

Retreat an opportunity to 'dance with steelhead'

and fossil fuels, throw away enough food domestically and commercially each day which would feed the world's hungry very easily, and consume, consume, consume.

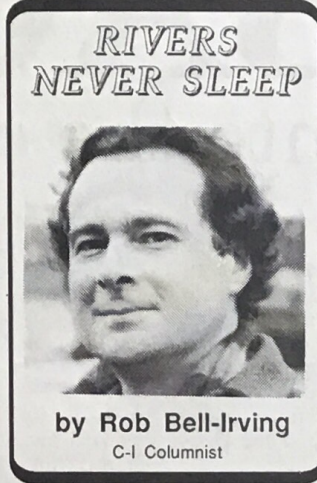
It was interesting to note during a recent trip to Vancouver, the unbelievable traffic during rush hour, about 90 per cent created by cars with just a single occupant. The transit system in Vancouver is really very good. I used the Sea-Bus everyday — it was quick and convenient.

There's another point to all of this. Please just consider this — your children and your children's children. What kind of a world are they inheriting?

A world where the only sounds they will hear will come from tape recorder headsets. The only life experiences they will experience will come from video screens. They will have to wear special suits and glasses continuously outdoors due to ozone holes. They will all be shuffled to and from work like sheep, "supervising" computers and "like-minded" technology. They will watch completely "impassionately" the "biological culling" of millions of "third world" human beings - whose genocide will be "necessary" in order to keep the world going as we wish it today.

You may think all of this is nonsense, yet sadly, the beginnings of it are occurring already. There are, of course, far happier and healthier alternatives. However, these alternatives do require change — from the inside, and then out.

Father Brandt's retreat would be a great place to start.



There are some of us who believe the solutions to pollution, overpopulation, racial prejudice, war and so on, lie not so much in improved technology, balanced budgets, or in brief displays of military superiority, but rather in developing our very own spiritual nature.

Father Charles Brandt recently noted in a letter, "leading religious and environmental thinkers now believe the ecological crisis is preeminently a spiritual crisis of the greatest magnitude. It's resolution depends on a basic transformation of human hearts and minds — a profound spirit that deepens our kinship with life and creates a new vision of human within the earth community."

To realize our unity with all beings — which is perhaps the most important step we can take towards halting the environmental destruction that is taking place in the universe — we enter into silence and stillness, exposing our human consciousness to the glorified, human, consciousness of Christ and through Him are connected to the Father."

To this end, Father Brandt will be the facilitator of a special retreat entitled, "Christian Meditation Retreat, Spirituality of the Environment, A Silent Retreat," Bethlehem Retreat Center, 2371 Arbot Rd, Site D, C-97, R.R. #3, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5K3, 754-3254, March 6, 7:30 p.m. - March 8, 1 p.m.

It is interesting that the Roman Catholic Church seems to be spearheading (probably perhaps a great deal of the progressive Christianity extant today.

Mathew Fox achieved a very

pinnacle of liberality being interviewed in a recent edition of Rolling Stone magazine, while the work and writings of Thomas Berry are well read by, and well known to, all those interested and involved in the ecological movement.

Here in B.C., we certainly need not take a back seat in this much needed mythology, (the "new" mythology that Joseph Campbell once stated that the world needs so badly?), and in this essential new theological direction and initiative, as Father Brandt — a recent winner of the Roderick Haig-Brown Conservation Award — is also one of this spiritual movement's greatest advocates and spokespersons.

Furthermore, interestingly enough, Father Brandt, Mathew Fox and Thomas Berry all share a great respect and reverence for the Native National Peoples of North America. In Father Charles' case it's rather like, "Dancing



'Dances With Steelhead' - graphic by Patrick 'Bud' Logan

Logan's original prints appearing here (and his other works) are on sale at the Harborside Cappuccino in Campbell River.

With Steelhead".

Anyway, this will be a retreat well worth attending. There is absolutely no question in my mind that all the money and technology in the world won't help us out of this dilemma — for all the money we might earn is basically ecological "blood" money, and all new technology, regardless of how well intended it may be, sooner or later be-

comes tainted and contaminated by the ever growing meanness of the world.

The truth is, that right at this very moment, we already have all the money, materials, and technology needed to put it all back together — what's missing is the human will and desire to do so.

Speaking of meditation, this in fact, is an excellent point to

meditate upon. For when we really stop to look at it — the fact that we have all the tools necessary to fix the "house", the question "then why aren't we fixing it?" - becomes even more alarming and obvious ... the answer, at the moment anyway?

Well, we just don't care. We drive our gas guzzling cars even on short distances, consume astronomical amounts of Hydro