

SIGN ON... 516 BIKES / SUIT-PRISONERS
WHEN I READ THE HEADLINE IN THE TIMES-STANDARD ABOUT THE
THEFT OF THE BIKES FROM ALICE BIRNEY SCHOOL, I GOT AN
INSTANT MAD! STEALING IS BAD, NO MATTER WHAT, BUT STEAL-
ING FROM OLD FOLKS AND KIDS IS ABOUT AS LOW AS IT GETS.
THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PLAYGROUND IN ARCATA AND AT
FOURTEENTH AND E IN EUREKA A WHILE BACK DID THE SAME
THING! THE BIKE THEFT HAD TO BE AN OPERATION INVOLV-
ING SEVERAL PEOPLE, SO SOMEONE OUT THERE HAS TO
KNOW SOMETHING! THE FACT THAT REPLACEMENT EFFORTS
BEGAN EVEN BEFORE IT CAME OUT IN THE NEWS, DID WARM
MY HEART. MANY THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED IN THAT ENDEA-
VOR. TO HAVE SPENT MONTHS PREPARING AND LEARNING BIKE
REPAIRS AND MAINTAINANCE, THEN TO HAVE THEM SNATCHED
AWAY HAD TO HAVE BEEN A HEART-BREAKING OCCUR-
ENCE. ONE GOOD THING - THE MAINTAINANCE AND REPAIR
KNOWLEDGE WILL STAY WITH THEM. MY CHURCH, CALVARY
LUTHERAN, IS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET, AND OVER THE
YEARS WE HAVE WORKED WITH ALICE BIRNEY, ^{INCLUDING} HELPING WITH
LITERACY PROJECTS AND THE WEEKEND FOOD BACK PACKS, UNDER
THE DIRECTION OF RENEE DELANEY, SO WE HAVE A SPECIAL
CONNECTION TO ALICE BIRNEY AND IT'S STUDENTS. IT DOES IT
IRRITATE YOU AS MUCH AS IT DOES ME WHEN SOME GUY IN
A SUIT, WHETHER IT BE A SENATOR TELLING US WHY THEY'RE
CUTTING MEDICARE OR SOCIAL SECURITY OR AID OF ANY KIND
TO POOR FOLKS, OR AS THE OTHER DAY, WHEN SOME GUY WAS
TELLING WHY THE PRISON SYSTEM IS ~~BE~~ RELEASING THOUSANDS
OF PRISONERS, EITHER COMPLETELY, OR BACK TO THE COUNTIES.
THESE FOLKS IN THE HIGHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE
NO CLUE WHAT IT'S LIKE DOWN HERE. THEY THINK THEY
KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR US, WHEN THEY ARE TOTALLY INSU-

LATED FROM REGULAR LIFE. THIS GUY TALKING ABOUT
RELEASING PRISONERS JUST ~~RA~~ MATTER-OF-FACTLY RAM-
BLED ON, WITH NO APPARENT THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT THE
EFFECTS ON OUR DAILY LIFE WOULD BE. I HEARD A RE-
PORT THE OTHER DAY THAT SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD
A HIGHER PROPORTION OF PRISON INMATES THAN ANY OTHER
COUNTRY. IF ALL THOSE THAT SHOULD BE IN PRISON WERE IN
PRISON ~~IT~~ IT WOULD BE WORSE YET! SO NOW THEY'RE SEND-
ING THEM OUT - NO JOBS - NO PLACE TO LIVE, IN SOME CASES.
WHAT WILL OUR CRIME RATE BE THEN? WILL WE BE ABLE
TO SEND THE OFFENDERS BACK? THE REASON CALIFORNIA HAS
~~SO~~ SO MANY ~~CRIMINAL~~ PRISONERS IS THAT WE HAVE MORE OFFEND-
ERS THAN ANY ONE ELSE! SO -- TO ALL THOSE "SUITS" OUT
THERE, I SAY 'GET LOST'! A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, THE
COPS CHASED A GUY FROM CRESCENT CITY TO EUREKA. THERE IS
A BRIDGE OVER THE KLAMATH ^{RIVER} AT KLAMATH AND A BRIDGE OVER
RED WOOD CREEK AT ORICK. COULDN'T THEY KEEP TRACK OF
THE PERP AND BLOCK EITHER ONE OF THOSE BRIDGES? EVEN
NAIL STRIPS SPREAD ACROSS THE BRIDGE WOULD WORK. I HAVE
A BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO WAS A COP IN FRESNO AND HE SAID CHASES
COULD BE A BLAST - BUT I THINK SHUTTING THEM DOWN WHERE POSSIBLE
IS A BETTER IDEA. IF YOU READ THE 'NEWS OF THE WEIRD' IN THE
SUNDAY TIMES STANDARD, YOU'LL KNOW THAT EUREKA HAS BEEN IN THERE
TWICE RECENTLY - I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT ONE WAS, BUT THE OTHER
ONE WAS WHERE A CROOK STOLE A WALLET AND WAS CAUGHT WHEN
HE USED THE STOLEN CREDIT CARD AT SAFEWAY AND GAVE HIS
PERSONAL SAFEWAY CARD - WITH ALL HIS INFORMATION - SMART GUY?
SPEAKING OF GROCERIES - HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WHAT USED TO BE
A HALF GALLON OF ICE CREAM IS NOW A QUART AND A HALF? I BOUGHT A
BAG OF FLOUR THE OTHER DAY - 4 POUNDS INSTEAD OF FIVE - I'LL
BET THAT AIN'T ALL, EITHER! SIGN OFF