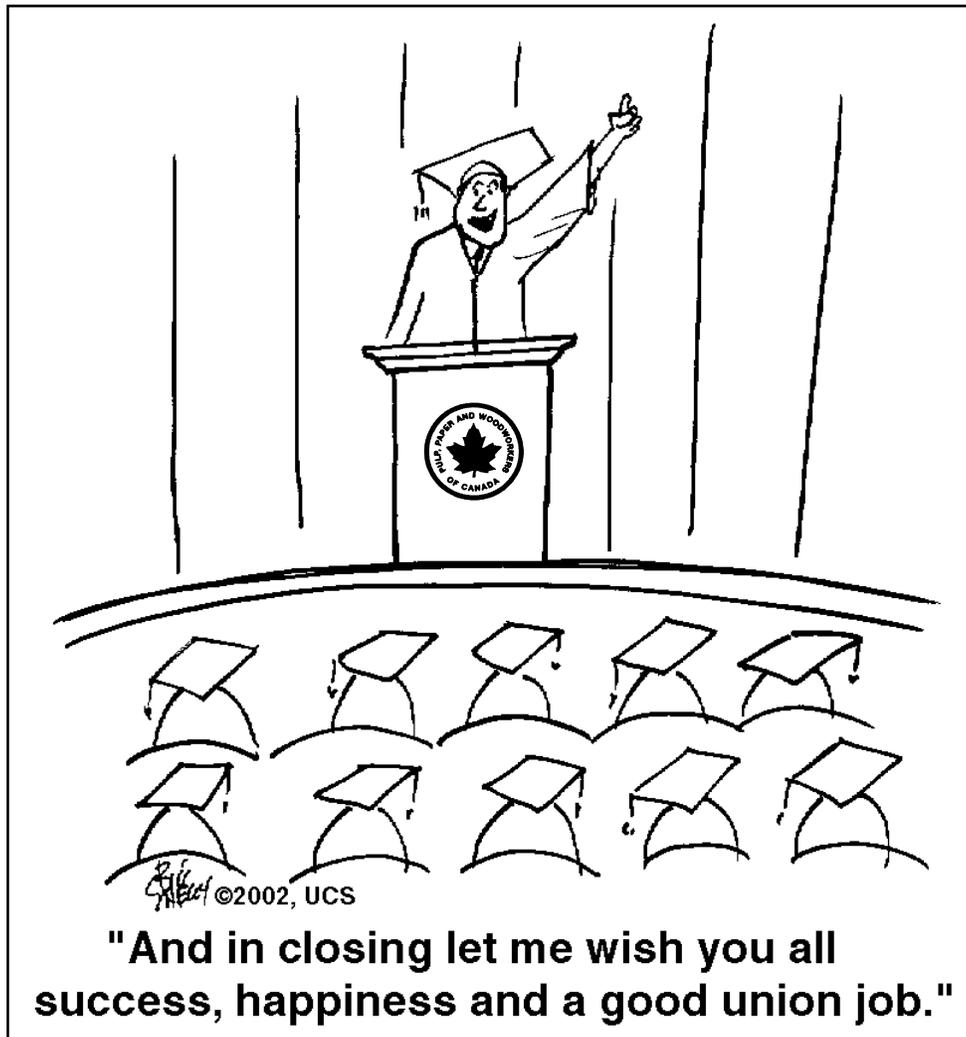


CHIPS N CHUNKS

May/June 2002



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This publication is rated:

U

As in Union

It may contain some material that some individuals may find offensive. Therefore, it is recommended that if you are one of the above individuals and feel you may be easily offended or harassed,

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Chips & Chunks will be published six times yearly by the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada, Local 10. It is an open forum in which members of Local 10 are encouraged to express their views and opinions.

Articles and opinions appearing in Chips & Chunks do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the P.P.W.C., Local 10 Executive, the Editor, or other Officers of Local 10.

Editor: Bob Stephens 372-3724

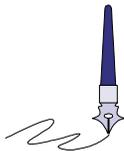
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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

By Bob Stephens



Being in a union has exposed me to a side of life that many people never see. We are literally at the front lines in terms of establishing fair wages and safe working conditions for all workers, dealing on a daily basis with issues that affect thousands of people nation wide, and in some cases, worldwide. The responsibility to be able to do anything about your safety, security, and income derives from rights that have been won by people in unions. Most people won't complain about a problem at work for fear of getting fired. We, as trade unionists, have established the right to voice our concerns and have our grievances heard. We have an additional labor code that has been established to give a union worker more language and rights than other workers. These things have been fought for over the past couple hundred years, in terms of union history, but they are issues that have faced everybody since the dawn of time. How do we stay alive and where do we eat? It seems reasonable to have the ability to negotiate and influence these basic survival needs, but many people in the world don't have that ability. Indeed, many people in our own country don't have the right to bargain their own contract.

It is a common fact that the most advanced and "healthiest" countries in the world all have unions and human rights groups that help keep these countries advanced and healthy. We, as unionists, make our system better by demanding a good return on the investment of our labor into someone's company. Our higher wages wind up in the economy of our towns, making "trickle-down" economics a viable idea, but the money has to be released from the dam first. And our constant fight for a safe workplace, free of harassment and discrimination, has led to these rights becoming law nationwide. We forge ahead, while the World Trade Organization forges backwards, plundering poor countries for their people and resources and giving a pittance in wages back to those who do the work. The direction that the WTO is taking the world will do absolutely nothing for those people that you see on television starving to death every night. It has more to do with making a few already wealthy individuals wealthier before the environment and human rights groups get involved and screw everything up.

And if new markets can't be found, open up old markets and remove any elements that protect wages and working conditions, namely unions and social charters. Now the European Market has submitted a paper to Canada, through the General Agreement on Trade and Services, that demands access to absolutely everything we have as far as resources and markets are concerned, with the exception of the Vancouver Canucks and K.D. Lang. Don't these people know how to plan ahead? For Christ's sake, go find your own water and stop trying to take our land and jobs.

But European investors with big money see an opportunity over here. The opportunity to get Jean C. to sign over a large

portion of Canada's income and business to another small group of individuals who'll take the profit from our resources and store it in an account in Geneva, never to be seen by the Canadian public again.

Trade unions are at the forefront of those groups protesting the direction that the WTO and Free Trade is taking. Along with other human rights groups, we fight daily to preserve what we have won on the capital and social battlefield. And as competition grows from corporations that are expanding into third world countries, so must we grow, protecting our investments at home and trying to establish some rights for the poor who line up to work in these new factories abroad. If progress is measured by how well a country treats its poor, then three-quarters of the world would get a failing grade. In Canada, we'd probably get a "C" with a recommendation to study harder. Globally, we are a desirable country. But internally, we are losing our social services and benefits while our individual taxes remain ridiculously high. Corporations have been getting major tax breaks for years. In the 1960's, corporate taxes made up about 14% of all government revenues, and now it accounts for less than 5%. Personal income tax made up 19% of all revenues in the 1960's, while today it accounts for over 30%. In all, two-thirds of our yearly wage goes to combined taxes, and we had to fight to get this much out of the system. Imagine what it's like in the rest of the world.

The issues that we face are huge. Campaigning against high taxes, unfair governments, corporate downsizing, and global greed takes a lot of commitment and energy. As a union, we can generate the energy and dedication needed to fight these problems, but it takes a combined effort and the development of new ideas to continue the battle. If we don't use our strengths to defend our status as a free and fair nation, then we will lose that status. There are people working to remove our rights, as witnessed by the B.C. government's recent actions in negotiations with the public and private sector unions. We are up to bat with these people next year, and only a strong, committed union will be able to face the task. It is our responsibility to use the rights that we have fought for to strike a balance in the system, ensuring that more people share in the wealth of our nation. It's what makes Canada a proud country, and Canadians a proud people.

Fraternally.

The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.

- Sir Winston Churchill

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent.

- Abraham Lincoln

POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS NEED TO BE CHANGED



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Stacey Whiting

It is happening more and more frequently that some Management personnel in Weyerhaeuser feel that they are exempt from following the WCB Regulations. Regulation 3.12, Refusal of Unsafe Work, seems to be one of the front-runners for being violated. The Company has put on training sessions for Management dealing with Regulation 3.12 more than once in the last while. So why are we having so many problems? On investigating the situations, there is a complete disregard for the procedure for refusal of unsafe work as outlined in the WCB Regulations. This Company has even gone so far to give a member of Local 10 a direct order to do a job that is not his trade work as a shift Millwright, to do blanking (Pipefitter work) for a lockout in the Steam Plant in a non-emergency situation at midnight. The Millwright involved made it very clear that he had reasonable cause to believe that to do the job would create an undue hazard to the health and safety of any person.

