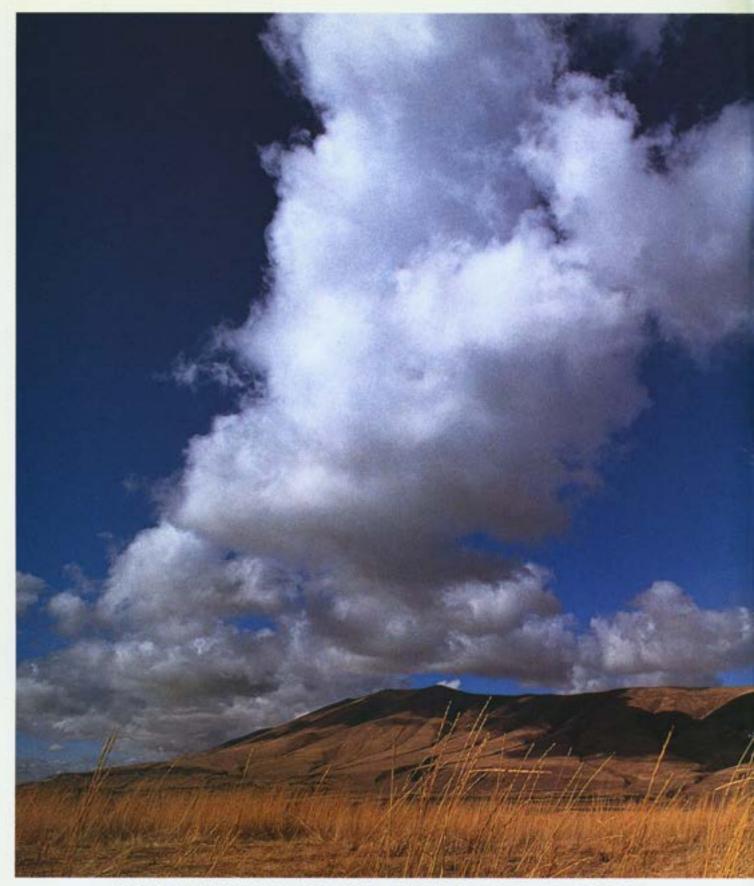
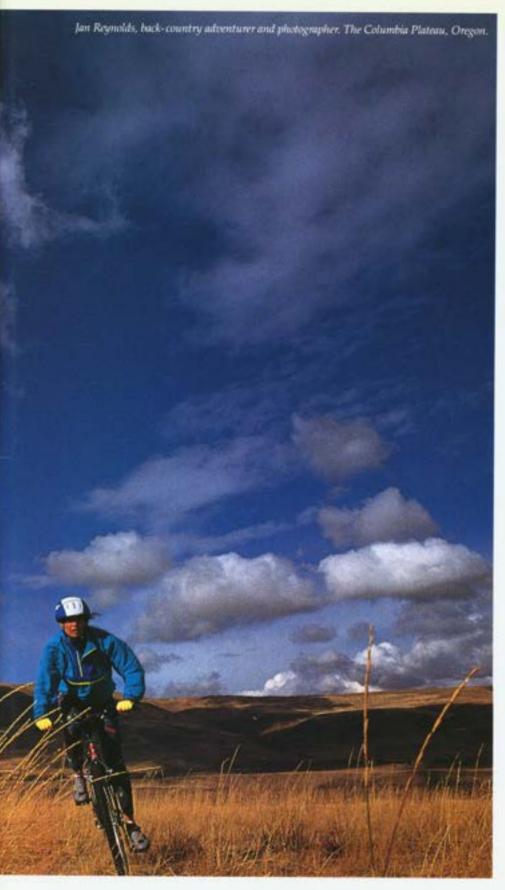
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Sierra

COVER: Atchafalaya Basin Swamp, Louisiana. For more on the bayou, see page 42. Photo by C. C. Lockwood.

6/THE ANCIENT FORESTS ARE FALLING

A call to save the trees.

10/LETTERS

18/AFIELD

Wingy gardens; eco-movies; objets d'offal; an Earth-mag for kids; states of the bike; sunny cookers.



24/PRIORITIES

Social Responsibility: Some investors want corporations to do more than cry over spilled oil.

