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A Reply to the "Shawangunks Legal
Defense Vote" Piece in Up Rope, Dec. 1981
--by Charlie Dorian

A careful reading of the article demonstrates that it is full of errors of fact, errors of opinion, and faulty arguments. My comments follow.

The Proposal

It seems that now the donation is to be to the "Open Space Institute". In the past, the proposed donation was for Citizens to Save Minnewaska and before that to Friends of the Shawangunks. The constantly changing target for our funds implies something about the true feeling behind a call for donation--it is anti-Marriott corporation, not pro wilderness preservation.

If the impulse for a donation were truly for preservation, a group with a record of accomplishment would be

chosen to receive it. A group that has demonstrated its ability to use the money for tangible results, rather than merely providing employment for its lawyers and lobbyists.

Should the Mountaineering Section decide to become aggressive in its support of wilderness preservation, there are many better groups to choose from. Even close to home, the Nature Conservancy, located in Arlington, has a tremendous national record. Sometimes they even produce local benefits. For example, Greenland Gap is an area we can climb at now because of their actions in 1975.

Background

Contrary to claims made in Up Rope, the Ulster County Environmental Management Council (UCEMC) appeared at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) hearings as a proponent of the Marriott Corporation's application for the redevelopment of the Lake Minnewaska site. They were not Babbitt-type boosters; as environmentalists they want "development which would not have an unacceptably severe impact" (page 20, DEC hearing report).

(Editor's note: Throughout my three-year tenure I have been careful to avoid printing harsh statements and personal attacks. Since UP ROPE and its editor are the target of this statement, I waive this protective policy for my last issue.
A response follows.)

MR. DORIAN' S COMMENTS (Continued)

Specifically, the UCEMC wanted any Lake Minnewaska drawdown limited to 4 feet maximum, water quality maintained and monitored in Lake Minnewaska and Peter's Kill, parking provided for guests in New Paltz with transportation available to the hotel, building heights limited, and energy-conserving measures mandated (e.g., temperature limits on air conditioner settings).

The UEMC never mentioned a fear the Marriott would pour a "massive amount of blacktopping in an environmentally fragile area" as Up Rope claims. Marriott is not very likely to buy a gem of a setting and then pave over paradise and put up a parking lot.

Friends of the Shawangunks, "which is primarily concerned with the preservation of the Shawangunks as a natural space for the enjoyment of all persons" (p. 25, op. cit.), appeared at the DEC hearing only to worry about the adequacy of the water supply for the project (p. 25).

Citizens to Save Minnewaska is not opposed to hotel development at Lake Minnewaska. It justs wants someone other than Marriott to do it, preferably a state or federal government agency (p. 26).

Clearly the issue here is not the preservation of the wilderness, or even conservation, but to stop Marriott as Marriott.

Since there is not hotel now in operation, there cannot be a "present consumption" of water from Lake Minnewaska to be used for comparison with a projected maximum (not average) usage by Marriott's project. Even if historical estimates, from the days when the Cliff House and the Windmere Hotel were operating with over 400 rooms, are used, the ratio is from 1.15 to 0.84, not the 15 averred in Up Rope. And remember, the two old hotels took all their water from the lake; Marriott will only be permitted to build as soon as it shows the availability of water from wells.

Marriott's resort can threaten species only with some difficulty.

The closest is not on their land. "A population of the bruin crowberry, an endangered species, is located near Gertrude's Nose, within the boundaries of Minnewaska State Park about 1½ miles south of the site" (p. 75).

The DEC has concluded, as part of its application approval, that "Public



UP ROPE

UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D.C. Climbing articles, letters, and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Lin Murphy, 2314 N. Harrison Street, Arlington, VA. 22205. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in the dues. The annual subscription price for nonmembers is \$4. Current PATC members interested in receiving UP ROPE may obtain a subscription at no charge. MS members must belong to PATC. Applicants for membership and PATC members can join the MS by obtaining sponsorship from a current MS member. Send subscription and address changes to Mountaineering Section-Secretary, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES

The MS holds meetings at PATC headquarters (1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) the second Wednesday of each month except August. There is a brief business session followed by a slide show, film, or other form of entertainment. Sunday trips to nearby climbing areas and/or weekend trips to more distant areas are sponsored every weekend. Check the climber's calendar for scheduled trips.

Beginning and intermediate training are offered once a month. Anyone is welcome to participate in MS activities, although some restrictions may be placed on participation in club trips. The Sunday trips are usually to areas where there is a complete range of top rope climbs. However, we ask that you have some experience or training prior to the trip. The weekend trips are usually for lead climbers only, and you are expected to find your own climbing partner.

MR. DORIAN'S COMMENTS (Continued)

use of hiking trails and other uses of the Lake Minnewaska site should be continued and the courtesy trail (which crosses the golf course) relocated" (p. 4). Additionally, Marriott has said that it will bar snowmobiles from the trails--they want guests to enjoy them for cross-country skiing, too.

Counts of the traffic in New Paltz on Route 299 (Main St.) show, at the busiest section, "an annual average daily volume of about 16,000 vehicles per day" (p. 87). If all the guests arrived on the same day, this would increase less than 5%. As evidence of the lack of seriousness with which the Village of New Paltz and the state Department of Transportation regard the charge of impending traffic congestion, consider their plans for change: none.

Marriott's water supply alternatives were not discredited. If they were, the project would not have been approved by the DEC. It is not approved just "in concept", the necessary approvals and permits have been issued to Marriott. Marriott's first proposal, to use lake water as in the past, was felt to be undesirable. DEC's decision reads, "In view of the existing PIPC conservation easement, which was acquired in part to protect and preserve Lake Minnewaska and the absence of conclusive proof that the lake alone could supply the water needs for the entire project, it is clearly in the public interest and also advantageous to the Applicant if groundwater supplies can be developed..." (p. 2). Marriott's recess in the hearings was used to dig and test four wells to see if groundwater was a feasible alternative. It was. The DEC concluded that Marriott "has reasonably established it can develop permanent wells...to collectively yield some 40 to 45 gallons per minute..." (p. 107). That's why the project was approved.

The Legal Issues

Usurpation of the label "conservationists" for objectors to

Marriott's plans is akin to anti-abortionists claiming the label "pro-life". It's not correct, it's not fair, and it serves only to generate emotional smoke to obscure the light of a search for truth.

The objectors are clutching at straws in their last-ditch attempt to stop Marriott. The laws were considered in the DEC decision. Part of it is quoted, "The Department may grant or deny a permit or grant a permit with such conditions as may be necessary to provide satisfactory compliance by the applicant..." (p. 103). Marriott's water supply data was not "shown to be faulty and inadequate during the hearing" as UP ROPE claims. the administrative law judge who heard the proceedings is not a villain or stupid or uncaring. His record of the proceedings is well written and reasoned. During the hearings he made several visits to the project site, Minnewaska State Park, Mohonk Preserve, Mohonk Resort, and the retained lands of the Phillips (p.10).

If Marriott fails to develop additional groundwater and cheats by pumping out Lake Minnewaska, that fact will soon become self evident. The DEC decision forbids Marriott to allow Lake Minnewaska to fall more than 4 feet. If it does, Marriott might even be requested to pump in groundwater.

The DEC developed its own position before the hearings, "appearing as a Party neither opposed to or in favor of the overall Project and its participation was as an advocate for the environment and to ensure completeness of the hearing record"

(p. 13). The reasons for requiring groundwater supplies are not due to the efforts of conservationists bringing suits as implied by Up Rope. The DEC was concerned about protecting the Palisades Interstate Park Commission's (PIPC) conservation easement on Lake Minnewaska.

The PIPC granted an amendment of their 239 acre visual easement. It allows Marriott to enlarge the existing 9 hole golf course to 18 holes, within the present area. This

MR. DORIAN'S COMMENTS (Continued)

would have involved Marriott in refurbishing the current 9 holes and adding 9 additional holes adjacent to, but just outside the PIPC easement area. This would require the removal of large diameter mature trees. Both the PIPC and the DEC agreed that the first course was preferable.