At a recent Standing Committee, the Company put the Union on notice that starting and stopping times, as well as all break times, will be enforced. It's interesting to note the Company expects Local 10 members to abide by all rules and regulations and work safely, but when a Local 10 member tries to work safely one runs the risk of facing an up hill battle trying to have the safety regulations enforced. At the last JSC meeting the Company proposed a Safety, Housekeeping and Working Conditions Improvement Fund. This fund will be designed for projects to improve safety, housekeeping, and working conditions at Kamloops Pulp. There is to be \$500,000 allocated annually for these projects. A presentation was made by the Union at the JSC meeting dealing with the 2nd Designate first aid situations and all the problems encountered over the last two years. The lack of written procedures and inadequate coverage scheduling of the 2nd Designate has put this Mill in an insecure position. 2nd Designates are considering letting their first aid tickets expire because of the lack of attention their concerns have been getting over the past two years. They have indicated the stress involved trying to make first aid coverage better in this Mill has put them in a position of not wanting any part of 2nd Designate duties.

At Standing Committee, the Company made a presentation on how they wish to manage bulk materials in Stores. The Company calls it Vendor Managed Inventory; the Union calls it contracting out our work, and will oppose all efforts for this to become reality. First they downsized the Stores Department from 12 to 8, and then they brought in SAP program without having Local 10 members adequately trained in all SAP functions. With overtime in Stores at over 30% and increased work and stress, the department has been left unable to keep up. Here is another example where for two years, the members have been making suggestions to help the process, but have not had any action taken by the Company. Now because SAP is less than adequate in dealing with Stores issues, and instead of fixing problems at the source, the Company has elected to increase stress for all by

wanting to advance contracting out work at Stores. Is this the way we improve labour relations at this Mill?

On April 29th, Local 10 Executive was given a business update on what's important at Kamloops Pulp for 2002. Production, rona, maintenance, raw material, and safety costs and carts were part of the delivery. Short-term growth picking up as stated by Spence Smith.

On May 3rd and 4th, a very successful training session was held at the Union Hall. Shop Stewards and Local 10 Executive members were in attendance. Tony Glavin handled the first day, dealing with effective grievance handling, which consisted of the role of the Steward, monitoring the Collective Agreement, investigating grievances, grievance meetings and duty of fair representation and union obligations. Gina Fiorillo handled the second day as she guided us through arbitration process and procedure, which consisted of selecting the forum for resolving a grievance, preparation for arbitration and specific issues at arbitration. Thank you to all who attended and gave up their days off to make the training a success. Rene Pellerin and myself took Gina for a tour of the Pulp Mill and visited the control rooms to meet members and see first hand a kraft pulp process in operation.

Congratulations to all three hockey teams from Local 10 who made a fine showing at the PPWC hockey tournament.

With our JLA contract expiring next year, I hope each and every one of you have been thinking about, and preparing for a tough set of negotiations. Make sure your plans include financial strategies that will position you for the future if contract negotiations fall short. Using the Weyerhaeuser Island Phoenix Division and PPWC, Local 8 agreement as an indicator, this next set of bargaining with the employer could result in some rough times.

Fraternally.



1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Rene Pellerin

Standing Committee issues are still presenting a challenge for the Local 10 Standing Committee members. The Sub Committee groups are meeting regularly and are working through the issues.

1. Line of Progression Sub Group

This Sub Group was formed to deal with the backlog of line of progression grievances where senior members were wronged by junior members working above them in the line of progression in the Steam Plant/Recaust areas. Resolve to these grievances are close to being reached. The company is prepared to make all employees whole who were affected by the Recaust merger issues (junior over senior) dating back to December of 1999. I encourage all Local 10 members to look at whether they were affected by this situation and would then ask them to contact their Shop Steward to enter the process of making them whole. One stumbling block in the Line of Progression Sub Group is the Company's aggressive approach to wanting to change the Steam Plant line of progression again. The Local 10 Sub Group members have talked to the crews involved and are moving cautiously through this issue. Further information on the line of progression issues will be reflected in the Standing Committee minutes # 906, 907 and 908.

2. Call Out Procedure Sub Group

The Local 10 Sub Group is meeting with the Company and they are working the issues surrounding the Steam Plant call out procedure. Again, Standing Committee minutes # 906, 907 and 908 will provide the membership with more details.

3. Job Description Sub Group

The Company has taken the position that they have to consult the rest of the industry for some clarification on some points surrounding this issue. Local 10 has told the Company that we are not interested in changing job descriptions but we want them so as to receive a fair evaluation on the rates of pay in the Steam Plant. Reference Standing Committee minutes # 906, 907 and 908.

Local 10's Standing Committee has finally worked through the 2nd Designate First Aid concerns with the Company to satisfy resolve. I have attached a copy of the agreement to my report. Local 10's Executive recommended acceptance of the agreement at the May 6/02 Executive meeting and the General Membership moved and passed acceptance at the May 8/02 General Membership meeting.

Stores issues are still being dealt with at Standing Committee. We are working the retro pay concerns with the Company. The Stores members have completed their journey person certifications as of May 5/02 and if the Stores rate arbitration is successful they would receive retro pay to that date. The official changeover date of Stores was May 1/00; at that time a requirement to get journey person certification came into

effect. Local 10 feels that the members in Stores at that time were more than qualified to challenge the Stores TQ so we have asked the Company at a minimum pay the members 4th year rate from May 1/00 to May 5/01; the Company has yet to respond. The other problem that has surfaced in Stores is the Company's appetite to contract our bulk inventories to Ackland's Supplies. At Standing Committee #907, Management gave a presentation to Local 10 on this proposal. It was met with total resistance. Local 10 then put the Company on notice that we will not tolerate the contracting out of Local 10's members' jobs. Weyerhaeuser's downsizing efforts will not become a highway for them to expand the contracting out of Local 10 jobs. The Company then agreed to work this issue. For information purposes, bulk inventories would include nuts, bolts, gloves, hard hats - mostly everyday use items. These items are currently stocked and distributed by Local 10 members.

Two other situations that are example to Local 10's work being contracted out are the contracting out of the fabricating of greasing platforms that were made offsite for the Kiln/Recaust area and the contracting out of the painting in the Chip Yard. In the greasing platform case, the Company failed to notify Local 10 of its intent to contract out these platforms; this work is traditionally done by the Millwright crew. We grieved the no notification. The second case had to do with the contract painter on the mill site (Wayru). Local 10's Contracting Out Chair was given notice May 7/02 of the Company's intent to contract out the painting of the dumpers and some support for the conveyor systems in the Chip Yard. The Contracting Out Chair and myself met with the Company on this issue, stating that we were against the contracting out of Local 10's jobs. The Company responded stating that it was a matter of costs to Weyerhaeuser. They continued to tell us that Wayru had agreed to work their crews on the weekends at straight time rate, therefore keeping the cost of the job down; to use Management's words, "we have to be cost effective." This did not sit well with Local 10; in fact we were outraged that another union, Local 138 of the Painters Union, would allow undercutting benefit tactics that Wayru attempted in this case. We contacted the business agent for Local 138 immediately. A discussion around this exact incident was taking place between Wayru and Local 138. The agent assured us that he would call us back. The call came and Local 138 said "absolutely not," to this kind of business. Wayru was instructed that this practice would not take place (the painter's rate on overtime is double time). We were pleased with the actions taken by the business agent for Local 138, but had to deal with one more point; that being that Wayru went to the Company with this proposal. The Contracting Out Chair and myself went and met with the owner of Wayru and expressed to him our displeasure with this foolish attempt at undercutting Local 10 and Local 138's benefits and contractual rights. We insisted that this practice would cease immediately, and stressed the fact that the relationship between Local 10 and Wayru was in jeopardy. We also stated that all future contracting out of painting to Wayru would be under a microscope. The owner of Wayru assured us that this would not happen again and that he would like to remain in a good relationship with Local 10.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

To Grieve or Not to Grieve

The grievance procedure that Weyerhaeuser and Local 10 follow in the contract is there to provide a dispute resolution process to resolve issues between two parties. For the most part, we should be able to resolve issues before we get to 4th Stage or arbitration. My feeling is that at this time 4th Stage is totally biased on the Company's behalf. Local 10 and its members have not received fair treatment at the 4th Stage level and I do not see that changing in the near future. I feel that the membership should be offended by the treatment of their grievances, by Management at the 4th Stage level.

2ND DESIGNATE FIRST AID ATTENDANT AGREEMENT

Current State

There are three categories of First Aid Attendants:

1. **Primary First Aid Attendants.** This group is part of the Plant Protection Department, the money they receive for providing first aid services is included in their regular hourly rate.
2. **2nd Designate First Aid Attendants.** This is a group of employees who have Unrestricted Level III First Aid tickets and work from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. This group is required to support our Primary First Aid Attendants any time we have more than 201 people on site. All employees in this group receive a First Aid Bonus of \$ 50.00/month. On a monthly basis one employee from this group is assigned the 2nd Designate role and he/she receives \$0.85/hr instead of the \$50.00/month.
3. **Auxiliary First Aid Attendants.** This group of employees have Level III First Aid Tickets (Restricted or Unrestricted) and they generally are tour shift workers. All employees in this group receive the \$50.00/month First Aid bonus.