Wilderness: It's forbidding, frozen, and fragile—who'd want to mine Antarctica? The U.S., for one. Recycling: Under a landfill or under the sun, degradable plastics could be as tenacious as their forebears.

36/IN DEPTH

Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich Ending population growth in the developing world is far more complicated than just taking a pill.



42/THAT SINKING FEELING Donald Schueler

Hang on to your porch swing, the; the coast of Louisiana is vanishing faster than you can say "laissez les bon temps rouler."

52/A PEDALER'S PACE

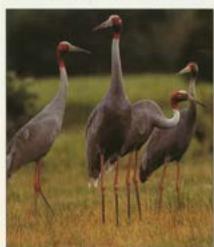
David Ewing Duncan

Slow down, cool off, and listen to the story your bike has to tell.

58/COMING HOME

Paul P. Rome

A victim of war returns to Vietnam.



66/IN NAMELESS PLACES

Hannah Hinchman

Raven's Wing, Lofty Doe, Lark Lyric: An artist honors a small corner of Wyoming.

72/HOT SPOTS

Yasuni National Park, Ecuador, Ontonagon County, Michigan.

81/SIERRA NOTES

82/OUTDOORS

James L. Castner

You don't have to drive a bulldozer to spend time in a rainforest.

85/SIERRA CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

88/BOOKS

106/QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



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THE ANCIENT FORESTS ARE FALLING

orth America's wild forests are in grave danger. The forest-products industry, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Canadian provincial governments seem determined to road and log nearly all the native forests not currently protected within parks and wilderness areas. The rich biological diversity found there is being wiped out as loggers convert these forests to tree farms, managed by clearcutting and repeated applications of herbicides and pesticides.

The way the logging industry is now structured, workers are stripping the region of its last remaining old growth and shipping much of it overseas without domestic milling. If the industry were to shift its attention to second-growth stands, invest in domestic milling (and mill jobs), and export only finished lumber, much of the remaining ancient forests could be spared. Thousands of jobs would be saved—not lost, as the industry is spending millions to persuade us—and the region could make a "softer" economic transition to a more diversified, sustainable economic base.

The Sierra Club and other conservation groups, represented by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, challenged the ancient-forest-liquidation program in the courts. Broad injunctions were obtained, giving the forests a reprieve. But the real (and imagined) economic impacts resulted in great pressure on the members of Congress to override those injunctions in order to guarantee a steady flow of logs. Working with the National Audubon Society, The Wilderness Society, and others, we mounted a national campaign to head off this possible disaster. After months of lobbying and around-the-clock negotiations, a congressional compromise was struck—one with which we agreed to live.

That 1989 compromise was only a temporary, one-year truce, not a victory. But for the first time, it recognized old-growth forests as a national ecological treasure. Protected areas for the old-growth-dependent spotted owl were expanded 10 to 20 percent over Forest Service plans. The rate and extent of federal timber-cutting was dropped 15 percent below that of recent years.

We were proud to play a constructive role in these gains. As Oregon Representative Peter DeFazio (D) said: "When the deals are being cut, somebody's got to blow some fresh air into the smoke-filled room. And that somebody has been the Sierra Club."

But the one-year compromise is not good enough. It still allows an excessive timber-cutting level, including logging of old growth in some areas (though it precludes fragmentation of the largest, most ecologically significant blocks). Under the compromise, judges may only enjoin timber-cutting plans after a full trial (preliminary injunctions are precluded), but the trial process is to be expedited. Notwithstanding this provision, the Sierra Club continues to challenge in court the too-often biased and illegal plans and actions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. And the Club opposes any language that would cripple citizens' right to go to court to challenge logging plans that violate environmental laws.

Now, led by the Club's experienced volunteer activists, we are going back to Congress and the American people with legislation that will guarantee permanent preservation of specific ecological units of old-growth forest—identified and studied by teams of Club volunteers—while further reducing the total cutting level in the region, outlawing the export of unprocessed logs, and moving toward a sustainable second-growth timber economy with dependable jobs.

The Sierra Club will be calling on our members nationwide to help lobby this forest-saving program through Congress. And we will continue to use the courts to protect old-growth forests in the meantime.