The question of amending a conservation easement is undoubtedly difficult. Nevertheless, in this case the gain far outweighed the cost. Specifically, the PIPC gained 70 additional acres on the ridge and widened its easement around the shore of Lake Minnewaska. An easement represents something valuable. If that value can be increased by a trade of considerations, it does not seem unreasonable to try to increase the value.

The hearing does not list a "Pittsburgh climbing club" as one of the objectors (or proponents!), in contrast to the assertion in UP ROPE.

Both the Atlantic Chapter of the Mid-Hudson Group of the Sierra Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club presented similar concerns: project size, PIPC easement modifications and impact on ridge trail system. Also, the Sierra Club chapter felt that a 9 hole golf course was large enough. While their desire for wilderness preservation is close to that of the Mountaineering Section's, their efforts are misplaced in this struggle to block Marriott. The issue is not a "save the redwoods" campaign, for the DEC hearing concluded:

14. The overall development of the Lake Minnewaska site now proposed by the Applicant essentially represents a continuation of the historic private ownership and use of this Site as a vacation resort facility. The new hotel and conference center, albeit larger than the existing Wildmere hotel, would in effect replace the Wildmere hotel. The Applicant's planned policy to continue day use passes by the public for a fee would likewise collectively continue longstanding privileges granted to the public to pass through the Site on hiking trails and/or to otherwise

enjoy the beauty and certain recreational features at Lake Minnewaska. The planned layout of resort oriented, clustered condominium units on the former Cliff House site and in the vicinity of the new hotel likewise should not be considered as a "new" use of this overall Site, but rather can be viewed: (a) as a modification in the type and number of major structures on the Site (i.e., one new hotel and 300 condominiums in place of the two former hotels) utilizing for the most part the same general areas of the Site which were heavily used and impacted by buildings and people in the past; and (b) a change in ownership from one owner (i.e., Phillips) to multiple owners (i.e., the Applicant and the individual condominium owners).

Some Cons and Pros

In a patently fraudulent effort to appear even-handed, the Up Rope article set up straw men and then found them easy to knock down. Let's try a rematch.

Political Issue?

Is this a "political issue"? Quite clearly it is. What did the citizens of the state have to say about the project? They were in favor of the incomes and the jobs that would be generated by the project. They welcome the opportunity for work. This attitude is not surprising in a rural area with chronic high unemployment. It's easy to sneer at this attitude from Washington and its largely recession-proof white collar world. How much listening has been done to the people who live there? Or do we know better what's good for them?

Is this a conservation issue? No, it is not. Not even the most ardent objector is opposed to development of a resort hotel at Lake Minnewaska. The concern is Marriott--it's bigness. The area has been used as a resort for over 100 years. There was no interest expressed in turning the site into a park, not by PIPC, not by any local

MR. DORIAN's COMMENTS (Continued)

town or county government, and not by the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation. The questions considered and decided were all how should the redevelopment proceed questions.

Of course, the PATC contributes its knowledge, skills and wisdom to plans for the use of natural areas. That's a fair and proper job for us. It was the MS that insisted on contributing to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation's plans for Bull Run--as a direct result of attempts to re-open Bull Run to climbing. That's quite different from paying someone to block a development in an established climbing area.

If the Natural Resources Defense Council wants to lend its umbrella of a charitable activity to the Open Space Institute, that's fine. It doesn't cost them anything and it gets some free publicity. Why can't the Open Space Institute get its own tax-exempt status?

Only Local?

Local or non-local, what's the difference? Well, for one thing, it's much easier to get someone to volunteer to attend local hearings. Four people from PATC went to VOF's board meeting to present our point of view. How many went to the Minnewaska hearings? In another sense, local means something we know something about. How much expertise does the MS have in resort hotel development--which was the issue under consideration. As a result of Minnewaska being a non-local issue, all our information was second-hand, filtered into propaganda leaflets rained on our cars while we climbed at the 'Gunks.

This is not a conservation issue. If it were, many of us would have no problem taking a dollar out of our pockets and sending it off. Certainly, many of us donate personally to national and local charities and conservation groups and don't care about tax consequences or whether we see a direct benefit.

Money

Surprise! The MS is not given money by the PATC. The MS does not have any money left over at the end of the year. Our treasurer cannot even write a check!

The budget process is not a real budget process, because we do not have income, just expenses. We make a list of our projected expenses, such as UP ROPE publication costs, entertainment (speaker's fees, movie rentals) and training (ropes and carabiners), and submit it to the PATC council for their approval. After they approve it, our treasurer is authorized to submit payment vouchers to the PATC, which, after checking our list of projected expenses, writes a check. In other words, spur of the moment spending is not easy.

The MS does give some money to groups in support of climbing. We have given small amounts to the Mohonk Preserve (because we climb there) and the UIAA (because they test climbing stuff). Last year we felt the UIAA contribution was far too nebulous a reason (they never acknowledged or thanked us), so it was discontinued. At the same time a suggestion was made that the Seneca Rocks rescue squad--the one that takes fallen climbers away--be gifted. They are the Riverton branch of the North Fork Rescue Squad, whose name UP ROPE should know. After debate, the suggestion was approved.

Giving to causes, other than easily understood ones, and in small amounts, is essentially what the debate is all about. To ask for an increase in operational funds to donate is unwise, for, as UP ROPE pointed out, the MS spends more for its activities than it gives to the PATC in dues. If the MS feels the need to make charitable donations a way of life, it would be far better to raise some cash--say, a surcharge on beers at Trav's or the DuPont Villa, or a small fee for watching the meetings entertainment or even a pass the hat (helmet?)--from active climbers who enjoy the club's activities, and donate that. That type of donation would come from all

MR. DORIAN'S COMMENTS (Continued)

climbers, not just those who pay PATC dues.

If we do start giving, let's choose our targets with a modicum of thought. They shouldn't be a passing fancy, and we should be able to find out, if we care, how the money was used.

The Stannard guide book fund is not unrestricted, as UP ROPE implied. And just who is the sudden "we" in the article? As far as I can tell, the "Shawangunks Legal Defense Vote" piece is unsigned. The royal "we", perhaps?

Rocks Not Affected?

This objection came about when the original question was asked, "What will the Marriott project do to the 'Gunks?" One answer was that it would make climbing there unpleasant, increase traffic on 44/55 plus other vaguer fear. Thankfully, UP ROPE had

the honesty to admit that the real answer to the question is "not much."

However, one quantum of honesty is not a license to mislead. Opposition to giving money to the Open Space Institute is the position taken. This is not a plea to walk around with blinders on. It is a lie to claim that they are equivalent positions. If McDonalds proposed a store to replace Harper's store at Seneca, who could claim that blocking McDonalds was a life-or-death struggle for the preservation of wilderness?

Show me the worth of Open Space Institute, or suggest a better cause, I'm listening. But don't tell me I need to contribute money to fight a boogy man called Marriott.

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN

THE MS BUDGET - BLONDIE WORRELL*

Apparently there is in the Mountaineering Section some misconception regarding how the Section's financial affairs are being handled and the financial relations between PATC and the Section. First, some history: the two principal features of the agreement made between the MS and the Club in late 1974 concerned money and membership. The PATC would provide financial support via existing Club procedures, and all MS members would be members of the Club and pay dues to the Club. It was expected then that PATC dues paid by Section members might never be adequate to finance the Section's activities, but other considerations made the new course appropriate and worthwhile.

PATC's financial/budget process operates as follows: Each committee, section, officer, etc. entitled to funds prepares an annual budget request listing anticipated expenses.

A common-sense approach is expected: enough details to be clear and reasonably good estimates; don't worry that rising prices may make the best estimates inaccurate. Unusual or controversial items should be explained in writing (as was done when the MS made its initial request for the contributions which are now made routinely). Budget requests are not submitted to Council, but to PATC's

* I am now completing my sixth year as Assistant to the PATC Treasurer. The Treasurer signs the checks; I process vouchers and keep the books. Before that: PATC officer: Recording Secretary--three years, Membership Secretary--four years, during the latter period, was member of the ad hoc committee which produced the 1974 PATC/Mountaineering Section agreement; member of the 1964 PATC Constitution Revision Committee--my husband and I wrote the Special Interest Section clause; active climber most of period 1951 into the '60's when simultaneous demands of evening college and small children eliminated much of my leisure time.

