

California Celebrates The Whales

Breaking The Species Barrier

by Adi Gevins and Sam Silver

"If you want to save something you have to celebrate it," said young Governor Brown to the jam-packed Sacramento Memorial Auditorium last Saturday night. It was California Celebrates the Whale Day, highlighted by a series of events in the state capitol that was put together in such haste that public service announcements couldn't reach the radio stations on time.

It was one hell of a party, with every major cetacean lover, from Dr. John Lilly to Joni Mitchell, doing what they could to help save whales from extinction. Not inadvertently, the proceedings helped polish the image of one Jerry Brown, so recently tarnished by the defeat of Proposition 13 earlier this month.

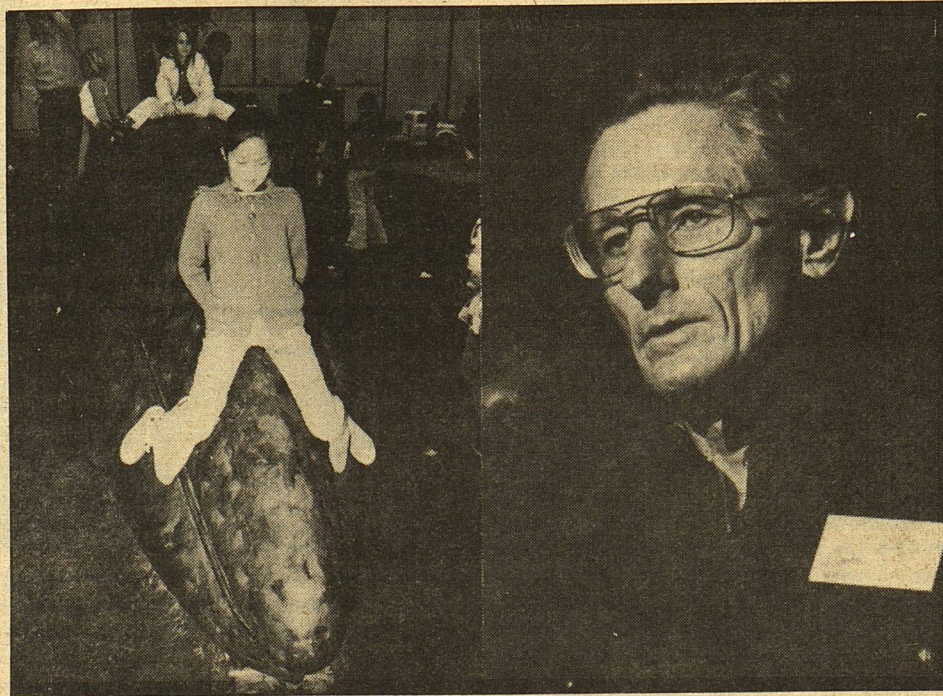
It was an all day, all night affair. The day session was free, and consisted of exhibits from 37 environmental and conservation groups. General Whale, the life sized ferro-cement likeness of the earth's largest creature, was used as a slide by children, while their parents listened to speakers pontificate on the reasons why humans must organize to preserve and protect whales, dolphins and porpoises. Other groups promoted the interests of the California sea otter, baby seals and the diminutive Tomales Bay Herring.

The high point for the inquiring mind was a rare address by Dr. John Lilly, author of *Mind of the Dolphin* and originator of the compassionate approach to cetacean research. Lilly spoke of his belief that dolphins "gossip like we do, have their history and sagas, and have their cultures, many cultures, in the sea." He

has recently founded the Human/Dolphin Foundation, which has as its motto "Interdependence Through Communication" and is dedicated to breaking the barrier to higher dolphin/human communications.

Lilly told the audience he is confident that utilizing new human technology, vol-

hell of a lot of posters and buttons to make it possible." The Foundation feels that the initiation of human-dolphin communications is imperative, or the great store of knowledge that the large-brained sea mammals possess will fall solely into the hands of the military.



General Whale, a life-size likeness of the great mammal, provided a ready-made slide for children while John Lilly spoke.

unteer labor and private funding, the dolphins' complex sonic communication system will be decoded in a few years. His wife and research partner Toni agrees, but admits that they'll "have to sell a

One speaker, Dr. Clifford Uyeda of the Japanese-American Citizens' League who was prominently placed on the program attacked the ongoing consumer boycott of Japanese goods and explained how the

boycott is being used by Japanese whalers to discredit the anti-whaling movement as racist and anti-Japanese. (The issue of the utility and propriety of the boycott has divided environmentalists.) At the podium, host Cleveland Amory said that he was glad to hear Uyeda's point of view. Then, expressing the irritation of many Save-The-Whale organizations, Amory muttered under his breath, "We'll stop boycotting when they stop whaling."

An East Coast Group, the Miami Dolphin Club was represented by Mike Lavallo, the trainer of that most celebrated of dolphins, Flipper. Lavallo recently returned from Japan where he consulted with anti-whaling groups who are planning a "Japan Celebrates the Whale" event in March, 1977.

The evening program was the real money raiser. Those fortunate enough to obtain a \$4.00 ticket were treated to six hours of entertainment which included a beautiful color documentary of whales narrated in person by researcher Dr. Roger Payne. In addition there was the kick-ass music of Country Joe McDonald, the spirited Paul Winter Consort, John Sebastian, the lamentable Fred Neil, and the headliner, Joni Mitchell.

