

The MENDONESIAN

INTERVIEWS • ARTICLES • FICTION • REVIEWS

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IN THIS ISSUE

Feature Story

Sunken Treasure in Coastal Rivers
Mike L. Evans - - - - - 4

Community

On the River, Kathy O'Grady - - - - - 6
Is There Life After Welfare?, Linda Spector - - - 7
Where are You Now?, Stephen Garner - - - - - 9
The Good Old Days Still Live, Lorel Kay - - - - 9
Mendonewsia, Deirdre Lamb Walsh - - - - - 12

Interview

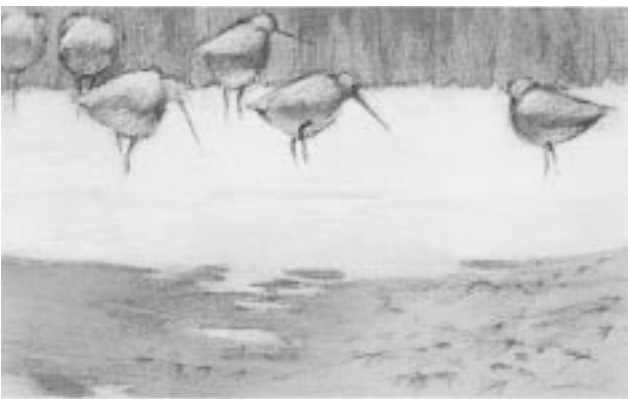
Tony Miksak, Mike L. Evans - - - - - 8
Seeing the World through Autism:
Ella and Gully Russell, Lydia Rand - - - - - 18
Tom DiCillo, Richard Hack - - - - - 24

Commentary

Forgotten Dreamboats, Thomas A. Taylor - - - 10
Mendocino Bay Viewpoint - - - - - 30

Environment

Tree Farms Are Not Just Mono Culture
Tomas Fiore - - - - - 11
Climate Forecast, Carol Kohli - - - - - 11



Migration
Erica Fielder, featured Artist for August

Entertainment

Mendonesian Entertainment Guide
Carol White - - - - - 14

Featured Artist

Erica Fielder - - - - - 17

Poetry

Chinese Painting, Lydia Rand - - - - - 20
Saturday, Stephen Kessler - - - - - 20
It's Only August, Joan Rosen - - - - - 20
Untitled, Gary Young - - - - - 20
Untitled, Robert B. Cole - - - - - 20

Essay

Guys Like Gary Nicky, Thomas Rude - - - - - 21
Selamat Pagi, Joe Smith - - - - - 22
Harnessed, Karin Faulkner - - - - - 23

Reviews

Movie Reviews:
Box of Moonlight and Career Girls
Richard Hack - - - - - 24
Book Review: The String Creek Saga, 1990-'97
Daniel Barth - - - - - 25
Restaurant Review: MacCallum House
Jean Keenan - - - - - 26

Gardening

Ask Lily, Lily Ricardi - - - - - 28

Nature

The Canada Goose, Feather Forestwalker - - - - 29

Miscellaneous

Antonia's Cozmic Weather Report
Antonia Lamb - - - - - 32
Mendocino Area Tide Chart - - - - - 32
Advertiser's Directory - - - - - 32

PUBLISHER'S EDITORIAL

At last! August has arrived none to soon. July was almost too much fun, what with camping and visiting family it was getting to be like life instead of vacation.

You probably noticed when you picked up the paper that we are fortunate to have Erica Fielder grace our cover as the Featured Artist of the month. Her *Spirit Fish* pastel is perfect as a visual comment on the Feature Story about the sinker log salvagers. Her fish seem to be making their own comment as they rise from the river to get over the falls to further their species.

The interview, *Sunken Treasure in Coastal Rivers*, with Anthony Crowell, John Ramsey, Bruce Choder, Steve and John Crowningshield, and John Paul McMillan, started out as talk concerning what was happening with the agreements they had with the Dept. of Fish & Game. But as I started delving more into the story, talking with other people, the story became much like a sinker log itself, most of it buried in the muck of years of bureaucratic sediment, and as I started uncovering a little here and there I could see the log getting bigger and bigger. For that reason *The Mendonesian* is planning an article in September with the groups who sued DFG to halt river salvage logging until regulations can be formulated, if that is possible. The entire subject is kind of a hot potato between the various government agencies who supposedly have authority over the river logs. The problem being, no one is quite sure who has the authority. It will be interesting to see what the final decisions are.

