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THE SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984 VOLUME 69/NUMBER 5

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COVER: This Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher is a resident of Australia's tropical lowland rainforest—an ecosystem the island continent's environmentalists are working to preserve. For more about the conservation movement down under, turn to page 43.

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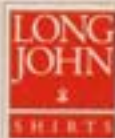


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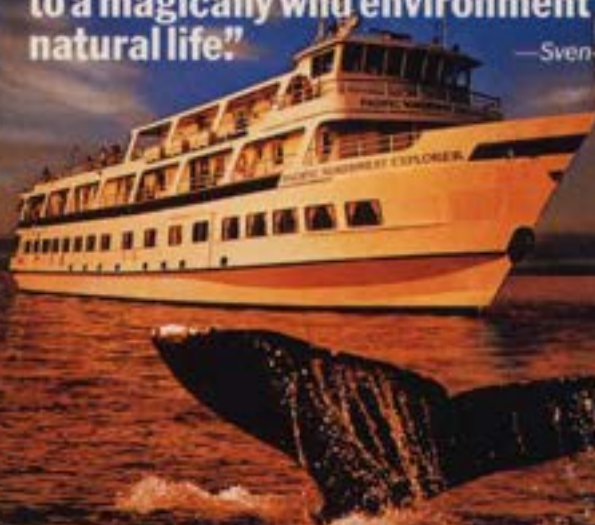
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THE CLUB AND PARTISAN POLITICS

I was interested in the letters from Betty Ramseier and Richard P. Sybert that appeared in the July/August 1984 issue. I too am currently a registered Republican, with what I thought were conservative leanings. Nevertheless, I am finding myself pushed toward the unpalatable choice of supporting the Democrats because of the new orthodoxy that is taking over the Republican Party. In terms of conservation, it is very difficult to find a Republican politician who is supportive. While I am writing, Mr. Reagan is parading around the country making believe he is the best conservationist there ever was. What has happened to the party of Theodore Roosevelt?

William Buchman
Los Angeles, Calif.

Richard Sybert's letter makes reference to "armchair environmentalists." Cheap rhetorical innuendo, that, which does considerable disservice to the virtually countless mountaineers, woodwalkers, canoeists, long-distance bicyclists, hardy men and women of wild country who speak their political minds through the Sierra Club. Most of us spend a significant portion of each year in backcountry of one sort or another—far away from armchairs—and in so doing have seen material evidence of Mr. Reagan's intentions.

The Club has an obligation to praise sound environmental policy and policy-makers and to reproach the unsound. It is part of working for and toward the better. Without that hard, painful, sometimes bitter and confrontative work, we may all have to sit in armchairs for lack of woods to walk in.

D.M. Hooley
Minneapolis, Minn.

All Americans, as individuals, will have to pick and choose our elected officials based on many factors, including those not related to environmental issues. However, it is vital that the Sierra Club pick and choose candidates strictly on the basis of their environmental records. To do otherwise would only

dilute our strength and our very purpose as an organization.

Johnny Armstrong, M.D.
Ruston, La.

FATAL ASSUMPTIONS

It seems extremely regrettable to me that you saw fit to print the letter ("Best of Both Worlds," July/August 1984) in which Myrna M. Barnes wrote, regarding predation by wolves in Minnesota, "I say to hell with the livestock!"

So ignorant and violent a letter cannot hope to serve even its own purported cause. Instead, it will serve as an occasion for someone equally ignorant and violent to say, "To hell with the wolves!" It promotes the assumption, already so fatal to wolves and other creatures, that the domestic and the wild are irremediably opposed to one another. And it drives yet another wedge between livestock producers and conservationists, who have enough common interests and common enemies to be allies, if their differences were not so cherished.

I once suggested that, as a gesture of good will toward sheep producers, as well as a conservation measure, the Sierra Club should promote the use of wool, as opposed to the synthetic fibers. Though it would have cost nothing in money or principle, and might have been of some help in allaying a destructive enmity, my suggestion was ignored. To neglect such a possibility, choosing instead to exhibit the self-righteous beligerence of Myrna M. Barnes, makes a good deal less than no sense.

Wendell Berry
Port Royal, Ky.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

I enjoyed Ingram Marshall's "Music as Nature's Voice" (May/June 1984) but take issue on two points.

First, Marshall never mentions the epitome of nature composers. Pastoral music culminated in the works of English impressionist Frederick Delius; to eliminate him from the story is not an accident but a



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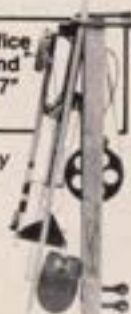
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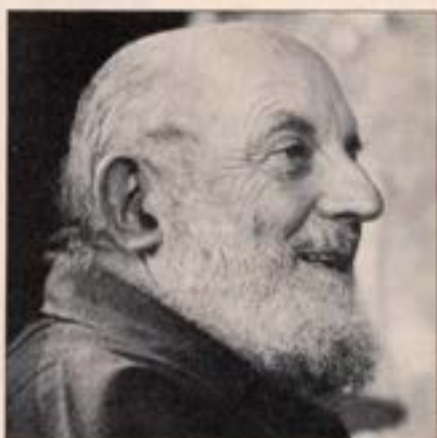
travesty. Second, the author states that "the ultimate pastoral instrument" is the flute. It is not; the recorder is. It was developed to "record" the sounds of birds, presumably the warbling of songbirds. The flute came about because the recorder was ill-suited to the acoustics of the large concert halls that developed about 1750.

*Joseph B. Gerwood
Washburn, Wis.*

It has been theorized that Johannes Brahms, while composing his Double Concerto in A Minor in the Bernese Alps during the 1880s, was affected by the sight of the jagged mountain peaks that rose up around him. Within various movements of the piece, if a line is drawn from note to note on a musical staff, the silhouette revealed is dramatically suggestive of an alpine horizon! Unconsciously, perhaps, the composer arranged a musical representation of the peaks and valleys that surrounded and, no doubt, had become a part of him.

The idea that a secluded natural environment provides the quintessential setting for creative thinking is very logical and quite fascinating.

*Mary Rosser
Denver, Colo.*



ANSEL ADAMS

Obituaries of Ansel Adams have praised his art and political/conservation efforts as two distinct achievements. David Brower ("A Tribute to Ansel Adams," July/August 1984) reminds us that Adams' art expressed his politics, and his politics expressed his art.

We should not forget the political statements in photos of Tenaya Lake "before the road," the Golden Gate "before the bridge," and "Clearing, Winter Storm, 1944." We should not forget Adams' touching exposures of interned Japanese, weathered Chicanos, and despondent Native Americans. We should not forget that Adams' politics, especially his work with the

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Tony Hoffman
Yosemite, Calif.

Editor's note: A number of people have written to Sierra protesting that the cover photo on the July/August issue was titled incorrectly. Members of Adams' staff attest, however, that the photo was indeed taken from Yosemite's Glacier Point.

DRY, DRY AGAIN

I found Lois Snedden's "Dried and True: The Lowdown on Lightweight Foods" (May/June 1984) so helpful that I feel a vote of thanks is in order. Her article has given me the answers to many of the questions that come up when I'm organizing a backpacking trip. She also hit upon many common preparation problems. We are now better able to purchase and cook dried foods intelligently.

Winnie Furrer
Spring Valley, Calif.

"Dried and True," of interest to backpackers in particular, has a serious flaw in its presentation—as do the labels on all packaged dried foods for the sportsman.

We are all nutritionists to some degree when we choose menus for ourselves or for a group. Why then are calories—that most important food characteristic—never mentioned anywhere? How can one do a fair job of menu-planning without this valuable statistic? I think *Sierra* could influence the dried-food industry to provide this information for us.

Norval F. Ostrander
Oceanside, Calif.

AD HOMINEM

Contrary to the impression conveyed by the advertisement on page 75 of your March/April issue, Frostline Kits is still in business, offering top-quality sew-it-yourself merchandise. On February 15, 1984, Frostline was purchased from the Gillette Company by Dave and Bruce Canaday, Ed Clements, Sr., and myself. We have not given any other kit manufacturer permission to use our name in their advertising.

Eddie Clements, President
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Sierra regrets that a printer's error marred the reproduction of the seal photo that appeared on page 52 of our July/August issue. Our apologies to photographer Charles Neider.

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John M. Ford

Activists Prepare for Third Annual COASTWEEK

The wild shores of Cobb Island, Va., will be among those celebrated during COASTWEEK '84, October 7 through 14. The annual event will emphasize the value and diversity of the nation's salt- and freshwater coasts and shorelines, and the need for improved planning and management. A network of organizations and individuals has planned workshops, trips, exhibits, and hundreds of other activities to increase public awareness of this fragile resource. For information on COASTWEEK '84 activities in your area, contact COASTWEEK, Box 545, South Wellfleet, MA 02663; telephone (617) 349-2834.

Pollution Bills Languish in Senate

While President Reagan is traveling around the country professing his commitment to the environment, three major pollution-control bills remain stymied in the Senate, blocked by the apparent indifference of Republican Senate leaders—and the absence of any leadership from the White House.

Awaiting Senate votes are reauthorization of the Clean Air and Clean Water acts, as well as extension of the Superfund.

A clean-water bill was approved by the Senate Environment Committee a full year ago,

and the House passed a strong version of the legislation in June. The same committee approved a clean-air/acid-rain bill six months ago. Both bills have languished on the desk of Majority Leader Howard Baker (R-Tenn.) ever since.

Also awaiting Senate action is a bill to strengthen and extend the Superfund, which expedites cleanup of abandoned toxic-waste dumps. The House passed a five-year, \$10-billion Superfund bill in August by a vote of 323 to 33, but President Reagan and EPA Administrator

William Ruckelshaus have opposed action on the legislation this year.

The only break in the Senate impasse came on July 25 with the passage of a bill reauthorizing the Resource Conservation & Recovery Act, which governs disposal of hazardous waste. The new bill closes loopholes that have allowed billions of pounds of waste to escape into the environment every year. A stronger version of the act passed the House last fall.

"Symbolic trips to Mammoth Cave and Chesapeake Bay are fine," says Sierra Club President Michele Perrault in reference to

Reagan's recent attempts to clear his environmental record. "But the real test of the President's election-year commitment is whether he does anything to pass these vital public-health bills through the Senate controlled by his own party."

Environmental Caucus Greens the Convention

For more than a year before the Democrats gathered in San Francisco for their national convention, environmentalists were working to ensure that conservation issues would play a prominent role. "Besides making sure that a proenvironmental platform was adopted, we wanted three things out of the convention," says Holly Schadler, Sierra Club Associate Political Director. "We wanted to highlight environmental issues in a national forum, create a sense of unity among the members of the delegates' Environmental Caucus, and establish a presence that would encourage more officials to take strong, public, proenvironmental positions."



Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)

By convention's end, most observers agreed that environmentalists had met all four goals. With 600 members—including more than 100 senators, representatives, and governors—the Environmental Caucus was the second-largest at the convention. A meeting on the first day of the convention brought together some 150 members to hear Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the honorary cochairmen of the Environmental Caucus. Similar numbers attended a briefing the next



Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.)

day to learn how the caucus succeeded in having the Democratic Party adopt the strongest environmental plank of any party platform in American history.

In addresses on the convention floor, Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Sen. George Mitchell (D-Maine) told delegates that the environmental issue is crucial to the Democratic Party. "Our environmental rights have been trampled by an administration that seems to care more about the polluters than the people they infect," said Boxer. An enthusiastic

floor demonstration by the Environmental Caucus followed the speeches.

A candidate forum and reception capped off the week for the Environmental Caucus. More than 1,500 delegates, journalists, public officials, and environmental leaders from across the country gathered to celebrate the growth of green power within one of America's two major parties.

As Rep. Udall declared at one of the week's gatherings, "The environmental movement has come of age."

Wilderness Showdown Expected in September

Before Congress adjourns on October 4, it will decide the fate of 16 pending wilderness bills. At stake are as many as 10 million acres of wilderness in national forests across the United States.

Most of these bills are compromises carefully crafted during months of negotiations involving the Sierra Club and

other conservation groups, development interests, and state and national politicians.

Bills designating more than 2 million acres in Missouri, Vermont, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, and Washington became law in May, June, and July. The Arizona bill, passed in early August, added more than 700,000 acres

of national-forest wilderness and some 300,000 acres of BLM wilderness.

Consensus bills for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia await final action in September. Early September should also see final action on the California bill, which includes 1.8 million acres of forest

wilderness, 1.4 million acres of national-park wilderness, scenic-area designation for Mono Lake, and wild-river protection for 83 miles of the Tuolumne River.

Efforts continue to reach consensus on bills for Texas, Arkansas, Montana, and Colorado.

The two biggest problems for conservationists are the Idaho and Wyoming "wilderness bills" being aggressively pushed by

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the logging and oil lobbies. The acreage proposed by the Wyoming and Idaho congressional delegations is far below the recommendations of the Forest Service, the states' governors, and local conservation, hunting, and fishing groups.

The Wyoming bill (S. 543, H.R. 1568) would designate only 635,000 acres as wilderness, at the cost of releasing 3.3 million acres of wild lands; the Idaho bill (S. 2457, H.R. 5425) would designate 526,000 acres, releasing more than 7.4 million to development. The Idaho bill is so unbalanced that two members of the House Interior Committee, Representatives James Moody (D-Wis.) and Peter Kostmayer (D-Pa.), who toured the Idaho areas in July, have introduced H.R. 6062, a Sierra Club-supported alternative bill that would protect about 3.4 million acres of wilderness.

So far the House has blocked passage of the Idaho and Wyoming bills, but pressure from the timber and oil lobbies is intense. The Sierra Club, Friends of the

Earth, the Wilderness Society, the National Audubon Society, and the National Wildlife Federation are accelerating a nationwide campaign asking conservationists to urge all House members to oppose any Idaho or Wyoming "wilderness

bill" unless and until major additions are agreed to by those states' delegations, so that a consensus agreeable to Idaho and Wyoming conservation groups may be reached.

More than 25 million acres of potential wilderness on Bureau

of Land Management lands await congressional attention beginning next year. The first BLM wilderness bill, to protect 40,000 acres in New Mexico's San Juan Basin, passed the House in June but is stalled in the Senate.

Endangered Species Report Issued



The condition of endangered species is deteriorating despite the decade-old Endangered Species Act, concludes a study by Defenders of Wildlife, a conservation organization based in Washington, D.C. The study reviewed ten years of work to save endangered species, focusing especially on efforts of the Rea-

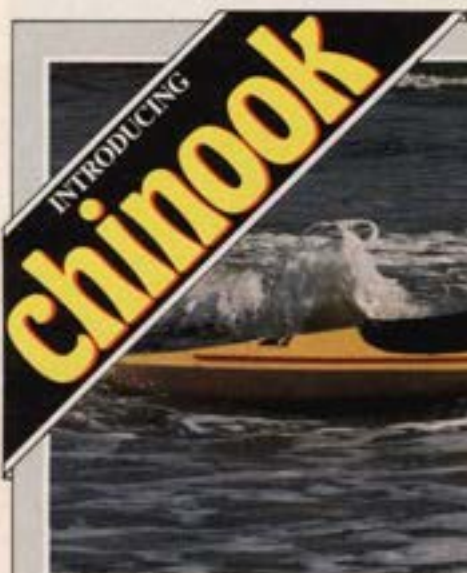
gan administration. The report found that implementation of the act generally has been inadequate since its passage, with problems becoming more acute in recent years.

Saving Endangered Species: A Report and Plan for Action reviews three primary areas of concern—funding, listing, and

recovery—and profiles ten particularly hard-pressed species. The study details the Reagan administration's lack of commitment to endangered species through its slowing-down of the listing process and near-elimination of habitat acquisition under the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Defenders of Wildlife reports that, at its current level of performance, it will take the government 94 years merely to review all the plants and animals now in need of attention. Meanwhile, seven of these species may become extinct every year.

For more information contact Defenders of Wildlife, 1244 Nineteenth St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. □



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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Gray Times for Environmentalists

MICHAEL DOHERTY



Burns Lake is but one example of the spectacular resources that abound in British Columbia. Preservation is an uphill struggle, however.

IF ROD SERLING were here to compose a nightmare for Sierra Club activists in the United States, it might involve transporting them back in time 20 years—to a period when hostile governments could deny them access to significant documents, discriminate against them in employment practices, prevent their representatives from lobbying on an equal footing with business interests, hide behind questions of standing in the courts, and routinely pursue environmentally destructive policies without incurring severe electoral backlash. For Sierra Club activists in British Colum-

bia, however, this is not the Twilight Zone, but everyday reality.

The Canadian Constitution gives an overwhelming share of the responsibility for the nation's environment to the provinces. The federal government's environmental responsibilities are generally limited to matters of a transboundary or international nature, and to ocean resources. Even in these areas, federal jurisdiction is often severely constrained.

The Western Canada Chapter of the Sierra Club is battling the policies of a provincial government that seems determined to fol-

low an environmentally destructive course. The Social Credit Party, under Premier William Bennett, was reelected in 1983, continuing an administration that began in 1975. Unfortunately, while the administration's environmental record in its two previous terms was uneven at best, that of its third term has already proven disastrous.

The British Columbia government, alarmed by the effects of a recession that has left the provincial economy depressed and stagnant, has within the past year dramatically reduced programs and civil-service staffing levels. Many of the government's

decisions, moreover, have reflected an ideological commitment to reducing the size and scope of government and interfering as little as possible with the corporate sector. This ideology, combined with the absence of a firm environmental plank in the Social Credit Party's platform, has resulted in a record number of anticonservationist decisions in the past year:

- British Columbia Hydro, the utility that has a monopoly on the generation and transmission of electricity throughout nearly all of the province, is for the first time being allowed to enter into long-term hard contracts for the export of electricity. This change of policy was made with no public hearing. It is perceived as the first step toward allowing the construction of large hydroelectric dams specifically for the purpose of exporting power, a possibility that Stephen Rogers, the province's Energy Minister, calls "tempting."

- The seven-member Environment and Land Use Committee of the provincial cabinet has authorized the logging of 90 percent of Meares Island, a wilderness area off the west coast of Vancouver Island. In so doing it completely ignored the report of a government-sponsored planning team, as well as the concerns of local citizens worried about the effect of logging on their water supply, the tourism industry, the way of life of the

native Indians, and the local salmon catch.

- Under a new forest "partnership" plan, forest-management responsibilities previously exercised by the Ministry of Forests are being delegated to the forest companies themselves, and on-site inspections by ministry staff are being done away with.

- A consortium of the IT Corporation and Genstar has been contracted with to build a landfill disposal site above the Thompson River for "solidified" hazardous wastes. The public has not been told what the "solidification" process will be, and the provincial government seems determined to avoid any meaningful public involvement in the development of a hazardous-waste management system. (Tony Brummet, the B.C. Minister of Environment, has indicated that the government is interested in public involvement, but only after its plans are finalized.)

- Hundreds of wolves have been shot from helicopters by government biologists in order to boost game populations in the northeastern part of the province.

- The provincial government favors lifting the moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration and development that has been in place since 1972. Together with the federal government it has named a panel that is to review initial environmental evaluations by Chevron and PetroCanada on the impacts of offshore exploration.

- Government representatives have made it clear that panels conducting any future hearings under its jurisdiction will not be allowed to award funding to public-interest intervenors to cover their costs. This position was adopted in response to last year's decision by the B.C. Utilities Commission that the input of the Sierra Club and other public-interest intervenors in hearings concerning a proposed dam on the Peace River in north-eastern British Columbia was so useful that their costs should be borne by B.C. Hydro, which had proposed that the dam be built.

The Sierra Club is doing its best to change the position of the government on these and other issues, but there are substantial obstacles in the path of environmental lobbying in Canada.

One of the greatest of these obstacles is that there are not many worthwhile targets for political lobbying in a parliamentary system of government. Under this system, policy is determined at the Cabinet level, specifically by individual Cabinet ministers. The Cabinet normally is chosen from elected members of the political party that holds the majority of seats in the legislative body. In British Columbia the Social Credit Party holds 34 of the 57 seats in the Legislative Assembly, the New Democratic party holds 21, and two seats are currently vacant.

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Cabinet ministers will as a rule be unanimously supported by the members of their political party, guaranteeing passage in the Legislative Assembly. If legislation introduced by a Cabinet minister were somehow to be defeated, the government might be said to have lost a "vote of confidence," forcing a dissolution of the legislature and a new election.

Because members of the governing party will not want to see their party thrown out of office, thus compelling them to face reelection, urging them to vote against bad legislation introduced by the government is generally futile. On the other hand, lobbying members of the minority parties is also essentially pointless, because any legislation they might introduce will never win majority support.

In practice this restricts serious lobbying efforts on legislative issues to one target: the Cabinet minister. In British Columbia, Anthony Brummet holds the post of Minister of Environment, as well as that of Minister of Lands, Parks, and Housing. Sierra Club leaders have found him unsympathetic and resistant to meetings with them. He is not perceived as a voice for environmental concerns in Cabinet discussions; nor are other Cabinet ministers with responsibilities for natural resources considered to represent an environmental viewpoint.

In addition to the difficulties that lobbying poses in general terms, the Sierra Club has faced an additional obstacle in its lobbying efforts in British Columbia. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Walter Davidson, has denied the Sierra Club's requests for a corridor pass, a document that permits free passage within the legislative buildings when

the Assembly is in session. Corridor passes are routinely issued to industry representatives; but, despite a series of letters from the Sierra Club attempting to discover the reasons behind the Speaker's arbitrary decision to deny the Club the same privilege, he has maintained silence on the issue.

This inconvenience does not represent the only attempt the government has made to hinder the Sierra Club in the past year. Last fall, employees of the Ministry of Lands, Parks, and Housing revealed to the Club that they had been forbidden to belong to either the Sierra Club or the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada. Attempts to reason with the government failed, and it was only after the Club complained to the provincial ombudsman and to the media that there was a partial softening of the government's position. While employees of the ministry are now allowed to be members of any organization they wish, they are still not allowed to be Club spokespersons or members of the chapter's executive committee. This is despite the fact that the Sierra Club's concerns go far beyond those of this one ministry.

Another disturbing discovery resulted from a recent access-to-information request to the federal government. It revealed the existence of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police file on the Western Canada Chapter of the Sierra Club. Unfortunately, attempts to discover what this file contains concerning the Club, its membership, its operations, and its employees have so far been unsuccessful. The provincial government has apparently requested that all federal-government files that have any overlap with their jurisdiction be exempted from public access-

SIGHTINGS



Sierra Club Director of Communications Diane MacEachern goes over last-minute details with Washington, D.C., participants in the Club's first live teleconference. The four-city event broadcast the Club's involvement in the selection of delegates to the Democratic and Republican national conventions. Seated (from left) are Democratic pollster Bill Hamilton, Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), Rep. Les AuCoin (D-Ore.), and former Club President Denny Shaffer.

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to-information procedures. The question of why the Mounties are interested in the Sierra Club remains a mystery.

Considering how difficult it is to influence the current government's environmental policies, it might be expected that the Sierra Club would resort to challenging more of the government's actions in court. Unfortunately, a recent suit by the Sierra Club and Greenpeace against the Ministry of Forests in the British Columbia Supreme Court revealed that the laws of standing have not relaxed sufficiently to allow recourse to this action. In the lawsuit, which attempted to protect the Sombrio Forest near Victoria, the court not only ruled that the extensive involvement of the Sierra Club with this area for the past decade did not give it any legal interest in the forest's fate, but it established that the government had no obligation to behave fairly in its administrative dealings with the public. It is clear that legislative changes are necessary if the courts are to be a viable option for environmental protection.

The Sierra Club is in the forefront of the movement to ensure that the environment does have an effective voice in British Columbia and in the rest of Canada. Despite the many difficulties the Club faces, there is also considerable reason for optimism. The Western Canada Chapter leads all Sierra Club chapters in rate of membership growth. It is able to maintain an office and employ a full-time conservation representative in Victoria, the only such representation in British Columbia's capital. At the federal level the Sierra Club enjoys good relations with all three political parties.

It is thought that the recent choice of environmentalist Bob Skelly as leader of the British Columbia New Democratic Party, the minority party in the Legislative Assembly, will help to give the environment a higher profile as a political issue in the province. Emerging environmental issues are beginning to receive greater media attention and to penetrate the complacency many Canadians have felt about their supposedly "pristine" environment and "limitless" natural resources.

The problems facing environmentalists reflect the traditional doctrine that power in the Canadian system of government flows down from the Crown rather than up from the people. As government decisions continue to place the environment at risk, however, pressure to allow the public a meaningful voice can be expected to increase. Environmentalists will continue to work to ensure that public concern is translated into responsible public policy.

Michael Doherty is the Regional Conservation Representative for the Sierra Club of Western Canada.



Up to 42 percent of Allegany State Park's rich forest would be harvested under a state timber plan.

ALLEGANY PARK Public Outcry Jams a Logging Plan

ALEXANDRA AND SYLVIA CUKAN

THE VAST HARDWOOD FOREST of the Northeast is no more. Except at higher elevations, virtually all of the original forest has been cut over. In a few places, however, it has been allowed to regenerate. Allegany State Park in western New York is a prime example of mature second-growth forest. The 60,000-acre park, located in the area south of the Allegheny River and extending to the Pennsylvania border, attracts more than 1.4 million visitors a year to enjoy hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, and other forms of outdoor recreation in a wild forest setting.

The regenerated forest has developed a unique mix of trees. Oak, hickory, black cherry, basswood, and a number of less-common trees grow along with the beech, birch, and maple typical of the northern hardwood forest. A number of animals find refuge in the park, and it has been called "a birdwatcher's paradise." It contains more than 72 plants protected by law, including orchids, trilliums, and ferns.

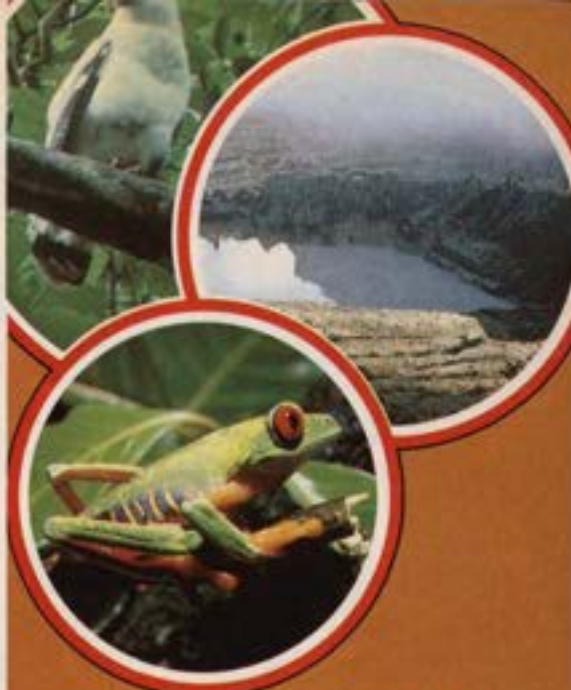
A notable ecological feature of the park is the Big Basin area, a unique stand of mature forest that includes towering hemlocks. As the only part of western New York that

remained unglaciated, the park contains significant soils, flora, and fauna as well.