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

Finance Management Committee. All individual requests are examined by this committee, which prepares the full PATC budget. The MS Budget becomes one line item in the Club's budget. Full budget then goes to Council for approval, along with explanations, as needed, and the Finance Committee's recommendations on controversial or questionable line items or components of line items.

Every voucher submitted to the PATC Treasurer is checked for arithmetic, adequate supporting receipts, and proper signature. Vouchers are not checked against the detailed listings on the correspondence budget request. Each unit of the Club is expected to honor the constraint of its approved budget reasonably well, but because present needs may differ from previous plans, moderate changes in amount and direction of spending are acceptable without specific approval from the Finance Committee. A good recent example is the routing of funds originally intended for the Section's UIAA contribution to more worthy recipients. At least the four most recent treasurers were advised of all of this during their terms of office.

Since the PATC does provide more money for the Section than the PATC dues paid by all currently active Section members, it seems fair to say that the PATC does give the Section money. The Club position is that the MS is the principal--and certainly most respected--voice of climbing in this area, and that support of matters of concern to the local climbing fraternity is worthwhile. The Club willingly shares its name, provides a home base for climbers, and recognizes that the climbers are not just another committee but something rather special. That the MS treasurer cannot write a check evidently was unimportant to the Section seven years ago, because the present financial arrangement was proposed by the MS, and not by the PATC's representatives on the committee which worked out the 1974 agreement.

A few thoughts on the current problem: 1. This problem has been called a non-local matter. In 1962, on proposal by the then-Mountaineering Committee Chairman, PATC Council decided that, first, it could donate to as distant a cause as the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition and then, that \$200 would be appropriate. One can't get more non-local than Everest. 2. The PATC has, on occasion, made a modest one-time-only donation to some organization because of special current need or in the face of unusual problems. It would be acceptable for the MS to do the same. 3. Government agencies have been known to reverse decisions and be reversed by higher authorities which found their procedures flawed or their decisions in violation of the law. 4. Since Marriott is the specific firm involved, it is appropriate to look at Marriott's record in other "areas," both geographic areas where they have built before and business activity areas, (e.g., their recent and/or proposed acquisitions of competing firms). Were another firm than Marriott involved at Lake Minnewaska, it would be equally appropriate to examine that firm's track record. 5. Ground water levels in areas of horizontal rock strata are usually intimately connected with lake levels in the region. Lake recharge through ground water pumping might be impossible. 6. All wilderness is natural area(s), but not all natural areas are wilderness.

The current problem is unfortunate. I am aware of two past incidents when differences of opinions were expressed immoderately enough to damage the climbing group for some time. I do not wish to see the Section damaged again. I therefore call your attention to PATC By-Law 10--Special Interest Sections, which authorizes a Section to "establish its own operating rules, which shall be in accord with those of the Club..." One of those operating rules recognizes in

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

an unwritten, but very firm fashion that while differences of opinion may, in the end, be unresolvable, each side owes to the other and to itself a courteous and fair hearing and sufficient time to study the opposite side's position.

I repeat--I do not wish to see the Section damaged.

--Louise Neuhaus Worrell

part

to

A LOCAL RESPONDS - RON COLEMAN,
CITIZENS TO SAVE MINNEWASKA

As a resident of the Gunks, I would like to respond to Mr. Dorian's article. I live one and a half miles from the cliffs and one mile from Minnewaska and I have been closely involved in the struggle to save Minnewaska for almost three years. As your readers know, Marriott wants to build a huge hotel/condominium complex on the edge of Lake Minnewaska in the heart of the Shawangunks.

I don't know who Mr. Dorian is, or where he gets his information, but it is full of errors, distortions, and half truths. Perhaps because Mr. Dorian did not attend the six weeks of environmental hearings nor read the hearing record, he has misrepresented the issues in a way that does a disservice to climbers. This is particularly unfortunate because climbers have been among the strongest supporters of our local efforts to save the mountain.

First of all, this is most decidedly a conservation issue. It has been recognized by 14 conservation groups in New York State, including the Sierra Club, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Friends of the Shawangunks and Citizens to Save Minnewaska, all of which oppose the Marriott project because of its excessive size and environmental destructiveness. More than ten conservation groups participated directly (unlike Mr. Dorian) in both the environmental hearings and public

meetings of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. If the Marriott issue has nothing to do with conservation, as Mr. Dorian suggests, it is hard to understand why these conservation groups are so intensely interested.

In fact, Mr. Dorian has misrepresented the position of just about every major group involved in the issue. He is wrong about the Ulster County Environmental Council, which was the first environmental group to criticize publically the Marriott project and which issued a highly critical report urging the exploration of alternatives to Marriott. He is wrong in stating that Friends of the Shawangunks worried "only" about water supply, and he is wrong in asserting that Citizens to Save Minnewaska just wants the government rather than Marriott to build a hotel. In fact, the latter statement is a blatant misquote from the Department of Environmental Conservation decision, which incidentally, he has mixed up with the hearing record. Had Mr. Dorian read the 24-volume hearing record he would have seen that both Citizens to Save Minnewaska and Friends of the Shawangunks participated actively in every phase of the hearings, including water supply, trails, traffic, vegetation destroyed, visual and aesthetic impacts, and protection of the conservation easement.

And Mr. Dorian's remark about "the constantly changing target for our funds" is gratuitous. Friends and Citizens have cooperated closely throughout the environmental hearings. Although both are not-for-profit conservation groups, neither has official tax-exempt status. For that reason the Open Space Institute which is tax exempt, was asked to administer the Shawangunk Legal Defense Fund. That way contributors could claim tax deductions on their donations. Funds raised by both Citizens and Friends have been deposited in the Open Space Institute account, which has paid for most of the legal efforts to protect Minnewaska.

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

As for a proven "record of accomplishment," we have held Marriott off for almost three years. If it hadn't been for these legal challenges, made possible by hundreds of small individual contributions Marriott would have built its project long ago using Lake Minnewaska as its water supply--and, as the DEC's own hydrologist confirmed, would have eventually drained the fragile, rain-fed lake. Mr. Dorian's innuendos are a deliberate attempt to sow confusion. Donations to Citizens, Friends, or the Open Space Institute go to precisely the same place--the legal effort to save Lake Minnewaska.

Friends and Citizens are currently partners in a court case challenging the DEC's approval of the Marriott project. (The DEC, incidentally approves 99 percent of development projects submitted to it.) Both organizations are also supporting the Sierra Club/AMC court case to uphold the conservation easement at Lake Minnewaska.

Even worse than misrepresenting the conservation groups, Mr. Dorian has seriously misrepresented local opinion. Without referring to any sources, he claims to know that local residents favor the Marriott project for economic reasons. Wrong! An extensive survey of registered voters conducted by State Assemblyman Maurice Henchey showed a clear majority of Ulster County residents opposed to Marriott and in favor of a state park (even though local residents would have to absorb the increased tax burden). An even larger majority opposed giving Marriott a tax-abatement for the project. A local newspaper survey just last week confirmed these results.

The massive expansion of Lake Minnewaska is not a "continuation of existing resort use" or a mere "change of ownership", as Mr. Dorian claims. As the environmental hearing record clearly states the square footage of Marriott's buildings alone would be six times larger than all

previous developments at Lake Minnewaska. If new roads, parking lots, tennis courts, and other facilities are added, the project is more than ten times larger in size than the previous resort. This is a massive "expansion" of development, not a "continuation" of present use.

As for our position on hotel development--we all agree that we don't oppose a resort of the size and scale of what has historically been at the site. We do oppose a massive tenfold expansion of development, and we want to preserve Lake Minnewaska in as unspoiled a state as possible, for public enjoyment. That, Mr. Dorian, is "conservation."