Michael L. Fischer Sierra Club Executive Director

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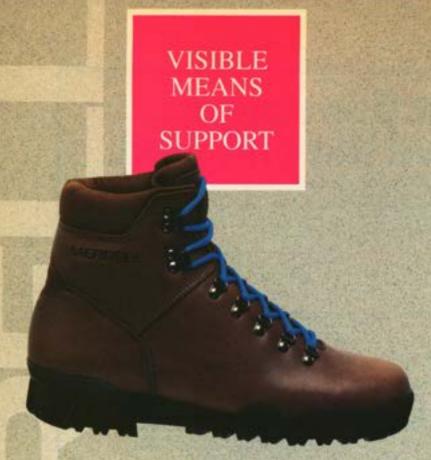
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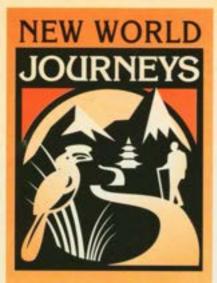
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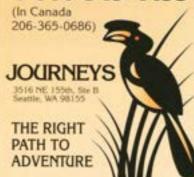
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LETTERS

UTAH TRIPS AND MAPS

I greatly enjoyed Ray Wheeler's "Two Weeks to Wander" (January/February). Southern Utah is a wonderful place to explore: The scenery is fantastic, and Wheeler described it well.

The Sierra Club's Outing Committee has scheduled more than 25 backpack, service, van, and boat trips in this area for 1990. These trips can be easily identified by their listings in the Southwest geographic index on page 108 of the same issue of Sierra.

Peter Bengston, Chair Sierra Club National Outing Committee Seattle, Washington

The map that accompanied "Two Weeks to Wander" suggests that the Bureau of Land Management has been incredibly wise and generous in setting aside wilderness-study areas throughout the Escalante, Capitol Reef, and Henry Mountains areas. Though the text of the article correctly states that the areas marked in yellow (labeled "proposed BLM wilderness") are included in Representative Wayne Owens' bill (H.R. 1500), your readers should know that the BLM itself proposes almost none of those areas as wilderness. In its 1985 Utah Wilderness environmental impact statement, the agency set aside only the most worthless places and provided no buffer zones around national recreation areas, national parks, or Forest Service lands.

Valerie P. Cohen Cedar City, Utah

BAD AS GOLD

I presume that the title of Craig McLaughlin's "Priorities" article in the January/February issue ("The Rush for Invisible Gold") was intentional: Gold mining is creating some of the most visible and unsightly environmental devastation in history. (It's always been the most environmentally destructive form of mining, simply because of the low concentrations of gold ore.) The mystique of gold mining should be laid to rest forever. Only when gold mining is understood to be just another industrial activity will it be subjected to the public and governmental overview that other mining interests accept as part of their business.

Gerald T. Davidson Menlo Park, California

NAME THAT TREE

A small percentage of visitors to Sequoia National Park, mostly from the South, are genuinely bothered by the name of the General Sherman Tree ("Afield," January/February). Certainly, for those who are familiar with our nation's history, the name does recall the destruction and bitterness associated with the Civil War.

The tree was originally named by a veteran of General Sherman's army in 1879. In the 1880s, before the park was established, a group of socialist utopians organized a colony in the area and attempted to purchase the Giant Forest from the federal government. They proposed an alternative name for the grandest sequoia of all: the Karl Marx Tree.

In 1891, after Congress created Sequoia National Park, cavalry troops were sent to protect the giant sequoias. When confronted with the choice between General Sherman and Karl Marx, the soldiers had little trouble making a decision. By the time the army turned the park over to civilian administrators nearly a quarter century later, the name General Sherman had become solidly affixed to the world's largest tree.

Because the name is part of our history, and because we believe that history is better lived with than changed, we think it best that the General Sherman Tree retain its current nomenclature. Given a free choice in the matter, though, we might well consider abolishing all the names given to individual sequoia trees in past years. Few of them help us better see the trees for the amazing organisms they are. Visitors like the names, however, and so we have retained the best known of them: We have trees named for Grant, Lincoln, Lee (two trees, actually), Washington, McKinley, Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, and Jefferson. Stanley T. Albright Regional Director, Western Region National Park Service

I WANT MY MUIR T.V.