Allegany State Park—the third-largest state park in the nation—has indeed become the "wilderness playground" its founders envisioned. It was created in 1921 in response to the widespread clearing of trees (and other incorrect land-use practices) that took place at the turn of the century. Today the forest is again being threatened—not by private logging interests directly, but by the state of New York.

The New York State Office of Parks and Recreation proposes in its draft Recreation Forest Resource Management Plan to thin, select-cut, and clearcut 1,300 acres a year in Allegany Park. Under this plan less than 14 percent of the park would be designated as wild forest. Twenty-two miles of new road would be created to permit access for logging equipment. And half the park's deer, beaver, and raccoon populations would be deliberately reduced—by enlarging current hunting quotas—to give the saplings that spring up after older trees are logged a chance to reach maturity.

When Sierra Club activists in the area learned of the proposals contained in the



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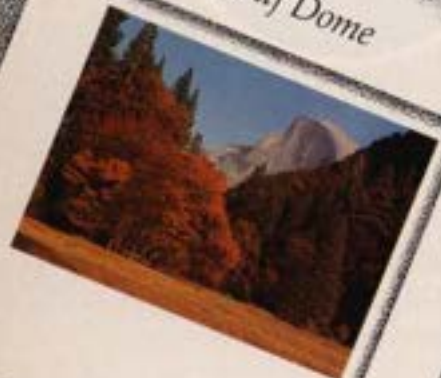
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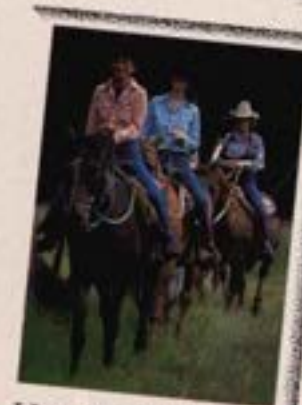
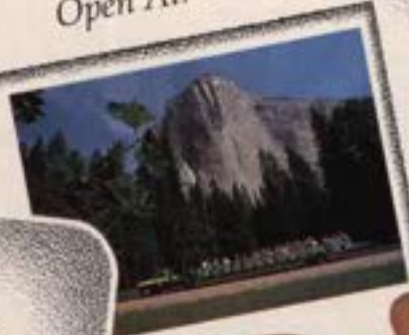
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state's resource plan, they immediately began to organize opposition to it through the Atlantic Chapter's Buffalo office. Since May 1982, more than 10,000 people have signed petitions protesting the plan, and many hundreds of them have written letters to the Office of Parks and Recreation.


Logging operations were to have begun in February 1983, but because of the public outcry, state officials decided to reconsider the draft plan. Three public meetings—one with more than 500 people in attendance—were held in the spring of 1983, in Albany, Buffalo, and Jamestown. New York State Commissioner of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Orin Lehman appeared at each of these meetings. Primarily through the Sierra Club's efforts, the issue was well-covered by television, radio, and the print media. The state has since promised a partial rewrite of the resource plan and to rewrite the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) completely.

Debate over the state's draft plan has been heated. The main proponents of the plan—logging and furniture interests—feel that it is a tremendous waste of resources to allow mature trees, which could be exported for use in the manufacture of furniture, to remain uncut and eventually die. Other supporters of the plan include sportsmen's groups, who feel that in the long run more game will thrive in the park if new growth is permitted to flourish in cut-over areas.

It is difficult to see the reasoning behind the logging interests' thinking. The current demand for wood products is quite soft—and in any event there are 1.7 million acres of commercial timberland within 75 miles of Allegany Park that could be tapped to help meet any future increase in demand. (The state's plan proposes converting 37,000 acres of the park to a commercial logging zone; this would represent only a 2-percent increase in the available timberland area.) Any economic benefit that might accrue from the sale of 6 million board feet of lumber annually would be more than offset by the loss of revenues resulting from an anticipated dropoff in park visitation due to the effects of chainsaws, diesel-powered log skidders, hydraulic loaders, tractor-trailer rigs, and other heavy equipment.

Regardless of the many arguments brought forth both for and against the state plan, the debate boils down to one central policy decision: Should private logging interests be allowed to bid for the rights to log in a public park? This is the heart of environmentalist opposition to the plan.

At the Sierra Club's initiative, a committee of representatives of local environmental groups has been organized. This committee—which includes activists from Buffalo Audubon, Foothills Trail Club, Adirondack

 **YOSEMITE**

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Mountain Club, Finger Lakes Trail Conference, and Buffalo State College Wilderness Adventure, among others—has written an alternative plan that sets forth goals and recommendations for the park. Already, more than 20 western New York organizations have publicly endorsed the “environmental alternative.”

A summary of this alternative plan will be included in the state’s revised Master Plan, to be released late in 1984. As required by the New York State Quality Review Act, public hearings on the revised plan and the new draft EIS will then be held, probably in

Buffalo, Albany, and Jamestown. This will give the public its last opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Letters endorsing the “environmental alternative” are needed, and should be directed to Gov. Mario Cuomo, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224. More information, including fact sheets, is available from the Sierra Club’s office at 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.

Alexandra Cukan works in the Buffalo field office of the Atlantic Chapter. Sylvia Cukan is Buffalo representative to the chapter ExCom.

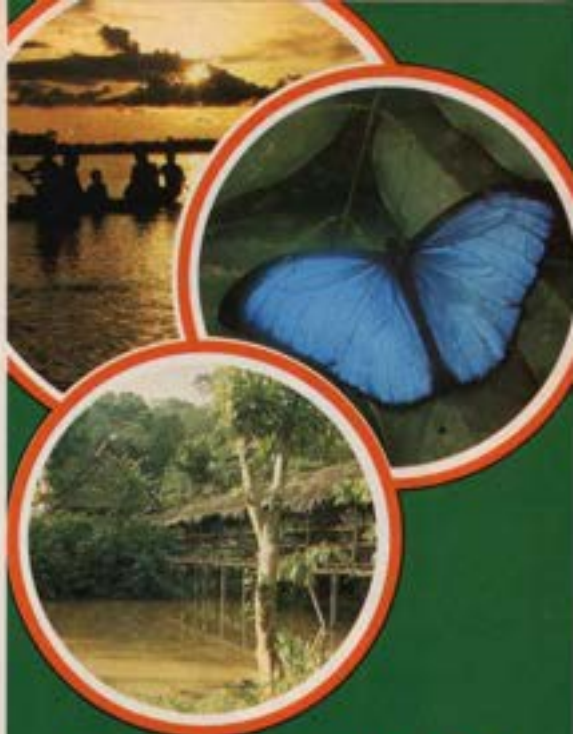
BRINGING THE WASTE BACK HOME A Decision for South Dakota

JAMES CARRIER

ON ELECTION DAY, South Dakota’s voters will make a decision that will far outlive either presidential candidate. On the ballot is a proposal that the people of that state “reserve to themselves the exclusive right to approve or reject” both the disposal of nuclear waste within South Dakota and the joining of an interstate disposal compact (an

agreement among neighboring states to take responsibility for the waste generated in their region). If the proposal is approved, no dump may be built in the state and no compact may be ratified without voter consent.

While that is the letter of the proposed law, leaders on both sides agree that people see the November vote in simpler terms. If the initiative is approved, a dump may or



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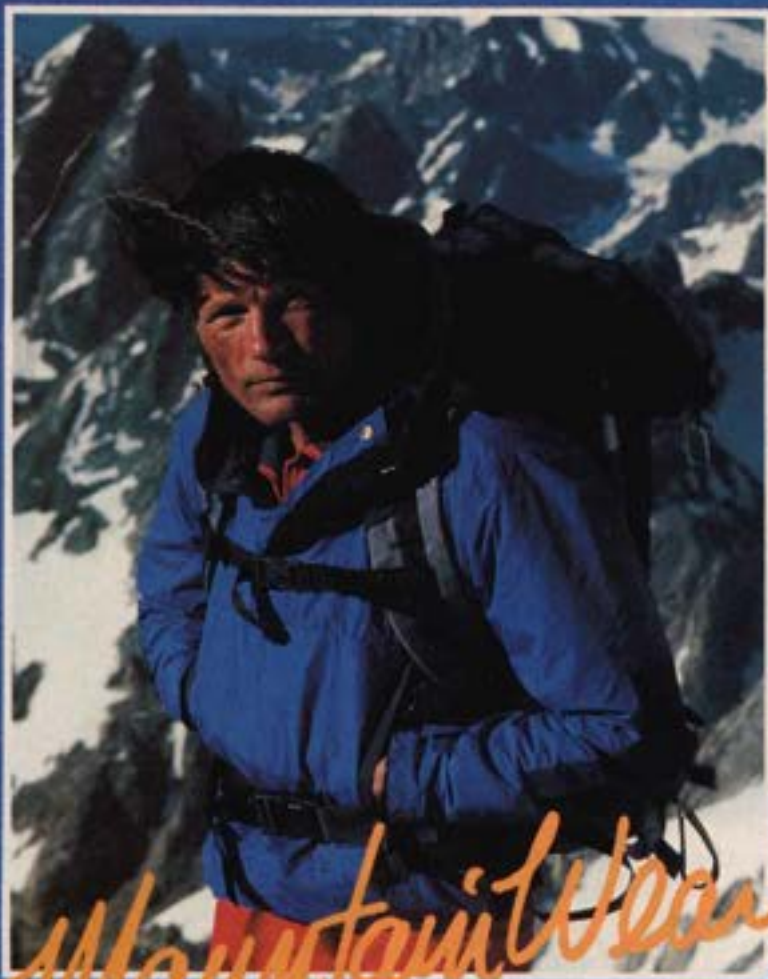
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may not be built; if it fails, construction of a low-level dump in Edgemont, a town of 1,450 in the southwest corner of the state, is almost certain.

For more than a year, Chem-Nuclear, a waste-management company based in Barnwell, S.C., has been conducting geological tests at an abandoned Army weapons depot near Edgemont. The company wants to develop a shallow-trench dump capable of storing at least a third of the nation's low-level nuclear waste. Company official Lloyd Andrews has said that Edgemont is "probably the best site in the nation," in part because of geology, but also because of the political climate. With an eye toward jobs and tax revenues, a majority of the citizens of Edgemont and surrounding Fall River County support the dump. In a nonbinding referendum on June 5, county voters okayed the dump 1,880 to 1,092—a 63-percent approval rate.

Under existing state law, power to approve low-level nuclear dumps lies with the South Dakota Department of Water & Natural Resources, and any dump built there would be overseen by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. But a coalition of environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, has gathered 24,999 signatures state-wide (11,000 more than needed) to put the issue before all the voters of South Dakota.

"More than just Fall River County and Edgemont are affected," says Nick Meinhardt, coordinator for the Nuclear Waste Vote Coalition. Meinhardt cites potential danger to groundwater, hazards of transporting waste to the site, and the long-term responsibility for cleanup should a leak occur: "In terms of health and safety we are talking about the quality of life for the next 12 to 15 generations."

The campaign could get dirty, judging from the exchanges that occurred prior to the June 5 vote. Each side accused the other of scare tactics and half-truths, and of being "outsiders," and each preached the need for facts. But there are real differences between the campaigns.

Chem-Nuclear has spent well over \$100,000 so far on "education" and lobbying, which included an unsuccessful effort to have the 1984 state legislature pass a compact law written by Chem-Nuclear's lawyer, Gene LeBrun of Rapid City. The company has flown three plane-loads of state legislators, reporters, and Fall River County residents to its dump site in Barnwell. It has purchased TV time and run an advertising insert in nearly all the newspapers in the state. Chem-Nuclear has budgeted \$500,000 for "public education" over the expected five years of site development. In addition, part of the \$1 million budgeted for legal fees is paying for LeBrun's frequent public and



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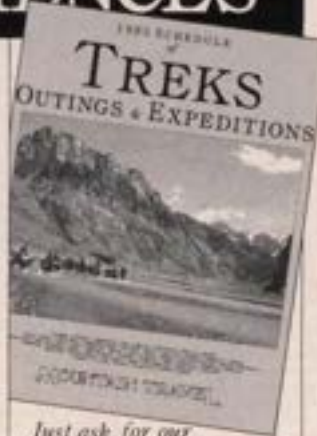
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media appearances. The company's bill for total site development, including licensing, is estimated at \$10 million.

By contrast, the Nuclear Waste Vote Coalition had raised \$2,778 by midsummer through donations and T-shirt sales. Its campaign will remain low-key, with county organizers setting up booths at fairs and appearing at forums.

Edgemont town leaders still resent having to convince the rest of the state that they want the dump. The day after the June referendum they—together with Chem-Nuclear's Andrews—held eight news conferences around the state to make that point. The dump offers a solution to the town's economic problems, they say. They are entirely comfortable with the environmental-safety record of Chem-Nuclear. And they are not rubes.

Born as a railroad junction in 1889, Edgemont (at the edge of the mountainous Black Hills) has a history of booms and busts. Before the turn of the century it was touted as a manufacturing city, but drought and depression ended that dream. In the 1940s the population swelled to 10,000 during construction of the Army weapons depot eight miles south of town. Bombs were detonated there—cracking foundations in the town—and nerve and mustard gas were stored there too. The weapons depot had more than 500 employees during its peak, but it closed in 1967.

Uranium was discovered in 1951, and thousands of people with Geiger counters took to the cliffs and canyons north of town in search of claims. Many mines were mom-and-pop operations.

A uranium mill ran in Edgemont until 1972, when the market for nuclear fuel collapsed. Radioactive tailings were used around town as landfill and were spread along the Cheyenne River, a mistake that today is costing the U.S. government \$33 million to clean up.

But the town's experience with uranium was largely positive, and when a landowner at the abandoned weapons depot proposed that the site be developed as a nuclear-waste dump, there was barely a murmur.

"The reason they're not afraid is that they sit right beside it," says Mayor Pete Ziemet, a former mill employee. After 27 years, townspeople don't see any evidence of harm from radioactivity, he says. Harold Wyatt, chairman of the Edgemont Development Committee, adds that the town contributed to the nuclear age; why not "bring it home?"

Economically, the town could use just about anything. It has lost a dozen businesses in the last few years, and its attempts to turn the old weapons depot into an industrial park have failed miserably. Edgemont's isolation, its greatest burden for nearly a

hundred years, became for Chem-Nuclear its greatest asset.

An early economic-impact analysis commissioned by the company said the dump could generate \$100,000 a year in tax revenue for the county, and \$1.6 million in salaries. (It also promised millions to the state, but noted that South Dakota so far has no regulations or taxes to cover a dump. The figures were based on regulations in South Carolina.)

The proposed 8,000-acre site is arid and poor grazing land. It is nearly 1,100 feet down through very nearly impervious shale to the nearest viable aquifer, according to John Paul Gries, professor emeritus of geological engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. It is 2,800 feet to the Madison Limestone, source of the town's artesian wells.

Test drillings have yielded results used by both sides, however. Two holes bored in the chalky Niobrara formation did not hold water, but two other holes drilled in the deeper Carlisle formation, the shale proposed for the dump trenches, remained water-tight during the drilling operation. Although the holes collected water in a day or two, a project engineer said that the seepage, from cracks 15 or 20 feet below the surface, is normal and "very manageable."

Howard Henderson, a rancher who lives six miles away, isn't so confident. He has a spring that flows from a spot higher than the dump site, and a number of his neighbors have wells 20 to 30 feet deep. Henderson, chairman of Fall River Citizens Against the Nuclear Dump, points out that no one knows for sure just where the water levels are. He also doesn't believe that South Dakota, which produces less than ten cubic feet of nuclear waste a year—the lowest in the nation—should be accepting 1.2 million cubic feet of other states' garbage.

"South Dakota should not get stuck with an old-fashioned shallow landfill," adds Jim MacInnes of Rapid City, who chairs the Sierra Club's Dacotah Chapter. While MacInnes opposes a shallow land-burial site at Edgemont or anywhere else, he would not oppose a technically advanced site under a better classification of low-level waste. Noting the Sierra Club's concern that too much material, including used reactor parts, is classified as low-level waste, MacInnes says, "If Chem-Nuclear has its way here and gets a shallow dump to hold a third of the nation's waste, we have seriously damaged any chance of reforming national regulations."

Hanging over the discussion is the federal mandate for South Dakota to join a waste-disposal compact by 1986. Some prodump spokespeople warn that, unless South Dakota joins soon, it will lose control of a possible site. Coalition members, on the

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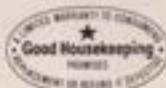
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other hand, say that people should not be rushed into a decision, and that approval of the initiative will give everyone time to carefully consider alternatives. They say it is highly unlikely the federal government would impose a dump on South Dakota as a penalty for not joining a compact.

State Democrats endorsed the initiative after heavy lobbying by both sides at their July convention, and over the objection of

party chairman Gene LeBrun, Chem-Nuclear's lawyer. He wanted the Democrats to call only for "vigorous public debate." A week later, at the urging of a Fall River County delegate, the state Republican convention approved the same language LeBrun had urged for the Democrats.

The issue may not be over in November, however. If the initiative fails, state officials will no doubt proceed to license the dump;

but if the initiative is approved amid the emotional atmosphere that characterized the June vote, Chem-Nuclear's Andrews says, his company will be more determined than ever to stay in South Dakota. It will have been a "dishonest decision," he says. "The site is too important. It is needed."

James Carrier, a journalist formerly with Associated Press, teaches and writes in the Black Hills.

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The IUCN Redefines Its Partnership

PATRICIA SCHARLIN

THIRTY-SIX YEARS after its founding, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) may finally become the union it originally proclaimed itself to be. The IUCN—composed of an unlikely mixture of 57 governments, 122 government agencies, and 324 scientific and citizens' conservation groups (called nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs)—could achieve this unity as the result of two relatively recent actions: the launching of a World Conservation Strategy in 1980, and the development of a new conservation plan that will be discussed and approved by the membership at the 14th General Assembly, to be held in Madrid between November 2 and 12.

Although attempts to coordinate international efforts toward wildlife conservation were made as early as 1925, it was not until 1948 that conservationists formed a union. At a conference in Fontainebleau, France,

23 governments and 126 national organizations formed the International Union for the Protection of Nature. A year later, at a meeting at Lake Success, N.Y., the founding members established a "Survival Service" on endangered species, one of the cornerstones of the union's program for the next 30 years.

Encouragement and financial support for the union came primarily from UNESCO, but other international agencies were also helpful in fostering this new hybrid organization. In 1956 the members changed the name of their organization to its current title to underscore their belief that the plants and animals of the world are part of the planet's renewable natural resources. In voting the change they anticipated the past few decades' growth in public awareness of how socioeconomic issues interrelate with ongoing conservation concerns.

By 1972, at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (held in

Stockholm), it had become clear that members of the international community needed to work together to tackle the problems of pollution and to conserve living natural resources. In the ensuing decade membership in the IUCN expanded to include members from newly independent nations, and the union found itself playing a larger role in international politics and Third World economic development.

From the outset the complex makeup of the IUCN has made it difficult for the union to reconcile competing demands. A small secretariat housed, in recent years, with the World Wildlife Fund in Gland, Switzerland, provides advice to members, especially from developing countries, and administers field projects. Six technical, scientific, and legal commissions assume some of the functional tasks for the union, often operating rather independently of the secretariat, especially when raising funds for specific research projects. Over the years certain com-

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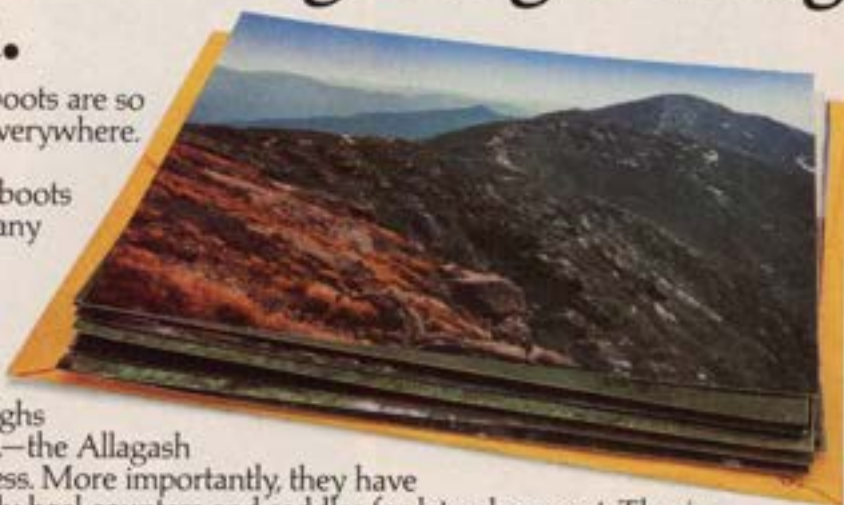
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missions have tended to focus the program of the union toward their sectorial concerns. Among these are the Species Survival Commission, which includes many subgroups concerned with specific species; the Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, which has hammered out a system of classifying parks, reserves, and protected areas; and the Commission on Environmental Policy, Law, and Administration, which was responsible for promulgating the World Charter for Nature adopted in 1982 by the United Nations. The other commissions are Ecology, Environmental Planning, and Education. Together these six groups represent more than 3,000 experts the union can call upon in carrying out its programs.

The work of the commissions is augmented by three "centers." Two of these are concerned with data collection for environmental legislation and endangered species, while the third works to help countries develop national conservation strategies.

Even acknowledging the competition among the commissions, it is the mixture of strange bedfellows among the membership that is both the strength and the burden of the organization. It is difficult—indeed almost impossible—to satisfy both the more conservative policies of governments and

the more aggressive demands of activist NGOs. Consider the international political issues that often arise at the triennial membership meetings—such as South Africa's apartheid policies or the seating of the two Chinas—and it becomes quite obvious that steering a steady course toward global conservation is extremely difficult. And yet one need not look beyond the steady growth in its membership and its expanded program of field projects to see that the union is alive and can be a potential conservation force in the future.

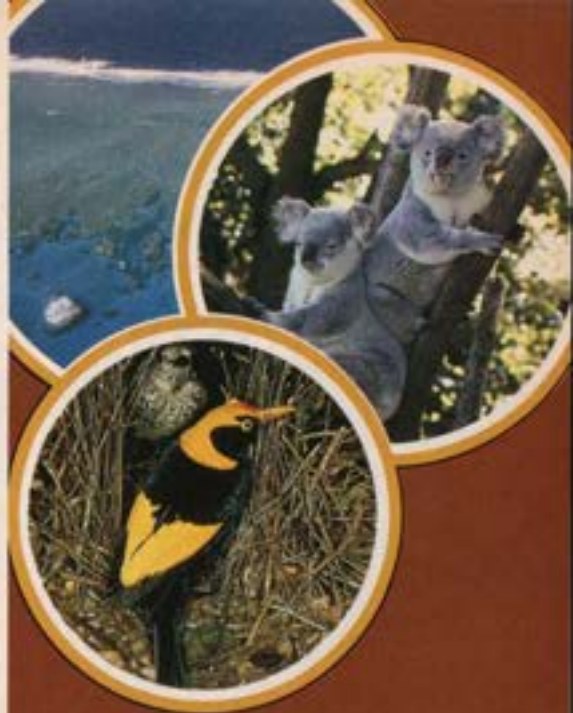
This was not always the case. In the early 1970s few policymakers had heard of the IUCN; it was an organization that only biologists and zoologists took seriously. Adoption of the World Conservation Strategy helped change that situation. The strategy sought to link the importance of conservation with the economic and social needs of the world, especially in developing countries. It treats economic development and conservation as "two sides of the same coin," defining their relationship as "the management of the use of the environment and natural resources to ensure the maximum sustainable benefits for present and succeeding generations."

The growing prominence of the IUCN also

SIGHTINGS



Chanting "Green Vote '84, Ronald Reagan Out the Door," members of the Environmental Caucus participate in a lively demonstration on the floor of the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco. Six hundred delegates, including almost 100 Sierra Club members, were part of the caucus, making it the second-largest at the convention.



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stems from the increasing number of NGOs that have joined the organization and are becoming actively involved in making the program effective. Because of pressure from the NGOs, the union is now representing conservation interests at such international negotiations as the Law of the Sea, the International Whaling Commission, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Antarctica. The union also assists in implementing the World Heritage Convention and the international Biosphere Reserve program. Through its network of scientists the IUCN has built a database on endangered species and is planning (with assistance from the Sierra Club and other nongovernmental organizations) a similar project on endangered parks and reserves.

Despite impressive accomplishments (and lingering criticism for being too cautious), it is clear that the IUCN cannot accomplish the important conservation objectives of the next decade without the coordinated assistance of all of its members and increased financial support. In part the new conservation plan is designed to encourage membership assistance in carrying out program objectives. Rather than centralizing the union's activities in a small staff, the aim is to decentralize and regionalize portions of the program, thereby involving more members in project work. Likewise

the new "framework for cooperative action" proposed for the period 1985-1987, which will also be adopted by the General Assembly, is intended to become a "partnership of IUCN members and collaborators." Each will be invited to assume some responsibility or task, as will the commissions and centers. Regional goals and activities will also be instituted and carried out. The framework could mean a larger role for the national committees, such as the American Committee for International Conservation, that are forming in many countries.

The financing of crucial conservation projects remains the most difficult issue facing the IUCN, and this need often conflicts with the desire of NGO members that the union be more politically active. Out of a core budget of \$4 million, only \$1 million is available to carry out the program adopted by the membership. The remaining amount covers contract work with governments (25 percent), specific earmarked project grants from the World Wildlife Fund (27 percent), and contracts with the U.N. Environment Programme and other international agencies. Moreover, membership fees cover only a portion of the core program and staffing. NGO members account for a mere 3 percent of the \$1 million; governments account for 60 percent, and the World Wildlife Fund provides 30 percent.

With only \$1 million in unrestricted funds, the IUCN has to choose between continuing



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At each General Assembly in recent years, the frustration of the NGOs over the IUCN's unwillingness to act as an outspoken conservation advocate has grown. The role of the World Wildlife Fund as a major funding arm has also inhibited the IUCN from carrying out the wishes of its membership. All too often the WWF has directed funds toward projects its own leadership has wanted but that do not necessarily coincide with the IUCN's priorities.

Yet the union cannot rely solely on dues and contributions from its NGO members, and until funding can be secured from some impartial source, the organization's leaders see no way out of the impasse but to seek more money from governments. The members of the IUCN Council have endorsed a funding plan recommended by a three-person committee, and will present the plan to members at the Madrid General Assembly.

Until the funding issue is resolved, the union's conservation plan will remain a wish list—unless the members take some responsibility for carrying out projects in the program. The current emphasis on a decentralized approach to international conservation opens new avenues for citizen activists. Sierra Club members have long been active in the IUCN. Richard Leonard, who was the Club's first International Vice-President, represented the Club at the 1972 General Assembly in Banff, Canada; Nicholas Robinson helped draft the revised IUCN charter; Club Treasurer Sandy Tepfer serves on the Education Commission; Lawrence S. Hamilton is a member of the Ecology Commission; and Executive Director Michael McCloskey has served as vice-chair of the Environmental Policy and Law Commission. The staff of the Club's Earthcare Center has also been deeply involved in the union.

People with scientific competence can become active by letting the IUCN secretariat know of their interest and by contacting the Sierra Club's Earthcare Center or the International Committee at 228 East 45th St., 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017; telephone (212) 867-0080.