How could Marriott possibly want to "pave over paradise" asks Mr. Dorian. It's happened before, Mr. Dorian--all over the United States. Perhaps Marriott's idea of beauty--manicured lawns and tastefully designed condominiums--is simply a different vision of paradise from the fascination with rugged natural wilderness that propels climbers onto the edge of cliffs. Those who will pay \$120 a night at Marriott's Minnewaska may find our paradise frightening and repellent. They may need that pavement to enjoy their beauty without tripping over the rocks.

There is not much space here to correct all of Mr. Dorian's numerous errors. So I will refer to just a few of his more glaring mistakes.

Water: The DEC decision requiring Marriott to use wells, not lake water, is directly due to conservationist efforts--particularly those of hydrologists Dr. Stephen Egemeier and ecologist Charles Liff. The DEC's own hydrologist confirmed the conservationist's findings afterwards. At this point everyone, except apparently Mr. Dorian, recognizes that Marriott's water data was faulty and inadequate. Even Marriott had to change its own calculations. Among the data proven false were Marriott's figure for well tests, lake pump tests, size of water shed, rates of evaporation, and lake draw down and recharge.

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

Mr. Dorian's ratio of 1.15:0.84 for proposed over traditional water usage is utter nonsense. On Marriott's own figures it will use an average of 113,500 gallons per day, compared to 17,000 gpd for the old hotels. This is a ratio of almost seven to one. If Marriott seriously underestimated its proposed water consumption, as three expert hydrologists testified at the hearings, then Marriott's water consumption will be 250,000 gpd, a ratio of 15 to 1.

The DEC decision concluded that Marriott "has not conclusively proven that the development of permanent wells at its Awoosting Falls and Ski Minne well sites respectively could provide sufficient quantities of water to meet the total yearly water demands for the entire project." Our current argument in court is that the DEC should therefore not have granted Marriott its water permit until Marriott had definitely proven its water supplies.

Traffic: As the DEC hearing record indicates, all the empirical data on traffic projection conclude that Marriott will generate more than 300 cars per hour extra in New Paltz on Friday evenings and on Sunday afternoons. Using Marriott's own figure for intersection capacity, this will strain the intersection on Main Street beyond capacity--creating intolerable traffic congestion and in some cases, total gridlock. It appears that Mr. Dorian has not read the 22-page traffic report contained in the DEC hearing record which predicts horrendous traffic snarls.

And Mr. Dorian has again falsified the position of local officials who, he claims, don't take the traffic problem seriously. Both the mayor of New Paltz and the Town Supervisor have repeatedly stated their serious concern on the traffic issue, and both officials appeared personally at the hearings to make their objections known. In fact, both the town and village of New Paltz are listed in the DEC decision as "Objectors" to the project. (p.24). The mayor of New

Paltz is quoted as stating that "any additional traffic generated by the project could make traffic conditions unbearable during peak periods and mound increase noise and air pollution to an unhealthy level." Both officials would be insulted by Mr. Dorian's innuendos. I doubt he has spoken to them.

Easements: Mr. Dorian argues that the amendment of the conservation easement represents a "game [that] far outweighed the cost." There is not a single conservation group that agrees with him. In fact, every major trail and hiking club in the state including the Sierra Club, AMC, Adirondack Mountain Club, NY-NJ Trail Conference (which represents dozens of hiking clubs),--all are on record as opposing the amendment.

Here was an easement purchased with public money just four years ago for the specific purpose of restricting development at Lake Minnewaska. Among other things the easement prohibits tree cutting on 239 acres of the property. The amendment allows Marriott to cut acres of trees near the lake to expand its nine-hole golf course to eighteen holes. How does that represent a "game" for conservation? To amend a publically owned conservation easement to suit the first developer who comes along is a flagrant misuse of taxpayer's money.

The 70 acres that Marriott agreed to add to the easement as a "trade off," is on steep, rocky, undeveloped land. Easements, by contrast, are purchased on developable land for the purpose of preventing development. In any case, the DEC specifically barred Marriott from developing the "alternative" golf course mentioned by Mr. Dorian. So the "trade off" was meaningless.

The Sierra Club and the AMC with support from Friends and Citizens are currently litigating to uphold the terms of the original easement. That's one of the court battles for which we are raising money.

Other Issues: There is not space to deal with all of Mr. Dorian's unsubstantiated assertions and

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

misstatements. But the full hearing record clearly indicates other extensive environmental damage that will result from the Marriott project. Flora and fauna will be disturbed in large quantities. Clear streams and water holes will be polluted. Trail networks will be disrupted. The visual and aesthetic damage to Lake Minnewaska will be irreparable. (Two expert witnesses during the hearings described the condominium development as "suburban sprawl" and "visual blight" on the mountain.)

Mr. Dorian should do his homework before disparaging three years of united efforts by hundreds of concerned local people, conservationists, and climbers. In fact, the unity of the movement to save Minnewaska is unprecedented in that it has brought environmentalists and workers together on the same side. Six major trade unions including the hotel employees union, have joined the opposition to the Marriott project, calling Marriott the "J.P. Stevens Company of the hotel industry." They point to Marriott's continued opposition to the minimum wage and to its long record opposing union activity.

I agree with Mr. Dorian on one major point. Yes, this is a political issue. We have organized, lobbied, raised funds, gone to court, demonstrated, and engaged in other political activities. But then, the DEC commissioners approved the Marriott project, in the face of overwhelming environmental evidence against it; this was also a "political" decision. The governor of New York favored the project because he wished to bring business to New York, and the DEC commissioner is appointed (and can be fired) by the governor. (The previous DEC commissioner was fired for his opposition to the Westway highway in New York City.) The Palisades Interstate Park commissioners are also political appointees. The commission composed almost entirely of businessmen and realtors, also made a "political" decision to amend the

easeement. (There is only one person with any environmental credentials on the nine-member commission.) Look at the actions of Interior Secretary Watt and it becomes clear that environmental protection is a thoroughly political issue. The mountain will not save itself. People destroy natural beauty, and only people can save it.

Finally, Marriott's proposed development at Lake Minnewaska affects the climbing areas as directly as your city neighborhood affects the apartment building in which you live. The Shawangunks are a complex, fragile, and incredibly beautiful ecosystem of which the Rocks are an integral part. As one local newspaper editorialized recently, it takes only one worm to spoil an entire apple--and Marriott's development, just 2½ miles from the Rocks will begin a process of despoliation of the Shawangunks that will directly affect future generations of climbers.

Mr. Dorian's hasty, erroneous and ill-conceived article does a grave disservice to the many climbers who have actively supported our local conservation efforts. Money to support our continuing legal battles is just one important way your members, as individuals, have helped.

I am certain that we can continue to work together to protect the Gunks and to save a place of incomparable natural beauty for generations to come. Thank you, UP ROPE, for your active interest. We need and appreciate your support and the support of your members.

--Ronald Colman

LIN MURPHY'S RESPONSE

Mr. Dorian's lengthy comment contains a number of inaccurate statements, misrepresentations, and intemperate phrases. For the benefit of those who have persevered this far, I shall not respond with an equally lengthy reply. However, I will respond in part

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

because I had no opportunity to do so at the December 9 discussion of this issue. Mr. Dorian handed me his comments minutes before I was forced to begin my discussion. It was only after the vote that I had a chance to read his comments and now, to answer.

Mr. Coleman's statement pointed out that Mr. Dorian has misinterpreted or misrepresented the DEC hearing report.

Mrs. Worrell's letter indicates that Mr. Dorian (and others) have incorrectly asserted the MS budget process as a bar to the donation. My statement will focus on Mr. Dorian's misrepresentation of the position of those who want to limit the proposed Minnewaska development.

Repeatedly, Mr. Dorian argues that there is no threat to Wilderness and accuses the conservationists of having taken an extreme position. However, those who want to limit the Minnewaska project have never claimed that this is a Wilderness issue. The Wilderness Act describes Wilderness as a place where "the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." David Loeks (his Gunks routes include Scare City-5.10 and Kor Slot-5.11) described the Gunks as a "truly remarkable land where the hand of man has been gently placed."