San Francisco, California

Your November/December 1989 "Outdoors" column, a pleasant and informative essay on the seemingly benign practice of videotaping in the backcountry, ignores its subject's dangers. One must ask: Does this new technology enhance or degrade the wildemess experience? As our distance increases physically from wilderness, it is important that we do not distance ourselves psychologically. Video places a barrier between individuals and the world around them. Video perception is radically different and certainly limited. From lack of practice, memory will soon lose its acuity, and a backcountry trip will endure not within us. but on a 90-minute tape.

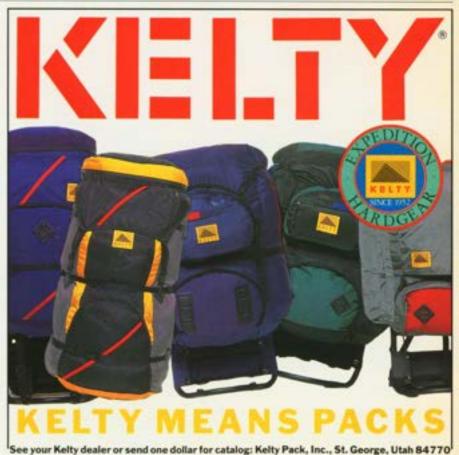
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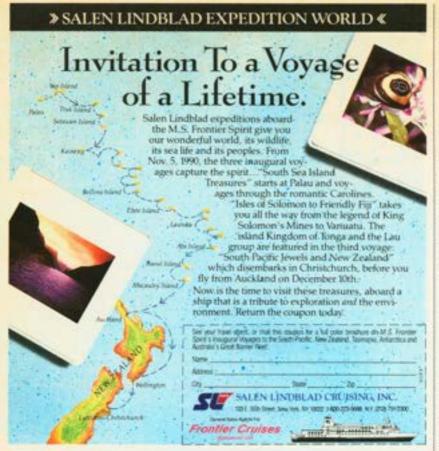
RHINO RUMINATIONS

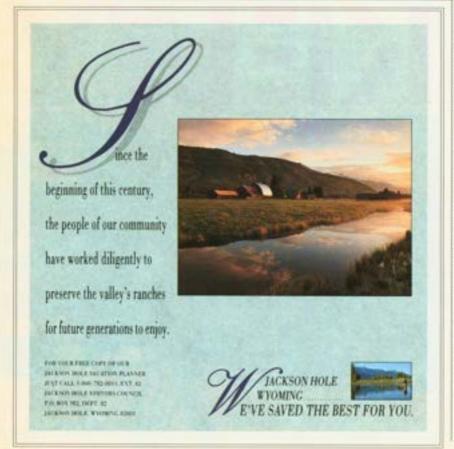
A tremendous amount of rumor has been generated by the international press concerning Zambian ministerial involvement in the rhino poaching there ("Horns of a Dilemma." November/December). I have yet to hear this "rumor" from any reliable source. Only one Zambian poacher has mentioned "corruption" following his arrest. When I questioned this poacher personally, he was unable to identify any person or official position associated with such "corruption." This rumor, which has been quoted so often that the public seems to believe it to be true, originated with an overzealous and careless reporter and has been kept alive by irresponsible journalists ever since.

To set the record straight, I should point out that Paul Russell of the Zam-









bian government's Anti-Corruption Commission was correct when he told Margaret L. Knox that "the Zimbabweans have failed to present a 'shred' of evidence" of ministerial involvement in rhino-poaching.

We are bedeviled in this region with irresponsible and negative reporting, which only serves to portray a country like ours in an undeserved adverse light. I believe your readers will have been quick to realize that Knox's article is unbalanced, cynical, and dwells almost exclusively on negative and pessimistic aspects.

G. M. Nott
Acting Chief Investigation Officer
Department of National Parks
and Wildlife Management
Zimbabwe

Ms. Knox's article and supporting statements from the Zambezi Society maintain that Mobil has tried to take advantage of the Zimbabwean government—to "pull a fast one," in her words. On December 4, 1989, we signed an agreement with Zimbabwe to explore for oil, after 31 months of discussions. That is hardly "a fast one," During this almost-three-year process we have worked with government officials to develop a plan that takes into account the expressed concerns of conservationists.