Patricia Scharlin is Director of the Sierra Club's International Earthcare Center in New York City. She has been a member of the IUCN's Education and Environmental Policy & Law commissions, and has represented NGOs on the organization's Policy Planning Advisory Group.



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DURING THE Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, not far from where the politicians expounded on their hopes for the party, a group of people presented their hopes for a world without war. Entitled "A Vision of America at Peace," the exposition drew some 10,000 visitors, including many convention delegates and members of the media. The expo, which was cosponsored by the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter, featured the exhibits of more than 80 peace and environmental groups as well as art displays, musical productions, and a peace film festival.

The Sierra Club's exhibit communicated the message that the preservation of life on Earth requires not only the absence of nuclear warfare but also a peaceful way to coexist with our land and resources. On display panels that incorporated photographs and the words of people ranging from Adlai Stevenson to John Lennon, the Club stressed the positive vision of human beings in harmony with their environment. The exhibit also included a section for people to express their own visions of a peaceful world and how to get there.

The Sierra Club's exhibit is available for use at other expositions. For information, please contact Madge Strong, Bay Chapter Nuclear Disarmament Subcommittee, 4415 View St., Oakland, CA 94611; telephone (415) 653-6148. □



In one of the keynote exhibits at "A Vision of America at Peace," the San Francisco Bay Chapter presented its conception of a world in harmony with nature.

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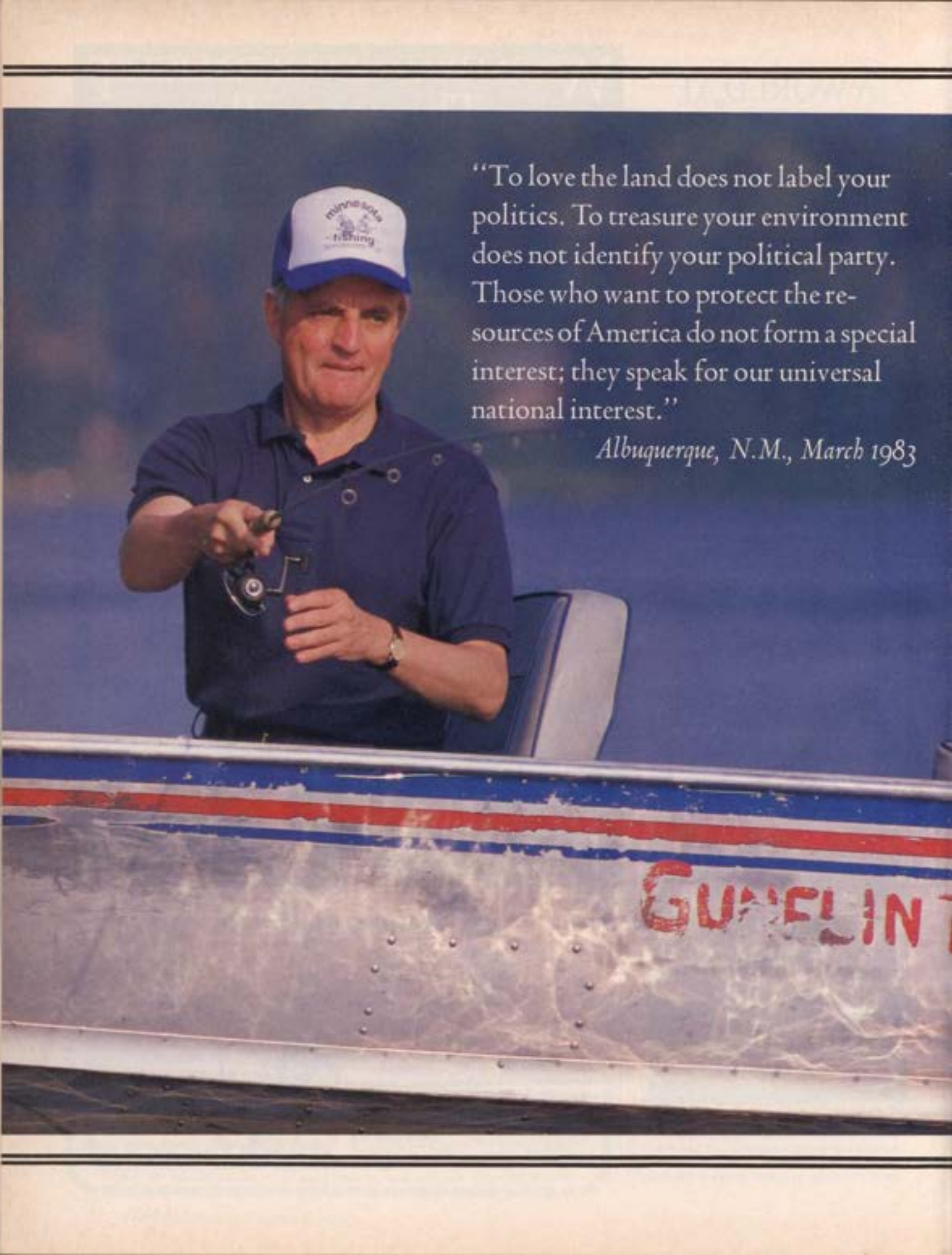
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A man wearing a blue polo shirt and a white and blue baseball cap with a logo is fishing from a boat. He is holding a fishing rod and reel. The boat has a red and blue stripe and the word "GUARDIAN" is visible on its side. The background is a clear blue sky.

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Albuquerque, N.M., March 1983

ELECTION
1984
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SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES MONDALE/FERRARO

STAFF REPORT

S

PEAKING TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL group at the beginning of his long quest for

the Democratic nomination, Walter Mondale announced that he would do everything he could to make "our common objectives and desire—to save our air, our water, our land—central issues in the 1984 campaign."

That proved an easy pledge to keep, not simply because Mondale cares deeply for the environment—he does—but because environmentalists have forced those issues into the forefront of political debate and, through their ceaseless activism, have kept them there. Even Ronald Reagan, whose concern for and protection of the environment are, in his own words, his "best-kept secret," felt compelled in June to take to the hustings clothed in environmental platitudes. First he toured Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, then Kentucky's Mammoth Cave—where he told nearby RV campers how much he has done to upgrade the National Park System. Finally, he and his entourage (including the press) drove across the pedestrian bridge to Roosevelt Island, a hiking and birdwatching sanctuary in the Potomac River from which motorized traffic has always been banned. Standing under a statue of Teddy Roosevelt himself, Reagan made a show of signing the routine annual report of the Council on Environmental Quality, an agency his budgets have almost destroyed.

But if Reagan's carefully orchestrated environmental posturing rings false, the statements and concerns of his Democratic challenger do not. Throughout the long campaign (and during his terms as Vice-President and Minnesota senator and attorney

general before that), Mondale has consistently supported environmental causes.

It is this record (and the abysmal record of the incumbent President) that have led the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club to take the unprecedented step of endorsing Walter Mondale for President.

"It's the logical extension of the election work we have increasingly done over the last four years," says Michele Perrault, the Club's President. "We cut our teeth in local and state campaigns in 1980, and had excellent success in the 1982 congressional elections. Now it's time to elect a President who will act as a true steward of the environment."

The Board announced its decision in a letter to Mondale and his running mate Geraldine Ferraro. In part the letter says:

"We are urging our members and the American people to vote for their environment—by voting for Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

"It is the unanimous view of our Board of Directors, elected by the Club's 350,000 members, that your election is vitally important to the protection of America's environment over the critical years ahead.

"The Sierra Club is a bipartisan organization—and will remain so. Since the time of John Muir we have worked productively with Presidents of both parties. Only over these past four years have our efforts been flatly spurned by the White House.

"Our commitment to the cause we serve mandates that we take a stand when confronted by a President whose first-term actions contain so blatant and tragically consistent a record of opposition to the environmental interests of the people of the United States."

The Sierra Club's support for Mondale stems from more than just a desire to oust Ronald Reagan. Mondale's credentials as an environmentalist are strong, and he is clearly proud of the fact that

Walter Mondale fishes for walleye pike during a vacation in Minnesota after the Democratic National Convention.

he served "the administration that added more to our national parks and wildlife refuges than any other administration in history." While in the Senate he was especially active in strengthening protection for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and establishing Voyageurs National Park, the St. Croix Wild and Scenic River, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and many other recreation areas. He also helped lead the fight for an environmentally preferred alternative to the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline route in 1973, although later he supported the construction of a natural-gas pipeline through the Arctic Wildlife Range. Mondale also resisted reform of federal water policies while on the Senate Finance Committee—but despite these two heresies, the League of Conservation Voters says, he voted with the environment 80 percent of the time.

While Mondale's voting record in the Senate and his involvement in environmental issues during the Carter administration prove him to be strongly sympathetic to environmental concerns, his current stand on the issues is what has brought him the Club's endorsement. Here is a brief rundown of Mondale's positions on the issues environmentalists are most concerned about:

◆ *Environmental agencies.* Mondale has said repeatedly that it is the President's job to "enforce the laws we've enacted to protect ourselves, our air, our water, and our land." He is committed to an Environmental Protection Agency that does not evade the law, and he plans to "reverse the massive budget cuts that have

destroyed the effectiveness of our environmental agencies." This restoration of funds applies as well to such nonregulatory programs as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Council on Environmental Quality. Mondale has also made it clear that he feels it is necessary to "put professionals in charge of environmental programs, respect them, and give them a mandate to enforce the laws of the land."

◆ *Clean air/acid rain.* Mondale has deplored EPA foot-dragging in identifying toxic air pollutants and has promised to finish the job. He has said he will seek a 50-percent reduction in sulfur-dioxide emissions during the next decade, along with significant reductions in nitrogen oxides. The costs will be shared by all of the 48 contiguous states. Mondale has also said he will negotiate a treaty with Canada specifically about acid rain.

◆ *Clean water.* Mondale has expressed dedication to a future in which there is "good, clean, reliable water everywhere." He is committed to seeing that the Clean Water Act is strengthened and enforced and that groundwater is protected from toxic pollutants and other contaminants.

◆ *Toxic substances.* Mondale has pledged to put the control of hazardous substances "at the top of the agenda for the government" and to make the cleanup of toxic-waste dumps "the first order of business." He supported the version of the Superfund bill that was passed by the House on August 10. He favors a fair plan for sharing cleanup costs with the states so that "state budgets do

Presidential Politics—Grassroots-Style

STAFF REPORT

WHEN THE Sierra Club received a request from Sen. Robert Stafford (R-Vt.) to present testimony at an informal hearing concerning the 1984 Republican platform, Club Vice-President Bob Howard felt that a major effort had borne fruit. Howard and other Club Republicans had spent considerable time over the last few years working within their party's structure, encouraging Republican lawmakers to emphasize environmental issues. Howard, a lifelong Republican, gladly made the trip to Washington.

"Today, citizens with conservation and environmental concerns are more seriously estranged from the Republican Party than at any time in this century," Howard told the panel of six senators. "As an environmental leader, I am concerned for our country by this estrangement. As a Republican, I am deeply disturbed. Our party is in grave danger of permanently distorting its historic partisan commitment to environmental protection."

Unlike the Democrats, the Republicans held no field hearings around the nation to take comments from their party's grassroots members. But a week after the informal session in Washington, the Sierra Club's request to testify in Dallas before a subcommittee of the party's official platform committee was granted.

In his Dallas testimony, Howard said, "I have come here today not only to represent the Sierra Club and its hopes for the Republican Party Platform, but also to represent Republican environmentalists. We are looking to the Republican Party and its leaders to make room for us within the party. We ask that you write a platform broad enough to include us. We ask you to write a platform that does not force the American people to choose between their most deeply cherished environmental values and the Republican Party." Howard's testimony included both criticism of the 1980 Republican platform and a list of the resource and energy planks that environmentalists hoped to see this year.

Howard thinks that a major task for Republican environmentalists is to keep the doors open. He was encouraged, therefore, by the positive response to the Club's request to address the platform subcommittee. Howard attended the convention along with about half a dozen other Sierra Club Republican activists, who met together to discuss such issues as how to improve the party's message to environmentalists, grassroots organizing at the precinct level, and how to approach the November election. The group met with other concerned environmentalists and delegates to share information on the convention and on the platform process. While prospects for fundamentally affecting the platform were slim, the Sierra Club contingent recognized the value of communicating with individual delegates and congressional leaders.

And come November? "People make their decisions on whom to vote for based on many different issues, but an issue as important as the environment must be

not become an obstacle to the protection of human health." Mondale's toxics-control plan entails encouraging a decrease in production of hazardous wastes by industry; neutralizing or destroying those wastes that can be treated; and tightening the EPA's regulatory programs.

◆ **Public lands.** Mondale has told numerous groups that "this nation of ours should not be up for sale. . . . When it comes to our resources, the standard by which this generation must be judged is not how well we use [our] inheritance for ourselves, but how we honor our debt to our children." To that end, Mondale says he will "encourage multiple use on multiple-use land and protect national parks, wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, and wild and scenic rivers."

◆ **Energy.** Mondale has spoken out strongly against the Diablo Canyon and Three Mile Island nuclear power plants. He has promised to "relaunch a national energy program to develop environmentally sound, renewable energy sources, and to promote conservation." He says he will reduce government subsidy of nuclear power and extend tax credits for solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy; he also has pledged to renew tax credits for such conservation efforts as installing weatherstripping and insulation.

◆ **Nuclear arms.** During his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Mondale's composure changed dramatically as he talked about the consequences of nuclear war. In a

voice choked with emotion, he pledged to stop deployment of the MX and to open negotiations with the Soviet Union on all types of nuclear weapons. He has also said that he would update and resubmit SALT II; initiate a moratorium on nuclear testing; begin negotiations for a mutual and verifiable nuclear freeze; seek a verifiable ban on antisatellite weapons; and limit military spending to an increase of 4 to 5 percent a year.

◆ **The global environment.** Recognizing that "we need a vision of a better world," Mondale has stated that "we must look to the ways in which we may make this Spaceship Earth a more habitable place." To that end, Mondale has pledged full U.S. support to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the areas of scientific and social research in which this country once exerted leadership. He has said that he will press for international cooperation on such issues as population growth, tropical deforestation, genetic diversity, and extinction of species. His ocean-resources program calls for a renewal of U.S. support for the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Positions such as these—and the perception of his desire to implement them—have garnered for Mondale the support of most environmentalists. As the Board's letter of endorsement concludes:

"The Sierra Club is proud to endorse your candidacy. In place of the scandalous record of the Reagan years, you offer a bright prospect for environmental progress Americans can trust." □

given its full weight," says Howard. "The Reagan administration has failed to adequately uphold, implement, or fund our nation's environmental laws, and has also obstructed efforts to renew them. Thus Reagan has retreated from our country's historic bipartisan commitment to the environment. In light of the past, Republican conservationists need to carefully ponder the future environmental implications of another Reagan term before they pull the lever."

SIERRA CLUB activists in the Democratic Party have been on the campaign trail for almost as long as the presidential candidates. Minnesotan Carol Lee Baudler, who is a member of the national SCOPE Committee, began in early 1983 to implement a training program to help Sierra Club chapters get their SCOPE work off the ground. Training sessions were held in four regions of the country, and one portion of each meeting was devoted to the presidential campaign and the delegate-selection process.

"We were amazed at the interest that participants showed in the presidential race more than a year ago," says Baudler. "The Reagan administration had made a lot of environmentalists take electoral politics more seriously." And the presidential campaigns took SCOPE seriously as well

—a representative of each Democratic contender addressed each workshop.

SCOPE's focus then shifted to the Democratic National Convention and toward training Club people to run as delegates. The results: many Sierra Club members were elected as delegates, and five of those served on the platform committee.

Jolene Grabill, a Club activist and Mondale delegate from Wichita, Kan., was one of those on the platform committee. She and the other environmentalist committee members played a pivotal role in overcoming opposition to several of the platform's pollution planks. Thanks to their efforts the full committee altered the draft platform, so that the final version included strong provisions regarding acid rain, increased funding for the EPA and the Superfund, and strengthened Clean Air and Clean Water acts. "The best thing about the pre-convention platform debate was the cooperation between the Hart and Mondale delegates on the committee," says Grabill. "We would not have been successful had the environmentalists not joined forces against those who wanted weaker planks."

In San Francisco this July the work paid off. "As an environmentalist, a woman, and a Mondale delegate, I find it difficult to imagine a political experience equivalent to the Democratic National Convention,"

says Baudler. By that time more than 600 delegates had signed on to the Environmental Caucus, which pledged them to support clean air, acid-rain control, clean water, wilderness preservation, and energy conservation. (For more information about the activities of the Environmental Caucus, see "Environmental Caucus Greens the Convention," page 11.)

"For me the convention was the highlight of the year's political activity," says Grabill. "It affected many people's perceptions of political reality and of the bridges that are possible among various interest groups. One of the significant bridges was built between the Environmental Caucus and the party."

Baudler, who like Grabill was a convention floor activist, was also impressed by the degree of acceptance of environmental issues among the other delegates. "The president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO was eager to wear our environmental stickers," she recalls.

Grabill is convinced that the environment will be a major domestic issue in the presidential campaign. "Throughout the pre-convention process, the candidates' references to the environment grew stronger and more frequent," she says. "And with the Sierra Club involved in a precedent-setting way, there should be no end to that upward swing."

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FUROR OVER THE FRANKLIN



Australia's conservationists not only stopped a dam, they brought down the government—and in the process changed their country's constitution.



In November 1982, thousands of Australians from every walk of life gathered in Melbourne to march in protest of the Tasmanian state government's plan to dam the wild and free Franklin River.

WILLIAM STEFFEN

JUST A DECADE AGO, the Franklin River was a little-known feature of an obscure region in Tasmania, itself an out-of-the-way island state often forgotten by the rest of Australia. But in the 1980s a protracted and often bitter dispute over the river's future quickly became the continent's most controversial conservation issue. It cost two Tasmanian premiers their jobs, swept the Liberal government from power in a federal election, and precipitated

the gravest constitutional crisis since the federation of Australia in 1901.

The furor over the Franklin, which marked the emergence of Australia's conservation movement as a potent political force, is generally recognized as a turning point in the effort to preserve what remains of Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The political battle that dominated Tasmanian politics for four years centered on plans by the state government to dam the Franklin River, which winds for 125 kilometers through the rugged gorge country and

virgin rainforest of the state's Southwest wilderness area. (See map, page 48.)

The Franklin and its catchment form the core of Wild Rivers National Park, one of three national parks in western Tasmania that were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in December 1982 at the request of the state government—then under the control of the Australian Labor Party (ALP). Addition of any area to the World Heritage List supposedly affords it protection under the international Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, to which Australia became a signatory in 1974. But the Tasmanian state government that came to power subsequently, in an election carried by the Liberal/National Party (LNP), had other things in mind. Its plan was to open up the Southwest to mining, forestry, and hydroelectric development.

When the area was formally accepted for the World Heritage List, Tasmania's Hydroelectric Commission (HEC) had already begun work on the Franklin-below-Gordon dam, the first in a series of hydroelectric projects that would have cut into the heart of the Southwest wilderness and destroyed many of the features that led to the area's

World Heritage listing. But a determined campaign by Australian conservationists finally forced the issue into the nation's highest court, which ruled—in a decision that has had far-reaching consequences for the Australian federation—that the federal government was constitutionally empowered to order Tasmania to abandon the dam. (For more on the implications of the landmark court decision, see "The Fight's Not Over Down Under," page 48.)

How did the controversy over the Franklin come to take on the proportions it did?

Arid Australia has few large rivers. After 200 years of European occupation only one now flows free: the Franklin. Tumbling wildly through narrow quartzite gorges and deep ravines, pausing in tranquil pools set in

dense rainforest, the Franklin River challenges thousands of rafters each summer.

Thousands more enjoy other parts of Tasmania's Southwest, the only sizable temperate wilderness in Australia. The area is exceedingly rich in diverse and unique flora. For example, the majestic Huon pine, once extensively logged for its fine-grained wood, rivals North America's bristlecone pine as the oldest living thing on Earth.

Recent archaeological discoveries have underscored the cultural significance of Southwest Tasmania. In 1981, geomorphologists made a startling discovery along the lower Franklin River: caves containing evidence of human occupation 20,000 years ago, during the last ice age. At least seven additional caves have since been found. The

Kutakina Caves (their aboriginal name) mark the southernmost limit of human habitation at that time. They are among the richest and most significant archaeological sites in the Southern Hemisphere.

Many of the last stands of Huon pine—and all the archaeologically important caves—would have been destroyed by construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin dam.

But the destruction of areas of great natural beauty is nothing new in Tasmania. Twelve years ago Lake Pedder, set in the high floor of the Serpentine Valley and surrounded by jagged mountains, was flooded by a hydroelectric project. UNESCO described that event as "the greatest ecological tragedy since the European settlement of Tasmania."



The prospect that Australia's last free-flowing river would be flooded (above, the Great Ravine of the Middle Franklin) brought protestors out to Tasmania in force and focused the attention of all Australians on that remote corner of the continent.



Most Australians thought the Pedder disaster could never happen again. In the aftermath of the flooding a number of pieces of environmental legislation were passed—the Australian Heritage Conservation Act, the Environment Protection Act, and the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act among them. In addition, a federal-level Department of the Environment was established.

But in the mid-1970s the federal government began trying to water down these laws, eventually adopting the strategy of not applying them at all. Geoff Mosley, director of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), said at the time: "The 'new federalism' policy has meant a return of all decisions concerning resources in the states being

made by state governments, with all that means in terms of interstate rivalry and the creation of pollution havens in order to attract foreign investment."

Thus, a decade after the flooding of Lake Pedder, the resolutely prodevelopment government of Tasmania was actively encouraging HEC bulldozers to again rip away at the state's shrinking wilderness, this time along the Gordon River below its junction with the Franklin.

For years the HEC has been the *de facto* government of Tasmania. Its policy of hydroindustrialization brought heavy industry, jobs, and prosperity to the state and was blindly followed by governments of both parties. But today industries are deserting Tasmania for the mainland, and the state has

the highest unemployment rate in Australia. In fact, overwhelming evidence points to the decline and ultimate collapse of Tasmania's hydro-based economy. Many experts believe the Gordon-below-Franklin dam would have pushed the state over the brink into bankruptcy.

Yet so strong is the HEC's political clout that it was easily able to push the Franklin dam through the Tasmanian Parliament even though, according to the results of a December 1981 referendum, only 43 percent of Tasmanians supported the project. And citizens were not presented with a "no dams at all" option in that referendum; they were simply offered a choice between the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme and another project that would have been only slightly



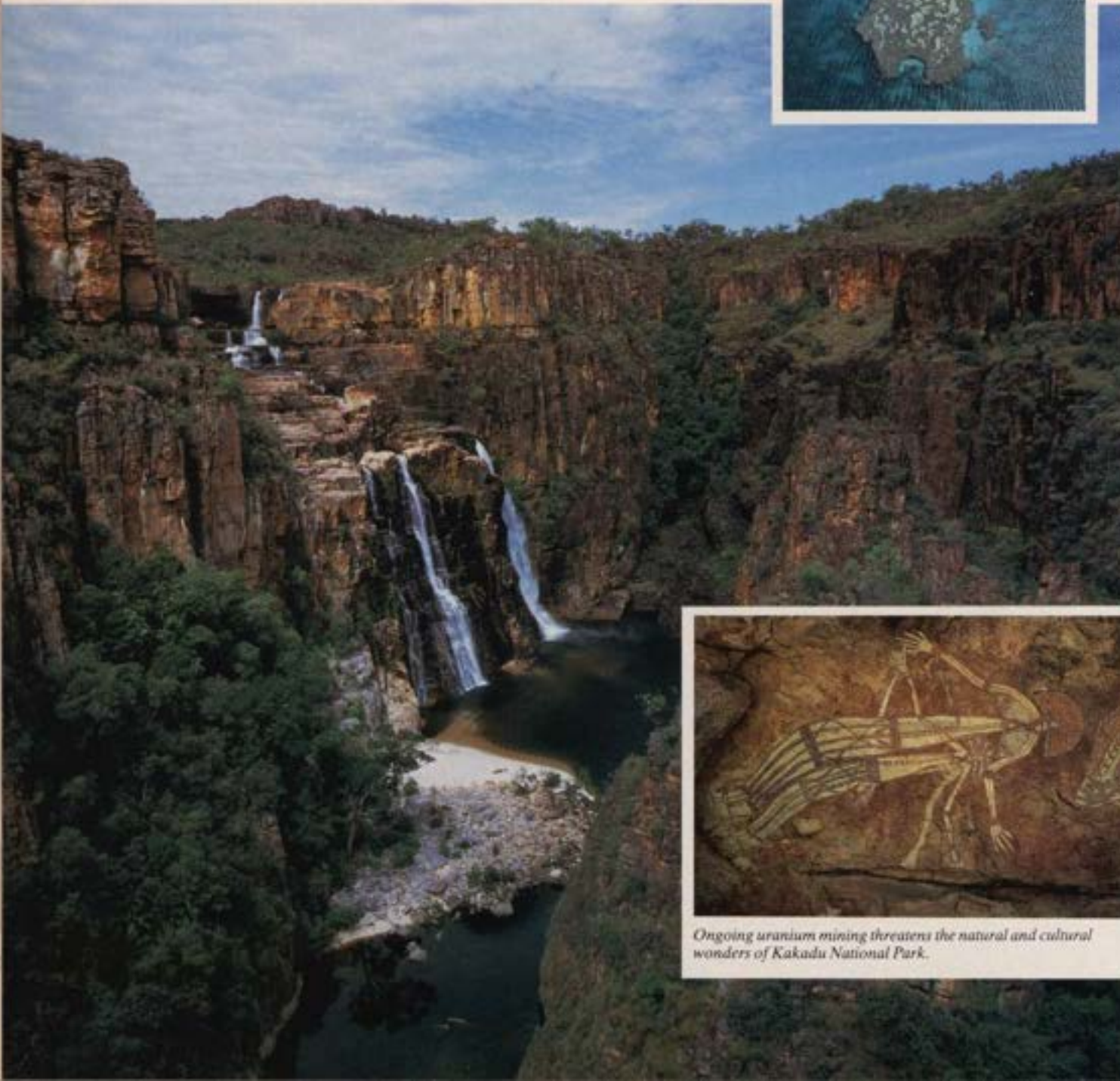
Lush vegetation (left) and the thick forests along the Gordon River characterize much of the Southwest Tasmanian wilderness.



Lake Pedder's national-park status did not prevent hydroelectric interests from flooding its pink-quartz beaches.



The rainforest of the proposed Greater Daintree National Park (shown above at Cape Tribulation) faces destruction from unnecessary roadbuilding. World Heritage status has upgraded the level of protection accorded the nearby Great Barrier Reef.



Ongoing uranium mining threatens the natural and cultural wonders of Kakadu National Park.

less destructive. Nonetheless, 30 percent of the voters wrote in "No Dams" on their ballots—an indication of growing preservation sentiment.

That such significant opposition to the HEC could arise within Tasmania was due largely to the efforts of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society (TWS), which organized extensive door-to-door campaigns, slide and film presentations, and speaking engagements at local civic clubs during the period leading up to the referendum and the subsequent state election. Although the TWS effort was not able to overcome the entrenched pro-HEC political system in Tasmania, it laid the groundwork for the massive conservation effort that toppled the Liberal government of Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser a year later, and that eventually led to the stopping of the dam.