Speaking about government agencies, Linda Spector has submitted an article, *Is There Life After Welfare?*, concerning people who have been on welfare, the prejudice they had to deal with, and what happened after they stopped receiving

assistance. It's an eye opener, as will be next month's follow-up article on Parents and Child Support.

Our Business Interview this issue is with Gallery Bookshop owner *Tony Miksak*. I've known Tony for over twenty years and I was pleased with his candid observations of our little village. I think you'll enjoy reading what he said as much as I enjoyed interviewing him.

Another interview, *Seeing the World Through Autism* by Lydia Rand, is about an autistic boy and his mother and the communication breakthrough they have made together. Very moving story on overcoming what seem like insurmountable obstacles.

As for other obstacles, for those of you who have been hearing rumor upon rumor about the future of *The Mendonesian*, to quote one of my heroes, Mark Twain, "The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated." I have heard stories from opposite ends of the spectrum on what is happening to this paper, mostly from people with something to gain by our departure from the publishing world, and as far as I know *The Mendonesian* will still be here when those people are not.

Next month, I am privileged to announce, Joe Smith has consented to be guest editor. Joe is a local writer who has published several of his stories in *The Mendonesian* in the past. We eagerly look forward to his input. That's in September, look for us.

Until then, enjoy this latest issue. It won't be the last. It's full of more of the reading and information you like, and won't find anywhere else.

Mike L. Evans

Publisher/Owner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters must have a contact address or phone number. No anonymous letters will be considered for publication. Letters will not be accepted if longer than 300 words, except in special circumstances.

SUCKER EDUCATION

Dear Mendonesian:

Discovered your publication when I was attracted by the beautiful July cover artwork of Julie Higgins. Although the paper is oriented to local folks, as a visitor I found much of interest in it... the interviews were fascinating, the skateboard park issue was relevant to my own community, and the columns were engrossing. But I was a bit confused, and dismayed, by a column by Tomas Fiore. Having lived, suffered actually, through three different logging operations in three years on a ridge a couple of football fields away from my own house, I am particularly hot about "timber harvest," and know all too well that more public education and public involvement is needed. Clear communication, even if it is one-sided at this time, is what we need. To be divisive will only confuse and prolong the work for real change — a change in attitudes.

There was one part at the end of his writing that seemed particularly questionable, and I felt uncomfortable about leaving it uncommented upon — he "quotes" common ignorance as saying that Redwood trees when cut always resprout from the stump. This seems rather specious to me, and could leave folks confused. Redwood trees do resprout (for which we can be grateful, since most of the redwood trees we will ever see are just that — second growth from a tree that was cut years ago), and while I am sure this is not always, or in great numbers, or always from the part that is called the stump, simply go into almost any forest and look at the circles of trees — those are the sprouts of fallen giants. I think the time of inciting people by any means is over. That is what creates "complexities of communication."

As a final thought, other than I hope your great paper continues to thrive, on the logging issue, how about no export of logs over county lines, only finished timber or wood products?

Sara Freeman
Fulton, CA

Editor's Reply: In Tomas's article, there is a comment directly following the passage referred to in this letter that answers Ms. Freeman's question, as quoted below:

"Redwood stumps do not always resprout, especially on site 3 soils, and even on site 2 soils. Of those that do resprout, only the root-collar burl sprouts will survive to maturity. Stump sprouts will usually die within a few years and should one survive, it will likely break off in high winds."

— Common knowledge

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

Dear Editor:

Re: Raven Deerwater's July letter that responded to Steven DeLuca's June guest commentary.

When feminists express points of view contrary to most women's and men's views, we (especially men) often listen politely and remain silent. When there are objections, we are told that disagreement with feminist thought and/or behavior must be an angry attack — a backlash.

When a man speaks for women and men, things start to change. Dr. Warren Farrell, author of *The Myth of Male Power*, was on the national board of NOW for four years. But when he started to listen to men as compassionately as he had been toward women, they got rid of him.

What happens to a man who states firmly that we have heard the voices of thousands of women and now it's time to listen to the voices of men from a per-

Letters continued on page 31