



## MOLEHILL MOUNTAIN

The **Netflix** hit on Humboldt County, *Murder Mountain*, had just enough footage for a two hour mediocre True Crime Docu-Drama. Endless and less than spectacular interviews center on the story of a particular disappeared man, among some early disappearance themed threads, making this the dominant thread - providing us with dramatic re-creations, including the killing of Garrett Rodriguez by an individual never named and then the forced discovery of his grave - through the activities of a "legendary Alderpoint 8."

Occasionally things get almost good here with *The 8* - like a modern hill country version of the *Gunfight at the OK Corral*. Except in this one, Wyatt gets wasted, Doc Holliday takes a fatal blast in the chest. All dead while the rowdy, unruly cowboys walk away victorious. The legendary 8 meanwhile really boil down to only 3 of the 8 who are not masked, and not at all shy about shooting off their mouths and their pistols - in this Netflix recreation at least. But each of the 3, Neil, Scott and Bob, become victims of this would-be moralistic folk tale, each falling in turn to death by gunshot after they successfully unearthed the body of Garrett - represented in the re-creation by the horror of a shoe sticking out from its grave.

Long timers can recognize the place of figures like Neil and Scott in any community's iconography: the protective vigilantes, self-empowered men willing to intervene when the Community threatens to dissolve in too much wild west chaos. It can go back to the namesake of my own homestead village of Piercy who stood trial in Ukiah for defending a native woman from her enslaver and rapist by shooting the guy. Piercy was acquitted but, in this case, the Alderpoint 3 die tragically by gunshot in the aftermath of their very triumph. Tragic because it seems the fate of such icons to get overwhelmed by their own vigilante model. This leaves someone like Bob, the third vigilante figure, portrayed in the film fleetingly, more in the mold of America's legendary gunslingers, ruling by reputation until shot by an upcoming young gunslinger who refuses to allow reputation to intimidate him.

Taken as a whole- all 12 hours or so- what we have is "**Molehill Mountain.**" The film has more *threads* than a Russian novel. Maybe that's where the number 8 comes in. There has to be at least 8 threads. You count them, not me. But too many loose ends. Why is Garrett's alleged murderer never named? Who is "the guy" unnamed who shot Scott. Why did the FBI enter the case? - to quash the case and protect their "guy?" Local law enforcement is a thread that is pure comedy, provided mostly by ex-Sheriff Downey. With the new Sheriff, Honsal, brought in to gloat over the kangaroo court Abatement Campaign. The one time you see the full panoply of law enforcement on the road, **they go to the wrong parcel and have to take the handcuffs off.**

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## Our House is on Fire

I am here to say, our house is on fire. We are less than 12 years away from not being able to undo our mistakes. In that time, unprecedented changes in all aspects of society need to have taken place, including a reduction of our CO2 emissions by at least 50%. And please note that those numbers do not include the aspect of equity, which is absolutely necessary to make the Paris agreement work on a global scale. Nor does it include tipping points or feedback loops like the extremely powerful methane gas released from the thawing Arctic permafrost.

At places like Davos, people like to tell success stories. But their financial success has come with an unthinkable price tag. And on climate change, we have to acknowledge we have failed. All political movements in their present form have done so, and the media has failed to create broad public awareness.

Yes, we are failing, but there is still time to turn everything around. We can still fix this. Homo sapiens have not yet failed. We still have everything in our own hands. But unless we recognize the overall failures of our current systems, we most probably don't stand a chance. We are facing a disaster of unspoken sufferings for enormous amounts of people. And now is not the time for speaking politely or focusing on what we can or cannot say. Now is the time to speak clearly.

Solving the climate crisis is the greatest and most complex challenge that Homo sapiens have ever faced. The main solution, however, is so simple that even a small child can understand it. We have to stop our emissions of greenhouse gases.

Either we do that or we don't. You say nothing in life is black or white. But that is a lie. A very dangerous lie. Either we prevent 1.5C of warming or we don't. Either we avoid setting off that irreversible chain reaction beyond human control or we don't. Either we choose to go on as a civilization or we don't. That is as black or white as it gets. There are no grey areas when it comes to survival.

We all have a choice. We can create transformational action that will safeguard the living conditions for future generations. Or we can continue with our business as usual and fail. That is up to you and me. Some say we should not engage in activism. Instead we should leave everything to our politicians and just vote for a change instead. But what do we do when there is no political will? What do we do when the politics needed are nowhere in sight?

Here in Davos—just like everywhere else—everyone is talking about money. It seems money and growth are our only main concerns. And since the climate crisis has never once been treated as a crisis, people are simply not aware of the full consequences on our everyday life. People are not aware that there is such a thing as a carbon budget, and just how incredibly small that remaining carbon budget is. That needs to change today.