Those who want to limit the size of the Minnewaska development ask only that this gentle tradition be continued in an area where man is not a visitor, but at home.

Mr. Dorian's statements reveal that he has either misunderstood the conservationists' position or has misrepresented it.

Mr. Dorian has also inaccurately described the opposition to Marriott's Minnewaska plan. Brad Snyder, Executive Director of the Mohonk Preserve, says of Mr. Dorian's comments: "In my view he is most annoyingly wrong where he implies, but does not say, that support for Marriott is local and resistance foreign. Actually, both are local.

People in Washington should avoid sweeping generalizations, as well as sneers about us country folk." "The heat/light ratio indicates to me that Mr. Dorian is more interested in an internal grudge match than in the Shawangunks issue per se."

While it is hardly worthy of comment, I will briefly advert to Mr. Dorian's repeated charge that those who seek to limit the size of the proposed Minnewaska development are not conservationists, but merely "anti-Marriott." Those who have invested their time, energy, and money in this limitation effort are surprised to learn that, according to the Dorian hypothesis, their motivation is entirely negative and obstructionist and that an unexplained antipathy for a particular corporation energizes them. As a Marriott stockholder, I hope Mr. Dorian's zeal and protective concern for the company carry over to patronizing its facilities, e.g. the massive one going up near my office on Pennsylvania Avenue, which I hope becomes very successful.

A number of organizations are involved in this conservation effort. The Open Space Institute (recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) receives money on behalf of the Friends of the Shawangunks and Citizens to Save Minnewaska from taxpayers who want to take advantage of the charitable deduction. Mr. Dorian has inferred from the existence of these organizations "the true feelings behind a call for a donation--it is anti-Marriott." Because PATC itself is tax-exempt and cannot use the charitable deduction, it makes no difference which organization receives our donation. Mr. Dorian's statement indicates his concern that any donation not go to a group that "merely provide[es] employment for its lawyers and lobbyists."

He then praises the Nature Conservancy, "a tremendous national record," which, according to a Conservancy spokesman, employs 30 lawyers and two legislative program monitors.

REPLY TO MR. DORIAN (Continued)

Mr. Dorian based his most vigorous arguments on misrepresentations of my December UP ROPE statement. UP ROPE never "implied" that the Stannard guidebook fund was unrestricted. The executive committee's Spring 1981 resolution to buy a litter for the Gendarme's rescue box indicated that Mr. Dorian et al understood that the fund could be used for rescue as well as trail work. Contrary to the Dorian characterization, the donation proposal is not a "passing fancy" or a request for "spur-of-the-moment spending." The proposal was made over a year ago and was patiently kept alive despite repeated efforts by two or three people to bury it in executive session and keep it from coming to the membership for a vote. In the spirit of democratic procedure, the executive committee should also have given the membership a chance to participate in their decision to drop the UIAA contribution and donate instead, somewhat on a "spur-of-the-moment spending" basis \$200 to the rescue squad.

MS members deserve a responsive and responsible statement on the donation issue. Instead, throughout his

comments, Mr. Dorian distorted my statements to improve his arguing position. UP ROPE's December statement concluded by asking, "If Marriott proposed a large development on the site of Seneca, would some of us continue to argue that everything is quite all right because, after all, the rock itself is not directly affected?" Mr. Dorian concluded his comment by asking, "If McDonald's proposed a store to replace Harper's store at Seneca, who would claim that blocking McDonald's was a life or death struggle for the preservation of wilderness?" According to a spokesman for McDonald's Fairfax real estate division, the total size, including parking lot, of a McDonald's facility is 40,000 square feet. According to Jay Lucas of Marriott's hotel division, the total, inclusive size of the proposed Minnewaska project is approximately 470 acres. Mr. Dorian never responded to my question. Instead, he trivialized the threat and distorted the issue into something extreme and excessive. The phrase "life or death struggle for the preservation of the wilderness" is Mr. Dorian's language, not mine. Here, as elsewhere, he argues against the excesses of his own distortions.

Lin Murphy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

After much consideration over the maxim, "best to let sleeping dogs lie," we have instead decided to express some thoughts concerning the December MS meeting. During the November meeting, all present decided to permit the debate of a motion proposed by Sallie Greenwood to be followed by a vote on that motion. The issue involved is a relatively trivial one, and we do not intend to discuss its pros or cons. The reason for this letter is that we are disturbed, no, outraged, about the way in which this "debate" was conducted and the implications thereof.

The moderator was very obviously not impartial. It is the role of the moderator to act impartially, even if maintaining a private bias, or to step down if unwilling to do so. The moderator at the debate pointedly refused to step aside. Lin Murphy, who presented the proponent side of the motion, was repeatedly interrupted by the moderator. Similar harassment of the opponents was not observed by us.

Six pages of printed material were presented by the opponents just prior to the beginning of the meeting. Lin should have been provided with a copy of that document with enough time prior to the meeting to be able to respond to the points it raised.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

What disturbed us the most about these proceedings, however, was the blatant, often outrageous attitudes of hostility and animosity displayed towards Lin. Certainly her contributions to the club as a very active climber and as editor of UP ROPE, to say nothing of ordinary standards of politeness would demand, at the least, a basic respect.

Every club member has the right to propose a motion and to expect its merits and failings to be discussed in a forum of impartiality. This expectation was at no level met at the last MS meeting. We suspect that some of the heat generated was caused by an unfortunate anger at having mere members of the MS suggest something that those in "power" disapproved of. It is obvious to us that the individuals involved most assuredly owe Lin an apology and that we can only stand embarrassed that such an incredible display of unfeeling animosity took place at all.

--Janet Young

Harold Goldstein

.....

The MS has its debate of the century at the December meeting. The issues were aired (some still are being), and the vote was taken. There were irregularities in the way the affair was conducted, by the standards of either a formal debate or a discussion among friends. But I felt that both arguments were effectively presented.

The matter should be over. But unfortunately, there remain some hard feelings on both sides. How are we to handle that?

I believe we have to distinguish now between Section matters and private ones. For the Section, the vote should end the matter. Whether people welcomed the outcome or not, and especially if they were not personally involved, they are ready to go on to other things--skiing, climbing, and (even) conservation.

Personal reactions are less simply settled. It is not easy to let

bygones be bygones for those who felt that injustice occurred. But, however difficult it will be, each person must come to terms with the situation for himself or herself, or in private confrontation, if necessary. The Section should not be used any longer as a forum to fight out either the original issue or the feelings that have ensued, even when they carry implications for Section policy. I would like to think that all concerned will also enjoy each other's company again. However, since this is the real world, I suspect one or two friendships will become acquaintanceships. This is sad: but it has happened before--in the MS, no less--and people have lived with it. In any case, please let's keep the good of the Section in mind--as a place where we enjoy our favorite activities together, and sometimes work for the benefit of mountaineering.

--Vivian Mendenhall

.....

At the December membership meeting the animosity directed at Lin Murphy, proponent of a donation to Friends of the Shawangunks, and at me, its proposer, was palpable--the air charged with a hostility I have never experienced before--ever. And from whom did this emanate? Friends. Chairman Martha Hale and spokesman against the motion, Charlie Dorian. Why?

Perhaps Lin's persistence and mine on this issue pointed up a year of indecision and inactivity during their administration. As it developed, Martha also is unfamiliar with the budget procedures of PATC. Thus, a straightforward item of Section business became obscured by anger on their part and devolved into a personal attack rather than an opportunity for an exchange of information, philosophy, objectives, or what compromises might be reached. How unfortunate. Especially that it led Martha to behave as autocratically as she did.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

Background: About a year ago Lin recommended in a membership meeting that we support a New York conservation group that was bird-dogging the proposed Marriott development at Minnewaska. The motion was referred to committee in which Charlie was to investigate Marriott's proposal; this so the Section could make an informed choice. While Lin advocated support in UP ROPE through the year, Charlie made no report. At the November membership meeting, in response to Martha's question of how we should spend our budget, I made the motion that we donate \$75 to Friends of the Shawangunks, thus bringing the issue to the members rather than have it continue to languish in committee. As there was still no substantive anti-donation information, I agreed that the motion be tabled.