Future State

For all Level III First Aid Attendants on site there will be a maximum number of employees eligible to participate in the site First Aid. Current approximate number is 26 Level III First Aid Attendants.

- Primary First Aid Attendants and Auxiliary First Aid Attendants:
 - Remain as current state.
- 2nd Designate First Aid Attendants:
 - All first aid attendants in this group receive \$0.85/hr instead of the \$50.00/month.
 - All first aid attendants in this group agree to complete the duties of the 2nd Designate First Aid Attendant as required.
 - All first aid attendants in the group will rotate in this role on a monthly basis or as required for WCB First Aid Coverage needs.

- There will be a maximum number of employees allowed to be part of this group – suggested number will be 6 employees who have their Level III Unrestricted First Aid Ticket. If more than 6 employees become part of this group, seniority will apply for selection.



LAMENT FOR THE MISGUIDED

CEP, Local 1092, CALM

First he came for the NDP,
 And I cheered and voted Liberal.
 Then he gave us a tax cut,
 And I said nothing because it was to my benefit.
 Then he went for minimum wage,
 And I said nothing because I had a job with 500 hours in.
 Then he came for civil servants,
 And I said nothing because I worked in the private sector and
 could be hired as a consultant.
 Then he came for the senior's bus passes,
 And I said nothing because I was young and had a car.
 Then he came for the teachers,
 And I said nothing because my child had completed his
 schooling.
 Then he came for the health care workers,
 And I said nothing because I could afford private health care
 facilities.
 Then he came to remove negotiated wage increases,
 And I said nothing because I think they make too much
 anyway.
 Then he came for the "talking books" for the blind,
 And I said nothing because I could see to read.
 And now "Lord Gord" is looking down from his ivory tower
 for more to slash,
 And I'm the only one left.
 I guess I'd better watch my ass!

2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Jeff Pentney

Now that summer is around the corner I think it is very important that heat stress Regulations are followed. As you read below, you will find that the company is out of compliance. I have followed this up with John Ottery.

7.50 Definitions

In sections 7.51 to 7.62 "unacclimatized worker" means a worker who is not accustomed to working in hot environments or who has been removed from a hot environment for seven consecutive days;

"WBGT°C" means the wet bulb globe temperature measured with a black globe thermometer (GT), wet-bulb thermometer (WB), and a dry thermometer (DB) and measured according to the equations

- a) for indoor or outdoor environments with no solar load, $WBGT^{\circ}C = 0.7 WB + 0.3 GT$, and
- b) for outdoor environments with solar load,
- c) $WBGT^{\circ}C = 0.7 WB + 0.2 GT + 0.1 DB$.

7.51 Application

1. Sections 7.52 to 7.62 apply to a workplace where a worker is or may be exposed to conditions which could cause heat related disorders, including exposure to a thermal environment that:
 - a) is in excess of the heat action levels in Table 7-2, or
 - b) which could result in a worker's core body temperature exceeding 38°C (100°F).
2. Firefighting is exempt from subsection (1) provided special provisions are made to ensure that the firefighter's core body temperature is maintained below 38°C (100°F), including
 - a) instruction and training,
 - b) work procedures that address both the hazards and necessary controls, and specialized personal protective equipment.

Note: For outdoor work areas in BC heat stress is normally only of concern during periods of hot weather and in activities such as firefighting unless factors such as high humidity, heavy work load, or excessive radiant heat combine to increase the risk in a work activity.

7.52 Exposure limits

The exposure of a worker wearing a single layer of light summer clothing must be maintained below the heat exposure limits listed in Table 7-2 by engineering or administrative controls.

7.53 Action levels

The exposure of an unacclimatized worker wearing a single layer of light summer clothing must be maintained below the heat action levels listed in Table 7-2.

7.54 Clothing correction

If clothing other than a single layer of light summer clothing is required to be worn due to the nature of the work, the heat action levels and exposure limits must be corrected by subtracting the appropriate clothing correction value listed in Table 7-3.

7.55 Heat stress assessment

If a worker is or may be exposed to conditions which could cause heat-related disorders, the employer must conduct a heat stress assessment to determine the potential for overexposure of workers by measuring the WBGT°C or other measuring standard acceptable to the board in the work area.

7.56 Exposure control plan

If a worker is or may be regularly exposed to a thermal environment in excess of the heat action levels as determined by a heat stress assessment, the employer must develop and implement an exposure control plan meeting the requirements of section 5.54.

7.57 Risk control

1. If it is not practicable to reduce exposure below the heat exposure limits by engineering controls then the employer must provide
 - a) administrative controls such as an acceptable work-rest cycle, or
 - b) where it provides equally effective protection, personal protective equipment such as reflective suits or air or water cooled vests.
2. The work-rest cycle must ensure that the thermal index averaged over the hottest 2 hour period is below the exposure limits listed in Table 7-2.

7.58 Provision of water

The employer must provide and maintain an adequate supply of cool potable water close to the work area for the use of a heat exposed worker.

7.59 Removal and treatment

If a worker exhibits signs or reports symptoms of a heat-related disorder, the worker must be removed from the hot environment and assessed by a Level 2 or Level 3 first aid attendant, if available, or by a physician.

7.60 Warning signs

The employer must post heat stress hazard warning signs in indoor work areas where the heat exposure limits could be exceeded if a worker was continuously exposed to heat.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

7.61 Education and training

Workers at risk of heat-related disorders, and their supervisors and immediate coworkers must be adequately educated and trained in

- a) recognition of signs and symptoms of heat-related disorders, and
- b) the responsibility to leave the hot environment if signs or symptoms of a heat-related disorder occur.

7.62 Records

The employer must, when required by the board, maintain records of

- a) the heat stress assessment required under section 7.55, and
- b) worker education and training.

Table 7-2: Action levels and exposure limits

Work load 1 Action level 2

(2-hour TWA) Exposure limit 2 (2-hour TWA)

Light Work that generates a metabolic rate of less than 200 kcal/hr such as: performing light hand work while seated or standing, casual walking. 28 WBGT°C 30 WBGT°C

Moderate Work that generates a metabolic rate of between 200 and 350 kcal/hr such as: hand and arm work, arm and leg work, picking fruits and vegetables, brisk walking. 24.7 WBGT°C 26.7 WBGT°C

Heavy Work that generates a metabolic rate greater than 350 cal/hr such as: shoveling, sledge hammer work, sawing, planning, digging, axe work, pushing or pulling heavy loads, angle grinding, restocking cans on shelves. 23 WBGT°C 25 WBGT°C

If work involves a continuous task the workload is based on the metabolic rate for that task. If the work involves a variety of tasks or is intermittent, the workload is based on the average metabolic rate for the various activities, weighted according to the duration of each.

The WBGT for a particular work situation is the time-weighted average over the hottest 2-hour period of work.

Table 7-3: Clothing correction values

Clothing type Correction value (WBGT°C)

- Cotton coveralls worn over light summer clothing 2
- Winter work clothing 4
- Impervious coveralls 6

What are the three words guaranteed to humiliate men everywhere? "Hold my purse."
- Francois Morency

CONTRACTING OUT REPORT

By Lorne Christianson

Franchise requirements: when Management wants to talk, "listen" carefully – the agenda is hidden in "the board room" and between the lines. Weyerhaeuser's continuous assault on downsizing, the institution of new policies, breaches in our seniority rights, changes in the lines of progression and the constant real threat of our work being contracted out - Weyerhaeuser has a reason for everything they do and it isn't to benefit the worker.

Some issues around our work:

1. Greasing Catwalks for the Kiln:
 - a) No notification was given about contracting this out;
 - b) 80 hours of work for Millwrights and Welders of Local 10;
 - c) It took the contractor "7 months" to get it to the Mill site. "Thanks a lot."
2. Wayru Painting:
 - a) It was brought to the attention of Local 10 that the contractor was willing to flex its hours and work for straight time on week ends in the Mill; "undercutting" Local 10 "JLA" and workers of the painting crew.
 - b) Was squashed by the business agent of Local 138, after Local 10 raised some shit. But the Company loved it.
3. Stores Bulk Inventory:
 - a) Some to be put into Stores vending machines (such as batteries, soap, gloves, safety glasses, etc.) and will be stocked by outside contractor;
 - b) Bulk bins to be stocked by outside contractor – bolts, nuts, fittings, etc.
 - c) This is totally unacceptable to the membership of Local 10; it's a manpower issue. This work has always been a hands-on job by people in this Mill.
 - d) "What next?" Anything going to contract out the pushing of chips by independent owner/operators?
4. Our work being done off site by contract:
 - a) We have a million dollar Machine Shop and one Machinist. Not even an apprentice to help with the load. Consequently, an off site shop does our work.
 - b) Many repairable items are wrapped up and shipped off site for repair.
 - c) Go figure?
5. Contractors on site due to lack of Trades People (attrition):
 - a) Sheet metal: work constantly being contracted out. One person retired; only one left in the trade. "No apprentice."
 - b) Insulator Ladders: more and more of their work is being contracted out - flexibility and other issues. No apprentice or even a thought of hiring anyone.