Our program will utilize exploration techniques that will be the least disruptive to the wilderness and wildlife. They will be more costly, certainly; but we have successfully employed these techniques in the rainforests of Sumatra and other sensitive areas. Briefly, we do not plan to use "vibroseis" vehicles, which would require cutting wide swaths through the jungle. Our seismic crews will be helicoptered in and will plant their seismic shots "by hand," thus minimizing the impact on forestation. We will limit the removal of vegetation in the seismic area to an absolute minimum. We will restore to the extent possible any affected area to its previous state.

We have also agreed that the government of Zimbabwe will oversee a thorough environmental impact as-

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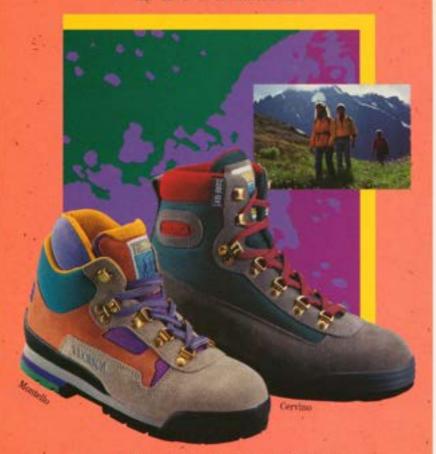
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sessment at various states of our exploration plan. This includes delaying the seismic survey work in the very sensitive World Heritage areas until we have demonstrated to the government the soundness of our procedures.

J. R. Gaca, General Manager Mobil New Exploration

Ventures Company Fairfax, Virginia

Margaret L. Knox replies: I included the exchange between Mr. Nott and Mr. Russell not to perpetuate any rumor, but to illustrate the very real and destructive tensions between members of the two nations' enforcement teams.

I am only sorry Mr. Nott was offended by what I considered constructive criticism of the continent's most earnest and innovative effort to preserve an endangered species. The region is bedeviled, as I see it, not by negative reporting but by government secrecy and paranoia about the airing of diverse viewpoints.

I am pleased to learn that Mobil abandoned the vibroseis trucks in favor of the less intrusive shots by hand, an alternative Zimbabwean officials said the company declined to consider before last fall's public outcry. I credit brave conservationists within the Zimbabwean government and watchdogs such as the Zambezi Society and the weekly Financial Mail newspaper with blowing the whistle in time at least to mitigate the effects of oil exploration on what until recently was a pristine national wilderness area.

It seems a mistake was made by the editors in including a picture of a mother and baby rhino identified as black rhinos (pages 58–59). The wide shape of the mouths and the humps present at the base of the neck on both animals would indicate that these are white rhinos (Ceratotherium simum), not black rhinos (Diceros bicornis), as indicated. Black rhinos can be identified by an upper lip that is triangular in shape and prehensile. They do not have a hump at the base of the neck, as exhibited in the white rhino.

Karin S. Newman American Association of Zoo Keepers Milwaukee, Wisconsin British Columbia offers a new perspective on beauty. As wave after wave of coastal mountains reveal themselves, you may be moved to get out your camera. Or like artist Toni Onley, open a paint box. The soft pinks of sunset. Vancouver and Victoria's deep forest greens. The line between city and country here is very fine indeed. For more colourful words and pictures on travelling our province, call 1-800-663-6000 Tourism British Columbia, Parliament Bldgs., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4. You'll be inspired. Super, Natural British Columbia CANADA





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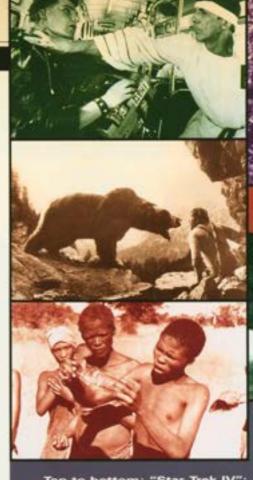
AFIELD

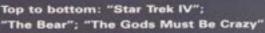
WE SAY 'TWO PAWS UP' TO THESE

What is so rare as a major motion picture with an ecological theme? Why is it so difficult to find a feature film that stresses the value of simple ways of living, or that details the deficiencies of consumerism or the dangers of overpopulation? Or one in which animals are portrayed in terms of their own unique characteristics, and where-if they must interact with humans-they do so as equal members of a biotic community, not as clowns or intelligent slaves?