Ed Cummings called for a debate on the motion; I thought that debate was too adversarial and potentially divisive and that discussion would be more appropriate. However, debate it was. At the Executive meeting on December 2, it was agreed by those in attendance that we should have an impartial moderator. Martha's bias was recognized. We (Martha, Charlie, Ian, Patti, Barbara, James, Tom Russell, Lin and I) agreed that Joe Farness would moderate. Martha would call him. In addition, we agreed that each side would have 10 minutes to make their pitch, then discussion, and finally, a vote. (Charlie said he would need an hour and a half--glassy-eyed at the thought, we stressed 10 minutes.)

Charlie terms my advocacy as "ingenuous." Perhaps. To me it is indeed simple: simple affection and respect for an area in New York which I first visited Armistice Day weekend in 1966. I have been going there with some regularity ever since--generally as a participant in Mountaineering Section trips. Also, since 1966 I have been active in the Mountaineering Section (Vice Chairman, Chairman, UP ROPE editor) and in the PATC heirarchy

(Second Vice President, First Vice President, and Councilor). I have sat on PATC's council in one capacity or another for about eight years. I know that PATC encourages its special interest groups to be aware of issues affecting them and to act appropriately. Over the years, the Section has responded to the Yosemite Master Plan, the management plan for the Monongahela National Forest, and before that, made recommendations about the Seneca Rocks Recreation Area. Also, we've responded (negatively) to an American Alpine Club proposal to publish a climbing area gazeteer. Financially, we have donated to the Mohonk Preserve and to the UIAA.

Charlie misunderstands my advocacy: I am not against Marriott, I am not against development. I am for a local conservation group's effort to ensure that if there is development, that it conform with State laws and with the area's traditions. My position is entirely consistent with that of PATC and it is not at all beyond the prerogative of the Section to so designate support. Even if we do not have a line item in our budget for such a donation, it is not an insuperable problem to ask for it. We have on a number of occasions run short of funds and requested additional funds for patches, and for a number of speakers.

Perhaps Charlie's antagonistic reaction to my motion was tied to his belief that the executive committee made all Section decisions. At the December 2 meeting, he was disabused of this. The committee does not make decisions for the Section: it makes recommendations which are then voted on. He may have viewed Lin's efforts and mine to that point as uppity and a challenge to the committee.

Lin published her views in the December UP ROPE. Charlie submitted nothing; presumably he had nothing; otherwise he would have used the Section forum to present his view in writing before the debate, so all could consider his arguments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

At the December 9 meeting, Lin again stated her position and mine. However, under difficult circumstances: Martha acted as moderator, wilfully breaking the agreement which was designed to reduce the potential for personal conflict. Charlie handed out a six-page document stating his views, finally, and only moments before the debate began.

These are friends? His verbal presentation was not convincing to me, but then, I'm biased. What I find distressing is that in his written arguments he twists information marvelously. I question Charlie's interpretation of the hearing report if he interpreted it as wrongly as he did Lin's published arguments.

The debate was a travesty of procedures, good sense, courtesy, and seriously damages the validity of the outcome. Lin, in an effort to not have direct confrontation with Charlie, had arranged with Joe Farness that John Stannard would make the pro-donation presentation; further, she asked Ray Fadner, past PATC president, to speak on PATC policy regarding donations. Joe agreed. Martha denied these introductions.

When Martha angrily interrupted Lin mid-way through her presentation, only to give an erroneous explanation of budget procedures, I tried to introduce Ray to clarify and right Martha's statements. Martha refused to allow this, and in addition, did not restore Lin her time, much less apologize for her outburst.

The vote was taken: 14 voted against the contribution; 11 for it. So be it. I imagine people had made up their minds before they came to the meeting. Given the style of the debate, there was no opportunity to offer a compromise. Thus, the Section excluded itself from what was an appropriate Section concern and act--to see that local conservationists have a token of our support to see that Marriott performs according to the laws of New York State and that exceptions are not made.

It would take great courage for James to right the travesty. And the core of the opposition continues to serve as Section officers: Charlie is Vice Chairman, Patti is Secretary, and Ed is Treasurer.

A number of those most vocal in opposition (Charlie, Ian, Ed) are asking that the Section and PATC permit them to solicit equipment manufacturers for price breaks for their trip to Mount McKinley. According to Ian, they wish to bring publicity to PATC. Sounds self-serving to me. I'd like to see a full proposal of how they plan to use PATC's name and, if there are to be benefits, and to whom and how. It is certainly a matter for Section discussion and a Section vote. No vote was taken on this at the last meeting.

Another issue facing the Section is the proposed purchase by the PATC of the Bates property at Bull Run. The Section has been requested to submit to Council a plan as to its management, should the purchase be made. The members need to appraise this very carefully and honestly in view of the amount of time that such management would demand given the inherent problems of access and control.

I suggest that James consider abandoning the separately held executive committee meeting--that Section business be discussed at each membership meeting. This will acquaint both officers and members with give and take and reduce the exclusionary appearance of the meeting.

I wish the Section well, of course. But it seems to me that those who have by one way or another become its leaders should examine their motives for continuing in the Club: are they serving themselves or are they serving the best interests of PATC and the MS?

Sallie M. Greenwood

OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

122 EAST 42ND STREET • ROOM 4500 • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10168 • (212) 949-0030

Editor's note: This enclosure was received too late for printing, but should be part of this issue. It corrects my description of OSI as an affiliate of Natural Resources Defense Council and responds to Mr. Dorian's remarks about the Institute (pages 1, 5, 6) and the amendment of the Lake Minnewaska easement.

January 4, 1982

The article in the December 1981 issue of Up Rope requires some clarification of the importance of the situation at Lake Minnewaska and of the nature of the Open Space Institute.

In our opinion, the proposed development of the Minnewaska area is threatening the integrity of conservation efforts which have been a part of national policy since the formation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872. In recent years, the need has been recognized for a legal means by which smaller areas, not on the scale of national parks but equally important to the ecological stability of particular regions, could be protected from potentially harmful effects of development. The open space easement, mentioned in your article, presents a prime example of how this type of conservation policy can provide essential protective guidelines for fragile or unique areas. Conservation easements have been developed through the prolonged efforts of such groups as the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society and the Audubon Society. It is essential to the continued protection of what few natural areas remain that the institution of easements be maintained.

The amendment to the Minnewaska easement proposed by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission threatens the future of the easement as a conservation tool. This is not merely a local issue, but has tremendous implications nationwide. If the amendment is approved, the decision will begin the unraveling of an intricate yet accessible system of ecological preservation. At stake are the threatened and endangered species in the Minnewaska area, the beauty and health of an unique and spectacular setting, as well as the continued ability of U.S. citizens to protect similar areas in scattered localities.

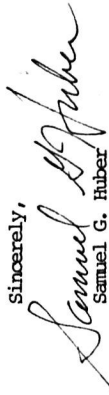
Concerning the Open Space Institute: we would like it to be understood that we are not "an affiliate" of the Natural Resources Defense Council. The Open Space Institute (OSI) is a separate, independent organization incorporated in 1974. OSI is designated as "not a private foundation", and therefore is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code. The activities of the two organizations are completely dissimilar. We do not maintain a staff of lawyers, we do not litigate or lobby. Instead, we merely lend support and experience, and a tax-exempt avenue for fundraising to local groups such as Citizens to Save Minnewaska and Friends of the Shawangunks.

Ms. Lin Murphy
Page 2

The Open Space Institute was organized by a group of concerned individuals who had been involved with the larger national organizations including Wilderness, Sierra and Friends of the Earth. The founders felt constrained by the policies of the larger organizations, and recognized the need for local environmental protection efforts. OSI has established a national reputation for willingness to lend its name and its organizational umbrella to small, community-based activities which address a specific issue but which could set precedents for larger national policies. Unlike other groups such as the Nature Conservancy or the Conservation Foundation, OSI's Board of Trustees is willing to participate in experimental projects which are essential to the discovery of new and innovative techniques for ensuring wise environmental management practices and policies.