These franchise requirements, corporate policy attacks on our employees and employment of people within this Mill, cause nothing but grief, which leads to resentment, which brings mistrust within the membership of Local 10. To say the least, Union/Management relations are questionable.

OVERTIME

As published in the CCPA Monitor, Apr/02

- ✓ More than a million Canadian wage earners put in an average of 8.5 hours of overtime every week. The 9 million hours of overtime worked is the equivalent of 225,000 full-time jobs, enough to employ one in every five people now unemployed.
- ✓ Employers are using overtime, together with contracting out and the use of part-time or casual employees, to reduce their full-time workforce. They mistakenly believe it's less costly to increase overtime than to hire more workers, but union studies have disproven that assumption.
- ✓ Even though a newly hired worker has to be paid at the regular wage rate and covered by the employer's benefit plans, plus costing the employer UI, CPP, and other payroll "taxes," the combined cost of all these expenses is less than the cost of the time-and-a-half (150%) wage rates that have to be paid for overtime (sometimes even double time for weekends).
- ✓ Working overtime causes fatigue, which in turn can cause accidents and health problems. The loss of alertness and the slowing of reaction time are major factors in occupational deaths and injuries. Statistics Canada studies have shown that those who regularly work more than 40 hours a week tend to smoke and drink more, get depressed, and put on weight – all detrimental to their health.
- ✓ Overtime also has negative effects on workers' families. Many such workers complain that they don't have enough time to spend with their partners or children, or are too tired for family activities after long shifts. The rates of separation and divorce are also significantly higher when one or both partners work on evenings or weekends.
- ✓ Some workers – a minority – rely on the additional pay they get from working overtime, but union research studies have found that three out of four workers are willing to reduce or eliminate the overtime they work if it leads to the creation of more jobs for others and more leisure time for themselves. Some unions have negotiated limits on when and how much overtime an employer can require.
- ✓ Unions concede that some overtime is necessary to deal with emergencies. But most overtime is being worked because of layoffs that have decimated the full-time workforce, or to cover for other workers' vacations or absences due to illness. Union leaders who favour less overtime and more full-time workers contend there should be enough employees available to meet these predictable staffing requirements.

Sources: *Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada's Shorter Work Time Campaign, CEP studies "More Jobs, More Fun" and "Working Less for More Jobs," Statistics Canada*



So, What Do Canadians Have To Be Proud Of ?

1. Smarties.
 2. Crispy Crunch, Coffee Crisp.
 3. The size of our football fields and one less down.
 4. Baseball is Canadian.
 5. Lacrosse is Canadian.
 6. Hockey is Canadian.
 7. Basketball is Canadian.
 8. Apple pie is Canadian.
 9. Mr. Dressup kicks Mr. Roger's ass.
 10. Tim Hortons kicks Dunkin' Donut's ass.
 11. In the War of 1812, started by America, Canadians pushed the Americans back...past their "White House". Then we burned it, and most of Washington, under the command of William Lyon Mackenzie, who was insane and hammered all the time. We got bored because they ran away, so we came home and partied... go figure.
 12. Canada has the largest French population that never surrendered to Germany.
 13. We have the largest English population that never, ever surrendered or withdrew during any war to anyone, anywhere.
 14. Our civil war was a bar fight that lasted a little over an hour.
 15. The only person who was arrested in our civil war was an American mercenary who slept in and missed the whole thing... but showed up just in time to get caught.
 16. We knew plaid was cool long before Seattle caught on.
 17. The Hudsons Bay Company once owned over 10% of the earth's surface and is still around as the world's oldest company.
 18. The average dog sled team can kill and devour a full grown human in under 3 minutes.
 19. We still know what to do with all of the parts of a Buffalo.
 20. We don't marry our kin-folk.
 21. We invented ski-doo's, jet-skis, velcro, zippers, insulin, Penicillin, zambonis, the telephone, and short wave radios that save countless lives each year.
 22. We have ALL frozen our tongues to something metal and lived to tell about it.
 23. A Canadian invented Superman.
 24. Our elections only take one day.
- But most importantly...
25. The handles on our beer cases are big enough to fit your hands with mitts on... OOOooohhhh CANADA!



SAFETY REPORT

by Local 10 Joint Safety Committee

Flexible work practices have been a reality at Kamloops Pulp for some time. From a safety perspective, there are certain pieces of information that each member needs to be aware of before performing work outside our normal jobs.

WCB Regulations

There are general and specific safety regulations that pertain to any and all work we perform at the Mill. We are all obligated to know, understand, and adhere to these Regulations.

As we start to perform work that is outside of our usual area of job description or expertise, we have to be diligent in determining what the minimum safety requirements are, via consultation with the WCB Regulations. So, when we are assigned work that we haven't done before, we must determine minimum requirements to prevent putting ourselves and our co-workers at undue risk.

Policies and Procedures

There are many internal policies and procedures that pertain to the work carried out at our Mill. We have to be aware of what these policies and procedures are, prior to work commencement. Our Supervisors have the legislated obligation to direct us in the safe performance of our duties, hence when given our work assignments they have to provide us with additional safety information that is specific to that particular task. In reality, that does not stop at pointing out pertinent policies etc., but also encompasses an appropriate review of the general and specific hazards of the area or task we are being asked to perform.

Once we have been properly instructed in the safe performance of our duties, we have the obligation to perform our jobs safely.

Refusal to Work

Section 3.12 of the WCB Regulations instructs us to refuse any work that we believe will put ourselves or others at undue risk, or place us in imminent danger. We have the legislated responsibility to initiate a refusal to work. It is not a right - we have no choice when the work is unsafe.

In addition, we have our own internal refusal to work policy. Please familiarize yourself with both Regulation 3.12 and our internal policy.

Recently there have been a number of occasions where workers have expressed to their Supervisors that they feel a job is unsafe. Supervisors have on occasion not taken these expressions as refusals to work. In some cases the work has been reassigned or the worker was given a direct order. The WCB has been contacted a few times, as we feel this is a violation of Regulation 3.12.

We as workers need to be diligent when we express to Management that we feel work is unsafe. It is inappropriate to have that work reassigned or completed under a direct order.

If you find yourself in a situation and require assistance, contact your Safety Steward or a JSC member. Remember - it is our responsibility to refuse unsafe work!

In Solidarity

**SAFETY FIRST**

As published in CEP, Local 592's The Forward Look, Apr/02

I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.
 It wasn't that I didn't care,
 I had the time, and I was there.
 But I didn't want to seem the fool,
 Or argue over a safety rule.
 I knew he had done the job before,
 If I called it wrong, he might get sore.
 The chances didn't seem that bad,
 I've done the same, he knew I had.
 So I shook my head and walked on by,
 He knew the risks as well as I.
 He took the chance; I closed an eye,
 And with that act, I let him die.
 I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.
 Now every time I see his wife,
 I'll know I should have saved his life.
 That guilt is something I must bear,
 But it isn't something you need to share.
 If you see a risk, that others take,
 That puts their health or life at stake.
 The question asked to things you say,
 Could help them live another day.
 If you see a risk and walk away,
 Then hope you never have to say,
 I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.

Author Unknown - Weyerhaeuser

MODIFIED WORK REPORT

By Ken Hicks

Please note that, when members are on Modified Work, their seniority is maintained in their original department. Currently this is not shown on the seniority list. Thus, if someone in your department is on Modified Work in another department then there is a possibility that they could return to your department when a vacancy occurs. This implies that someone in a line of progression may not get an expected move up.

There is a Modified Work section in the seniority list that lists the original department of those on Modified Work. Please refer to that section to determine if you could be affected.

2.16 Employees, who return to work in other than their original job, will be paid the higher of the rate of their new job or their previous card rate. Disabled employees will retain their department seniority and will be considered for reintegration into the line of progression whenever their job grouping changes.

The Modified Work Agreement is in our Labour Agreement, Local Agreement, Section J.

Health & Welfare and Modified Work Committees

WEEKLY INDEMNITY FORMS

By Ken Hicks, Health & Welfare Rep

Procedure to follow for Weekly Indemnity Benefit:

- Mark forms "personal & confidential" at top of both *Physicians & Employees Statement*;
- Ensure forms state "Maritime Life Policy # 903907";
- Include void cheque for electronic deposit;
- Include completed *Employee's Statement*;
- Include completed *Physician's Statement*;
- Doctor to fully complete Section 1 - both sides;
- Return *Physicians Medical Certificate for Return to Work* the Wednesday before pay week; otherwise you'll be paid the next payday.

Send to Maritime Life:

Maritime Life Assurance Company
PO Box 49284
Suite 1404 - Four Bentall Centre
1055 Dunsmuir St.
Vancouver BC
V7X 1L3
Attention: Group Disability Claims

Forms may be FAX'd to: (604) 602-7947
If form is faxed, please mail originals.

