

MAGAZINE
PAMPHLETDOES NOT
CHECK OUT*What's*
HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts, Entertainment & Events



free

◀ "How they gonna keep 'em down in their seats...?"

See p. 9



Greg Brausch

The Plight of Oregon's Old Growth

Since the birth of the timber industry, the mountains of the Northwest have been shaved like hairy chins under giant Gillettes. Loggers have transformed dense forests into scarred slopes, like Shermans marching to the sea, strewn with charred rubble in the wake of an endless supply of two-by-fours.

But no longer can a hard-hatted crew fell a stand of thousand year old giants with no more noise than the two-strokes of their chain saws. Now their activities are broadcast by Dan Rather and the *NY Times*, NPR and *Esquire*. Now when they arrive at a site, they're likely to find people stretched across the road, chained to the trees, and hanging from the branches. Now, before they lower their long blades, they must check for forty-penny nails driven deep into the massive trunks. Douglas Firs taller than the Eugene Hilton are still being dropped, dragged, trucked, milled and shipped to Asia or chipped into particle

board to make tacky furniture, but some people are going to great lengths—and heights—to save them.

In June of 1985, members of the Cathedral Forest Action Group (CFAG) hoisted treehouses one hundred feet up into the branches of Douglas Firs in the Millennia Grove, 30 miles east of Sweet Home. One of them remained a month, watching the Willamette Industries loggers, until a task force was formed and work suspended. The following March, on Easter night, the U.S. Forest Service closed the area to the public. The next morning, logging began again, many of the oldest trees being cut first. One CFAG member, who had been "doing a two-week vigil" in the Grove, climbed up one of the trees to save it—temporarily. Fifty-six acres were logged, and the incident made national news.

In October of last year, over 20 people were arrested attempting to stop Bugaboo Timber

Company's logging of 63 acres near the community of Breitenbush. They blocked a roadway being cleared to Devil's Ridge, climbed into trees with hammocks, blocked a temporary bridge, chained themselves to trees, and stretched a cable across the road. The Forest Service received a letter saying that metal spikes had been driven into the trees. Although metal detectors failed to uncover any, logging was suspended "for the winter."

Also in October, a lone arboreal protestor climbed into a fir near Fall Creek to publicize the logging of 238 acres of 800 year old trees. In November, 60 people gathered at the Sentinel Stand, near Lorane, to protest planned logging.

immense, ancient trees
Dying
by Jim Stiak

Early in January, a vigil was begun at Bunker Hill, near Marcola, where Rosboro Lumber planned to log 110 acres of Firs, Cedars and Spruce 200 years and older. Although the Lane County Commissioners proposed making a park there, and Rosboro president Paul Cole claimed to be losing half a million dollars on the job, the Bureau of Land Management ordered the cutting to commence.

To the increasing protests the timber companies have responded with speed. Large crews have been gathered to "harvest" the biggest trees quickly. If some nuts are living in the branches, they just cut somewhere else, and maybe come back at night to try to scare them down.

Continued on page 12