Still, some decent films with ecological themes have been made, and one fan's personal (and partial) list follows. It embraces only films that have been released commercially in the United States, and excludes documentaries. All except The Bear have been available on videotape at one time or another.—Daniel Conner

- 1. Never Cry Wolf, USA, 1983. Directed by Carroll Ballard. This film is number one in my book for its profound message, beautiful scenery (done justice by superb cinematography), and Mark Isham's electronic score. It's based on the Farley Mowat novel, in which a wildlife ecologist spends a few seasons in the Arctic studying the predator/prey relationship between caribou and wolves.
- Dersu Uzala, USSR/ Japan, 1975. Directed by





Akira Kurosawa. The leader of a turn-of-the-century Russian survey party be-friends a Siberian hunter, learning from him the ways of the taiga. Long on atmosphere, short on drama (though the ending is poignant), the film gave evidence of growing Soviet environmental consciousness.

3. The Bear (L'Ours),
France, 1988. Directed by
Jean-Jacques Annaud. An
orphaned grizzly cub teams
up with an adult male
wounded by hunters. Together they fight off dogs,
riflemen, and a mountain
lion. The bears have authentic "personalities," and
while it may sound a trifle
Disneyfied, it works.

- 4. Koyaanisqatsi, USA, 1983. Directed by Godfrey Reggio. Taking its title from the Hopi ("life out of balance"), this film visually dramatizes the conviction that something is terribly wrong with our way of life. The cumulative effect of its eerily juxtaposed natural and manmade vistas, in time-lapse and slow-motion photography, is a powerful sense of the interconnectedness of things.
- The Emerald Forest, UK, 1985. Directed by John Boorman. The son of a dam-builder is abducted by a gentle rainforest tribe; after ten years he is thoroughly integrated into its way of life. The conclusion

is a bit hokey (and unnecessarily violent), but if you're like me, you'll be jumping up and down on your seat when Croakus pistoffus brings down the wrath of the rain god on that Amazon dam.

Above: "Dersu Uzala

Below: "Bambi"

- 6. The Last Wine, Australia, 1977. Directed by Peter Weir. Aboriginal mysteries suck an urbane young lawyer into the Dreamtime. This supernatural thriller grows more and more visionary as it progresses toward its apocalyptic conclusion. It may turn out to be one of the most prophetic pictures ever made.
- The Gods Must Be Crazy, Botswana, 1981. Written and directed by Jamie Uys. A Bushman introduced to civilization embarks on a quest to rid his tribe of its evil influence. A charming allegory, and genuinely funny—though the slapstick

situations are sometimes clumsy. Don't deny yourself this treat in the mistaken belief that it comes from South Africa.

8. Bambi, USA, 1942. Directed by Walt Disney. Yes,
it's sappy and sentimental;
yes, it anthropomorphizes
animals into cutesy-poo caricatures. (A forest with no
predators except humans?
Come on.) Still, this 45year-old lawyer cries at
every viewing, and never
fails to leave the theater
entertaining at least a few
wistful ecocentric thoughts.

9. Aguirre, The Wrath of God, West Germany, 1972. Directed by Werner Herzog. A power-crazed conquistador seizes control of part of Pizarro's 1560 expedition in search of South American gold and leads the party to its death in the Amazon jungle. Mad Aguirre, alone in the vastness, winds up king of a tribe of river monkeys.

10. Star Tiek IV: The Voyage Home, USA, 1986. Directed by Leonard Nimoy. "There are other forms of intelligence on Earth," Spock admonishes Dr. McCoy. "Only human arrogance would assume the message was meant for man."

In fact, the aliens' message —perceived by humans as life-threatening electromagnetism—is aimed at Earth's humpback whales, extinct for centuries. To save the planet, the crew of the Enterprise must find a pair somewhere. . . .

THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

The town of Lyndhurst, New Jersey, is no stranger to trash, having provided one of the state's larger dumping grounds for more than a century. Now that space and time are both running out, the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission is trying to educate consumers about where their garbage actually goes, and what they can do to create less of it.

One step in that process was the dedication last October of the nation's first trash museum, located in DeKorte State Park.

"We want people to understand that when they put their garbage out on pick-up day, it doesn't magically disappear," says Bob Grant, the commission's director of public relations. "Instead, it's often trucked to places like the Meadowlands landfills, where it adds to mountains of other garbage until there's no room left."

The museum's dramatic main display is designed to evoke the feeling of being inside a gigantic landfill. Heaps of worn-out tires, rusted fenders, discarded bottles, and old newspapers are piled so high that they seem likely to topple over and inundate the viewer.

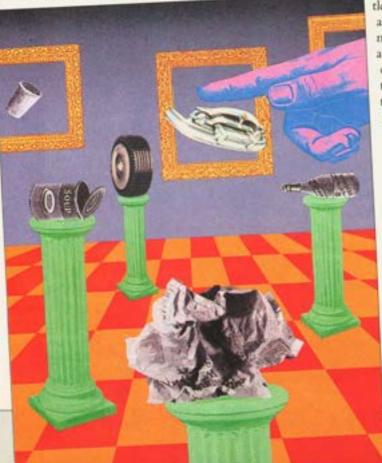
At another exhibit visitors peer through a peephole at a typical domestic scene from the late 20th century, complete with aluminum foil, plastic cups, soda bottles, and other nondegradables. Instead of faces, however, the family members in this tableau sport mirrors that reflect the viewers' own faces—as a tape recording rhetorically asks who it is that creates all this waste.

Elsewhere in the museum the emphasis shifts to solutions: recycling, and choosing products that decompose. One display compares the ways in which two hypothetical towns—one environmentally responsible, the other much less so—handle their trash disposal. And another exhibit describes new products that can be made from recycled trash.

When they leave, visitors are confronted by symbols of the two choices that lie before us: on one side, a mountain of garbage that makes up the Meadowlands' last active landfill; on the other, a restored marsh

> where egrets, turtles, muskrats, and other animals roam. It's a final reminder of the need to manage our trash before it trashes us.

> > -Roberta Chopp Rothschild



eople who ride bikes rather than drive do so for a variety of reasons. These range from the eco-philosophical (in those cases where a number of choices exist) to the imperatives of mundane necessity (in those places where cars are rare, and bikes usually ubiquitous).

Where the auto still reigns, and cyclists travel more or less at their peril, government action can either encourage or hinder bike usage. Government is showing itself responsive to bicyclists' special needs in states like Oregon and Ohio, each of which distributes maps showing routes suitable for cyclists, has worked out a "scenic byways" program, and provides funds for a state bicycle coordinator. In other states

In other states similar cooperation has not been

YOU CAN RIDE THAT SHOULDER IN WYOMING

forthcoming. A survey by the League of American Wheelmen (LAW), a bicycle advocates group, ranked the 50 states and the District of Columbia for their performance in 26 key areas, including ongoing funding of cyclist-related state programs, access to rural interstates, tolerance of hand signals, and lighting and reflector requirements. The bottom rungs were occupied by Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, and South Carolina, all rated harshly for their failure to fund educational programs, to abolish laws that compel cyclists to take poorly maintained, even dangerous alternate routes (sidepaths), or to permit travel on the shoulders of the interstates.

A state-level bicycle

coordinator

can be key

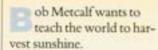
to improving the regulatory climate. "People in state governments aren't necessarily hostile to cyclists," says Andy Clarke, LAW's government-relations director. "It's that they don't always know what to do for us or how to do it. Once there's someone within the bureaucracy whose role is to work full-time on cycling issues, the legal system tends to follow up."