Questions? 1-877-499-5499

P.P.W.C., LOCAL 10
T-SHIRTS ARE
AVAILABLE:

LARGE & X LARGE \$ 10.00
XX LARGE \$ 11.50

CONTACT



The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.
- Karl Marx

PENSION REPORT

By Dave McDonnell

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have just gone through the Pension Statement Database that Mercer sends out at the end of each year. There are a few startling figures in the Database that we need to take care of at our earliest convenience. There are a number of you that do not have beneficiaries named in the database.

Please check your statements and ensure that there is actually a beneficiary named. Also check and see that the named person is the person you want named, if your situation has changed you might want the person changed.

A note to the students, you also have the ability to name a beneficiary to your benefits.

Any questions that this message generates please get in touch with me.

Yours Fraternally

Dave McDonnell
 Beeper # 314-8293
 Home # 376-8426
 Cell # 314-7556



FOREGONE CONCLUSION

- ✓ The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans. On the other hand, the French eat a lot of fat and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- ✓ The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and also suffer fewer heart attacks than the British or Americans.
- ✓ Conclusion: eat and drink what you like – it's speaking English that kills you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



The article published in last month's Chips & Chunks newsletter headed "PPWC Local 8 Ratifies Concessionary Agreement of Weyerhaeuser IPD Mill" was rather disturbing to me. I could not believe that our National PPWC head office would allow another concessionary agreement with an employer.

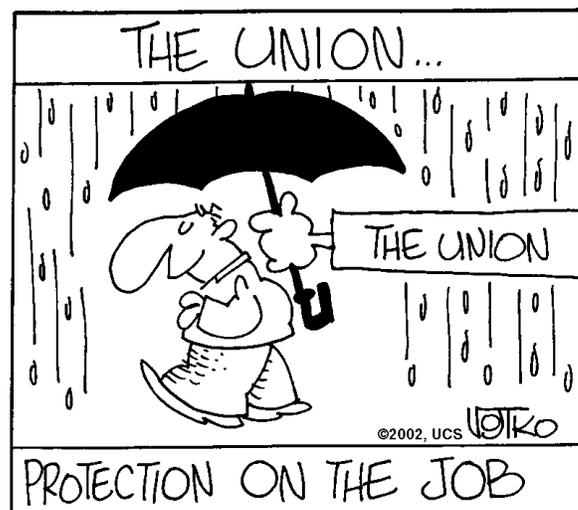
What is Doug Muir up to? He paid Local 10 a visit a few months ago to persuade us not to seek alliance with another national labour affiliation. Brother Muir and Brother King explained that there were mistakes at the last labour negotiations and that the mistakes would not be repeated. Let's face it, the last set of negotiations were concessionary and left most of us in disbelief that our past negotiations failed to secure a better main wage contract after all the strike funds we paid out. Brother Muir even went on to say, "and no more back room deals." As well, "all negotiations or deals that may have negative repercussions on the rest of the PPWC will not be happening." So what happened this time?

I do not like the way negotiations are shaping up for April 2003. Our National is nowhere to be seen or heard. With the present National Executive at the helm we are heading for disaster at the next main wage negotiations.

Actually, the rank and file of Local 10 are lucky we have such a strong and dedicated Local Executive. Our Union Local is proud and strong, we have accomplished a lot for each other.

We made a decision to have dialogue with the BC Federation of Labour and we should stay the course.

Mark Pettifer



The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.
 - Sir George Jessell



HUNGER

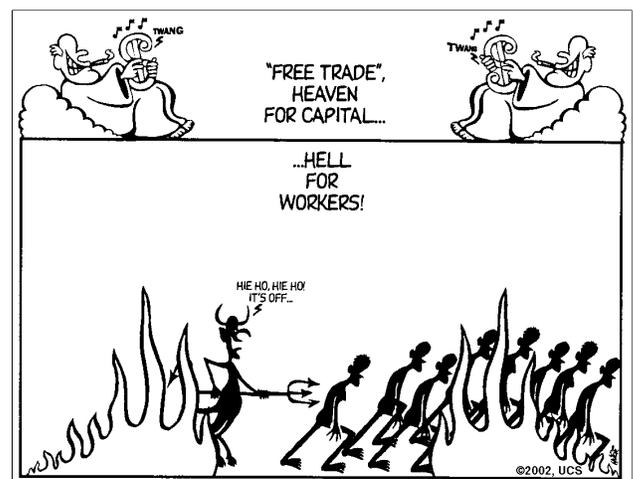
As published in the CCPA Monitor, Apr/02

- ✓ The policies of economic globalization enforced by the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF are based on growing food for export rather than local consumption. Small farmers, who once fed themselves and their communities, have been forced from their land and replaced by large-scale agribusinesses that produce high-profit luxury foods for export to wealthy nations. Now landless, cashless, and hungry, these formerly self-sufficient small farmers have had to migrate to overcrowded cities to compete for an ever-dwindling number of jobs to support themselves and their families.
- ✓ The problem is that food is neither produced nor distributed equitably. Hunger is caused by mal-distribution and inequality, not by a lack of food. Overall increase in food production in the last 35 years have outpaced the world's population growth by about 16%, but, despite this abundance, the number of chronically hungry people in the world has increased. In 1977, 78% of all malnourished children under five in the developing world lived in countries with food surpluses.
- ✓ Today, 826 million people are chronically and seriously undernourished, although a fair distribution of the world's available food could adequately nourish 12 billion people – twice its present population – without any problem. Nor is the blight of hunger confined to the poorest nations. Almost 10 million people – 6.1 million adults and 3.3 million children – experience outright hunger in the United States, where, in 1998, 10.5 million households lacked enough income to meet their basic needs.
- ✓ The number of people failing to meet their nutritional requirement is projected to grow by 3% - from roughly 1.1 billion in 1998 to 1.13 billion by 2008. Two-thirds of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa will be inadequately fed by that time, and 40% of people in Asian countries.
- ✓ At least 200 million residents of India went hungry in 1995, a year in which the country exported \$625 million worth of wheat and flour, and \$1.3 billion worth of rice (5 million metric tons), both staples of the Indian diet. In Tanzania, under an IMF structural adjustment program, agricultural production and exports increased, but so did rural poverty, income inequality, malnutrition, and environmental pollution.
- ✓ Every day 11,000 children die of hunger around the world, while 200 million suffer from malnutrition and lack of protein and calories. More than 70% of the world's 800 million starving people are women and children. Many are the victims of conditions imposed on poor nations to qualify them for loans from the IMF or World Bank. As Carlos Andres Perez, former President of Venezuela, recently remarked, "The IMF practices an economic totalitarianism which kills not with bullets, but with famine."

Sources: World Health Organization, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Institute for Food and Development Policy, Friends of the Earth, and the World Food Program.

HOW WIDE CAN THE GAP GET

The world's riches 50 million people have as much wealth as the poorest 2.7 billion – a gap so wide that the wealthy may soon have to live in heavily protected gated communities to escape the wrath of the billions forced to live below the poverty line. That stark message was delivered recently – not from a left wing or socialist source, but by a senior economist with the World Bank. Branko Milanovic's wide-ranging study, covering 91 countries, found a staggering increase in global inequality, with the richest 1% now having income equivalent to that shared by the poorest 57%. Four-fifths of the world's population lives below what countries in North America and Europe consider the poverty line. "We can wonder how long such huge inequalities may persist," said Milanovic, "in the face of ever closer contacts, not least through television and movies, where opulent lifestyles of the rich raise expectations and often breed resentment among the poor ... [and] resentment breeds terrorism." The World Bank economist added that "ultimately the rich may have to live in gated communities while the poor roam the world outside those few enclaves."



FIVE SURGEONS

Five surgeons are discussing who makes the best patients to operate on.

The first surgeon says, "I like to see accountants on my operating table, because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered."

The second surgeon responds, "Yeah, but you should try electricians! Everything inside them is colour coded."

The third surgeon says, "No, I really think librarians are the best, everything inside them is in alphabetical order."

The fourth surgeon chimes in, "You know, I like construction workers, those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end, and when the job takes longer than you said it would."

But the fifth surgeon shuts them up when he observed, "You're all wrong. Politicians are easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, and no spine, and the head and butt are interchangeable."



ARE WE BEING GENETICALLY MODIFIED?**Schmeiser/Monsanto case shows extent of GM food threat**

By Judy Kennedy, as published in the CCPA Monitor,
Apr/02

So why do the French hate McDonalds? The answer involves France's lifestyles and culinary practices, agri-biz, and the feistiness of its family farmers. And its resistance to the forced homogenization that McDonald's stand for around the world. For we **are** being homogenized, standardized, and squared like genetically modified tomatoes that taste like wood but have the shelf life of 10 years and come with their own built-in toxins to ward off bugs.