The TWS was formed in 1976 from remnants of groups that fought the flooding of Lake Pedder. Its director, Dr. Bob Brown, has become a national figure in Australia, earning the respect even of his opponents by his intelligent, articulate, and sincere opposition to the dam. Appearing anything but the "raving Greenie" he is sometimes labeled, Brown—usually dressed in a blue pinstripe suit—looks more establishment than many of the politicians and engineers who were supporting the dam. (In 1983 he was elected to the Tasmanian Parliament, where he quickly became a thorn in the state government's side.)

As the Tasmanian government gave the go-ahead to the HEC to begin work on the dam—against strong opposition from the TWS and thousands of conservationists on the mainland—Bob Brown took the "No Dams" campaign to the rest of the country in force. Criss-crossing Australia on a mid-1982 speaking tour, he emphasized that the Franklin River and the Southwest wilderness were national assets that the federal government was obliged to preserve.

Such federal responsibility might be taken for granted by conservationists accustomed to the way things are done in the United States. But in the Australian federal system, "national" parks are declared and administered (and, in Tasmania's case, often revoked) by state governments. The states—Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, and Victoria—jealously guard their right to use land (even Crown Lands) within their jurisdictions without legal or political interference from the federal government or other parties. The Australian Constitution, for its part, severely limits the federal government's ability to override powers (such as resource development) reserved to the states. The federal government, then controlled by the NLP and led by Prime Minister

Malcolm Fraser, nonetheless became involved in the Franklin dispute when, at the request of the previous Tasmanian government, it nominated the area for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

AS THE DAMS DEBATE heated up on the mainland, support for the Tasmanian Wilderness Society grew dramatically. Membership quickly doubled (to more than 8,000), and branches sprang up throughout Australia, including ones in the outback towns of Broken Hill and Alice Springs. The TWS even went international, with offices in Great Britain and the United States.

During the last few months of 1982, Australian conservationists mounted a massive lobbying effort to convince the federal government to honor its commitment under the World Heritage Convention by halting dam construction. But on December 8, 1982—just one week before the Western Tasmanian Wilderness National Parks (including the dam site) were officially inscribed on the World Heritage List—the federal government announced that it would allow the dam to go ahead. The government took this action despite a report from the federal Senate Select Committee for Southwest Tasmania that there was no need at that time for further hydroelectric development in the region.

Reaction was swift. The World Heritage Committee was of course appalled by the decision. Condemnation came from every environmental organization in Australia, and was echoed by many newspapers around the country.

The TWS responded by placing a peaceful blockade on construction at the dam site—a contingency plan that had been organized months earlier. Protestors sat in front of bulldozers at Warners Landing, on the Gordon River, and stretched chains of rafts across the river to stop barges carrying construction equipment to the site.

The blockade intensified as January wore on. As each group of protestors was arrested, another, also trained in nonviolent action, took its place. The number arrested slowly crept toward 1,000, with every state and territory in Australia represented.

Millions of Australians watched the protest on the nightly news. While bulldozers relentlessly tore away at the ancient rainforest on the banks of the Gordon River, hundreds of citizens from all walks of life—lawyers, teachers, businesspeople, tradespeople, housewives, students—were hauled into police boats for peacefully opposing the senseless destruction. The blockade earned the TWS the respect and admiration of most Australians—and it shot the dams issue to the forefront of Australian politics.

The anger and frustration felt by an increasing number of Australians soon found a focus as Fraser, hoping to exploit what he saw as weaknesses in the opposition ALP, called a "snap election" for early March. (Australia's next regular election had been scheduled for November 1983.)

The battle lines on the Franklin issue were clearly drawn. The ALP promised that it would use federal powers to intervene and stop construction of the dam if it won the election. Conservation groups now had a definite choice.

In addition to the TWS, the other major conservation group in the election campaign was the Australian Conservation Foundation. With more than 12,500 members, the ACF is the largest such group in Australia; it is considered the national body for presenting the environmental point of view in development disputes.

Although the ACF has often had disputes with both state and federal governments, it had never become directly involved in an election, preferring instead to summarize the environmental policies of the parties and to ask its members and supporters to take these policies into account when voting. This strategy had been successful in stopping whaling in Australian waters, protecting the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling, and halting logging in rainforests in New South Wales.

But the ACF's traditional approach was not working in the Franklin battle. For the first time, it decided to enter partisan politics—by directly supporting the Labor Party. In the words of the foundation's president, Murray Wilcox: "Put simply, this is a battle the conservation movement cannot afford to lose."

The move was not without its risks. Despite enormous public sympathy for the "No Dams" movement, there remained the nagging question of how many people would actually change their voting patterns over the issue. Australia was suffering the effects of a severe recession in early 1983, with unemployment at nearly 10 percent. The Franklin dispute could easily have been swamped by economic issues at the time of the election. If the TWS/ACF coalition campaign were to fall short, the two groups would be left financially and emotionally exhausted, their ability to fight future battles seriously eroded.

But those were risks the memberships of both groups overwhelmingly decided to take. If the Franklin River—whose beauty, archaeological significance, and botanical uniqueness made it the centerpiece of a World Heritage area and of Australia's last temperate wilderness—was not worth fighting to the bitter end to save, then what was?

As the three-week-long election cam-

campaign got under way, the coalition campaign quickly recruited more than 4,000 volunteers, organized them, and took the battle over the Franklin dam to the government on the grassroots level. The conservation groups' strategy was to concentrate on 15 "marginal" electorates (roughly equivalent to congressional districts in the United States), in each of which a swing to the ALP of 3 percent or less of the vote would give Labor the seat. Loss of 11 of these seats would cost the Liberals the election.

Poring over results from previous elections, the campaign organizers determined the areas within each electorate in which lived a large numbers of voters likely to be interested in environmental issues. Volunteers visited each home in these areas to

discuss the Franklin River controversy and to urge the voters, just this once, to break traditional voting patterns and "put Australia's heritage first." The coalition distributed color brochures urging a "vote for the Franklin" to all other households in each of the 15 electorates.

Just how strong the Green vote was became apparent as the results were tallied on election night. Seat after seat fell to the ALP, until the Liberal Party—under a tide of "No Dams" votes—had gone down to its most crushing defeat ever. It became painfully obvious to Malcolm Fraser and Liberal Party strategists that they had badly misjudged the depth of feeling throughout Australia about the Franklin River—and about the ability of the TWS/ACF conservationist coa-

alition to translate those feelings into votes.

Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister-elect, acknowledged the importance of the Green vote when he spoke on election night. At midnight, just minutes after the ALP's big win was confirmed, he reiterated in his victory speech that "the dam will not go ahead."

But keeping that promise proved difficult for Hawke. Attempts to negotiate a compromise with the Tasmanian government failed. (This plan had the federal government providing funds for an alternative to the HEC project that would guarantee the same number of jobs to Tasmanian workers.) The obstinate Tasmanian premier, Robin Gray, repeatedly lashed out at the federal government and mainland Australians, warning them to stay out of what he

The Fight's Not Over Down Under

MICHAEL HUGHES

THE AUSTRALIAN HIGH COURT'S World Heritage decision in the controversy over the Franklin dam secured national protection for the crown jewels of Australia's natural heritage. But environmentalists had little time to savor their victory.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke has, since his election last year, outraged environmentalists by repudiating the campaign policy of his own Australian Labor Party (ALP), which called for a ban on all new uranium mines and export licenses.

And national campaigns are under way to stop developments that threaten to destroy fragile wilderness areas, including the tropical lowland and mountain rainforests near Daintree in Queensland and—again—the temperate rainforests of Southwest Tasmania.

Although Australia is not overendowed with natural resources, it possesses an abundance of uranium. Exploiting "yellowcake" has proved irresistible to Hawke, despite the immediate dangers posed by mining, and despite the fears of many Australians that the uranium will eventually be used in nuclear weapons. Such fears are heightened by the fact that American military installations, such as the top-secret Pine Gap base near Alice Springs, make Australia a target for Soviet missiles.

Hawke's claim that taking Australian uranium off the market would force the nation to withdraw from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty while making it more difficult to control the ultimate use of the element held sway at July's ALP national conference, at which the party changed its previous uranium policy by a vote of 55 to 44. As a result, nine new contracts for uranium mining and export will likely be approved.

Two of the mines from which the uranium will come, Ranger and Narbalek, are located within the boundaries of the Kakadu World Heritage area, about 19,000 square kilometers of tropical wetlands located in the Northern Territory. However, delegates to the ALP conference did refuse to permit two new mines proposed for the Kakadu area to proceed. Excavation at one of these, Koongarra, would have been extremely damaging to aboriginal rock-art sites.

In addition, a ban was continued on shipments of uranium to France, which is conducting nuclear tests in the South Pacific. An



Natural areas in several Australian states may benefit from expanded federal jurisdiction in the wake of

the High Court decision in the Franklin River case. The Australian Labor Party will pursue World Heritage status for Cape Tribulation, and it has also refused permits for new uranium mines in Kakadu and Daintree national parks. Southwest Tasmania (inset) is currently the focus of attempts to establish joint federal-state management authority.

considered to be purely Tasmanian affairs. He even hinted that Tasmania might secede if the federal government were to succeed in stopping the dam.

The Hawke government nevertheless quickly passed legislation to protect Australia's World Heritage areas, including Southwest Tasmania, and then ordered the Tasmanian government to cease work on the dam. Gray ignored the order, claiming that the federal law was unconstitutional.

The stage was set for the dispute to go before the High Court, the Australian equivalent of the United States Supreme Court. The contending governments agreed that the High Court would be the final arbiter in the battle over the Franklin River's future.

Although the federal government's case appeared very strong, its power to override states' rights was constrained by the Australian Constitution. Also, a majority of the High Court judges had been appointed by the conservative Fraser government, and many conservationists feared they would not rule in favor of increased federal powers no matter how convincing the merits of the case itself.

On July 1, 1983, the High Court handed down its decision. By a vote of 4 to 3 it ruled that the federal government indeed had the power to enforce its obligations under the World Heritage Convention. Tasmania was told that construction on the Franklin dam must stop.

The long, hard-fought, and ultimately

successful battle to save the Franklin River marked an historic turning point. For the first time, Australians—whose economy is largely based on exploiting natural resources—have forcefully and decisively said that, for environmental reasons, a project should not proceed. It also marks the first time that Australians have taken a truly national view toward their natural heritage.

Most important, the Franklin fight may signal the end of a myth long held in Australia: that the bush is limitless, and that development can go on forever. □

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increase in leukemia and other cancers in Polynesia, damage to reef ecology, and outbreaks of a fish-borne disease (ciguatera) in Papua New Guinea and Queensland have been linked—by prevailing winds, ocean currents, and migratory-fish movements—to the underground testing.

Controversy over the Northern Territory mines has been overshadowed by that over the approval of Roxby Downs, a huge underground mine now under construction north of Adelaide in South Australia. Hundreds of arrests have been made during blockades at Roxby during the past year.

Mineralogists estimate that Roxby Downs contains between 30 and 50 percent of the western world's uranium reserves, and over a 30-year period an estimated 180 million tons of tailings will be produced there. These tailings will contain (among other toxic elements) radium 266 and thorium 230, radioactive isotopes that emit radon gas as they decay. The tailings will be stored in the open and on the surface, behind a tailings dam.

Another outcome of the ALP conference was the decision to pursue World Heritage listing for a proposed Greater Daintree National Park located about 100 kilometers north of Cairns in Queensland. The park would be composed of four smaller "national" parks, including the botanically significant 300-hectare Cape Tribulation area.

Within the boundaries of the proposed park, the lowland rainforest is being destroyed by a road being built by the local shire council, backed by the Queensland state government. The rainforest is the last large remnant of the Big Scrub forest that covered the continent before it separated from Gondwanaland some 100 million years ago. The shire claims it needs the road—which runs parallel to the coast, contiguous with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—to prevent drug smuggling and illegal immigration. However, many suspect it really wants to provide access for subdivision construction or to a possible mineral deposit.

The issue is beginning to attract national attention, with the (formerly Tasmanian) Wilderness Society and the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) starting national campaigns to have the rainforest protected. The federal government is considering nominating the area for World Heritage listing, but such a move could provoke a confrontation with the very conservative Queensland state government similar to the one that recently raged in Tasmania over the Franklin dam.

To gain protection for such areas the Wilderness Society has formed a coalition with the ACF and the Colong Society to work for a national wilderness-reserve system similar to that which

exists in the United States. At the same time, environmental groups are working together to identify important areas throughout Australia to be preserved as wilderness *per se* and to be named as such in 1988 for Australia's bicentennial.

The concept of wilderness as valuable and nurturing is relatively new to most Australians, and a public-education campaign is part of the coalition's work. Says Bob Brown, former director of the Wilderness Society: "The Australian people have awakened in the last decade to the fact that the country isn't just a wide, dry, brown land. We have a spectacular, unique heritage. . . . But we've had this pioneer mentality, to keep pushing bulldozers into it. Now there's a growing national feeling of identity with the land.

"But," he adds, "the government officials [in Tasmania] have learned nothing. . . . [Premier Robin] Gray is back asking the HEC what hydro schemes it has that can be done."

Environmentalists are challenging the use of \$200 million given to the state by the federal government as part of a "compensation" package after the Gordon-below-Franklin dam was stopped. The money is being used—illegally, environmentalists claim—to fund construction of two new hydroelectric projects, the King and the Anthony. Both projects will destroy large tracts of the temperate rainforest wilderness—but because they are themselves outside the World Heritage boundaries there is no legal mechanism to stop their construction.

The compensation endorses Gray's assertion that jobs in Tasmania depend on dams. The Wilderness Society claims the opposite is true: that Tasmania consistently has the nation's most chronically depressed economy precisely *because* of its commitment to hydroelectric development. To date, the Tasmanian government has refused to cooperate with the federal government in establishing a joint management authority for the Southwest Tasmanian wilderness. Such an authority was called for in a proposal accepted as part of the ALP platform at the July conference; it would presumably provide protection from further development for areas currently excluded from World Heritage listing.

Australia's land-use patterns will be dominated by the state governments until federal protection is extended to more of the nation's dwindling natural resources. For the Southwest Tasmanian wilderness, whose story has inspired conservationists around the world, time is once again quickly running out.

Michael Hughes is a climber, writer, and songwriter with a special interest in Australian conservation issues. He lives in San Francisco.

SIERRA'S FIFTH ANNUAL

*Abstracts in Nature—Black and White
First Prize*

*Leaf, Golden Gate Park Arboretum, San Francisco
Joseph Mikulsky, Capitola, California*



*Urban Beauty—Black and White
First Prize*

*Airline Terminal Stairs, New York
Donald P. Kibbe, Denver, Colorado*

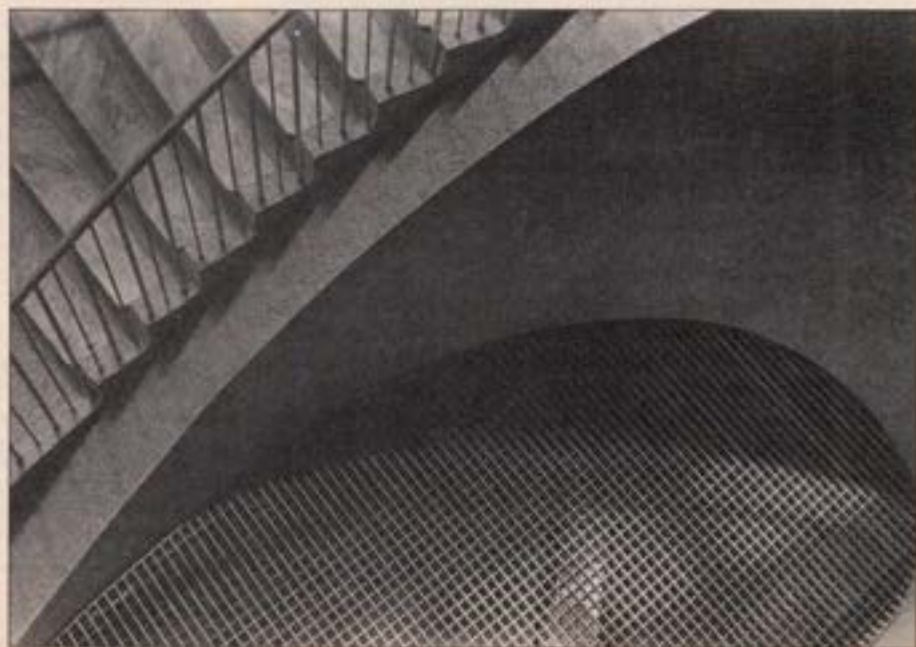


PHOTO-CONTEST WINNERS



*Wildlife—Color
First Prize
"Eye of the Storm"
Denali National Park, Alaska
John Warden, Anchorage, Alaska*



*Wildlife—Color
Second Prize
Black-browed Albatross Nesting on Cliff
Above Rockhopper Penguin Colony,
Falkland Islands
Gloria Heller, Woodside, California*

Sierra has been holding its annual photo contest for five years now, and each year we're impressed by the number and quality of the photographers among our readers. This year we received submissions from all 50 states and from several foreign countries. After sorting through the thousands of slides and prints and winnowing out the finalists, we called in our panel of expert judges, which included a professional nature photographer, an avid amateur photographer and Sierra Club activist, and a former art director for a large-circulation consumer magazine. We are proud to present their choices. (Note: Not all prizes were awarded in each category.)

The grand-prize winner receives a Nikon FG 35mm SLR camera with a 50mm f/1.8 Nikon lens, plus a sleeping bag/liner combination from Because It's There. First-prize winners receive a pair of 9 x 25 CF Nikon binoculars; second prize in each category is a pair of high-quality sunglasses from Vuarnet-France. All prizes were donated by the participating companies.

Prize-winning entries will go on display at the Sierra Club's national headquarters in San Francisco.



*Grand Prize Winner
Wildlife—Color*

*Blue Heron With Catfish, Everglades National Park, Florida
Betty Linithicum, Woodland Park, Colorado*

Abstracts in Nature—Color

First Prize

"Reflections: Pond With Trees"

Shutesbury, Massachusetts

Stephen Schmidt, Amherst, Massachusetts



Abstracts in Nature—Color

Second Prize

Dunes, Great Sand Dunes National Monument, Colorado

Bruce Gammond, Seattle, Washington



International—Color

First Prize

Reine, Lofoten Islands, Norway

Gretchen Batz, Elmhurst, Illinois

[Below]

Second Prize

"Misty Morning Water-Haul"

Gul Bhanjyang, Nepal

Bob Stone, Boulder, Colorado



People In Nature—Color

First Prize

"Scaling a Giant Sand Dune"

Eureka Valley, California

Robert P. Huberman, Los Angeles, California

[Above, right]

Second Prize

"Canoeist at Sunrise"

McCargo Cove, Isle Royale National Park

Mike Connolly, LaCrosse, Wisconsin



Landscapes—Black and White
First Prize
Cumulus Formation Near Holbrook, Arizona
Paul Reinwald, Kansas City, Missouri



Abstracts in Nature—Black and White
Second Prize
"Frosted Grass"
Bopachiel River Valley, Washington
Bruce Matheson, Aberdeen, Washington

EL PASO DE MUERTE

KEEPERS & CROCS ON MEXICO'S RIO GRANDE DE SANTIAGO

ANDREW BALDWIN

¿VENGAN DEL PASO DE MUERTE? I stood on the riverbank, unloading equipment. In ten days my partner, Julie Bell, and I had floated more than 200 miles down the Rio Grande de Santiago in a nine-foot raft. At the bottom they ask if you came through the pass of death.

From Lake Chapala near Ocotlán in the province of Jalisco, the Santiago River runs north and west across much of Central Mexico, emptying into the Pacific at Los Conchos. Near Guadalajara looms the giant Presa Santa Rosa Dam. At the base of this dam, ten days before, I had unrolled and inflated our little boat. How many roads and power lines would we find further down? Surely not many. Just like a long hike back home, I thought: no traffic, no lights, no concrete . . . and if one of us gets hurt, no fancy rescue helicopters either.

No time to worry about that—I was disoriented enough as we pushed off the bank and the current gripped us. This was too easy. By 9 a.m. we were afloat, with the Mexican wilderness closing in—but at midnight I had been standing in a ticket line at the San Francisco airport. When you come to this place, jet lag is a hundred years.

I had studied the topographic maps at the library. The Santiago fit all the requirements: majestic size, plenty of water, and a satisfactory drop. It would have lots of rapids, and probably some big ones. We had a plan: As rapids approached, we would beach the boat. I would walk ahead to the bottom and scout, following the rule: If you can't see the way to the bottom, don't go in the top.

Reading rapids is not easy. There is, most

importantly, no scale. Raging waters can assume similar shapes, and nothing in the water is of known size. Little hazards and big ones can look the same. I could read the directions of the current by watching the bubbles form, and could estimate the timing from one obstacle to the next. So I might know that I had three seconds to move left or right, but often I could not tell how far.

A rock over which the current runs and then plunges into the water is the most dangerous place on the river. The water, robbed of forward motion, curls back on itself, creating suction: a "suckhole" or "keeper" that like a giant fist can hold a boat until it swamps or overturns, and then hold the passengers until they drown. The keeper hides as it waits. It lies below the rock, invisible, while the water rising to slide over the top makes it look, from upstream, smooth, inviting, and slow.

Perched on a rock, with the water rushing below me, I would plan our descent. Where should we go in? Facing which direction? I would look upriver to our tiny boat and try to imagine it making its way down. A raft moves slowly through water—much more slowly than the water itself—so the greatest effort to paddle can make only slight changes in its line of passage.

We entered each rapid in its turn and fought with it. The miles passed, unmeasured. Our maps were crude, and I eventually told my partner I was no longer sure of our location. "So what?" she said. "The river only goes one way."

If necessary, it is possible to cross the river without traveling too far downstream by paddling upstream, thus counteracting some of the force of the current. One set of

obstacles seemed to require that I try this out. There is one drawback to paddling upriver, though. Downstream momentum is lost—momentum that can carry the boat out of a keeper. The keepers are hungrier then, and one of them grabbed us.

We were pulled below a rock, where the water pouring over the top fell straight into the boat—and we were moving not forward but backward and upstream, sucked into the jaws of the trap. In seconds the boat was swamped, increasing its sluggishness and the threat of indefinite capture. I lunged to the front of the boat, hoping to raise the stern up and out of the falls. This failed. We started to spin, and I knew that once we were sideways we would be caught and probably flip as the water came in over the side.

My partner acted quickly. Bracing her paddle between her shoulder and a rock, she stopped the spin. I crawled back to the stern, now flooded, and pushed my paddle through the waterfall against the rock that held us. The paddle slipped. I stabbed again—this time it held, and I pushed harder.



Move, boat! I thought, and it did. We paddled in a frenzy and escaped.

Sometimes the Santiago let us rest. Pools followed on rapids, and in these smooth spaces I would float behind the boat, spinning slowly and watching the green mountains pass by. Tributary streams reached the canyon walls above us and fell into the river.

Countless butterflies of all colors filled the air above us—a garden of flying flowers, imitating heaven. They collected in crowds where it was damp, and rose in clouds when disturbed. I often heard the splash of jumping fish—chasing flies, perhaps, or running from other fish. I kept hearing big splashes along the bank too, and thought, maybe there are big fish.

The banks of the Santiago gave evidence of the river's power. Battered tree trunks weighing untold tons rested on the polished canyon walls up to 20 feet above the water. What would happen, I wondered, if the river

rose at night while we slept? I didn't want to be awakened by the river lifting our tent, so I made a plan. I tied a rope to an inflatable bag, placed the bag near the water, and tied the other end to a shoe under my pillow. That way the rising water would pull the bag, which would pull the shoe and wake me up. My partner watched me at work, then wondered aloud what would happen if the river rose 10 or 20 feet all at once, in a wave of rocks and uprooted trees—what would we do then? I noticed that, aside from our tent, there were no dwellings near the river, so we decided to sleep always higher up than the driftwood.

On the beach, lying atop the overturned boat, I would watch the moon, bright enough to prevent sleep. I thought about waiting for the school bus in the old days, in Illinois, stamping my feet to unfreeze the

blood, with the wind shrieking and the thermometer at 10 below zero. Nothing could be further away. Overhead the mosquitos buzzed appreciatively, bright blue in the light, but with insect repellent we needed neither blanket nor tent.

Until it started to rain, that is. At first there was no rain, though September is still part of the rainy season, and I started to wonder where the water came from to feed the river and the land. Late one afternoon at rest on the beach, I heard a rumble and saw storm clouds of fantastic size, dark as the ink of squids, collecting in the sky. The rain came quickly, with ceaseless lightning, and winds that broke branches from the trees. Then, suddenly as it came, it was gone, receding like a lumbering animal beyond the hills. Every afternoon after that the storms came back.

Days passed, and the Santiago carried us down, bend following bend, past hot springs steaming and spouting into the river. Herons and egrets, always shy, flew ahead, crying warning of our arrival. Vultures, more confident, watched us from the trees. Giant lizards scrambled up the rocks, hunting or evading snakes. Turtles dropped from logs and vanished.

At the top of a rapid I stood in the boat and stared ahead, looking for clues that would tell me whether to run through or go ashore and scout. A big splash, the kind I had been hearing for days, drew my attention toward the bank. This time the source was explained, as into the water slid an eight-foot crocodile.

My partner didn't see the croc, and didn't believe I had really seen one either. Was I bored with the trip, she asked, or do I just enjoy scaring people? I heard another splash. It wasn't long before a crocodile surfaced near the boat. "What's that?" I asked. "A stick?" My partner and the crocodile looked each other in the eye. She was convinced. Crocodiles have been known to bite through broomsticks, and I imagined this crocodile thinking that our rubber boat was just a wrapper on two juicy sausages.

We couldn't leave the river; the map showed miles of impassable canyons in all directions. We certainly couldn't stop and wait for the crocodiles to go away. So we pushed ahead, staying close to the bank; but this meant that when we rounded the corners we would startle dozing crocodiles at close range.

Soon we entered a deep and narrow canyon, smooth, untroubled, and infested with crocodiles. Crocodiles crashing into the water. Crocodiles emerging from the deep. Crocodiles cruising up and down the river, sometimes following the boat like friendly puppies. My partner and I tried to guess whether each floating object was a crocodile



Sketches by Terry Stephens

or a log—which was easy, because it was always a crocodile.

Not many people live near the Santiago, and those who do live simply. As we passed through their settlements I watched and waved. They always smiled, often beckoning and offering food. I thought how easy it might be to win their trust—Cortez had done just that, and then murdered the people and the culture he had found in Mexico.

Descendants of the survivors still live along the river. Fishermen sit on the rocks, tending lines. They make traps from sticks. They cast their nets. They offered us fish as we floated by, but we decided, as rich visitors, to eat only what we had brought.

I had done enough river-rafting to know that the Santiago is not a good place to learn the sport: It is too big, too steep, and too far from home. But as the days passed I felt we were getting better, reading the water well and working together to stay upright and off

the rocks. The rapids did not give up easily, however. I would scout and plan. Sometimes, facing certain disaster, we would carry the boat and gear around. Sometimes we would leave the boat and lead it down with lines. Every rapid was different, and, as our knowledge grew, fear receded.