We have agreed to help in the Minnewaska case because we believe in this cause, and we think it worthy of the Mountaineering Section's support.

Sincerely,



Samuel G. Huber
Administrator

errata: Mr. Colman's address is Citizens-to-Save Minnewaska, P.O. Box 871, New Paltz, New York 12561.

In Mr. Colman's statement, page 10, "game" should be "gain" and, on page 13, read "on the site of Harper's store at Seneca."

SCRAMBLES IN THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT

Ridge-walking isn't such a bad pasttime after all, I think Martha has concluded, although she sounded less than enthusiastic when I first intimated that if there were just going to be the two of us meeting in the Lakes this past July we would please do easy climbs and lots of walking rather than doing a yo-yo on some desperate cliff.

For our first climb, commenced at 7 o'clock in the evening upon our arrival in Borrowdale, I airily said, "You'll only need just a few slings and biners; you can leave most of your gear in the car." In days of yore when I had done this climb only the real hard men carried pitons; the rest of us did indeed just use the odd sling for protection. But later I was glad that Martha hadn't believed me and had taken a small selection of hardware. Thereafter she insisted on carrying her full rack, which made an impressive sight and sound as we trogged along the tops, sometimes miles from any climb.

One day, with a friend of mine from Gateshead, we tramped the fells encircling Newlands Valley, with nice names like Cat Bells, Maiden Moor, High Scawdell, Dale Head, and Hindscarth. We had light mist, drizzle, thick mist, howling gale, and glorious sunshine an clear sky--in that order, so we arrived home dry. Dot and Walt Unsworth joined us for dinner that evening in Keswick.

We almost had lamb for dinner one night. Martha, leading a pitch on Dow Crag, Coniston, surprised a sheep which promptly leaped to its death down a gully.

One hot day (yes, we wore shorts, comfortably, on at least two days) we walked over the Langdale Pikes--Pike o'Stickle and Harrison Stickle--and down Jack's Rake on Pavey Ark, thereby qualifying us, according to Walt Unsworth in one of his books on Lakeland, as complete fellwalkers.

On the Saturday we watched 134 lightly clad fell runners (the Three Essentials were map, compass and poncho) start up Illgill Head and Whin Rigg in mist and drizzle. Three and a half hours later the first one was back in the Wasdale Head pub, quenching his thirst after 23 miles and several thousand feet of ascend and descent.

A slight error in reading British train timetables saw us at the Penrith Station two hours after the London train has gone, and entailed a late night jaunt to Carlisle. Some of the time waiting for the next train was killed by having a drink in what turned out to be the red light hotel in the area.

Other than that, it was a good week. We stayed at three different climbing club huts, which enabled us to explore several different valleys and variety of pubs. We also took time out to browse in bookshops and sample some of the local cooking.

--Margaret Wettling

FOR SALE

(Must sell--leaving the country)

- 1 Eddie Bauer sleeping bag. Goose down, cotton shell, mummy style. Heavy, but great for 3-season car camping. \$10.00 or best offer.
 - 1 Kelty pack, "Bristlecone" style with extension bar. \$35.00/best offer.
 - 1 Toyota Corolla Stationwagon, 1976, A/C, very reliable. \$2500/best offer.
- Also, miscellaneous household furniture.

--Vivian Mendenhall

(h) 490-7131

(w) 776-4880

GUEST SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Vern Cleverer, a photographer, climber, and skier, will present a slide show/lecture on February 10. He will begin at the Taj Mahal, in India, and take us on a cultural trip through Nepal, culminating in a climb of Island Peak, near Everest.

Climber's Calendar

January 10	Cupid's Bower	
January 13	MS Meeting-8pm PATC hd	Ron Greenberg Climbing in Peru
January 17	Crescent Rocks	

For trip information, call the leader or James Eakin (598-6047).

Jeff Brown sent in this letter to Appalachian Mountain Club members from executive director Deans.

"When reason, arbitration, objection and all else fails, there remains but one way to effectively defend the land protection principals that the AMC considers vital--and that is to take the issue to court!

In New York State that is precisely what we are doing in an effort to avert a major environmental blunder with Lake Minnewaska.

At issue is the conservation easement held by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission on two hundred thirty-nine acres which was purchased in 1977 with public funds. The AMC, through the New York Chapter, took an active role in encouraging acquisition of this beautiful, fragile woodland surrounding Lake Minnewaska and adjacent to the Minnewaska State Park....

Marriott requested from the Palisades Interstate Park Commission relaxation of the conservation easement on a fifty-acre parcel of woodland that they intend to use for extending the golf course and for treating sewerage. The present conservation easement terms prevent such construction. The Commission has just voted to grant Marriott a waiver of the conservation easement and allow them to proceed with their development. This action allows the Marriott to clear cut at least fifty-two acres of wooded land.

It is not the Marriott Corporation whom the AMC is taking to court, but the Palisades Interstate Park

Commission. We are questioning their authority to allow this inappropriate use of conservation easement lands without approval of the legislatures of New York and New Jersey, and without preparation of an environmental impact statement. We believe that the Commissioners' action is contrary to their role as public trustees and further it is a violation of their statutory duty to protect this area.

What is most important is that their action calls into question the validity and effectiveness of all conservation easements used to protect open areas.

Furthermore, if their decision remains unchallenged, it could set a dangerous precedent in the continuing efforts for land conservation. A number of other land protection programs of vital interest to the AMC, most notable being the Appalachian Trail Project, rely on conservation easements as a secure form of protection...."

TRAINING REPORT

The following persons completed elementary training September-October: Bart Bodee, Lee Stevenson, John Paul Tolson, David Foster.

The following persons completed elementary and intermediate training September-October; they are qualified to follow multi-pitch lead climbs: Nori Gessler, Ed and Eddie Dendar (father and son), Dennis Weil, Justin Carson.

--Don Barnett

NELSON HOUSE

One of the problems at the Nelson House is the collection of fees. People either ignore or postpone their obligations until they are lost in hazy memory. This is a problem with even the best intentioned members of the Mountaineering Section. As a result, the Nelson House Fund is not what it should be.

A proposal was accepted at the November meeting that an annual permit system for using the Nelson should be established. (Sorry, no buttons!) The permit system should increase the amount of money collected by offering a discount in cost to major users and by making the payment of the fee very painless. It was decided that, effective January 1, an annual fee of \$12.00 would be the price of the permit. This price will be pro rated on a monthly basis for people applying later in the year. For instance, the permit would cost \$6.00 in July. Ed Cummings, the MS treasurer, will be in charge of accepting the fees and keeping the books. The permit will be available to PATC-MS members only.

The current policy for using the house will also be in force. That is, for PATC-MS members weekend fees are \$1.00 per night and weekday fees are \$.50 per night. For nonmembers, the weekend fees are \$2.00 per night and weekday fees are \$1.00 per night.

The use of the permit and the collection of fees should enable the Mountaineering Section to acquire funds for the Nelson House's upkeep. Last summer's project of rebuilding the front porch seriously depleted the Nelson House fund. This year the house needs to be painted, the flashing on the front porch fixed, the fence repaired, and a host of smaller projects.

Note: Due to frequent combination changes at the Nelson House, it is advised that users should contact one of the following persons about the current combination: Vivian Mendenhall (490-7131), James Eakin (598-6047), Charlie Dorian (362-7523) or Ed Cummings (332-6100). Users of the Nelson House should contact Ed Cummings about payment of fees.

SENECA--OCTOBER 31

The weekend was exciting and fun. On Saturday, Gianni, Sandra and I went to Dolly Sods for a short hike while everyone else climbed. So, we missed the excitement. But Lin, Sallie and Charlie were called upon to help with a rescue. Apparently, three climbers had finished Banana and were scrambling up to the Gendarme. One of them slipped and fell two ledges before he stopped. He was not wearing a helmet. It took 1½ hours to evacuate him: the hardest part was taking the litter down the scree slope. Volunteers tried to carry it down instead of letting the belayer do the work. Rescuers should be aware that the victim slips towards the bottom of the litter if it is not absolutely horizontal when carried. The climber was taken to Elkins with possibly a broken shoulder and definitely a head wound.