Genetically modified (GM) or engineered (GE) products are those whose genes have been altered, usually by the addition of genetic material from another species. The product may be developed to resist, for example, a specific herbicide or pesticide. Widespread use of such seed and herbicide combinations increases the practice of monoculture and of the monopoly of food production through the control of the seed supply. Such practices are given a giant boost by patent rights, which compliant governments have legislated.

Genetics Professor Joe Cummins of the University of Western Ontario believes that the GM seed industry is aiming at nothing short of total control – i.e., that certified seeds will be required for all plantings, and that these seeds will have to contain a herbicide-resistant gene. Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser would agree with this prediction. The case on Monsanto vs Schmeiser is known worldwide. In March of last year, the Federal Court of Canada found that Schmeiser had infringed Monsanto's patent rights because some of its GM canola was growing on his land. That Schmeiser had neither planted it nor authorized its planting was deemed by the court to be "not significant." The implications for farmers everywhere are awesome. Dr. Ralph Martin, Director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, says, "This throws the onus the wrong way – onto the farmer – not Monsanto."

Canola pollen can be carried over great distances by wind or insects, leading to outcrossing. Agriculturists estimate that a buffer zone of at least 800 metres is needed to protect a field of non-GM hybrid canola from infestation by the GM variety. The GM variety was developed to resist the most widely used herbicide, Monsanto's Roundup. These factors mean that most of Saskatchewan's canola fields may now be contaminated and that savers and developers of heritage and other canola strains, like Schmeiser, cannot plant their seed. The contaminating "volunteer" plants bear proprietary genes, as the court has indicated, and are tolerant to Roundup or other common herbicides. Round One clearly goes to Monsanto.

In addition to the monopoly of a major food crop by one transnational corporation, a second public policy issue arises with GM products: that of food safety. Health Canada holds that genetically modified foods need not be tested nor labeled because they are identically essential detail to the crop from which they originated, or "substantially equivalent." Dr. Ann Clark, professor of plant agriculture at the University of

Guelph, has long criticized Health Canada's assessment process in relation to food safety; some see it as a mere bookkeeping device. She charges the Department's Food Inspection Agency with having followed a seriously flawed protocol prior to its approval of some 50 GM foods – one that failed to consider their potential for genetic flow to wild relatives or to become weeds – an also failed to evaluate their impact on non-target organisms or on biodiversity.

Recently the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on Genetic Modification recommended that more research be done on such novel food products, and over a longer time period; that a government body conduct this research; and that it be funded independently. Open records are essential to this process, they added. These recommendations contrast with current government practice, which protects the confidentiality of research results as "business information." Retired Agriculture Canada crop scientist Dr. Bert Christie sees government in a conflict of interest position in its dual role of promoter and regulator of biotechnology. He confirms that the CFIA conducts no tests on its own and does not submit the industry's findings to peer review.

What can be so dangerous about GM food crops? Some scientists see more danger in multiple sprayings of crops with herbicides and pesticides than with genetic modification. Dr. Gefu Wang-Pruski, Research Professor, Plant Molecular biology, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, points to some non-GM apples which, "even if peeled, have 25% more (chemicals) than what is allowed – inside the apple." GM crops, she claims, have been tested now for over 10 years, and have shown no allergenic reaction. The Internet, however, provides lots of counter-arguments. Dr. Joe Cummins's concerns run like this: "Probably the greatest threat from genetically altered crops is the insertion of modified virus and insect virus genes into crops. It has been shown in the laboratory that genetic recombination will create highly virulent new viruses from such constructions. Certainly the widely used cauliflower mosaic virus is a potentially dangerous gene. It is a pararetrovirus, meaning that it multiplies by making DNA from RNA messages. It is very similar to the Hepatitis B virus and related to HIV. Modified viruses could cause famine by destroying crops or cause human and animal diseases of tremendous power."

Dr. Michael Antoniou, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Genetics at Guy's Hospital, London, warns, "This procedure results in disruption of the genetic blueprint of the organism, with totally unpredictable consequences. The unexpected production of toxic substances has now been observed in genetically engineered bacteria, yeast, plants, animals, with the problem remaining undetected until a major health hazard has arisen. Moreover, genetically engineered food or enzymatic food processing agents may produce an immediate effect or it could take years for full toxicity to come to light." Other concerns have been raised by Agnes Sinai of Paris's Ecole des hautes etudes en sciences sociales: "Consumers would ingest much (sic) more pesticides if genetically modified plants were to spread because they contain so much of them. Like dioxins, pesticides, including glyphosphate, are

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

not broken down in the human body; they are a form of invisible pollution. Their molecules have allergenic, neurotoxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and hormonal effects and are harmful to male fertility. They have similar properties to female hormones, oestrogens; overall, these hormonal effects could be responsible for a 50% decline in sperm counts over the last 50 years. If that decline were to continue, the human race would have to resort to cloning by about 2060." Scary stuff. But the list of GM food crops includes more than canola. Most of the corn and soy products we eat may now be of the genetically modified varieties and therefore most of the processed foods that appear on supermarket shelves. No wonder consumers clamor for the labeling of GM foods as a minimum response to the apparent risk this presents. The precautionary principle – which Canada accepted in signing the Biosafety Protocol in Montreal in 2000 – requires nothing less. Yet last October, then Health Minister Alan Rock and his cabinet colleagues scuttled a bill presented by Liberal MP Charles Caccia, a bill that would have made the labeling of GM foods mandatory and which had the support of 93% of Canadians. Round Two to Monsanto.

Consumers in Europe are rallying, demanding the labeling of GM foods, and even their withdrawal from the market. Governments are moving to ban the cultivation of GM crops. Boycotts of corn, soy and canola from the United States and Canada are being organized by retailers, as well as by consumers abroad. Organic foods are much sought after. One California food chain, Trader Joe's, recently announced that it would work with its private label vendors to have GM-free products reformulated if necessary and certified within a year. Now there's competitive advantage!

Canadian farmers have taken notice and have instructed the board of directors of the country's largest grain company, Agricare United, to work towards segregating GM and non-GM varieties of grain and oil seeds and urging government not to licence varieties of GM wheat. Their market-share is at stake. For Canadian consumers, it is not too late to get off the shelf, join with our European and American counterparts, and win Round Three.

We should push hard for effective regulation of GM crops and products; for extensive and long-term research on their effects by independent researchers; and for a ban on their presence in the food market until they have been proven safe. In the meantime, Percy Schmeiser has appealed the Federal Court's ruling, and the Saskatchewan Organic Directorate has launched a class action suit against Monsanto on behalf of those farmers who have had their fields contaminated by GM seeds without their authorization. Stay tuned.

(Judy Kennedy – persan@auracom.com - is a retired lawyer and environmental activist living in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. She is a member of CCPA-Nova Scotia and Sierra Atlantic. For more information, see www.percyschmeiser.com - www.plant.uoguelph.ca/faculty/elclark - www.natural-law.ca/genetic)



IS THERE A SCHOOL FOR LIARS?

By George Ehring, as published in *Our Times*,
Apr/May '02

It is true that I am a cynic, but even bearing that in mind, I must say that most people I meet don't strike me as liars. True, a few are. But it takes skill to be a good liar, and it takes enormous gall to keep on lying, even when you know you are being exposed. I am stumped when I hear people – often respected and apparently intelligent people – lie to all of us with such regularity and such impunity. With that in mind, I have a few questions that maybe the faithful readers of the back page of *Our Times* could take a minute to answer.*

Where do politicians learn to be such adept liars?

In an excellent book about democracy called *Who Will Tell the People?*, author William Greider makes the observation: "Politicians are held in contempt by the public. That is well known and not exactly new ... What is less well understood (are rarely talked about for the obvious reasons) is the deep contempt politicians have for the general public." I have been thinking of this, watching British Columbia's astounding Liberals, whose contempt for the people is breathtaking, and whose willingness to lie to us utterly shameless. And so, I have been wondering: Where do these politicians learn to be such accomplished and bald liars? Is there a school where politicians go to learn to lie? Are there seminars? Is there an army of skilled facilitators, teaching them to smile right into the camera and lie through their teeth? I want to know.

These Liberals pass a law that tears up collective agreements, allows for the closure of hospitals, and forces patients to travel longer distances for medical care, and they call it the "Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act." They pass a law that limits education choices for students, and forces school boards to come up with the money to pay teachers' salaries, and they call it the "Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act." They blame the previous government for their fiscal woes, despite the fact that it had a balanced budget, and

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

despite the fact that the Liberals themselves passed a whopping tax cut for the wealthy and corporations within hours of coming to office. Do they think we don't know they're liars? Do they even care?

Where do corporate executives learn to steal?

Is this something that comes naturally with the occupation, the way donuts go with police work? Seeing the overnight collapse of the Enron Corporation, and the shameless greed of its corporate executives, running off with hundreds of millions of dollars, is to watch Olympic audacity in operation. They did this all the while knowing that they had fraudulently misrepresented the corporation's financial situation to their own employees and stockholders, who were going to lose their jobs and their investments.