I stood and scouted another one. It was short, with only two obstacles. Graze the big rock on its right side, I thought, and speed left to avoid the wave below. But after so many successes in so many days I had missed the message in this arrangement, which was that the current swept around the rock, as we did, and immediately plunged into a hole in front of the wave, as we did. When we got there I knew that I had badly misjudged its size.

The wave was so big that, for an instant, it curled over our heads and we were inside. Then it hit, blowing me out of the boat and tearing the paddle from my hands. It carried me at its whim, spinning me and turning me upside down. *This is not a keeper*, I thought to myself as I fought for air.

At the bottom we found ourselves in a pool. I swam to the boat, which was spinning in an eddy, upside down. My partner, emerging behind me, started collecting the gear bags and paddles. The snake boots, the bailer, and everything else that had been unpacked were lost to the deep. I found I had some trouble swimming—and no wonder, because the wave had hit me hard enough to strip my shorts down to my ankles. Bad time to meet a crocodile.

We collected our things on the bank. I was silent, planning and plotting and telling myself that there was no one to help us. The river insisted that when I judged its force I must always be right.

We left the Santiago near Tepic, where another dam is being built. I thought about this as I dragged our boat and equipment out of the river and up to the road. Above the dam where we had started ten days before, the Santiago is already gone. In its place is a dead sea, under an unbroken blanket of water hyacinths that stretches for miles.

They want to flood more of the pass of death. I watched the workers, carrying pipes and bags of cement on their backs, one following the next, endlessly. They drive pickup trucks painted with the slogan, "Para el progreso de Mexico."

"For the progress of Mexico." As we left the river I wondered why the progress of Mexico must mean the end of the wild Rio Grande de Santiago, making of it a staircase of reservoirs covered with weeds. □

Our maps were crude, and I was no longer sure of our location.



The people of the Santiago live simply.



Andrew Baldwin is completing a medical internship at Stanford University Hospital. He is an attorney and former legal director of Friends of the Earth.



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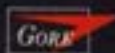
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CLOTHES FOR THE URBAN WILDERNESS

Warmth & ruggedness combine with style to make life in the big city even slicker.

JOE KANE

IF, LIKE ME, you fit the role of modern urban cliff-dweller, your closets hold a cornucopia of rugged outdoor clothing you wouldn't be caught dead wearing this side of the Desolation Wilderness: big old boots with a hectare of Vibram sole, and day-glo nylon parkas with four feet of hood and buckets for pockets.

But if all that good gear is just too darn ugly for the workaday world, it's also too well-made—and too expensive—to be relegated to the closet. And when you hit 12 inches of mud puddle with three inches of Gucci, those Vibram monsters spring quickly to mind: They may look goofy, but they're tough, comfortable, and functional—qualities often lacking in "stylish" clothing.

All that has suddenly changed with the outdoor-clothing industry's new fall line. The down parkas and heavy boots are still available, but much of the fall line is designed to handle 5.9 business lunches as well as weekend ski trips. When next you walk into your neighborhood outfitter, don't be surprised to see Quallofil trenchcoats, bunting bombardier jackets, and polypropylene sweaters in 43 designer colors.

It was bound to happen, especially as the outdoor industry's prime market, the Baby Boomers, lost some of their wanderlust and settled into careers and families. "They still want to hit the trail," says Jim Nystrum, a merchandising vice-president for Eddie Bauer, Inc., "but it's more car-camping and things you can do with kids. They're willing

to pay good money for their gear—they're earning more than they ever have—but they want something that works back home, too."

For the manufacturers, that means re-designing those old naturals, wool and cotton, plus the high-tech amalgams concocted from the witches' brew of modern chemistry—Gore-Tex, polypropylene fibers, and polyester-based lightweight insulators such as Thinsulite and Sontique—into clothing that's both pleasing to the eye and rugged enough to take some abuse.

As you might expect, the principal adaptations are in color and style; yet quality remains an important consideration. "People still pay top dollar for high-tech gear," says Roger McDivitt of Sierra West, "but their criteria have changed. It used to be 'How is this jacket going to work with a pack?' Now it's 'These pockets look good,' 'That color's too dull.' There's a strong incentive for the industry to make clothing that's attractive as well as functional."

The trend is most evident in the jackets brought out this year. Flip through the manufacturers' catalogues and you'll find page after page of jackets in a mind-numbing array of combinations: wool and satin, Thinsulite and cordura, fleece and nylon, nylon and pile, Gore-Tex and Sontique . . . Gore-Tex and practically everything.

Even though the physical demands placed on such apparel may be less than before, these jackets are designed to stand up to a variety of uses. This means that the old layering principle has been put aside in favor of many layers in one: polypro for warmth, nylon for wind protection, Gore-Tex for water resistance.

Which combination works best? That, of course, depends on how you plan to use what you wear. Some jackets are designed to double as, say, running suits—light shells



Prepared for both the elements and the ethos of the urban wilderness, she's wearing a nylon-and-Entrant windbreaker and a "Coventry" wool sweater from Sierra Designs. He's wearing a Quallofil-insulated jacket from Coleman Peak I, a polypropylene sweater from Donner Mountain, and Gore-Tex shoes ("Wood Ducks") from Norm Thompson. The patterned wool pullover above is from Sierra Designs.

with perspiration-wicking polypro liners. Others will see duty as skiwear: a more rugged outer material with wind-blocking and waterproofing capabilities. But all have one goal in common: to look good even when you're stalking nothing more elusive than the wild cappuccino.

What does this mean in specific terms?

Bomber jackets, for one thing, made from the stuff of glacial assaults. Coleman, for example, now offers what it bills as "tough yet stylish" apparel featuring a bomber jacket cut along the lines of its classic leather forebears but constructed of a polyester-nylon-cotton shell, Quallofil synthetic insulation, and nylon taffeta lining.

Likewise, Wilderness Experience and The North Face, long considered the leaders in high-tech outdoor gear, have turned their

market with what it calls "Townware," which differs from most of what is being offered in that it relies on wool and corduroy. Their "Chesapeake," a flight-style, waist-length jacket, is 100-percent wool with a satin lining; the "Cimarron" is a waist-length corduroy shell featuring Quallofil synthetic insulation.

Moving along to rainwear: The jury is still out on Gore-Tex (as it probably will be for

American market on a large scale. The word on Entrant raingear, which will cost about two thirds as much as its Gore-Tex counterparts, is that while it's not as waterproof as Gore-Tex under some conditions, it's more breathable. L.L. Bean, REI, and Sierra Designs, among others, will offer Entrant in their fall catalogues.

In some ways, says Ben Toland of Sierra Designs, Entrant is more suited to the town-



Bright colors abound in the new, cityed outdoor clothing. From left to right: Gore-Tex "Urban Frontier" trenchcoat from Wilderness Experience; quilted polypropylene sweater from Patagonia; hooded Gore-Tex parka from Sierra West; canvas-and-rubber "Getaway" shoes from Donner Mountain; wool "Chesapeake" bomber jacket from The North Face. The corduroy "Cimarron" (in black and white) is also from The North Face.

attentions increasingly to the casual park-taker. Like Coleman, Wilderness Experience is marketing a line of flight-style jackets. One model is a single layer of what they call Polarfleece, a tightly woven pile that stands up well to the wind and has more stretch than standard pile. Another adds a shell of Gore-Tex-laminated nylon to the fleece. Among the compromises to fashion are a body-hugging design and slash pockets. But Wilderness Experience has taken the trend even further, with a line of trenchcoats marketed as "Urban Frontier" clothing. All connection with the outdoors is gone, except for the materials; Gore-Tex-laminated nylon over svelte Sontique synthetic insulation, cut in a style befitting an oxygenless assault on upper Fifth Avenue.

Thankfully, not all these new clothes are synthetics. North Face has jumped into the

the rest of this century), but the market plunges ahead in its use of the Teflon laminate. One big change is a retreat from the extremely lightweight raingear pioneered over the last few years in favor of more substantial multiple-ply models.

"Two years ago we offered a line of super-light Gore-Tex rainwear that just didn't go over well with the casual consumer," says Sierra West's McDivitt. "It was as strong as conventional Gore-Tex gear, but when people picked it up off the shelf, it just didn't feel like it would hold up. This year we've re-designed it—it can be heavier, because weight isn't critical around town, and we've reinforced it around abuse areas like the elbows, knees, and seat." To that end, Sierra West's toughened-up rainwear includes a series of two-ply nylon-lined Gore-Tex jackets with removable hoods, and lined, full-zipper, elasticized-waist pants in a variety of colors.

Until recently, Gore-Tex has had the waterproof-yet-breathable market pretty much cornered. But now Entrant, a polyester-urethane coating that's been used in Japan for close to a decade, is making it into the

and-trail concept than is Gore-Tex. Because air can pass through it, one sweats less while wearing it, which is always a plus on the social circuit. And while it can't match Gore-Tex on the Mullens test—which gauges direct susceptibility to extreme water pressure—it outperforms it on the Bundesmann test, which measures water pressure in combination with simulated body friction against the fabric. It also feels softer than Gore-Tex. With that in mind, Sierra Designs is offering matching Entrant-treated storm jackets and pants as well as an Entrant mountain parka.

Meanwhile REI, which has designed a line of Entrant-treated skiwear that includes insulated parkas, rain pants, and jackets, is sticking to Gore-Tex for its primary entry in the multiple-use market. The company's "Triad" parka is really two garments in one: an outer poplin-and-Gore-Tex parka with detachable hood, and a zip-out inner sweat-

er of goose down that can be worn alone or as insulation for the parka. Introduced last fall, Triad quickly became REI's biggest-selling parka; reintroduced this year in tonier colors, it is, many seem to feel, the quintessential town-and-trail garment.

Despite all the interest generated by waterproof fabrics, at least some clothiers think dryness owes as much to design as to the miracle materials currently in vogue. That opinion is shared by the people at Patagonia. Although they now use a nonbreathable



waterproof coating on several of their products, they depend more on the quick-drying properties of pile, bunting, and polypropylene. (The latter, a petroleum-based synthetic fiber first developed for use in carpeting, has been spun with increasing ingenuity over the last few years into ever finer yarns suitable for clothing.)

Patagonia, which set the tone for high-tech town-and-trail clothing with its pile and bunting jackets a few years ago, now offers a shelled polypro jacket-and-pants combo that functions as a fashionable two-piece wind suit. The apparent flimsiness of most such gear is offset here by the woven polypro lining, whose outstanding wicking capabilities, in turn, are enhanced by a water-repellant (but not waterproof) nylon-taffeta shell.

Polypropylene in its many incarnations seems to be the latest word among clothing designers and manufacturers. This season Patagonia will offer a "street" version of a lightweight insulated jacket made of quilted polypro—a new combination of polyester batting interwoven with polypropylene.

But the biggest twist on polypro is a new line of sweaters from Donner Mountain. Donner's suppliers have respun polypro fibers into a short, fine, sweater-weight yarn that has the look and feel of wool. It's been treated to accept a wide range of dyes, thereby overcoming what had been its biggest drawback: If you didn't look good in blue or white, you didn't wear polypro.

As a sweater material, polypro offers several advantages over wool. The first is that it is much easier to maintain than wool: It can simply be thrown in the wash, then hung out

to dry. The second is that people who have a bad reaction to wool now have a choice of sorts. Like wool, polypro is extremely warm. It won't absorb more than 1 percent of its weight in water, and even then it dries so quickly that it mimics wool's ability to retain heat when wet.

Polypro's wicking properties become somewhat irrelevant in a sweater, because most people wear some sort of garment beneath it. But polypro, ounce for ounce, is a much better insulator than wool, which means that you'll receive a comparable degree of warmth from a considerably lighter garment. It also gives better "hand"—only wool of the highest quality is softer to the touch.

Wool, however, will never go out of fashion, and I suspect there are as many bad reactions (ideological as well as physical) to petro-based fibers as there are to wool. Sierra Designs offers by far the most extensive collection of good-looking, rugged wool sweaters—the kind that will stand up to a day of cross-country face plows and still help you out-hip the downhillers back at the lodge that night.

Eddie Bauer, meanwhile, has taken a new approach to traditional women's knickers—constructing them of corduroy to standards rugged enough for cross-country skiing, then giving them around-town style with a pleated front and tapered body. They've also come up with a warm yet attractive flannel skirt that departs from the usual flannel plaid in favor of such contemporary colors as jade, lavender, and plum. And Patagonia has taken the advantages of pants—pockets, modesty, stride—and worked them into a canvas walking skirt that'll look good on city streets: slanted pockets in front, belt loops, and buttons down the front that can be undone a notch at a time to match a hiking stride—or a dance step.

Okay, you say, I've got jackets, raingear, pants, sweaters, skirts—what about the bottom line? We're talking shoes here, and if you think the new trends in clothing are confusing, wait till you see what they're doing to your feet.

First off, they're trying to Gore-Tex them. Now, that may be worthwhile in a hiking boot, but in the new "fashionable" shoes—and more are being offered than you can walk away from in a day—that smells like marketing overkill. I mean, you step in a puddle in ankle-high shoes, and all the Gore-Tex in REI isn't going to keep you dry. There are, however, spinoffs from the recent explosion in lightweight hiking boots that make sense in a combination walking-and-around-town shoe.

Basically, the formula is this: You take the old 85-pound hiking boot, build it out of lightweight material—the new leathers, say,

or cordura and leather, or a good canvas—rake it a bit, cut it pretty low, and scrape the requisite VW-bumper's worth of hardware off it. Next, give it a light-rubber sole that's supported by a steel shank and molded so your foot sits well down inside it (instead of on top of it, as it does in most running shoes). Finally, give it some nice color—soft earth tones if it's leather, wild designer tones if it's cordura or canvas.

What you get can be one of several things. It might be a supersophisticated tennis shoe, like the canvas-and-rubber "Getaway" from Donner Mountain, which is urbane enough for most offices, yet just fine for a weekend hike. Or, if you must have Gore-Tex, you can get something like the low-cut version of Danner's "Hiker"—made of cordura and leather, so it's soft and light (two pounds); of hiking-boot sturdiness, to support your feet and absorb shocks; and sleek to—uh—boot.

(Then again, sometimes you find that perfect multipurpose shoe in the strangest of places. For the last two years I've been wearing a pair of all-black Adidas referee shoes. They're leather with a rubber sole, sturdy enough to support a loaded backpack, sufficiently fashionable to pass at dinner parties, narcotically comfortable, and easily spiffed up with black shoe polish. Who could ask for more?)

So what will your new wardrobe cost you? In some cases it will come relatively cheaply: Those "Getaway" shoes retail for under \$30, and the Danner "Hiker," which will last years, is about \$50. Polypro sweaters cost roughly the same as their wool counterparts. Most of the myriad jackets fall in the \$80 to \$120 range, which I consider a bargain, given that they will see double duty. Gore-Tex gear is still expensive, but I suspect that competition from Entrant and its counterparts may force those prices down soon.

One caveat, however: Assess your needs realistically. While you can expect outdoor clothing designed for town use to be much more durable than its department-store equivalents, don't expect it to do extraordinarily tough work.

A case in point: On a recent visit to the Himalaya, I met a crew of Tibetan monks who looked as though they'd been doing their footwear shopping from an outdoor-gear catalogue. They were clad predominantly in lightweight hiking boots discarded by Westerners who found that the boots simply wouldn't stand up to two months of rugged trekking.

But boy, did they ever look sharp in the tea shops. □

Joe Kane writes the "Whole Earth Catalog" column for the San Francisco Chronicle. His work has appeared in Esquire, Outside, Mother Jones, and Rolling Stone.

THE DECOMMISS

Building and operating nuclear-power plants—that's only part of the problem. What do we do with them after they're shut down?

MARTIN PASQUALETTI

SOMETIME WITHIN the next year the Department of Energy will begin the decommissioning of a nuclear-power plant in Shippingport, Pennsylvania. The entire reactor vessel will be placed on a barge and floated down the Mississippi River. It will continue through the Panama Canal, up the Pacific Ocean to the Columbia River; then it will be towed to its final resting place at the federal nuclear-waste repository in Hanford, Washington.

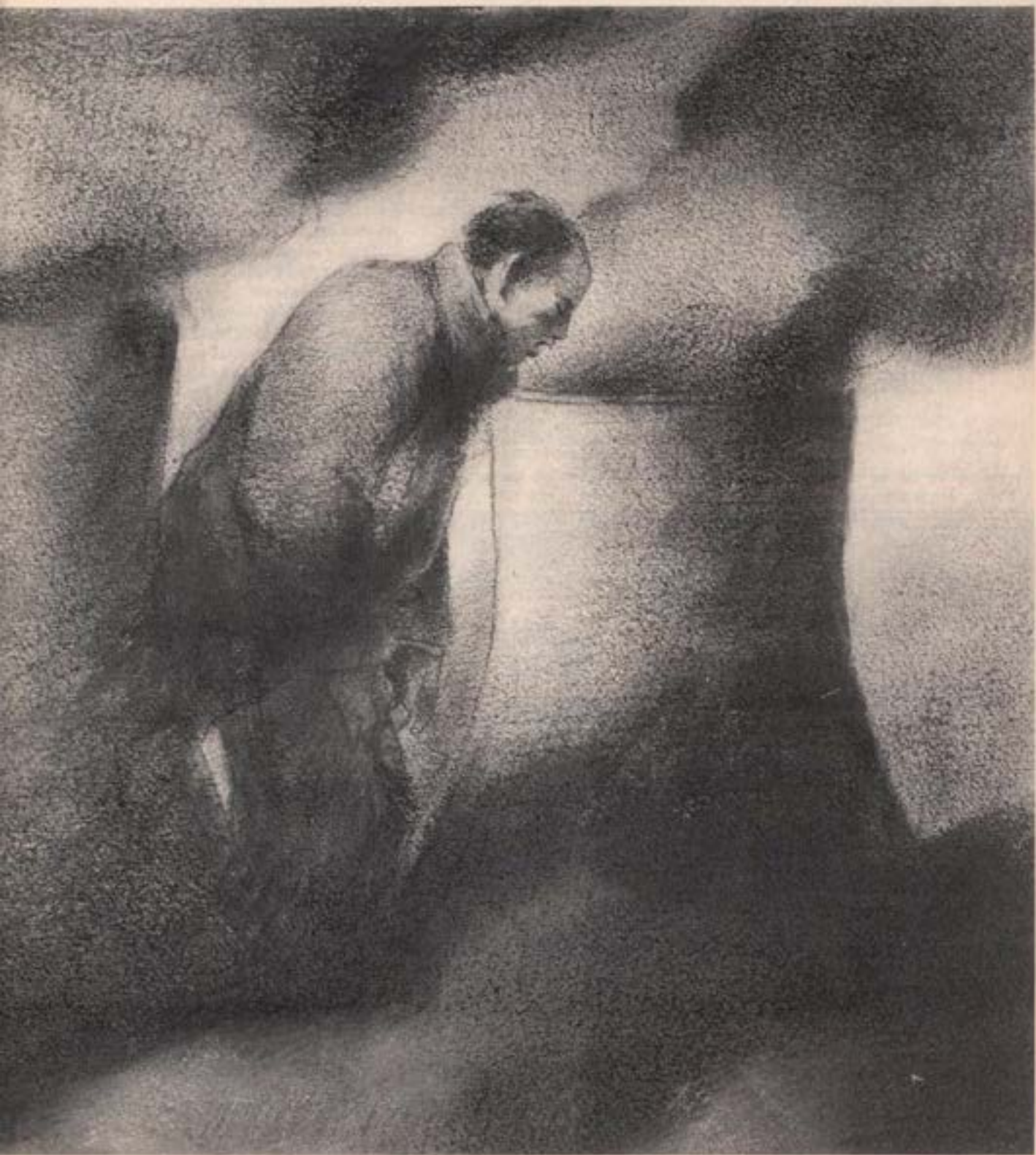
A treacherous voyage for tons of deadly radioactive material—but only the first variation on a theme that will be played out many times over during the coming decades. There are now 83 licensed commercial nuclear-power plants in this country, with approximately 55 more scheduled to come on-line in the next ten years. Nukes do not live forever—they have a relatively short life-expectancy of 30 years—and many of the plants commissioned in the 1960s are nearing the end of their days. While few of us will shed tears over a dead nuke, the manner in which these forbidding structures are treated once their operating lives have ended will be an issue of concern for many generations.

Much like an automobile, nuclear-power plants are expected to operate most efficiently and cost-effectively during their early lives. Unlike most automobiles, nuclear facilities receive a constant and programmed amount of careful maintenance, to reduce time lost to forced power outages. Even with this attention, however, a nuclear-utility company, like a car-owner, must contend with gradual deterioration, changes in standards and laws, and the availability of technical improvements; collectively, these result in diminishing returns, leading in time to the decision to abandon the facility.

The primary reason for shutting down a nuclear-power plant is that the reactor vessel, which has been irradiated by neutrons, loses its ductility and becomes brittle. Re-



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placement of the reactor vessel is an option at this point, but social, legal, or technical conditions might change enough to argue against it. Finally, a time will come when further repairs are not the most viable, economic option.

The major difference between nuclear equipment and all other types, of course, is that nuclear facilities pose a radiological hazard. This is what makes their decommissioning such a significant topic. All private, federal, and commercial nuclear facilities (e.g., uranium mines and milling facilities, fuel-fabrication facilities, uranium conversion-and-enrichment plants) must be decommissioned, but it is the commercial nuclear-power plant that will attract the greatest public interest.

Public interest in nuclear issues—which has greatly affected the industry over the past ten years—has not been stimulated primarily by technical considerations. Private citizens are generally not interested in the speed of a neutron or in how much uranium must be enriched before it can sustain a chain reaction; they want to know how the technology will affect them personally in terms of safety and costs. An array of social questions has focused the public's attention on nuclear energy.

There are many signs that the issue of decommissioning is ready to capture public attention. Media coverage of the topic is increasing; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is about to issue new proposed regulations on decommissioning; many utilities are including decommissioning costs in their applications for rate increases; and for the first time it has been announced that a commercial nuclear-power plant is ready for decommissioning. But is the public ready?

In view of the significant role social concerns have played in the development of nuclear power, it seems sensible that the social implications of decommissioning be examined as soon as possible. The results would be illuminating to the nuclear industry as well as to the general public. So far, however, investigations into the topic have focused on engineering, with only the slightest recognition of public issues and involvement. This technical emphasis is not surprising. As Clark Prichard, an economist and regulatory analyst with the NRC, has stated, "The NRC is a technical organization. We do not do research into socioeconomics unless pushed into it."

One of the problems of decommissioning is choosing among the three basic types: immediate dismantlement, safe storage, and entombment. The financial, social, and environmental implications differ with each option, and all need to be considered by the public.

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Immediate dismantlement, referred to as DECON by the nuclear industry, requires the prompt removal of all spent fuel rods and radioactive fluids, and may also involve removal of the containment structure, foundations, and nearby roads and powerlines. DECON for a large facility

could take four years. If a plant is dismantled promptly, the land may be reused, the aesthetic impact is mitigated, and those most knowledgeable about the plant are readily available with the most complete set of records. At the same time the danger to workers and local residents from radio-

The Short, Sad Life and Long, Slow Death of Humboldt Bay

NUCLEAR ENERGY made its California debut in 1958, when Pacific Gas & Electric announced that the state's first atomic-power plant would be built on the remote north coast. Two years later surveyors mapped out a site a few miles south of Eureka, and in September 1963 Humboldt Bay became the seventh nuclear-power plant in the country to go on-line.

In what was to prove an inauspicious beginning, Humboldt underwent two sudden emergency shutdowns within its first two months of operation. For ten weeks during 1965, faulty fuel rods released uncontrolled radiation. A near-meltdown occurred in July 1970, the year that Humboldt, which led all the nation's reactors in radioactive emissions, was labeled the country's "dirtiest" nuke by *Science* magazine.

The beginning of the end for Humboldt came in 1976, when a Forest Service geologist documented the existence of two active earthquake faults in the vicinity, one only 56 feet from the reactor. The plant was closed for refueling at the time, and—following a petition by citizen intervenors to keep it shut down permanently—the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ruled that Humboldt should not be reopened.

The plant was removed from PG&E's rate base in 1979. In July 1983 the utility announced that it did not plan to operate the plant ever again and that the decommissioning process would begin.

Because the shutdown of the plant in 1976 had not eliminated the earthquake danger, citizen activists had begun their own decommissioning process years before PG&E's 1983 announcement. They sponsored conferences on decommissioning in 1979 and 1981 to focus community attention on the technical and financial problems facing Humboldt. No one had any clear idea how the decommissioning process was going to work, and PG&E had used the money collected from ratepayers for decommissioning to pay the utility's day-to-day operating expenses.

In 1983 the PUC ruled that all state utilities must establish an "external sinking fund," a separate fund for decommissioning that would be outside the utilities' control. The ruling did not settle the financial controversy over Humboldt, however. PG&E now claims that, because it was fulfilling its responsibility to provide economical energy to its customers, the ratepayers should be responsible for the full costs of decommissioning; the utility has requested a \$130-million rate hike for this purpose. Others argue that the majority of the burden should be borne by PG&E stockholders, because Humboldt failed to operate for even half its expected lifetime. The PUC has yet to determine who should pay how much for how long.

Technical questions remain as well. PG&E has not made a formal announcement concerning its decommissioning plans, but it apparently intends to delay dismantlement of the Humboldt Bay facility until 2015. Meanwhile, it has already embarked on a modified version of safe storage: The fuel rods have been removed from the reactor core and placed in an on-site storage pool. Critics are concerned about the safety of the storage plan: The pool is below sea level and only 100 yards from the ocean—and the earthquake faults that were there in 1976 have not disappeared.

As an intervenor since 1978 in the NRC proceedings regarding Humboldt, the Sierra Club is asking for a full environmental impact statement on PG&E's decommissioning plans. The Club contends that decommissioning is a matter of great public interest and that approval of a plan would constitute "major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

Humboldt Bay operated for a mere 13 years. Its afterlife could indeed be an eternity. —Annie Stine

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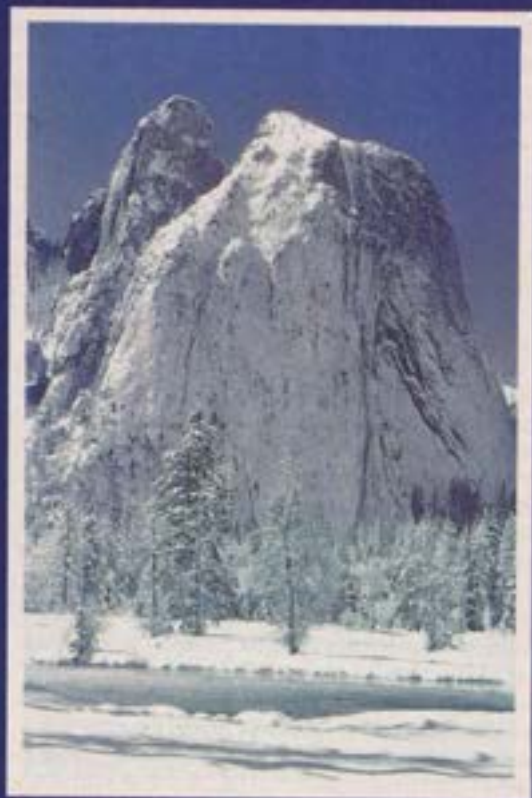
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active exposure is higher, and a large amount of waste is generated.

