

FIRE

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the film is an entirely different look at a sci-fi film, say members of the cast. The movie does not focus on the UFO, but instead, what results from the encounter.

"The UFO just sets it in motion," Patrick said. "The funny thing is it challenges everything my character was raised to believe in. Everything you believe in is in doubt. These guys go through a lot of shit."

"This is a pretty big script in Hollywood," Sweeney said, "even by Hollywood standards."

What really benefited from the picture — at least financially — is the area. Crews filmed extensively in the historical district of Oakland, which doubles as 1975 Snowflake, and in parts of the Sutherlin, Roseburg and Glide areas.

Garrison estimates that 500 extras from the southern Oregon area were used and that about \$1 million was put into the Oregon economy during the two months.

"And that doesn't cover the beer money we spend," he said.

The cast and crew have also traveled to places such as Coos Bay and Crater Lake, rafted the Rogue River, and played "loads" of golf, Patrick said.

Welcome to the human side of Hollywood.

Sweeney would rather talk politics and sports than moviemaking. He ripped into Measure 9 and George Bush, and gave a little advice to Portland Trail Blazer fans.

"You guys need to trade Terry Porter," he said.

Peter Berg, dressed in a flannel shirt and cowboy boots like fellow loggers Patrick and Sweeney, was the constant joker, sitting outside a trailer.

"D.B. has 13 identifiable personalities," said Berg, who trained with real Oregon loggers along with the other five acting loggers.

The topic switched to two Sutherlin girls who play extras in the movie. After posing for pictures with Sweeney, the six- and seven-year-old leave, only to be the subject of a Berg joke.

"There's a lot of rumors," said Berg, guessing that there is actual alien activity around the set. "(The girls) have been seen flying,

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"The one problem Oregon may have is Measure 9," he said. "If the measure passes, the film industry will almost dry up overnight — definitely a counterproductive move if it passes."

Robert Patrick, best known for his steely gaze in *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, opened his eyes wide in disbelief and called the initiative "spooky" when told of it.

"It's amazing to me that something like that can happen," Patrick said. "That's too bad. That's a backward step."

Patrick, Sweeney and Berg are all unabashed supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, and in the race for the Oregon U.S. Senate seat, "anyone but Packwood," Sweeney said.

Sweeney later went on to give his one piece of advice to students and youth: "You gotta vote."



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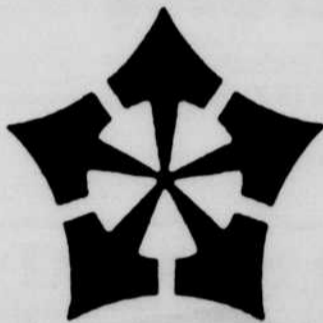
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