To be motivated by greed is bad enough. But to be consumed by it to the point that you are willing to drive stockholders into penury while you personally rake off millions is something else again. When corporate executives approve their own enormous salaries and whopping stock options, whose interest do they have in mind? When they say their merger plans will protect jobs, do they think we believe them? When they say they are "good corporate citizens," do they hear what they're saying? Are they laughing?

Where do you go to develop the colossal selfishness that allows you to rationalize your greed while you steal from your employees and your investors, and sit confidently in your boardroom, all the while proclaiming your actions just and your ethics intact? Is this something you get with your business degree?

Where do bosses learn to look the other way while workers are getting killed or sick on the job?

At least 800 workers are killed on the job every year in Canada – more than two a day. (These are just the deaths recognized by the various provincial Workers' Compensation Boards; there are many that go unacknowledged.) Many of these fatalities are accidents, to be sure, but many are not, which is to say that innocent people are being killed because companies knowingly disregard safety. How to these bosses go to work every day knowing that their companies put workers' lives needlessly at risk? How do they collect their paycheques after someone has been killed? Where do you go to develop that kind of inhuman callousness?

At the Holmes Foundry in Sarnia, Ontario, for example, as a result of pressure by the Canadian Auto Workers union, the company has paid over \$8 million in lump-sum payments to widows of former workers, and continues to pay \$600,000 a year in ongoing monthly payments. Over 100 *recognized* deaths – mostly due to cancer, lung disease and heart disease – have been attributed to conditions there. The Holmes foundry is just one of many.

How do you become so ruthless for profit that you consciously decide not to install safety equipment, or knowingly allow toxic or hazardous substances to slowly

poison your workers or the environment? What pressure, and what culture, motivates people to such unconscionable disregard for human life?

If there are schools for liars, corporate thieves, and callous, profit-hungry corporate killers, then whoever is running them is turning out a lot of graduates.

George Ehring is on liar patrol, a full-time job, at his home on Salt Spring Island, BC



BOUNTY HUNTERS IN AFGANISTAN?

By J.F. Conway, as published in Briarpatch, May/02

Reports that Canadian combat troops are involved in heavy fighting in eastern Afghanistan near Gardez will hopefully raise some tough questions in the minds of Canadians. This action and the ongoing defense on the perimeter of the air base at Kandahar, where repeated attacks continue to occur, foreshadows a long and dirty war. This is the first time Canada has been involved in ground combat since Korea, other than in a peacekeeping role. (Canada's involvement in the Persian Gulf war was confined to naval and air roles.) Further, it appears that the Afghan war will not be a quick "in and out" combat affair. The ground will have to be taken, and it appears, not surprisingly, that al'Queda and Taliban combatants have re-grouped and rearmed.

The obvious question remains unasked by our political leaders. Why are Canadian combat troops in Afghanistan? The unusual answer – "to fight terrorism" – cannot mask the unvarnished truth. We are there because the USA President has threatened us with his bellicose rhetoric – "your are with us or against us." We are there as servants of American foreign policy objectives in the Middle East, primarily to defend America's strategic oil interest there, and the future potential in the now-independent Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. Our troops are fighting an American war, under American command, and with constant assurances of loyalty to the USA cause from our Prime Minister and a majority of the House of Commons. The main criticism of the right-wing opposition parties – the

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(Continued from page 16)

Alliance and the Tories – is that we are not doing enough to support our American masters. We have not done this kind of thing – with the same, uncritical subservience – since the Boer War. Then we fought for the British Empire, now our young men and women have been sent to fight and perhaps die for the American Empire.

The economic baseness of our government's motives for this political servility was made clear when Trade Minister Pettigrew, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Manhattan on February 1st, 2002, said that Canada's "loyalty" to the USA in "the cause of fighting terrorism and our contributions as an ally" will pay "dividends all across the board" in Canada's trade disputes with the USA. This speech did not get the front-page treatment it deserved, but was buried in the back pages of the few newspapers which bothered to report it. This is the first time a senior minister of the Canadian government has suggested we are exchanging combat support for trade benefits.

Such a crass trade-off will not sit well with Canadians. The idea that we have put our young men and women at risk in order to curry trade favours with the USA will not receive enthusiastic support from Canadians. The idea that we have exchanged our international reputation as peacekeepers, which has taken 50 years to build, for economic profit is outrageous and unacceptable. How many dead young Canadians are we willing to exchange, or how many Afghans do our troops have to kill or capture, for a better deal on softwood lumber? Given our handover of captured Taliban fighters to the mercies of the USA without guarantees about their treatment, perhaps our troops are just so many bounty hunters on behalf of Canadian economic interests.

The large majority of Canadians opposed to this political and military misadventure can only grow when our government's motives are made clear. And if our young men and women begin to die for the American Empire, the now reluctant support of a majority of Canadians will evaporate quickly. To serve Canada on a peacekeeping mission carried honour, recognition, and gratitude on an international basis. To serve the American Empire in a military adventure to secure American global domination, and to curry trade favours for Canadian economic interests, will in the end bring dishonour and disfavor among the international community.

After years of asserting our international independence from the USA under prime ministers like Diefenbaker, Pearson and Trudeau, Mulroney and then Chretien have reduced us to servants of an aggressive and arrogant American Empire, puffed up by its victory in the Cold War. Canadians should demand that Canada withdraw immediately from the Afghan war.

John Conway is a University of Regina political sociologist.

Older men declare war. But it is the youth that must fight and die.
- Herbert Hoover

CAUGHT IN THE NET

NEW ANALYSIS SHOWS ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM MEETING KYOTO TARGET

As received by email from The David Suzuki Foundation, Apr/02

Energy-efficiency innovations, cleaner fuels and other measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will generate jobs and economic growth for Canada, according to a study released by the Boston-based Tellus Institute in Ottawa on April 23. "The Bottom Line on Kyoto: The Economic Benefits of Canadian Action" presents an economic analysis of policy proposals from the federal government's National Climate Change Process which involved government and industry experts. The study was commissioned by the David Suzuki Foundation and World Wildlife Fund.

A policy brief and full study is available at http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/Economics/ and <http://www.wwf.ca/learn/KyotoEconomics>. Below is an article by Calgary business reporter Brent Jang, "If done right, ratifying Kyoto will not mean the end for oil patch". Unlike position papers from industry, the study conservatively weighs both the costs and benefits of shifting to a clean energy economy.

The Bottom Line on Kyoto forecasts the following benefits from selected emission reduction policies, over and above business as usual projections:

- A cumulative net economic savings of \$4 billion across the economy reaching \$1.6 billion per year, or \$47 per capita, in 2012;
- The net addition of 52,000 jobs in the economy generally, due to the redirection of consumer spending away from fuel and electricity and toward other goods, services, activities and investments;
- A \$135 average annual gain in household wages and salaries; and a \$2 billion increase in the national GDP.

The policies that were analyzed would promote a shift to more energy-efficient buildings, cleaner transportation and industrial technologies, and local electrical co-generation. The resulting forecast shows job growth across the economy from industry's investment in new technologies and from consumers re-directing money away from energy to other goods and services.

IF DONE RIGHT, RATIFYING KYOTO WILL NOT MEAN THE END FOR OIL PATCH

Globe and Mail1240877.jpg Wednesday, April 24, 2002,
Business Section, by Brent Jang

CALGARY -- Canada's oil patch should pay closer attention to the potential economic benefits of the Kyoto accord on reducing greenhouse gases. A study released yesterday touting the advantages of ratifying the Kyoto protocol would be easy to dismiss as the misguided research of environmentalists. But

(Continued on page 18)

the report, commissioned by the David Suzuki Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund, deserves to be taken seriously. The study's rosy forecasts of creating 52,000 jobs and bolstering the economy by \$2-billion over the next decade will seem ludicrous to the doubting Thomases in the oil industry. However, the environmentalists make a good point: Ottawa is in a position to introduce policies that will help -- not hinder -- the petroleum sector.

Ratifying Kyoto, if done with considerable forethought, would not be the end of the world for the oil patch, which has learned to endure hardships whenever commodity prices plunge. Even the Alberta government, which had been sweating bullets over the prospect of Ottawa signing off on Kyoto, has been sounding more conciliatory than combative in recent days. That's because Alberta's Progressive Conservative administration has largely accomplished what it set out to do, namely, force Ottawa to factor economics prominently into the equation. Alberta has warned that Kyoto could cost Canada in the neighborhood of \$40-billion. Many oil and gas producers concur with that dire prediction, but a handful -- including BP, Shell Canada and Suncor -- have been devoting their efforts to thinking green. Ottawa believes there would be economic pain, perhaps as much as \$15-billion in cumulative costs from 2008 to 2012 in order to comply with Kyoto.

With so many wide-ranging calculations, it's safe to say that it's mainly guesswork when trying to estimate the costs of Kyoto. Imperial Oil and Talisman Energy are two notable firms in the anti-Kyoto camp, while Petro-Canada has been gradually shifting away from criticizing Kyoto and moving toward a growing group within the oil patch that simply wants to know what the rules of the game will be because that means greater certainty.