No other current challenge can match the importance of establishing a wide, public awareness and understanding of our rapidly disappearing carbon budget, that should and must become our new global currency and the very heart of our future and present economics.

We are at a time in history where everyone with any insight of the climate crisis that threatens our civilization—and the entire biosphere—must speak out in clear language, no matter how uncomfortable and unprofitable that may be. We must change almost everything in our current societies. The bigger your carbon footprint, the bigger your moral duty. The bigger your platform, the bigger your responsibility.

**Adults keep saying: "We owe it to the young people to give them hope." But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.**

16 year old **Greta Thunberg** @GretaThunberg  
Speaking to the plutocrats in Davos, Switzerland

## A CALL TO ANGELIC TROUBLEMAKERS:



## NURTURE DIVERSITY

**It is an honor to be with you all here today.**

I thank the **Weott Nation** for giving us their blessing to gather here to have a conversation about issues oppressing our community. I want to acknowledge the oppression and genocide that has affected the indigenous peoples of this land. It is this history and continued narrative of white supremacy that still oppresses people of color in this area today.

I am going to speak to my experience growing up as a Black woman in Humboldt County specifically. I have always felt a level of invisibility, in society and even in my own family, not ever feeling validated for my voice and my experience as a Black woman. Constantly having to shrink my space to fit the narratives of those whose society decided were more empowered than me.

I was born in Eureka in 1991 to a single white mother. My father, busy with raising a family of his own and overcoming the obstacles of being black in this rural community, found himself caught in the snares of our corrupt and prejudiced judicial system, and absent for much of my childhood. My mother was a strong fighting and loving woman like most of us. She did the best she knew how with whatever she had. Unfortunately it wasn't enough to protect me from the sting of prejudice that went on unchecked as I had no language to voice the oppressions that were constantly occurring. To be a Black woman, with no one who looked like me to identify with as role model, I often felt like an oddity, an outcast, and stranger in my own home. There were less than .6% Black people in this area at that time. That minuscule demographic mostly represented the few black families that moved here in the 1960s. They fled to Humboldt County from the terror of the South when segregation and Jim Crow were law of the land- and lynchings were still common.

Fortunately, they found work in the logging industry, which did not discriminate against color at the time, and for them felt like an oasis compared to the terrors of the South. However, these same terrors are again surfacing to new height in the wake of the election of the current **racist president and his bigoted base**. Blacks and other marginalized groups are being threatened in ways this generation has never seen, leaving many of us unprepared, afraid, not sure what to do or how to respond.

We are living in a time when once again at the highest level, hatred toward non-whites is again acceptable. But Humboldt County, **we have to make such hatred unacceptable**. Let me say that again: **we have to make such hatred unacceptable**. It's **Unacceptable!** That Black people do not feel safe in this area and that diversity has become nothing more than an outdated buzzword children are taught in classrooms. **Unacceptable!** That the hate crimes that are happening here are not being rectified. **Unacceptable!** That Black people are suffering from the narrative that crimes against black go unsolved as is the case in the murder of **David Josiah Lawson**. **Unacceptable!** That there's negligence in solving crimes with black victims. **Unacceptable!** That Black people in this area face the threats of harassment and violence when walking home at night or even in broad daylight! **Unacceptable!** being almost run over by 4X4s shouting racial slurs on a daily basis. **Unacceptable!** That in schools and at work and everywhere we go we are subject to one form of prejudice or another. **Unacceptable!** That my brother's high school basketball team was chased out of the gymnasium in Ferndale by a mob of parents and students screaming "*niggers and thieves*."

These hate crimes are happening all the time. And because of that we live in a state of fear. There are some individuals who applaud such actions and take pride in the way these hate crimes silence the Black people in this community. I do not believe that those are the same people who showed up here today nor do you condone such hatred! **If only not being overtly racist was enough to fix this, but the time for passivity has long passed.** Standing idly by is one of the most harmful acts of all. Let this quote from **Angela Davis** inspire you: "**I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change, I am changing things I cannot accept.**"

Humboldt County, we must do better for Black people. We cannot do it alone. I don't want to live in a place where I am the blackest person I see, where more and more black people are leaving the area in fear for their lives. Until even I, with a community of support and white family and allies supporting me, no longer feel safe here. That is simply **Unacceptable!** to the **1% of Black people who make up the population**, I am sorry that in my hometown we had to face such oppressions. A word of encouragement. Rosa Parks once said "*I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done, does away with fear.*" And Bayard Rustin:

"We need in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers."

**Keep being fearless, keep being angelic troublemakers.**

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