Safe storage allows radioactive decay of some dangerous but shorter-lived radioisotopes, such as Cobalt-60. The procedure consists of removing the spent fuel and radioactive fluids and monitoring the property so that the exposure risk is acceptable over an extended decay period. After some additional actions are taken, such as removal of any still-hazardous materials, the plant may then be either released for unrestricted use or dismantled.

If a plant is put in safe storage, the general public dosage and the risk to workers go down, but land remains committed, aesthetic impact is not reduced, the pool of knowledge and the completeness of records erodes, and cost to the utility is deferred. The question of just how long a period of safe storage is appropriate has not been resolved, although timeframes of up to 100 years are often mentioned.

Under the entombment option the radioactive or contaminated materials are covered with reinforced concrete rather than removed. This is viable only if the entombing structure can be expected to last many half-lives of the most objectionable long-lived isotope, which could be thousands of years.

THERE ARE THOSE who believe there is no substitute for prompt dismantlement. "Safe storage is a euphemism," says Sally Hindman of Public Citizen, a branch of Ralph Nader's Critical Mass in Washington, D.C. "It's like calling the MX missile a 'Peacekeeper.'" Others believe that dismantling a plant is generally not the safest option, because it unnecessarily puts radioactive dust into the air and burdens waste-repository facilities. Currently, the lack of adequate waste repositories makes the decision over the options easier: Plants cannot be dismantled if there is no place to put the debris.

One of the arguments favoring prompt dismantlement is related to equity. Simply stated, if the plants are placed in safe storage, future generations will have to deal with them even though they will receive none of the electricity generated. Often the equity arguments are reduced to considerations of who should assume the financial burden.

Everyone agrees that decommissioning will cost money, but there is substantial disagreement as to how much. The Atomic Industrial Forum, the nuclear industry's lobbying group, estimates that between \$55 million and \$65 million would be required to decommission a commercial 1,000-MW plant. However, given that current cost overruns for construction of nuclear power plants are running at a rate of almost 1,000

percent, many believe the cost of decommissioning will be much greater than the industry is suggesting. Part of the uncertainty results from our lack of experience in the decommissioning of nuclear-power plants, particularly large ones. Moreover, the cost will vary according to the decommissioning mode chosen. For example, if a plant is dismantled immediately, there is salvage value; if dismantlement is delayed, the salvage value would not be the same.

Most worrisome is that the majority of the utilities have no way to ensure that, when the time comes, money will be available for decommissioning. At present only six states have *mandated* what is called an "external sinking fund," in which the money for decommissioning is collected from ratepayers and kept in an account outside the utility's control. Utilities in other states use an internal sinking account, whereby monies are put into a general operating fund—with no guarantee that they will still be around at decommissioning time.

While some attention has been paid to financing, other important social factors have been slighted in the decommissioning documents. For example, while the Environmental Protection Agency is currently trying to determine what the "dose limit" should be, there is no agreed-upon minimum radiation level that would allow a facility to be opened to unrestricted use.

Inasmuch as the intent of the DECON option is to release the site for unrestricted use, the question of acceptable dose limit becomes especially significant, particularly when case histories of former nuclear sites are reviewed. As Steven Brooks, information coordinator for the Nuclear Information and Resource Service in Washington, D.C., points out, "There are a wealth of sites that were cleaned up, given a clean bill of health by the Atomic Energy Commission, and released for unrestricted use—including construction of schools, houses, and churches—only to have it discovered 20 years down the line that the cleanup was not done very well and that the people on the formerly radioactive site are experiencing health problems and watching their property values plummet. In such cases—Grand Junction, Colo., and Canonsburg, Penn., are two that come immediately to mind—the business that operated the site originally is often long gone, and the taxpayers end up footing the bill."

Transportation of radioactive materials, tax revenues, jobs, visual impact, radiation exposure, and planned future land use are a few of the other nontechnical issues related to decommissioning that have yet to receive much attention.

The NRC's proposed rule on decommissioning nuclear-power plants will be re-

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leased for public comment this fall. After this 60- to 90-day period the NRC will continue to develop its final regulations, scheduled for release in 1985. The rule is of particular importance because it will establish guidelines affecting the safety and economics of the decommissioning process.

Our energy planners embarked on a nuclear future before its inherent problems were fully addressed, and the consequences are proving difficult and costly to reverse. If we have learned anything from past experiences, it is that the most important responsibility of each citizen is to become informed. This responsibility certainly extends to nuclear-policy issues. Public involvement in decommissioning discussions does not in itself guarantee that more-sensible decisions will be made. Nonetheless, people should be knowledgeable enough to evaluate the possible effects of policies ostensibly being made on their behalf by federal regulatory agencies.

Although there have been opportunities for citizens to contribute to the debate on decommissioning, the level of public understanding remains low. If current trends continue, the public will stand witness to a *fait accompli* regarding the formulation of decommissioning policy. □

Martin Pasqualetti, associate professor of geography at Arizona State University, is co-editor of Nuclear Energy: Assessing and Managing Hazardous Technology (Westview, 1984).

For a free copy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposed rule pertaining to the decommissioning of nuclear-power plants, call the NRC's Distribution Branch at its toll-free number: (800) 638-8282. If you would like more information on decommissioning, or want to comment on the rule, write to Carl Feldman, Chemical Engineering Branch, Division of Engineering Technology, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; telephone (202) 443-7910.

Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, which serves as the national clearinghouse for decommissioning information, is working to promote public participation in the development of decommissioning regulations. Critical Mass is currently looking for people, particularly those in the scientific and academic communities, who might like to comment. For more information contact Sally Hindman, Critical Mass Energy Project, 215 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, DC 20003; telephone (202) 546-4996.

FOR YOUNGER READERS

POETRY FIELD TRIPS

LORRAINE FERRA

CAN YOU REMEMBER a summer day when you were lying on your back in cool grass, watching clouds float overhead? If they seemed more like a flock of sheep grazing in a blue meadow than mere clouds, you were thinking like a poet, and your thought was a poem.

One of the things poets do is try to describe "ordinary" things—such as trees, birds, flowers, and rocks—as the marvels they are. You can try the same sort of thing. What you learn about the wonders of the Earth can be as exciting as finding a new friend.

One way to become more familiar with nature is to go on poetry field trips, which are simply ways of exploring nature by observing plants, rocks, or animals and then writing down your thoughts about them in poems.

On your first poetry field trip you might search just for a flower. Look around your yard, neighborhood, or city park. If your family is planning a weekend drive in the countryside or to the mountains, keep an eye out for wildflowers. Besides carrying a pad and pencil, you might want to take along a field guide to help you identify the flowers by name.

Once you have chosen a flower, sit quietly beside it for a while. What does it smell like? Are its leaves and stem smooth or fuzzy? What about its color? Is it bright or is it dark? Are the petals thick, delicate, or velvety? What do the flower's different parts remind you of? Use your answers to these questions to write a short poem describing the flower.

Here is an example written by a boy who found a wild rose growing beside a canyon trail:

THE WILD ROSE

High in the silent forest
a wild rose sits. In its center
a harmless sun rests. Its petals
are wings of a baby chick.
Its leaves are hands waving
goodbye.

Adam Lewis, 11 years

Remember, poems do not have to rhyme. Trying to find a rhyming word can often ruin the idea you started out with.

Here are some other fine poems about flowers:

LADIES-TRESSES

It's white and lacy
like the bottom of a gown.
The stem is the color of the sky
on the night of a hurricane.
The blossom bows its head
as a bird whistles in the wind.
And the buds come out, slowly,
as if to hear their first directions.

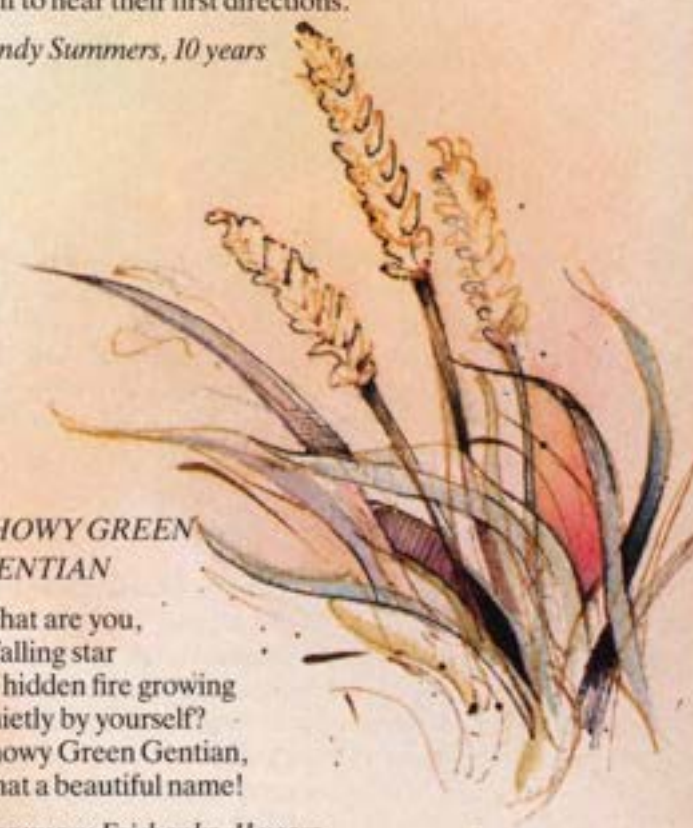
Cindy Summers, 10 years

SHOWY GREEN GENTIAN

What are you,
a falling star
or hidden fire growing
quietly by yourself?
Showy Green Gentian,
what a beautiful name!

Rosemary Fairbanks, 11 years

Even though you may be taking a poetry field trip to search out and write about a particular object, feel free to explore other things if they spark your interest. While walking around looking for flowers you might



be attracted by something else, such as a cluster of grapes hanging over a fence:

INSIDE A GRAPE

Inside a grape purple mountains gleam.
The seeds are like eggs
speckled all over.
The outside is like a jacket
which protects them
from pesticides and rain.

Matthew Speckman, 11 years

Or you might catch sight of a horse scratching his muzzle against the post of a corral:

INSIDE A HORSE'S EAR

Inside a horse's ear you might hear
a little bird singing
or a bee buzzing
or another horse trotting along a dusty lane
with its furry mane flowing
in the soft gentle breeze of a special windy day.
And those lines in his ear are like
roads that never end. . . .

Matthew Nash, 9 years

Perhaps you can remember a time you witnessed the sight of a deer bounding across a road and then disappearing into a grove of apple trees. Try to imagine how a deer spends its day. What do you think it sees and hears while wandering around in the woods? Make a list of those sights and sounds. Then begin a poem (as the writer of "Inside a Horse's Ear" did) by writing, "Inside a deer's ear you might hear" or "Inside a deer's eye you will see," including the variety of ideas from your list.

Try to use interesting words to describe the actions and appearances of the animal or object you are writing about. For example, in the poem about the horse, the writer doesn't say the horse is running along a road. He has the horse "trotting along a dusty lane."

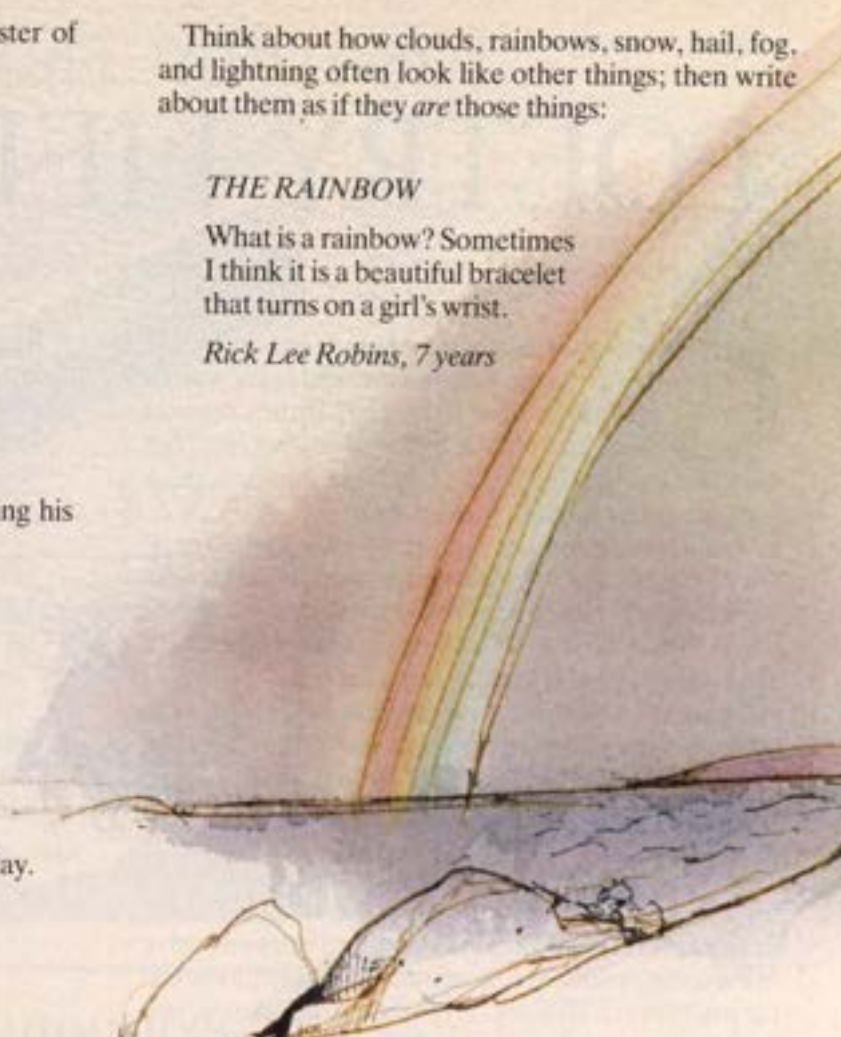
Weather is an inexhaustible source of ideas for poems. You need only step outside your house to feel the freshness of new-fallen snow or a light rainfall. If wet weather or illness limits your activities and keeps you indoors, a poetry field trip can be as quick a journey as a few steps to a window. From there you can watch dark thunderclouds riding toward you like a herd of buffalo, or catch sight of a sudden rainbow before it disappears.

Think about how clouds, rainbows, snow, hail, fog, and lightning often look like other things; then write about them as if they *are* those things:

THE RAINBOW

What is a rainbow? Sometimes
I think it is a beautiful bracelet
that turns on a girl's wrist.

Rick Lee Robins, 7 years



Besides describing your subject as being like *one* thing (let's use thunder as an example), write a poem that becomes a list of several things you associate with thunder. Think of doing it this way: Write about thunder as though it were (1) an animal, (2) a tree or flower, (3) a tool, (4) a person, and (5) a musical instrument. You don't have to put them in that particular order, but remember to include all five categories, like this:

THUNDER

Thunder is a crow cawing softly
to a tree. It is my mother
calling me in for lunch
when I was having a good time.
Thunder is a loud trumpet
playing a song I hate!
It is a black-eyed Susan.
Thunder is a screwdriver
tightening the sun to the sky.

Kristen Fikkan, 7 years

Notice how skillfully the writer of the next poem depicts the various qualities of rainfall by thinking about rain in the five suggested ways:

RAIN IS A TALL THIN GIRL

Rain is the petals
falling off a daisy.
It is a Siamese cat
walking in the fields.
It sounds like the high
key on a piano.
It is a tall thin girl.
Rain is a hammer
hitting the ground hard.

Elizabeth Bradley, 7 years



Another way to explore weather is to imagine how you would feel and what you would do if you were a streak of lightning, a raindrop, a thunderhead, or a snowflake:

SNOWFLAKE

Go inside a snowflake
high above the earth.
Let someone else be a pencil
or a tall tree.
I am happy to be a snowflake.

From the outside
I am different patterns
of beautiful soft lace.
From the inside I am cool and misty,
different colors dancing before my eyes.

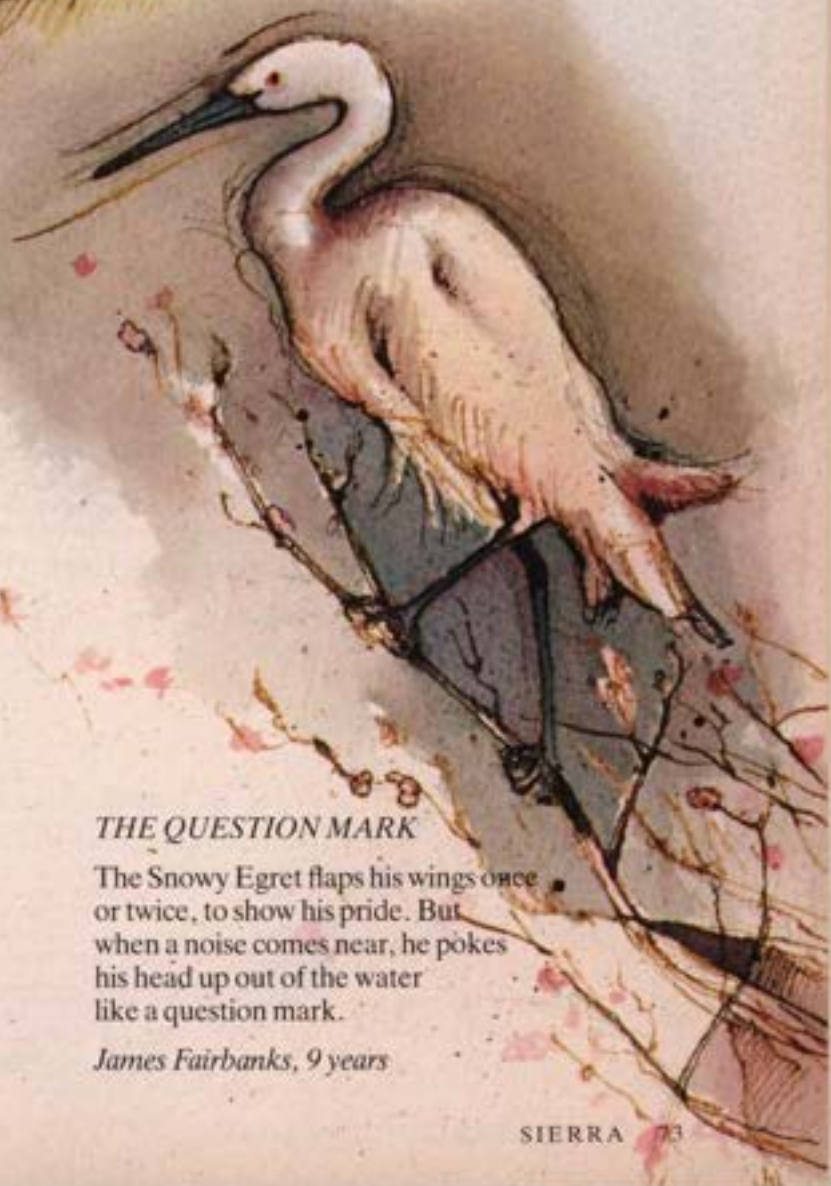
When I float down
I land on children's eyelashes
or they catch me on their tongues.
I make them laugh.
I see people huddled
in their warm coats and winter hats.

I admire snowflakes
floating down to the earth
with soft gestures.

Sara Pitkin, 12 years

Birds and their habits provide plentiful ideas for poetry. You could fill notebooks with poems about their sizes and shapes, assorted colors, and enchanting songs. Be on the lookout for the different species that appear around your house. Check your state map to see if there is a refuge for migratory birds somewhere nearby. Many cities have aviaries where you can see at close range the kinds of birds you will never find perched on the branches of trees in your yard: swans, condors, cranes, toucans, and flamingos. Mountains, fields, marshes, and swamps attract other species; and there must be at least one park in your town with a pond sheltering ducks, geese, and other waterfowl.

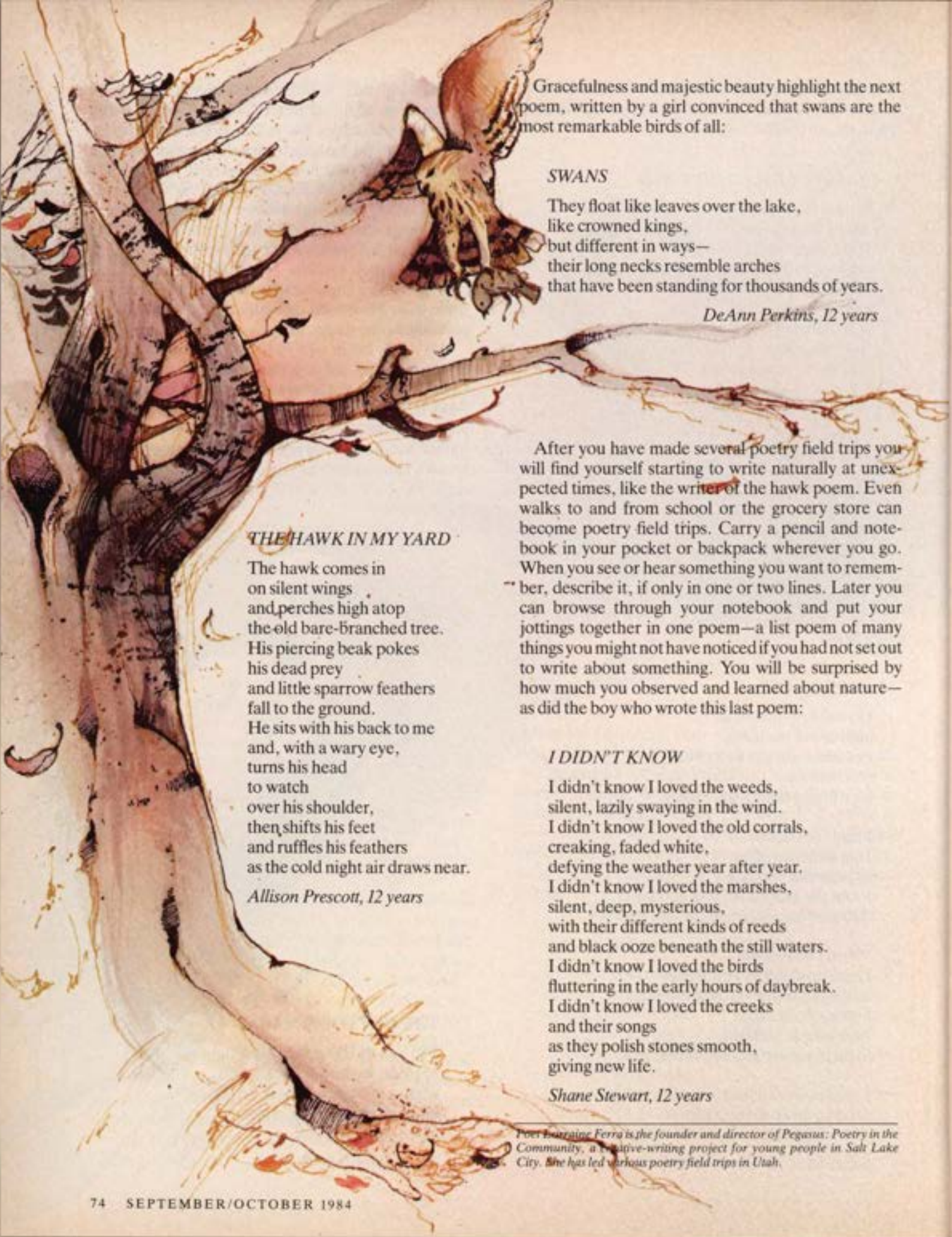
You might begin writing about a bird by using the comparison method suggested for the flower poems. Concentrate on the different parts of the bird's body. Also, think about its graceful or awkward movements and about the similarity between bird behavior and human habits. The boy who wrote the following poem about a snowy egret fishing in the river channel captured the bird's physical appearance and its almost human vanity:



THE QUESTION MARK

The Snowy Egret flaps his wings once or twice, to show his pride. But when a noise comes near, he pokes his head up out of the water like a question mark.

James Fairbanks, 9 years



Gracefulness and majestic beauty highlight the next poem, written by a girl convinced that swans are the most remarkable birds of all:

SWANS

They float like leaves over the lake,
like crowned kings,
but different in ways—
their long necks resemble arches
that have been standing for thousands of years.

DeAnn Perkins, 12 years

THE HAWK IN MY YARD

The hawk comes in
on silent wings
and perches high atop
the old bare-branched tree.
His piercing beak pokes
his dead prey
and little sparrow feathers
fall to the ground.
He sits with his back to me
and, with a wary eye,
turns his head
to watch
over his shoulder,
then shifts his feet
and ruffles his feathers
as the cold night air draws near.

Allison Prescott, 12 years

After you have made several poetry field trips you will find yourself starting to write naturally at unexpected times, like the writer of the hawk poem. Even walks to and from school or the grocery store can become poetry field trips. Carry a pencil and notebook in your pocket or backpack wherever you go. When you see or hear something you want to remember, describe it, if only in one or two lines. Later you can browse through your notebook and put your jottings together in one poem—a list poem of many things you might not have noticed if you had not set out to write about something. You will be surprised by how much you observed and learned about nature—as did the boy who wrote this last poem:

I DIDN'T KNOW

I didn't know I loved the weeds,
silent, lazily swaying in the wind.
I didn't know I loved the old corrals,
creaking, faded white,
defying the weather year after year.
I didn't know I loved the marshes,
silent, deep, mysterious,
with their different kinds of reeds
and black ooze beneath the still waters.
I didn't know I loved the birds
fluttering in the early hours of daybreak.
I didn't know I loved the creeks
and their songs
as they polish stones smooth,
giving new life.

Shane Stewart, 12 years

Poet Laureate Ferris is the founder and director of Pegasus: Poetry in the Community, a creative-writing project for young people in Salt Lake City. She has led various poetry field trips in Utah.

Ye who read are still among the living

...but I who write shall have long since gone my way into the region of shadows. For indeed strange things shall happen, and secret things be known, and many centuries shall pass away, ere these memorials be seen of men.

Shadow—A Parable, Edgar Allan Poe, 1843



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EDWARD TAYLOR PARSONS LEADER, PHOTOGRAPHER, MOUNTAINEER

PETER BROWNING



Edward Parsons took this panoramic photo of the Kern River Canyon in 1912, on the Sierra Club's annual outing.

EDWARD TAYLOR PARSONS, an early Sierra Club Director and a prolific photographer, was born March 15, 1861, on a farm near Rochester, New York. He received only the scant basic education to be had at a rural school; yet by means of diligence and hard work he put himself through the Rochester Academy and the University of Rochester. When he graduated in 1886 he intended to study law, but circumstances—and his conscience—compelled him to sacrifice his own desires and future happiness in order to support his parents. He went to work as a traveling salesman for the Sherwin-Williams Paint Company, covering Hawaii and most of the states west of the Rockies.

In the 1890s, Parsons developed an enthu-

siasm for mountaineering, which became for him a saving grace: Hiking, climbing, and being in the out-of-doors were his grand passions, the vital experiences that made his life fulfilling and fruitful. In 1896 he joined the Mazama Club of Portland, Ore., and participated in the Mazamas' annual mountain-climbing trips.