The threat of Ottawa embracing the Kyoto accord has been enough to dampen investment in the oil and gas sector because companies are understandably nervous amid the uncertainty. It used to be rare to even see the word Kyoto appear in research reports published by investment dealers, but climate change is very topical these days. "Ultimately, we believe there will be a cost borne by the producers," wrote Ian Thomson, an analyst at Wolverton Securities. "However, given the appropriate amount of time for proper capital planning, savings may actually occur." For instance, BP reports that its projects aimed at improving energy efficiency and reducing flaring have resulted in huge cost savings. "We believe there will be a lot more companies proudly expressing their environmental achievements over the years to come," Mr. Thomson added.

A key issue yet to be resolved is whether Canada will be able to claim energy export credits, in which the country essentially gets rewarded for exporting cleaner-burning natural gas to the United States. FirstEnergy Capital recently said its staff will step up its monitoring of the debate over ratifying Kyoto. The investment dealer posed numerous questions about how slashing emissions may affect the fast-expanding oil sands of northern Alberta. Suncor has cut its emissions for every barrel of oil produced by 42 per cent, compared with 1990 levels. "Nevertheless, for Suncor, with

the expected production growth, emissions will still rise dramatically," FirstEnergy pointed out. This delicate matter of the economy versus the environment, as evidenced by the case of Suncor in the oil sands, is difficult to analyze. Suncor should be praised for cleaning up its act, but then again, it's polluting more than ever. On the other hand, the company has an obligation to its shareholders to bolster production, and if it happens to do so in a responsible manner, then that should be praised, too. "Would each company be responsible for reducing emissions on a per-unit basis, while the onus would be on the consumer to reduce aggregate demand?" FirstEnergy asks. The Boston-based Tellus Institute, which conducted the Kyoto study for the David Suzuki Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund, reckons that on balance, slashing emissions will not cripple the Canadian economy or wipe out jobs. That, of course, is the opposite view of many executives in the business world, whether they work in manufacturing or the energy sector.

Somewhere in the middle lies the truth. If the federal Liberal government consults with the oil patch and implements some sort of voluntary system to meet the spirit of Kyoto, then the economic damage will likely be nowhere near what the Alberta government predicts. But if Prime Minister Jean Chrétien rams through policies without proper regard for the economic consequences, then any forecast of job gains and economic growth will be dead wrong.

The oil patch needs to broaden its thinking, and Ottawa needs to carefully weigh the costs and benefits because if it rushes to ratify, it risks pleasing no one.

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Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
All things are bound together.
All things connect.
- Chief Seattle

ITALY'S SMOG CRISIS

As published in the CCPA Monitor, Apr/02

How bad does smog have to get before a government takes decisive action against the main cause – petroleum-powered cars? The critical smog level seems to have come in Italy's northern region of Lombardy, where smog recently intensified to more than five times the officially authorized concentration. It is now estimated to claim 180 lives a year among Lombardy's 9 million residents. Lombardy's president, Roberto Formigoni, recently announced plans to force a phase-out of gasoline and diesel fuelled vehicles, starting in four years, replacing them with vehicles powered by cleaner energy sources. "I'm counting on Europe's automobile industry to move quickly on a conversion to electric, gas, and other alternative fuels," he told the local media. He set a tentative date to start the transition by Jan 1, 2006. Traffic accounts for nearly 80% of the pollution particles that clog the air in Lombardy, which is hemmed in by the Alps to the north and the Appenine mountains to the south. Rainless, windless weather throughout the past winter shrouded Milan and other northern cities and towns in a thick smog haze, necessitating bans on vehicles on alternate days. Formigoni has put automobile firms on notice that, after Jan 1, 2006, all cars sold and driven in Lombardy must be ecologically safe.

**COURT CASE COULD STOP SALE OF ONTARIO ELECTRICITY SYSTEM**

Unions contend that government sale of Hydro One is not legal, should be hearings

For Immediate Release: April 16, 2002

Toronto - Competing views of the legality of the government's proposed selloff of the Ontario electricity distribution system, known as Hydro One, continued yesterday in a Toronto courtroom. The case may decide the outcome of the giant electricity privatization deal that outgoing Premier Mike Harris called the 'biggest privatization in Canadian history'.

Lawyers for the Government of Ontario were peppered with questions from Mr. Justice Arthur Gans in the Ontario Court of Justice yesterday, as they presented their case that there is no need for public hearings or new legislation before the publicly-owned electricity grid is sold to private investors. Justice Gans had speculated last week that the Ontario public may have been 'sandbagged' by the government, in light of the fact that until the government announced its decision to sell Hydro One, it had repeatedly indicated that it did not intend to do so.

The government told the court yesterday that there is nothing in the *Electricity Act* that prevents the sale.

The government's right to sell the electricity grid is being challenged in court by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP). The unions presented their arguments last week, claiming that under the *Electricity*

Act, the Ontario government does not have the power to sell Hydro One to the private sector and that it never informed the people of Ontario of its intentions. They also contend that even if the government has the right to sell Hydro One, there must be public hearings before the Ontario Energy Board first.

But a lawyer for the government questioned the right of the two unions to get involved in the issue at all, saying that they don't have a 'direct interest' in the sale. However, Justice Gans commented that union members are residents of Ontario, and that their livelihood could be affected by the sale.

CEP President Brian Payne noted that the case goes to the heart of the tradition of fair play in Canada's legislative traditions. "To tell the public repeatedly that you don't intend to sell Hydro One, and then to do exactly that without any debate or prior notice, is just unconscionable. That's why ordinary people have to use the courts to protect the public interest."

"With Ernie Eves coming into office as the new Premier just yesterday, now is the time for the government to turn over a new leaf and stop this ill-conceived sell off of public assets," said Judy Darcy, National President of CUPE.

More evidence is expected to be given in court today. Mr. Justice Gans is expected to rule on the case by the end of the week.

More information: Michelle Walsh at (613) 230-5200, ext. 232





HORROR FILM WISDOM

From the Internet

1. When it seems that you've killed the monster, never check to see if it's really dead.
2. If you find that your house is built upon or near a cemetery, was once a church used for black masses, had previous inhabitants who went mad or committed suicide or died in some horrible fashion or who performed necrophilia or satanic practices, move away immediately.
3. Do not search the basement, especially when the power has just gone out.
4. If your children speak to you in Latin or any other language, which they do not know, or if they speak using a voice other than their own, shoot them at once. It will save you a lot of grief in the long run. Note: it's unlikely they'll die easy, so be prepared.
5. When you have the benefit of numbers, never go alone.
6. If you're searching for something, which caused a noise and find out that it's just the cat, leave the room immediately if you value your life.
7. If you're running from the monster, you will most likely trip or fall. If you are female you will.
8. Stay away from certain geographical locations, some of which are listed here: Amityville, Elm Street, Transylvania, Nilbog (God help you if you recognize this one), the Bermuda Triangle, or any small town in Maine, especially if it is called Derry.
9. If your car runs out of gas at night, do not go to the nearby deserted-looking house to phone for help.
10. When something bad is chasing you, bear in mind that when you try to start your car, no matter how reliable the vehicle is normally, you'll have to crank the engine over many times before it will fire up.
11. People arriving to rescue you generally get ambushed by the monster, so don't rely on them as your only means of escape. In fact, expect to be surprised and delayed by encountering their flayed corpse at some point.
12. Do not call the police as they are either evil and will turn you in or will not believe you and laugh at you. Either way, you must handle the problem yourself.
13. If you are using a gun to combat the all-consuming evil, it is a good idea to quickly find a new means of defense, because no matter how much ammo you have, you'll run out just before you kill the monster (unless your name is Ash, in which case, you'll never have to reload).
14. If you have defeated the monster, pay close attention to the camera, if it pans away for no apparent reason at all, get the heck out of there.
15. Skeptics are always proved wrong in some horrible, nasty, painful way. Be a believer.
16. If you are a child, don't panic! Monsters only attack overly horny teenagers. Children can NOT be killed in a movie, only possessed or absorbed. So cheer up!
17. If you've beaten the monster into a bloody pulp and you're sure he must be dead, take the opportunity to dismember, burn, eat, blow up, or otherwise utterly destroy him.

THE NEXT
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
WILL BE HELD AT 7:30 P.M. ON:
JUNE 12th
JULY 10th
AUGUST 14th
AT THE P.P.W.C., LOCAL 10 UNION
HALL

FAMOUS COMMENTS ON WAR

Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.

- Ernest Hemingway

Only the dead have seen the end of the war.

- Plato

War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

- John F. Kennedy

If we don't end war, war will end us.

- H. G. Wells

THE DEADLINE
FOR THE NEXT
ISSUE OF *CHIPS &*
CHUNKS IS JULY
10th

START ON YOUR
ARTICLE,
COMMENT,
CARTOON,
OR LETTER TO
THE EDITOR NOW!