Saturday night was "The Dinner." We (Gianni, Sandra, Lin, Sallie, Ian, Charlie, Martha, and myself) decided to use the picnic facilities next to the bathrooms and swimming hole. It became dark and cold, but we had a lot of fun eating salad, T-bone steak, and Gianni's favorite--bananapurnas.

Saturday also proved to be a beautiful day for climbing. The Mexican restaurant in Strasbourg was the dinner spot for Sunday night. Eleven of us met there (Gianni, Sandra, Lin, Sallie, Charlie, James, Bill, Art, Bob, John and myself).

Patti Lemon

Annapolis Rocks--November 15

Not deterred by cloudy skies and early morning rain here in the city, we came, we climbed, we went home dry.

Martha Hale, Ian Cruikshank, Charlie Dorian, Jack Smith, Pete Grant and his three little girls, who also roped up and climbed, David Foster, James Elkin and Don Barnett.

EDITORIAL

In December 1978 my climbing partner Bill DeLano and I took over editing UP ROPE: co-editors because we enjoyed doing things together and because we knew one of us would probably leave Washington, and the other co-editor could carry on. Bill moved to California, and I settled into a mortgage in Arlington.

UP ROPE has been an opportunity (to give direction to the Club, not through being Chairman, which Stan Halpin asked me to seek in 1980, but by providing information and persuasion); a time-consuming burden; a joy; a caring; and, in the end, a satisfying responsibility. Until last month UP ROPE's content and procedures never drew criticism; until this month it has been free of harsh words and personal attack.

Last month's meeting and this month's lead article regrettably impair the perspective which I had hoped to bring to my farewell to UP ROPE readers.

February 1980 was my first conservation statement: "The rocks and mountains need our protection. They are never safe, and our access to them can never be taken for granted. Self-interest claims that those who want to climb be conscious of events that threaten climbing areas--be they natural, economic, or political." I noted the proposed Marriott development, suggested that the environmental lawsuit which the Friends of the Shawangunks would bring might merit our support and concluded, "As users we can show our concern and commitment to conserve by trail maintenance, support for environmental actions, and enlightened awareness." This same UP ROPE contained the first report on the Bull Run Mountains closing and was intentionally designed to demonstrate to VOF that a responsible, unselfish group was asking for access. Ms. Hale's Chairman's Corner listed as one of the "phases of the MS that can contribute to our mountaineering experience and knowledge...conservation issues that

concern us as climbers, by Sallie Greenwood, Lin Murphy, Vivian Mendenhall."

In April and again in November 1980 I took the position (as editorial and as conservation report, respectively) that the large size of the proposed Minnewaska project would adversely affect the mountain environment, change the character of the area, and suggested, "we should extend our concern beyond the rocks themselves to the neighboring environment." In December 1980 I recommended that MS contribute to the Shawangunks Legal Defense Fund. Following an objection that this was an improper subject for a general meeting, it was scheduled for formal consideration by the January executive committee meeting. (See UP ROPE, January 1981). The January executive session referred the donation proposal for research and evaluation. (See UP ROPE, February 1981) Mr. Dorian was the committeeman who undertook to present the opposing, or Marriott view. Months later, when I asked Mr. Dorian for the findings of his study, he gave no answer. The July-August UP ROPE strongly urged participation in the conservationists' lawsuits, chided MS inaction, and reprinted the June newsletter of Citizens to Save Minnewaska. There was no criticism and no response to these obviously proconservation-donation articles. There was no response on behalf of Marriott, despite the fact that Mr. Dorian undertook to publish September UP ROPE while I was on vacation. With full control and discretion, Mr. Dorian had ample opportunity to present pro-Marriott/anti-donation arguments based on the study he had undertaken in January. Unfortunately, no September UP ROPE appeared.

My December Shawangunks Legal Defense article was intended to encourage interest and attendance for the December 9 discussion and vote. Since my editorship was drawing to a close, it was also the appropriate occasion to sum up and explain my belief that climbers should be conservationists. Since John Stannard

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was to give the pro-donation speech, I expected this would be my parting statement.

Following the December 9 meeting Mr. Dorian has claimed surprise at my December article, of which the "Background" and "Legal Issues" items were largely reprinted from prior UP ROPEs. The pro-donation discussion was entirely consistent with my position (and in some aspects, merely repeated earlier UP ROPEs) announced in February 1980. As editor and as Conservation Committee co-chair, I have been completely open in my advocacy of this cause. I leave it to readers whether this claim of surprise is credible.

I have never refused to print any comments of opposing views and have monthly solicited copy for UP ROPE. I did not extend a "special invitation" in November to Mr. Dorian because his past silence on the subject led me to believe he had prepared no substantive objections. Mr. Dorian has occasionally contributed articles to UP ROPE and has made special efforts to prepare photographs for publication. He was thus fully aware of the November 20 deadline for the December issue. Mr. Eakin has informed me that Mr. Dorian's comments were written late Monday night immediately preceding the December 9 meeting, which leads to the conclusion that Mr. Dorian simply had not prepared anything for the December issue. He was not unfairly surprised or denied a forum. He simply, and consistently, neglected to take advantage of it.

As editor, I regret that my last issue must contain an article that by its intemperate language lowers the tone and style of UP ROPE.

Mr. Dorian's comments criticising the

December pro-donation statement are followed by remarks by Mr. Coleman and Mrs. Worrell, who respond authoritatively to the substantive issues. My reply avoids substantive issues and focuses on some of Mr. Dorian's misrepresentations of my UP ROPE statements. This issue of UP ROPE contains the last statement on this subject I shall make to the Section.

My involvement in the Minnewaska controversy comes as a result of two things being very important to me: climbing and the preservation of the natural heritage of this country. I have tried to work for both these interests within the framework of the Mountaineering Section. The manner in which last month's discussion and vote were conducted convinces me that, so long as bad faith dominates the Section, this dual goal is impossible.

Mr. Dorian's comments and Ms. Hale's remarkable behavior deprived the Section of a fair and dignified exercise of its democratic process and have divided the Section. Their behavior flaws the vote which they resisted for a year and at the last moment pursued with such intensity. Their foul play and personal attack are unfortunate omens for the MS future: who else will persevere in the presentation of an alternative vision when the reaction is so extreme?

Time's passage may put the Minnewaska-Marriott issue in perspective: one of the projects of an activist editor (made remarkable only by the reactions of two or three members). I brought to the editor's job the philosophy that the MS is a service organization as well as a social club. In constant need of copy and seeing many opportunities for service, I undertook projects which in my best judgement served the climbing community and coincidentally produced news for UP ROPE: two climber rescue

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programs, Gorge Rediscovery; Section history, including pioneer climbers in our activities; trips to less familiar places; involving nonaffiliated climbers through their climbing articles; participation in PATC work trips; equipment/book evaluations; and conservation and access pieces: news from other areas, Bull Run, the League of Conservation Beer Drinkers duffle spooof, and Minnewaska. Only the last item produced opposition and anger.

As editor, I felt it my responsibility to urge participation and giving by a Section in need of performing a positive, unselfish act. As editor, it was my responsibility to draw attention to what was in effect the setting aside of the Section's democratic structure.

If certain members came to resent this editor's activism, the solution for the future is not attacking activism but communicating

creative and effective leadership by MS officers through UP ROPE. The membership and UP ROPE have been disadvantaged by the absence of reports from its officers.

I hope next year's UP ROPE contains quarterly messages from the Chairman, semi-annual Treasurer's statements, and monthly Secretary's reports--of BOTH general and executive meetings. The Vice Chairman can assure that reports are submitted for the trips he schedules.

The new chairman has said he wants to involve members more in the decisions of the club and seems to understand the need that MS become again a generous, positive force in the climbing community. He will need the active support and interest of the members if he is to realize these goals. I wish him well.

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