It was also an opportunity to witness the remarkable spectacle of Jerry Brown's New Age politics in action. The chief executive was introduced by long-haired, leather-jerked Stewart Brand, of Whole Earth Catalogue fame. Gary Snyder (Brown appointee to the California Arts Council) read some of his Pulitzer Prize-winning beatnik poetry to the enlightening strands of the Paul Winter Consort. Winter incidently, has played his saxophone for whales as well as humans. On two occasions the entire assembly practiced vocalizing whale sounds in hopes of improving their ability to communicate with those beings.

If you want to hear the whale music of Winter and Country Joe, and you're not against helping the World Wildlife Fund, they will be in concert in San Francisco at the Masonic Auditorium on November 29th. The proceeds will directly benefit the International Bird Rescue and Research Center in Berkeley.

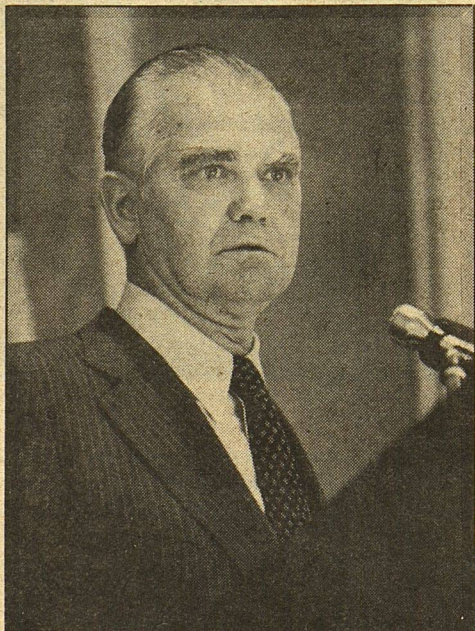
Westmoreland Charges

U.S. Cowardly In Vietnam

by Art Silverman

"The thing that people in this country don't understand about Vietnam is that they don't regard life over there like we do. Life is plentiful in the Orient; life is cheap."

-- General William C. Westmoreland from the film *Hearts and Minds*



Retired General William Westmoreland

Charging that America's involvement in the Vietnam War was inadequate and a cowardly betrayal of an American ally, retired General William Westmoreland received a standing ovation from San Francisco's Commonwealth Club last week.

"It was a shabby performance," said the former-Commander of American Forces in Vietnam, now travelling the lecture circuit to promote his new book, *A Soldier Reports*. "It is a blemish on our history and a possible blight on our future."

Just back from an unsuccessful run at the U.S. Senate in his native South Caro-

lina, the one-time U.S. Army Chief of Staff (1968-1972) had nothing kind to say about the Vietnamese victory. "South Vietnam no longer exists, it has been gobbled up by North Vietnam following blatant aggression. The flame of freedom has been extinguished there probably forever."

Westmoreland offered his audience of conservative businessmen at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel half-a-dozen explanations for what happened in Vietnam:

The antiwar movement. "As our soldiers were fighting and dying for the principle of liberty and the right to dissent, what did we see at home?" Westmoreland demanded, his voice full of anger. "Burning the flag, abusing public officials, destroying ROTC buildings, extolling the Viet Cong, draft resisters... some called it democracy at work. A better definition was anarchy."

Lyndon Johnson. When he became President, Johnson "was obsessed by his Great Society programs" and hoped the war would just go away. "His defensive strategy gave to the enemy great latitude for action."

The bombing of Vietnam. The most intense aerial bombardment in history, was in Westmoreland's opinion "inadequate."

"The trouble was the bombing was on and off-- a thermometer of political pressure at home. The enemy got a message, not of resolve and strength, but of political insecurity and weakness."

The news media. The press "was taken in and hoodwinked by Hanoi's propoganda... unfairly maligned President Thieu," and "suggested by their subjective reporting that the young country of South Vietnam... was expected to be as democratic and free of corruption as America."

The Church-Case Amendment to the 1974 Appropriations Act. "It was recognized by Moscow and Hanoi as our instrument of surrender."

Deferring college students. The 2-S draft deferment was, to Westmoreland's mind, "a cardinal mistake... I attribute

the emotional anti-war attitude on the campus to a guilt complex," he theorized, accusing that the students "encouraged our enemies, prolonged the war and sadly cost lives."

Despite Westmoreland's apparent concern over American lives, it was he who introduced a tactic called "reconnaissance by fire," in which a platoon of 40 infantrymen would be sent out as human radars to wander through the jungle until they got wiped out. After a short while, soldiers assigned to these suicide squads

learned to simply march out a few hundred yards, sit down en masse, and smoke dope until their assigned patrol time was over.

Having thus spread blame for the war, and after noting "the sad commentary that our open society was masterfully manipulated by Moscow and Hanoi," Westmoreland offered his audience a few suggestions to prevent the reoccurrence of our Vietnam experience.

"We should select our leaders carefully... when there is the threat of war, the military should not acquiesce to unsound military decisions (made by politicians)... when our national reputation and men's lives are at stake, the news media must show a more convincing sense of responsibility."

"We should heed an old Oriental saying: 'It takes the full strength of a tiger to kill the rabbit.'"

Snyder Back In Bay Area



State Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (l.) and poet Gary Snyder addressing the California Arts Commission meeting last week in Richmond. Snyder, who is Arts Commission chairman, also appeared recently at the San Francisco Poetry Festival and the California Celebrates the Whale Day festivities in Sacramento.