Sometime thereafter, Parsons moved to San Francisco. In May 1900, while visiting Yosemite Valley (and recording the scenes with a 5 × 7 camera), he first heard of the Sierra Club. When he returned to San Francisco he was elected a member of the Club and became actively involved. William E. Colby, the Club's Secretary, was endeavoring at that time to organize annual outings. Colby put the new member on the Outing

Committee; it was a position Parsons held until his death. In 1901, by then using a panoramic camera in addition to the 5 × 7, Parsons helped organize and was a leader of the Club's first outing, a 26-day trip to Tuolumne Meadows.

Parsons was a practical, hardheaded man, a believer in organization and discipline. He was, indeed, a bit of a martinet, and devised strict rules for governing conduct on the outings. If, in the Outing Committee's judgment, anyone should become "undesirable" while on a trip, half the outing expense would be refunded and the person asked to withdraw from the outing. ("The Committee will not allow the harmony of the outing and the pleasure of the great majority of its members to be disturbed by any chronic

kicker who may perchance develop during the outing.")

On the Club's outing to Kern Canyon and Mt. Whitney in 1903, Parsons met Marion Randall, whom he married in 1907. The marriage was a marked improvement for a man who felt that he had sacrificed the greater part of his adult life to the needs and demands of others. In an angry letter to a brother, Parsons wrote in 1909 that "in all those years I gave my life and earnings to support my parents, and went without wife, children, and home." (This letter is among the materials generated by and about Edward Taylor Parsons that are held in Berkeley by the University of California's Bancroft Library.)

Although Parsons worked for the Sherwin-Williams Company until the end of his life, the Sierra Club became his consuming interest—his emotional support, his family, his true home. He was a dedicated photographer. "He carried a heavy camera on all his trips, however difficult," wrote John Muir, "up to the tops of the highest mountains and down the roughest cañons, making numberless photographs, many of which, reproduced in various publications, have done good service in the promotion of mountaineering and particularly in the cause of the preservation of our national forests and parks."

Parsons devoted many free hours to Sierra Club publications—editing, proofreading, tending to the details of printing—with no reward beyond the satisfaction of having done a good and necessary job. When he was burned out of his lodgings at San Francisco's Occidental Hotel by the 1906 earthquake and fire, he lamented in a letter to a friend that, of all his lost possessions, the most valuable had been his complete collection of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*.

Parsons was as completely immersed in wilderness activities as his time permitted. He was a member of the Sierra Club's Outing Committee for 13 years, a member of the Board of Directors for nine years, a chairman of the LeConte Memorial Lodge Committee, and (along with Muir, Colby, Joseph N. LeConte, and William Badé) on the Committee of the Board of Directors on Welfare and Improvement of Yosemite National Park. He was also a member of the Mazama Club and the Appalachian Club, a charter member of the Mountaineers' Club (organized in 1907), and was elected western vice-president of the American Alpine Club just a few months before his death.

Edward Parsons and John Muir worked closely together in the struggle over Hetch Hetchy. The two men corresponded frequently; Muir once addressed Parsons as "unconquerable old war horse." Edward and Marion Parsons were in Hawaii in the

Thank Goodness for Flannel Sheets! I Thought I'd "Freeze to Death"



When I went to England, I just knew it was going to be the trip of a lifetime. I had saved and planned for years. Then, out of the blue, I got a chance to spend a few days in an honest-to-goodness 13th Century castle on the moors in Yorkshire.

What I overlooked was the English idea of central heating. After I left London the weather suddenly turned shivering cold and wet. By the time I got to my destination I was too tired and miserable to care about picturesque charm and history. All I could think of was how uncomfortable I was going to be in an old, drafty castle.

Sure enough, my room was freezing. But when I crawled into bed I was dumbfounded to discover how marvelously cozy it was despite the lack of heat.

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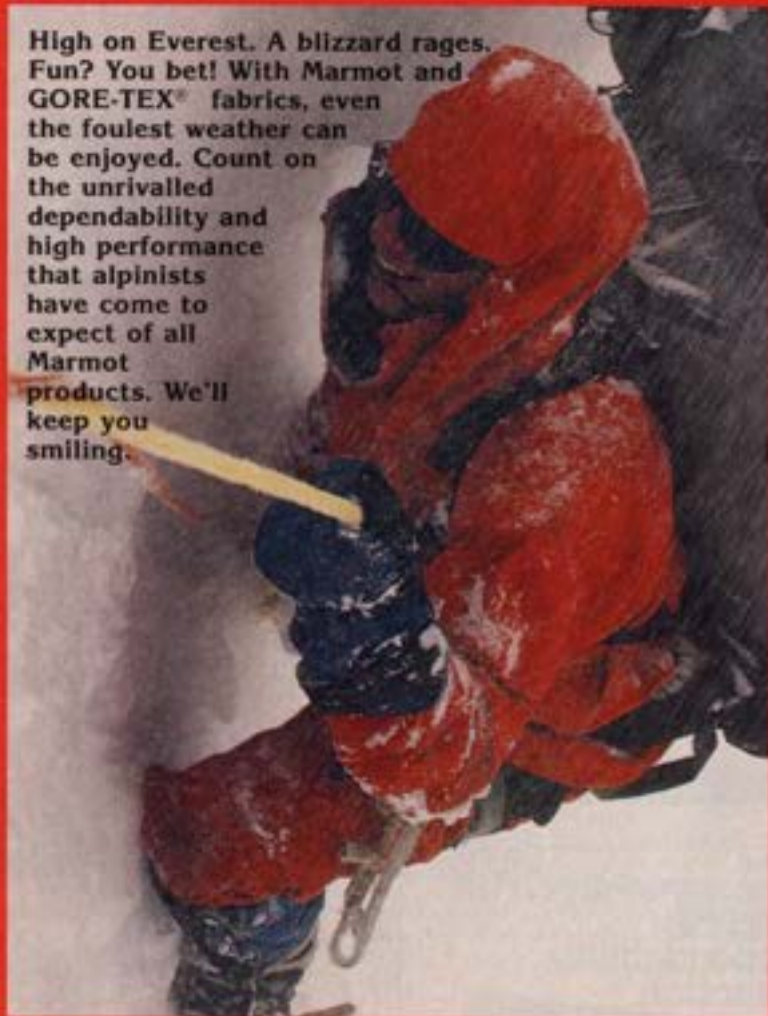
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Edward T. Parsons

10,436-foot Glacier Peak—photographed by E. T. Parsons on a 1911 Mazama Club outing.

spring of 1914. When they returned, Edward was ill. Muir wrote to him on May 6, expressing concern, telling him not to let the doctors make him think that he had a mysterious malady, assuring him that a mountain person would triumph over the ills of the lowlands, and exhorting him to recovery and good health.

But it was not to be: Parsons died two weeks later. Muir composed an obituary, which was published in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* in January 1915—by which time Muir himself was dead. In his farewell to Parsons, Muir wrote: "In helpful work he was never sparing of time or strength, spending almost every spare moment of his last years in whole-souled self-sacrificing devotion to the best interests of the club in every way. For his unflinching devotion to the lost cause of Hetch Hetchy he paid a heavy price in strength and health as well as in time and money. After a very short illness he passed away on May 22, 1914. He will be sadly missed and his memory will long be cherished by all the mountaineers of the West as one of the most faithful of the faithful."

Parsons' name has been memorialized in the Sierra Nevada. There is a Parsons Peak in Yosemite National Park—a summit of 12,120 feet in the Cathedral Range, a mile south of Ireland Lake. The first ascent of the peak was made sometime before 1931—by Marion Randall Parsons.

In the summer of 1915 the Parsons Memorial Lodge was constructed on the Sierra

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Club's newly acquired Soda Springs property, on the north side of Tuolumne Meadows. The lodge still stands, as sturdy as the day it was built. For many years it contained a modest library and served as a place of repose and information for both Sierra Club members and the general public. In 1973 the lodge was sold to the National Park Service, which operates it during the summer months as an information center.

Parsons' most enduring legacy is the collection of more than 2,000 photographs he took, covering Sierra Club outings and activities from 1901 through 1913. It is possible, from the dimensions of the negatives, to determine what cameras Parsons used. The first was a No. 4 Panoram Kodak, introduced in 1899, that covered an angle of 142 degrees and produced negatives 3.5 inches x 12 inches (89 x 305mm). The second, a No. 1 Panoram Kodak that appeared in 1900, covered an angle of 112 degrees and produced negatives 2.25 inches x 7 inches (57 x 178mm).

More than 40 of Parsons' photos appeared in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* between 1902 and 1914. The Bancroft Library has albums containing several hundred of Parsons' photos. The Club's Colby Library has all the negatives, for most of which there are no prints.

The negatives are on cellulose-nitrate film base, the material used before safety film was invented. Cellulose nitrate is chemically unstable. It gradually decomposes—a process that accelerates as the film disintegrates and releases harmful fumes. The material becomes brittle with age, and is highly flammable. It is possible, though rare, for spon-

taneous combustion to occur at temperatures as low as 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

To preserve this invaluable photographic record, the Colby Library is engaged in a program to convert the original negatives to safety film. This is a three-step process. A contact reference print is made from the original negative. Then an interpositive (a positive image on negative film) is made from the original negative, and from that a new negative is produced.

The cost is considerable: from \$11 to \$18 per negative, depending on its size. The conversion project was undertaken with a startup grant of \$3,000 from the Quaker Hill Foundation, and continued with a grant of \$5,000 from the L.J. and Mary C. Skaggs Foundation. These two sums together have permitted photographer Phil Adam to convert approximately 320 negatives and to purchase the requisite preservation and storage materials.

Members of the Sierra Club Library Committee have worked with a photoarchivist to examine all the Parsons negatives, selecting those most worthy of conversion. When these have been converted—before the end of 1984—members and the general public will be able to buy prints of these attractive and historic photographs. With the proceeds from the sale of photographs the Colby Library will continue the project until (it is hoped) all the significant negatives have been converted.

Peter Browning is the author of two books on wilderness and travel. His work has appeared in Harper's, Smithsonian, and The Nation.

CALIFORNIA "SUPERCHAPTER" IN THE WORKS

BOB IRWIN

ON SEPTEMBER 27 a delegation of 28 Sierra Club members from California will gather in San Luis Obispo to organize a "constitutional convention" that will seek to establish a new statewide body, a sort of superchapter. Its purpose: to make the Club a unified and stronger voice for the environment in California.

Over the past decade, as the Club has become increasingly concerned with national and international issues, the Board of Directors has had to turn over to the chapters its responsibility for policy and action on state-level issues. The change has worked splendidly—except in California, which has 13 chapters. (No other state has more than

one.) For the Club's first 75 years or so the Board coordinated all Club activities in the state. It ran a tight ship and kept it on course. Now that ship is floundering about with 13 rudders (chapters) while 13 captains (Ex-Coms) are at the helm trying to steer it.

The two California Regional Conservation Committees (RCCs) do make statewide policy, but on conservation issues only—and then just twice a year, when they meet in joint sessions. Statewide policies and actions on other issues—elections, initiatives, legislation, and internal Club problems of organization and finance—get little or no consistent attention. Members of the two RCCs, recognizing this muddled organizational sit-

uation, began discussions on how to improve it more than a year ago. A task force, chaired by Dan Sullivan of the Bay Chapter, was appointed in September 1983 to draw up detailed plans for the convention. A resolution incorporating those plans was submitted to the joint RCCs in February and approved on March 17.

Sullivan is hoping the convention can come up with its plan for an effective statewide organization before November 1985, in time for approval by the Council and Board. Then, if the 150,000 California members vote their approval, the "superchapter" could be in business sometime in 1986. In the meantime, convention delegates welcome suggestions from members of their chapters. Delegates' names are available from chapter leaders.

CLUB LEADER'S TV SHOW A RATINGS SUCCESS

For 13 consecutive Sunday evenings this spring and summer a new television luminary appeared on viewers' screens in Kentucky and neighboring states. Who? None other than Carroll Tichenor, past Chair of the Sierra Club Council and a charter member of the Cumberland Chapter. On May 6 he began hosting *Roughing It*, a weekly outdoor-recreation series produced by KET (Kentucky Educational Television) in Lexington. The series, filmed on location in Kentucky's many wild and scenic areas, is aimed chiefly at beginners: It shows them what kind of activities are available, how they can get started, what gear they will need, and what safety precautions they should take.

In each half-hour program Tichenor and his guest (often a fellow Sierran) focus on one special outdoor pursuit. On July 1 it was whitewater kayaking and rafting down a wild stretch of rapids on the Cumberland River. Along with capturing the sport's thrills and spills—and demonstrations of techniques for avoiding the latter—the show's cameras also zeroed in on the litter and debris cluttering the riverbanks. Thus, in addition to getting lessons on how to enjoy natural areas, viewers also learned how they can protect them. In this way Tichenor and his guests have managed to work some environmental message into each program, as well as low-key plugs for the Sierra Club and other conservation groups.

I first learned of horse-breeder/farmer/environmentalist Tichenor's "show biz career" from the May issue of the chapter's newsletter, *The Cumberland*. When I telephoned him in early July, he was preparing to leave for Mammoth Cave National Park to tape the 12th segment—on spelunking, of

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course. (Nine shows had already aired.) A week later he would go to his favorite spot, the Red River Gorge, which he and other early members of the chapter saved from the dam-builders in the early 1960s. (See "History of a Bluegrass Activist," *Sierra*, March/April 1982.) There he and the series' co-producers, Lynn Cooper and Gale Worth of KET, would shoot the last segment, on rock climbing.

According to Worth, the series, which originally was to consist of only one episode, has proved to be one of the most popular the network has ever run. He credits Carroll Tichenor for much of that success. "He makes the program," says Worth, who also is a KET director. "And," he adds, "Carroll not only superbly hosted the series, he also rounded up many of the guests and arranged for some of the on-location filming."

Roughing It did so well in the ratings that KET began rerunning all 13 shows in August. Worth expects that by early 1985 the series will begin being shown nationally on other affiliated Public Broadcasting stations. (KET is also publishing a book, *Roughing It With Carroll Tichenor*, which will go on sale at the same time.) Plans for a national-scale *Roughing It II* are down the road. Because more time and money will be needed, Worth and Cooper are hoping for a 1986 release date.

Complete transcripts of the present 13-part series are available at \$8 a set. To order, write: *Roughing It*, c/o KET-TV, 600 Cooper Drive, Lexington, KY 40502. Or be patient and wait until next year, when Carroll Tichenor will be coming into your living room via your local PBS channel.

CLUB OPENS NEW REGIONAL OFFICES

The Sierra Club has opened two new field offices, thereby completing coverage of the continental United States. "With a field office in every region we will be able to increase the effectiveness of our volunteer, legislative, and electoral programs," says Bruce Hamilton, the Club's Director of Conservation Field Services.

The Club opened a Southern Plains field office in Dallas, Texas, in June. The Southern Plains Representative is Rose McCullough. Prior to moving to Texas, Rose served as the Club's Associate Regional Representative in the Northern Great Plains.

Steve Hiniker is the Club's new Appalachian Field Representative. He will open an office in September. Steve was the grassroots coordinator for the Alaska Coalition and the north-midwest regional representative for the National Audubon Society.



A raftful of "Roughing It" crewmembers videotape host Carroll Tichenor (second from right) during a trip down the Cumberland River. The series may be viewed around the country next year.

Most recently he was the executive director of Wisconsin's statewide environmental political-action committee.

Other major shifts have changed the face of the Club's field system. Larry Mehlhaff, a former Colorado wilderness activist, is the new Northern Great Plains Representative. He has moved the field office to Sheridan, Wyoming. Tom Cosgrove, the former grassroots coordinator for the Clean Air Coalition, is the Club's new Northeast Representative. He has moved the field office from New York City to New Haven, Conn.

For a complete list of the Club's field offices, see the masthead directory on page 6 of this issue of *Sierra*.

AROUND AND ABOUT . . .

- From Maine to Hawaii, Sierra Club volunteers were out on the trails last summer—not just enjoying them, but building or repairing them. After six years of sweat, members of the Allegheny Group of the Pennsylvania Chapter were closing two gaps leading from the Appalachian Trail in northwestern Virginia northward to the tip of Georgian Bay's Bruce Peninsula, in Ontario. According to Bruce Sundquist, the group's outing chair, the entire 1,125-mile system is expected to be in use by 1986. The route follows the Allegheny Mountains through West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York and into Canada across the Niagara River.
- Farther east, the Maine Group of the New England Chapter ran its annual maintenance trip up a two-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail to the summit of Sugarloaf.
- Machetes, sickles, saws, and loppers are

the principal tools in the trail-clearing efforts being made by volunteers in the Hawaii Chapter. It is a never-ending task to hack away the lush weeds and exotic plants that choke the trails in Hawaii's "pro-growth" climate.

Weeds were no bother to some of the chapter's hikers last summer—those who took part in its "political outings" on Oahu. The hikers were SCOPE volunteers pounding the pavement while distributing leaflets for a chapter-endorsed political candidate.

• The setting: the spacious 19th-century Neahtawanta Inn overlooking Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay. The occasion: a combination summer weekend in the country and Sierra Club Calendar sales workshop—among the preparations for an all-out fall fundraising drive by the Mackinac Chapter. Alan Weaver of Sierra Club Books inspired the participants to work to surpass the 1983 achievement of the Eastern Pennsylvania Group, which sold 2,485 calendars for a profit of \$6,879. (The group pulled down another \$3,000 when it won the Denny and Ida Wilcher Award this year.) The key to their success, Weaver said, was incentive—finding reasons for people to give. Their campaign goal was to fund a full-time lobbyist in the Pennsylvania state legislature. The Mackinac Chapter's drive is for funds to win wilderness designation for the state's still-unprotected wildlands.

• Like many publishers, Sierra Club Books proudly collects an award or two each year. But the past 12 months have seen nearly a dozen book awards heaped on recent Sierra Club Books publications, from the honorific John Burroughs Medal for natural-history writing (presented to David Rains Wallace



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for *The Klamath Knot*) to the 1983 "Quill and Trowel Award" of the Garden Writers Association (for *The Complete Book of Edible Landscaping*, by Rosalind Creasy).

Other recent awards include: the 1984 Christopher Award for *A Bitter Fog: Herbicides and Human Rights*; the Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award for Galen Rowell and *Mountains of the Middle Kingdom*; the 1983 Carey-Thomas Citation for Excellence in Publishing (Sierra Club Books has won two previous Carey-Thomas awards, which are

among the most prestigious honors in the publishing industry); and two medals from the Commonwealth Club of California, for *Mountains of the Middle Kingdom* and *The Klamath Knot*. (David Wallace also collected the 1979 Commonwealth Club Silver medal for *The Dark Range*.)

As of this writing, David James Duncan, author of *The River Why*, is eagerly awaiting word from the Western Writers of America. He's a finalist for their "Medicine Pipe Bearer's Award."

SIERRA NOTES

• In October 1984, Sierra Club Books will mark the revival of the award-winning Exhibit Format Series with a 250-copy limited edition of *The Wilder Shore*, featuring photographs by Morley Baer and text by David Rains Wallace. Each copy will be numbered, signed by both authors, handbound by The Schubert Bookbindery of San Francisco, and specially slipcased. In addition, each book will contain an original black-and-white print made by Morley Baer, signed and suitable for framing. (Baer's prints normally sell in galleries for upward of \$500.) The book is also available in a \$50 cloth edition.

Introduced with a foreword by Wallace Stegner, *The Wilder Shore* celebrates California's diverse and dramatic landscapes—and the literature they have inspired—with David Wallace's text and Baer's 35 full-color and 40 duotone black-and-white photographs. The first limited edition ever published by Sierra Club Books will sell for \$325. Every effort will be made to set aside low numbers of the edition for members who reserve early. A four-page prospectus describing this offer in detail is available from Sierra Club Books, 2034 Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

• Sierra Club Books has announced the publication of several new titles. All may be ordered through the Sierra Club Catalogue received by all members. Nonmembers may order books only from Sierra Club Books, P.O. Box 3886, Rincon Annex, San Francisco, CA 94119.

Among the new titles are: the paper editions of *Mountains of the Middle Kingdom*, photographs and text by Galen Rowell, \$19.95 (\$17.95 for Club members) and *Women and Wilderness*, by Anne LaBastille, \$8.95 (\$8.05); *What Shall We Do Without Us?* (*The Voice and Vision of Kenneth Patchen*), \$25 cloth, \$12.95 paper (\$22.50, \$11.65); and *A Killing Rain: The Global Threat of*

Acid Precipitation, by Thomas Pawlick, cloth, \$14.95 (\$13.45).

• Sierra was honored in May with not one but two "Maggies" at the 27th Annual Western Publications Association Awards of Excellence banquet in Los Angeles. Bill Prochnow, Sierra's designer, accepted the trophies on behalf of the magazine's staff. The awards were presented in the categories of "Special Interest" and "Best Editorial Package—Consumer." The judges made their selections—after evaluating more than a thousand entries—on the basis of Sierra's May/June 1983 issue.

Yet another award-winner: The 1983 Sierra Club Annual Report has been singled out by Consolidated Paper Company for outstanding design, layout, and printing. The Sierra Club and The National Press, printer of the annual report, were issued the award after a panel of experts in the fields of design, advertising, and printing surveyed hundreds of documents printed on Consolidated Paper stocks. Edited by Gloria Billings and designed by Bill Prochnow, the report features seven full-color prizewinning photos from Sierra's annual photo contest, including a wraparound cover capturing Mt. Shasta by moonlight.

• Each year the national Sierra Club slide show is seen by thousands of people at group and chapter meetings around the country. This overview program introduces new and prospective members to the history, structure, campaigns, and activities of the Sierra Club.

A new national slide show is now in the works. Project manager Victoria Wake is looking for inspiring and informative slides within a wide range of subject matter to tell the story of our multifaceted national organization. Sierra Club members and others can help by contributing slides. For a subject list, contact Victoria Wake, Sierra Club Infor-

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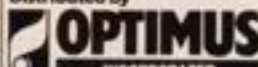


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- Sierra Club members who make monthly contributions to the Club now have the option of having payments deducted automatically from their checking, savings, or credit-union account. Electronic Funds Transfer makes monthly giving easier for both the donor and the Club. The new option is currently being offered to monthly donors, and the Club's Office of Development hopes to make electronic funds transfer available to all interested donors. Contact Stephanie Houston in the Club's Office of Development (530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108) for more details.

- Three new brochures published by the Sierra Club Conservation Department are available from Sierra Club Information Services (530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108). Please add 25¢ per order to cover postage.

The 12-page "Platform for the 1984 Elections" (\$1) opens with a short history of Sierra Club involvement in electoral politics and explains how voters, candidates, and leaders of political parties can use the platform. It goes on to give a summary of this year's major environmental issues, followed by a rundown of the Club's position on each. "Population Stabilization and the Sierra Club's Priorities" (25¢) explains in eight pages the impact of U.S. population growth on national issues and public policy; and "Action on Pesticides" (25¢) is a six-page report on the history of pesticide use, law, and management, and details the Sierra Club's campaigns to control or outlaw the use of poisonous chemicals.

- The Sierra Club Organizer's Library is a collection of volunteer-oriented "how to" handbooks for organizers at all levels of leadership. *Election Politics*, the newest addition to the library, is now available for \$5 (postage paid) by writing Sierra Club Organizer's Library (530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108).

- *An Introduction to the World Conservation Strategy* (IUCN and UNEP, 1984, paper, \$7.95) is now available from UNIPUB, Box 433, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10157. This large-format 28-page booklet serves as an introduction to the weightier *World Conservation Strategy*, also published jointly by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the United Nations Environment Programme. The Sierra Club contributed to the printing of the *Introduction*, which contains photography by Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter. □



REAGAN'S RECORD DISGRACE, DISHONOR, AND DARK SUSPICIONS

PAUL N. McCLOSKEY, JR.

A Season of Spoils: The Story of the Reagan Administration's Attack on the Environment, by Jonathan Lash, Katharine Gilman, and David Sheridan. Pantheon, 1984. \$21.95 cloth, \$9.95 paper.

A SEASON OF SPOILS should serve as a fine campaign sourcebook for Democratic candidates in 1984. The authors present a series of Reagan-administration actions relating to the environment that cast no credit on either the President or his method of selecting people to carry out his policies.

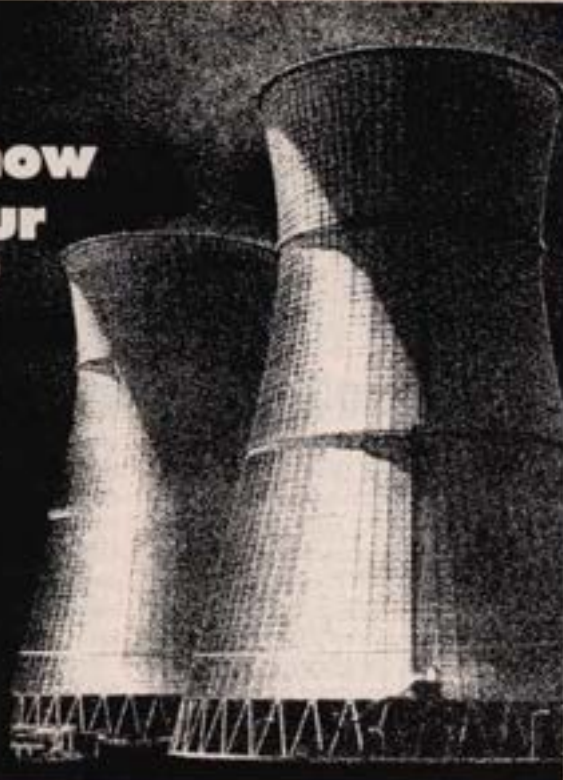
If Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro choose to use the facts laid out in *A Season of Spoils* in a series of hard-hitting campaign speeches, for example, the President will be hard put to defend his environmental record as effective . . . or even as honorable. Accountability has been a treasured Republican principle; no President can honestly account, or even attempt to account, for the conduct that led to EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch's dismissal in disgrace, or for the actions of Superfund Administrator Rita Lavelle that led to her indictment for perjury.

Shortly after he took office Reagan said, in his State of the Union Message on Economic Recovery: "We have no intention of dismantling the regulatory agencies—especially those necessary to protect the environment and to assure the public safety. However, we must come to grips with inefficient and burdensome regulations—eliminate those we can and reform those we must keep."

If the EPA was not dismantled, its credibility was badly damaged by the actions described in *A Season of Spoils*. The President's own credibility may have been



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damaged even more seriously. His recent attempt to resuscitate former EPA Director Anne Gorsuch was properly condemned by an overwhelming bipartisan rejection in the Senate.

Although *A Season of Spoils* centers on the activities of lesser political appointees, the authors make clear that the real subject of their work, and also their target, is Ronald Reagan himself. The book's theme is well summed up in its final paragraph, which concludes with the words of an anonymous EPA staffer: "What really scares me is who's gonna come in here if Reagan wins in 1984."

In a way the book's partisanship is unfortunate, because it takes away from the very valuable picture it presents of the workings of a system of government that every four (or eight) years inserts political appointees into management positions within the federal bureaucracy.

The authors' specific examples are well researched and provide a reasonably unbiased picture of what can happen to regulatory agencies when an administration comes to power convinced it has a mandate to reverse whatever its predecessor has done.

The examples used are as helpful to a political-science student as to an environmental enthusiast. They follow the activities of political appointees picked primarily because of their identity with the President's antiregulation and probusiness ideology. In most cases these new appointees also shared Reagan's inexperience with and lack of knowledge of environmental issues. These individuals made no secret of their intention to do precisely what President Reagan had promised in his 1980 campaign: to slow down (if not completely halt) the growth of federal regulations that had been proceeding since passage of the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969.

One of the darker aspects of the Reagan philosophy is revealed in the administration's expanded claim of executive privilege, intended to prevent public knowledge of the EPA's embarrassing and incriminating internal memoranda. Not since Watergate has the dubious concept of executive privilege been so abused.

An even darker suspicion is raised that the Reagan Justice Department was somewhat less than impartial in considering the abuses of law that came to light in the Gorsuch and Lavelle cases. This again represents the regrettable specter of a return to the pre-Watergate custom of using the Justice Department for political purposes. The jury has to remain out on this question, however, inasmuch as the authors present no clear proof to justify more than a suspicion of Justice Department misconduct and its payment of mere lip service to the law.

It also may be somewhat unfair to de-

scribe, as the book's subtitle does, the Reagan administration's actions as an "attack on the environment." The attack was on regulatory complexity and what the new regime felt were unnecessary restraints imposed on private business operations. The environment was probably no more harshly treated than any other area under governmental jurisdiction, whether telephone communications, antitrust-law enforcement, or banking regulation.

Likewise, the main title seems a somewhat unfair, if subtle, attempt to identify the Reagan administration with the unsavory "spoils system" of Andrew Jackson's era. The title and subtitle may sell books; they do not do justice to the research of the authors.

The major difficulty with *A Season of Spoils*, however, lies in its one-sidedness. The bias, inexperience, and smallness of a number of the EPA's political appointees is made amply clear; there is no corresponding attempt to discuss the abilities (or lack of same) of their bureaucratic counterparts.

The book likewise makes no attempt to define where the Reagan administration was right or wrong in its goals in each of the cases described. The authors give us no clue as to whether the regulatory excesses the Reagan people believed they had a mandate to attack were truly excesses. Only one side of the story is presented: the lessening of environmental protections ensuing from the administration's attempt to ease environmental regulation. There is no discussion of the problems with prior regulations that were made evident as new scientific facts became known, or of the difficulties of rigorous regulatory enforcement when such enforcement might sometimes mean the closing of businesses and the loss of jobs at a time of serious economic difficulty.

Of the three aspects of environmental regulation—(1) the basic law, (2) the regulations promulgated to enforce and administer the law, and (3) the procedures followed under the law and regulations—*A Season of Spoils* concentrates primarily on the procedures. No value judgments are offered as to whether specific regulations were good or bad, or whether specific amendments of the law now may be in order. In short, the book provides a superb description and analysis of problems and shortcomings of personnel and policies, but attempts no proposal of solutions.

The authors assume that the environmental laws are without flaw, that the Carter administration's regulations and proposed regulations under those laws were sound, and that the procedures pursued by the Carter administration under both laws and regulations were justified.

A good case can be made that none of these assumptions are true, and I would

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hope that the authors might, in a sequel, make the same meticulous effort to offer constructive solutions to the complex problem of balancing environmental and economic values as they have made in pointing out the slips and falls of inexperienced and ideologically motivated amateurs in the maze of modern Washington.

Despite its emphasis on criticism rather than solutions, *A Season of Spoils* is a valuable reference for anyone who may care to serve the public interest in the environmental field in the years ahead.

It may also have an impact on who is elected in November.

Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., who served eight terms as a Republican in Congress between 1967 and 1982, was a member of the House Subcommittee on Fish & Wildlife when it reported out numerous landmark environmental-protection bills in the early 1970s. He also acted as cochair of the first Earth Day in 1970. He currently practices law in Palo Alto, Calif.

UNPLEASANT MATTERS OF HEALTH

FRANCIS W. HATCH, JR.

Retreat From Safety: Reagan's Attack on America's Health, by Joan Claybrook and the staff of Public Citizen. Pantheon, 1984. \$8.95, paper.

IT'S LUCKY that people's memories are only an inch long," a veteran politician once told me. "Otherwise, a lot of us would never be reelected." The electorate's seemingly infinite capacity to forget their leaders' past transgressions has indeed saved politicians since the beginning of time—and it may happen again this November.

Poll after poll shows that the American people favor strong safety, health, and environmental laws with the regulatory teeth to back them up. If necessary, they are even prepared to pay more for this protection. And yet, since Day One of President Reagan's tenure in the White House, he and his department heads have systematically dismantled the administrative machinery of the various agencies concerned with public health and safety, stifling efforts to enforce existing laws or to address new problems.

During the past four years, news stories have frequently appeared about the administration's attempts to scuttle regulations that strengthen safety standards for as-

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In God's Countries

by Bill Gilbert
foreword by Robert Creamer

Bill Gilbert's accounts of the wilderness and its creatures have earned the admiration and praise of sportsmen and conservationists alike. His ability to capture humor, to depict scenes, people, and situations, and his sympathy for a wilderness ever in danger of ruin, run like fresh water through the twelve pieces collected here. It is the love and wonder that other animals evoke that draw Gilbert's keenest attention; and in the concluding piece, "Journey into Spring," about a canoe trip on the Susquehanna River, Gilbert sounds his most basic theme: the meaning of the wild and of human intrusion into it.

xx, 204 pages. ISBN 0-8032-2117-7

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bestos, to postpone action on ethylene dibromide (EDB), to collude (as the EPA has) with companies it was supposed to regulate, and so on and on. But by election day these and a litany of other offenses will have been forgotten.

In fact, it appears that they have been forgotten already. If this were not true, the President would never have dared attempt to appoint Anne Gorsuch, discredited EPA administrator and the symbol of this administration's callous environmental attitude, to chair the important National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere. Reagan made the announcement in early July, a scant four months before the election.

All of which (and more) are the reasons *Retreat From Safety*—a catalogue of the administration's actions on a series of policy questions affecting public health and safety—is such an important book.

Joan Claybrook has chosen eight areas for comment: infant formula, food and nutrition, drugs, product safety, health and safety of workers, environmental protection, transportation, and energy. In layman's terms she outlines the various threats posed to our safety and the actions of the relevant administrative agencies in response to them. Agency personnel and congressional and citizen activists are named and their roles described. More often than not the examples are discussed in terms of how they affected people, not as isolated actions or as a series of statistics.

Claybrook's preface is particularly valuable. It outlines how the President circumvented established procedure (and, often, legislative intent) by placing David Stockman's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in total control of agency budgets, agency information, and agency regulatory decisions. With the vast power these functions represent centralized in the often-biased, nonprofessional OMB, regulated industries can work behind the scenes, not with the agency charged by law with regulating them, but with sympathetic, nontechnical political appointees. This change has been a principal factor contributing to the steady deterioration of health-and-safety standards as we once knew them.

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this book is its overall tone. Eminently readable, it is not shrill, as many environmental books are inclined to be. Instead it is reasoned and factual, which adds greatly to its credibility. (Claybrook turned for research assistance to the staff of Public Citizen, a Washington-based lobbying/research group founded by Ralph Nader.)

Will Americans refresh their memories by reading *Retreat From Safety*? One would hope so, because it sets forth the Reagan administration's consistent disregard of

public health-and-safety issues in a way no amount of campaign rhetoric can obscure. However, the sad fact is that most people don't like to read about serious subjects, even when they themselves are affected, and especially where unpleasant matters of health are concerned.

And if Americans do read this book, will they remember its message any longer than they did the first time these issues appeared in the press? The Reagan administration is betting they won't.

Francis W. Hatch, Jr., chairs the Conservation Law Foundation of New England and serves on the board of directors of the Natural Resources Defense Council. He was leader of the Republican minority in the Massachusetts Legislature between 1970 and 1978.

NEITHER LEFT NOR RIGHT

PETER WILD

Green Politics: The Global Promise, by Fritjof Capra and Charlene Spretnak. Dutton, 1984. \$11.95, cloth.

BLOATED BY postwar prosperity—the “economic miracle” that seems to have turned West Germany's politics into a fast-moving game of Monopoly played with real money—that country's traditional political parties have ignored “the quality of life” as it relates to forests, skies, and rivers. Their shortsightedness has, in the last few years, brought a vigorous new party to the fore, into the very powerhouse of the Bundestag itself. Members call themselves *Die Grünen*—the Greens—and it is perhaps a symptom of industrialization's malaise that the movement is spreading across Europe.

Fritjof Capra and Charlene Spretnak offer the first book-length analysis of this phenomenon, the sudden rise of the Greens. Yet their book will be of interest to more than students of contemporary European politics, for the authors see the Green cause as a worldwide mobilization. As the Greens attempt to take root in the United States, they should jog our attention, especially against the backdrop of an election year and its ecological consequences.

As do environmental organizations in this country, the Greens lobby for clean air, open space, and the general slate often associated with conservation programs. Readers will find some surprises here, however. For when



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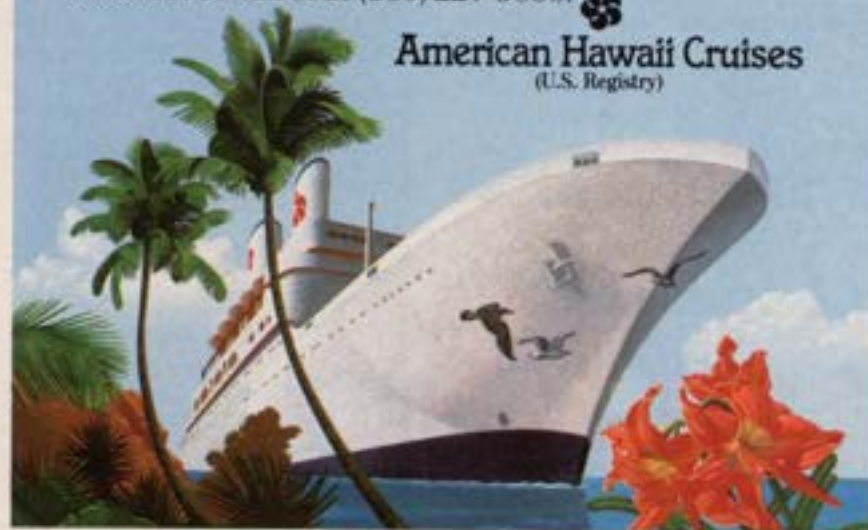
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the globe- and branch-bearing parliamentarians entered the Bundestag, they refused to take their seats in the chamber either on the right (with the conservative Christian Democrats) or on the left (with the liberal-leaning Social Democrats). To raised eyebrows, they insisted on being seated between the two traditional factions, proclaiming, "We are neither left nor right; we are in front."

That bold announcement may cause the hearts of some of us—wary of endless back-room shenanigans and ungente power plays, regardless of our party affiliation—to skip a few beats with delight. The Greens avow a philosophy that rejects the old "liberal/conservative stalemate" (as the authors describe it) that prevails here as well as in Europe, the hidebound trappings that block enlightened change. Working instead from a new dimension of "holistic insights," the Greens profess four major *modi operandi*—working principles based on ecology, social responsibility, grassroots democracy, and nonviolence. Hence, they campaign not only for acid-rain legislation but for women's rights and nuclear disarmament. And they do this through an internal structure that avoids placing power in the hands of a few leaders. The Greens religiously rotate their officeholders, and consult their many local membership organizations when major decisions are to be made.

All this may sound a bit too good to be true, but in this way—so far, at least—the Greens have managed to operate from a broad consensus, one that has room for lumber-company executives angered over pollution-stunted forests alongside activists struggling to improve working conditions in factories.

Still, human as they are, the Greens have their own set of internal problems, their own squabbles and intrigues that tend to undermine their idealistic platform. Further, they may be faced by an irresolvable dilemma. The earnest Greens abjure the hypocrisy of the phenomenon that has spearheaded many a successful campaign for other parties: the charismatic personality who gladhands voters to the polling booths. The activists feel so strongly about the issue that they seem to be slicing at their own political necks, rejecting, for instance, Petra Kelly, a dynamic bridge-builder to the non-Green world who has done much to spread the Green gospel on television, both in Germany and the United States. The egalitarian Greens want no hero figures, yet it's problematical whether they can survive long without them. Beyond such fussing, Germany's other political forces are rebounding after the Greens' first impressive victories, making public gestures of taking up popular environmental causes, hoping in this way to

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defuse the major issues of the renegades. All of which leaves one wondering whether the Greens have succeeded (insofar as they have) mainly by dint of a youthful enthusiasm that has caught the swing of the current public mood or by virtue of a genuinely workable approach to making the Earth a safer, saner, ecologically whole place. Sympathetic to the Greens' cause, Capra and Spretnak also wonder about this, and one of the best parts of their study speculates on the prospects for survival of a broad-based, idealistic party that must deal in terms of *Realpolitik*.

Remarking upon an economy that values short-term profit over wise use of resources, the Greens may say with a convincing ring, "The old system is about to devour itself and us with it" and "We must live differently in order to survive!" But how can the Greens, or anyone else for that matter, turn the world upside down so that every worker will have a job in a nonpolluting industry producing environmentally benign goods? Few political parties care to take on such a formidable (if admirable) task. Yet shifting the economy onto an ecologically "soft" and socially just path is precisely the Greens' goal. Is this wishful thinking, or a pragmatic stance appropriate to the worsening environmental crisis? Only time will tell.

And only time will tell, too, how well the Greens will fare in the United States. For all our social and cultural affinities with Europe, the political soil here is far different, and in many ways antagonistic to the Green approach. In contrast to the many parties vying for votes in most Western European countries, we have a rigid two-party system. Certainly not the potential beneficiaries of gifts from major corporations, the Greens would have little hope of raising the millions of dollars necessary to run the high-priced campaigns that endlessly precede our national elections. Then there is the psychological aspect: Third parties have not done well here in recent years—witness Barry Commoner's and John Anderson's ill-fated campaigns in 1980. Environmentalists in this country, and in particular the Sierra Club's several hundred thousand members, have chosen instead to work within the two-party framework.

Capra and Spretnak speculate, however, that the Greens might skirt the pitfalls of a third party by uniting already active environmental groups in a bipartisan caucus that would change the political system from the ground up.

Will it work? The authors ask cynics to remember that a mere 28 percent of the eligible voters elected Ronald Reagan in 1980. Americans are not lazy or unpatriotic when it comes to voting; they are disenchanted with the "business as usual" results

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of traditional politics. According to this view, there's a huge reservoir of discontent out there waiting to be sparked into progressive energy. As this study concludes—on a mixed note of warning and hope—the old ways of doing things are failure-prone. By necessity, given the ecological crisis, "the future, if there is to be one, is Green."

Peter Wild frequently reviews books for *Sierra*.

BEHIND THE GREEN WALL

ROD HOLMGREN

The Bad Earth: Environmental Degradation in China, by Vaclav Smil. M. E. Sharpe, Inc. (80 Business Park Drive, Armond, NY 10504), 1984. \$25 (cloth), \$13.95 (paper).

IN *THE BAD EARTH* (a play on Pearl Buck's famous title), Vaclav Smil tells a frightening story of China's environmental despoliation.

It's true, as the University of Manitoba geographer proves with one example after another, that Maoist policies, aimed at speedy industrialization and increased farm output, had disastrous consequences for an already ravaged Chinese environment in the years after the 1949 "liberation." Processes of deforestation, erosion, desertification, and cropland loss were actually aggravated for more than 25 years.

Smil tells how the land has been denuded and in many places turned into desert, how water pollution and river siltation have grown worse than ever, how air has been polluted, and how species of animal life and vegetation have disappeared.

But while he describes the new awareness among Chinese leaders of the giant nation's environmental problems, he is pessimistic that their efforts to solve these problems will succeed. In my opinion, he fails in this analysis to take into account the dynamics of Chinese politics and culture.

While *The Bad Earth* was published this year, it is based largely on a scholarly paper Smil delivered in 1980 and a report he wrote for the World Bank in 1981. Because changes are now coming at an accelerated pace under Deng Xiaoping's leadership, some of Smil's information is already dated.

For example, he writes that one visitor remarked after his 1979 trip to Beijing that it is the noisiest city he had ever visited, filled with the "incessant, insistent cacophony of car horns." Yet by January 1, 1984, under a

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new municipal law, car horns in the capital had been either replaced or readjusted to make far less noise than before—with severe punishment for violators—and the use of horns anywhere in the city between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. was outlawed.

The Bad Earth gives details of the deplorable environmental conditions that prevailed in this city of 9 million in the late 1970s and early 1980s—many of which conditions still exist. But my students and I spent a day talking with Yang Suzhen, deputy director of Beijing's Environmental Protection Bureau, in October 1983. She outlined what seemed to be sophisticated plans for cleaning the city's dirty air and water, modernizing its sewage system, and greening the entire metropolitan area.

Many polluting industries have been moved out of the city; more are scheduled to go. To cut down on dirty air caused by small coal-fired boilers and stoves, most of the city's 12,000 boilers have been renovated, or bypassed by central heating plants. And more than two thirds of the city's households now use gas, not coal, for cooking. "Our accomplishments have not been so great," Yang concluded, "but we are doing well."

Smil's most devastating comments are directed toward deforestation, "the country's most critical environmental problem." Centuries of tree-cutting have caused erosion of mountainsides and farmland, flooding and siltation of rivers, crop loss from wind damage, lack of family fuel and building materials—all effects that historically have led to terrible human suffering.

China's leadership is keenly aware of the forest problem and of the enormous costs, in energy and wealth, of solving it. But Smil is cynical about the success of the national reforestation campaign, which calls for every Chinese citizen to plant at least three trees a year. He says the survival rate of the saplings is as low as 10 percent.

The survival rate (officially 55 percent) is in fact closer to 60 percent, according to Professor Yang Hanxi, plant ecologist with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, whom I interviewed at length in January 1984. Yang, who is executive secretary of the Man and the Biosphere national committee in China, said the voluntary tree-planting program, launched in 1980, is picking up more and more supporters.

The Forestry Ministry reported in October 1983 that "China's forestry has become a full-fledged industry," with 286 forestry enterprises, 3,900 forestry farms run by the state, and 220,000 run by communes and production brigades, employing more than 2 million workers. The country has many forestry colleges and secondary schools.

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need for wooden pitprops in shaft mines. The state is encouraging peasants to develop private woodlots to provide firewood for home use. Deng Xiaoping, father of a series of incentive programs, has introduced a plan that allows individual peasants to plant and cultivate "private" forest plots on hillside land and to bequeath the forests to their children. On the collective front, the state is signing contracts with groups of peasants to plant and nurture trees in mountainous areas. And best known of all is the program for developing a "great green wall" of forests in an arc across north China to protect 11 provinces and autonomous regions against wind, sandstorms, and soil erosion.

Yang expressed pride over a paper he had delivered at an international environmental conference in Japan on "Transformation and Development of the Loess Plateau Region in China." Yang's work reported on the success of a 20-year project in a single county in Shanxi province.

The urgency of reclaiming the loess regions and halting the desertification trend, especially in the northwest, was underscored last summer when Hu Yaobang led a Party Central Committee trip to six northwest provinces. For weeks, China's press hammered at the twin themes of the trip: first, that environmental neglect threatens farm production and hinders economic development, and second, that a major campaign is being mounted in the northwest to promote reforestation and development of vegetation cover. Party Secretary Hu kept reminding the country that although major economic construction is planned for the northwest "around the turn of the century," environmental conditions must improve dramatically to make that possible.

Smil's environmental horror stories, frequently buttressed with statistics, come almost entirely from post-Cultural Revolution newspapers and periodicals, including such prestigious journals as *People's Daily*, *Red Flag*, and *Beijing Review*. In a way his book is a tribute to the striking candor of Chinese leaders and their press about the staggering problems facing them since the death of Mao Tse-tung and the fall of the Gang of Four in 1976.

Based on environmental history, Smil finds the outlook for improvement in China "depressing." The problems, he suggests, are too overwhelming and the popular inertia regarding them too great to overcome.

The locus of responsibility for these problems is the Ministry of Rural and Urban Construction and Environmental Protection. Qu Geping, who directs the ministry's bureau of environmental protection, summarized "ten environmental problems that must be overcome" in January 1983. Ten months later, Qu unveiled "a long-term



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blueprint to protect the environment" and calmly said it would cost \$25 billion just to control China's industrial pollution. A few days later a new publication, *China Environmental Journal*, was launched. The environment evidently had moved up one more notch on the leadership's agenda.

This is one reason why I disagree with Smil's pessimism. Change comes slowly in China, I've learned, but it comes.

Rod Holmgren is an environmental activist and journalist. He recently spent 15 months teaching journalism in Beijing, China.

BRIEF REVIEWS

The Gulf Coast: Where Land Meets Sea, by C.C. Lockwood. Louisiana State University Press, 1984. \$29.95, cloth.

WHETHER DIVING with manatees in the freshwater springs of Florida or tracking the wily coyote on a Gulf Coast island, naturalist C.C. Lockwood offers an intimate look into America's most productive ecosystem. This collection of 140 color photographs takes the reader through the marshes, the bays, and the deep blue waters of the Gulf Coast from Key West to the Mexican border, celebrating a diversity of wildlife only America's southern wetlands could produce. — *Ted Wood*

The Pond. Text by Gerald Thompson, OBE, and Jennifer Coldrey; principal photography by George Bernard. The MIT Press, 1984. \$25, cloth.

READERS WHO FOUND their curiosity piqued by the photo-essay on pond life that appeared in *Sierra's* March/April 1984 issue will be entranced by this impressive volume. The writer/photographers who comprise Oxford Scientific Films—known worldwide for the brilliance of their natural-history photography—have outdone themselves here, presenting several hundred close-up photographs of pond-dwelling micro- and macro-organisms, accompanied by an informative text that doesn't require the general reader to hold a degree in zoology.

The book begins with an overview of pond plants and plant communities, proceeding to a survey of the classes of pond animals: protozoa, sponges, worms, insects, and vertebrates. (The latter category is particularly well-covered, detailing fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.) Line drawings, charts, a glossary, and tips for studying pond life on your own round out this attractive package—one that will serve the reference needs of the budding biologist as well as the aesthetic demands of the coffee-table naturalist. — *Jonathan King* □

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QUESTIONS? ANSWERS

Q I've heard a lot about altitude sickness. Is it as serious as people say? (PAM MAHONEY, YAKIMA, WASH.)

A "Altitude sickness" is a catchall term that refers to a number of illnesses brought on by exposure to high altitudes. High-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE) and high-altitude encephalopathy (HAE) are the most serious (though less common) of these. Most cases befall members of prolonged expeditions at very high altitudes. If the victims are not treated promptly with oxygen and brought back down to lower altitudes, both HAPE and HAE can be fatal.

The most common nonfatal altitude illness is acute mountain sickness (AMS), which is caused by rapid exposure to high altitude without acclimatization. For most people, the onset of symptoms occurs at between 10,000 and 12,000 feet; they rarely occur below 8,000 feet. One-day ascents can usually be made without the risk of contracting acute mountain sickness, because the symptoms first appear after two to three days at high altitudes.

No one cure for AMS has been found, as the illness is not well-understood. The best treatment, therefore, is prevention. Acclimatization—allowing your body to adjust slowly to changes in altitude—eliminates the risk of AMS. If time demands a rapid ascent, be aware of and alert to the initial warning signs. Headache (with slight dizziness) is usually the first symptom, although this can escalate quickly to incapacitating pain. Weakness, drowsiness, and vomiting may also occur.

All but the most severe cases of AMS are best treated by rest, light diet, lots of fluids, and pain relievers. Avoid heavy sedatives or painkillers—they could very well mask the symptoms of the more serious HAPE or HAE. Exercise will only aggravate the illness.

For severe episodes of AMS, the only treatments are descent to lower altitudes and/or administration of oxygen. Symptoms usually disappear within two to six days.

Sierra encourages its readers to take this opportunity to learn more about the Sierra Club and its activities. If you have a question you'd like answered, send it along with your chapter affiliation and address to *Sierra Q & A*, 530 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108. We will respond to as many questions as space allows.



Q: What are the largest parks located within the limits of American cities? (LINDA FITZGERALD, HAMILTON, OHIO)

A: According to the National Recreation and Parks Association, these parks make up the top ten:

1. Fairmont Park, Philadelphia (3,845 acres);
2. Griffith Park, Los Angeles (3,761);
3. Pelham Bay Park, New York City (2,117);
4. Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C. (1,800);
5. Balboa Park, San Diego (1,400);
6. Forest Park, St. Louis (1,380);
7. Washington Park, Cleveland (1,212);
8. Lincoln Park, Chicago (1,185);
9. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco (1,107);
10. Belle Isle Park, Detroit (985).

We've calculated the number of people per acre that each of these parks would contain if the entire population of their respective metropolitan areas could somehow be squeezed in. The people of St. Louis would have the most elbow room (at 328 people per acre), while the folks in New York City (surprise!) would have only a tenth as much (3,340 per acre). And if the list were expanded to include an eleventh park, things would get really crowded: New York's Central Park would find 8,418 people crammed into each of its 840 acres.

Q: Sierra obviously spends time deciding on the cover photo for each issue. Why then obliterate part of it with an unsightly, unremovable address label? I'd like to keep your beautiful covers as they should be—suitable for framing. (JUDITH KOENIG, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.)

A: Until the November/December 1983 issue, we did put the address label on the back cover. We discovered, however, that the label was causing problems for the advertiser who purchased that space. It seems the post office was sending change-of-address notices to the advertiser's office, not to *Sierra*.

A slipcover is the obvious solution to the problem, but mailing each magazine in a wrapper would be far too costly. As a compromise, we try to place the address label as far down in the left-hand corner of the front cover as possible, to minimize its effect.

As you've noted, a lot of time and effort go into choosing each of our covers. We want to preserve their impact too.

Q: What are wilderness study areas, and how are they supposed to be managed? (ANTHONY PRESUTTO, FOSTER CITY, CALIF.)

A: As Congress makes decisions—and compromises—on state wilderness bills, it is often impossible to reach a consensus decision on each and every area and boundary. Thus, if Congress wishes to await further studies, or if it feels that an immediate decision is simply not necessary (or politically possible), an area may be designated as a wilderness study area (WSA). The Sierra Club has often supported such decisions, inasmuch as the alternative might be an immediate decision against wilderness protection, or establishment of unacceptable boundaries for a smaller wilderness.

Generally, the wilderness qualities of WSAs are supposed to be protected until Congress decides whether to designate part or all of each area as wilderness. Under President Reagan, the interim protection of many WSAs has been jeopardized, most notoriously by the administration's repeated efforts to lease such areas for energy exploration.

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Can lightweight, foul weather gear this waterproof really reduce condensation?

Peter Storm pioneered 100% waterproof, ultra lightweight foul weather gear. Now in their own proofing factory, Peter Storm has made a major breakthrough. They've created an exclusive 100% waterproof finish that is 'water vapour permeable'. So water can't get in, but sweat can get out. Condensation is reduced to add extra comfort to the high performance you expect from Peter Storm.

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