To obtain the state-bystate rating, or for other information, contact the League of American Wheelmen, 6707 Whitestone Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207; phone (301) 944-3399. —W. B. Travis

20 - MARCH/APRIL 1990

UPDATE

- New Mexico's Gray Ranch, a third of a million acres of threatened biodiversity (J/F '90), was acquired in January by The Nature Conservancy for \$18.25 million.
- Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson has upheld temporary restrictions on clearcutting in 16 national forests in the South, to protect the habitat of the endangered redcockaded woodpecker (M/A '89).
- Southern California's air-quality management district has imposed strict new controls on so-called "specialty coatings" used in home remodeling, as part of its 20-year plan to clean up the region's air (J/A '89).



A microbiology professor at California State University, Sacramento, who believes that "good science should be spent on improving the human condition," Metcalf hopes to wean the poor of the developing world from the wood fires over which they pre-

pare their meals. He wants them to cook with solar power instead—using a simple and inexpensive 3– by 4–foot box of cardboard, aluminum, and glass. He's convinced that the solar box cooker (SBC) is the key to alleviating the fuelwood crisis that is deforesting many sun-rich but fuelpoor Third World nations.

The glass-topped device, which can cook 15 pounds of food at temperatures up to 275 degrees Fahrenheit, was designed in 1976 by Barbara Kerr and Sherry Cole of Arizona. Metcalf purchased one in 1978, and since then his family has cooked an SBC dinner about 200 days out of the year. He has no doubt that the SBC would be readily adopted by the world's poor if it could but

"Between 70 and 90 percent of the energy used in developing countries is fuel for cooking," Metcalf says, "while at the same time sunshine is the only abundant energy source most poor people have. The solar box cooker shows people how to use their most abundant—and renewable—energy source to address their major environmental problem."

be made available to them.

Even as environmental and development agencies bemoan the growing fuelwood crisis and conclude that no significant substitute for wood seems to be on the horizon, Metcalf chafes under the frustration of having his grant requests for SBC workshops in developing countries turned down by a number of major foundations. Still, his crusade has met with some success: Workshops in Latin America and Africa have been sponsored or funded by

LIGHT CUISINE IS HOT STUFF



Foster Parents Plan and the Pillsbury Company, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has helped promote the SBC in the Middle East.

Solar Box Cookers International was formed in 1987 to disseminate information about the device and to train people to give workshops around the world. The core member-

ship of this nonprofit group is made up of Californians who use SBCs regularly,



Solve the fuelwood crisis get your mitts on an SBC.

many of whom were introduced to them by Metcalf at environmental fairs and meetings.

"I have no illusion that this knowledge will spread to the 2.4 billion people who need it by the year 2000," Metcalf says.
"But if you were an adolescent girl growing up in Bolivia, faced with the prospect of spending your life cooking over a stinking sheep-dung fire, wouldn't you want to know about a solar box cooker?"

Plans for building an SBC are available for \$5 from Solar Box Cookers International, 1724 11th St., Sacramento, CA 95814; phone (916) 444-6616. Inquiries about purchasing the units or assisting with international workshops may also be directed there.—Ted Rieger

HETCALF

f butterflies seem to be visiting your garden less frequently than they once did, you're not imagining things. Blame their absence on the years of habitat loss

LURING LEPIDOPTERA

But even though their numbers are down, and their individual lives no longer than before (most North American species live only 10 to 14 days), there still are ways to lure butterflies to your backyard during the coming gardening season. One of the most important steps you can take is to avoid pesticides. The poisons that kill insect pests will also kill butterflies. You'll also need to have some plants in your garden



DENE ON

that provide butterflies with food, and—if you have the space for them—other plants to serve as hosts for egg-laying.

Luckily, many of the plants that furnish nectar for butterflies are annuals already familiar to gardeners: alyssum, marigolds, petunias, verbenas, cosmos, zinnias. Others are perennials and shrubs appropriate for the new trend in landscape design toward informal, "English country" types of borders.

If you can, arrange to visit a commercial butterfly garden (another idea borrowed from the English), such as Butterfly World in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, or the new Day Butterfly Center at Callaway Gardens, Georgia. You'll be struck by the informal, old-fashioned, almost weedy look of the areas planted for native North American butterflies. Consider bringing some old favorites back in your own garden: black-eved Susan, butterfly weed, coreopsis, loosestrife, butterfly bush, lantana, and passionflower vines.

Host plants such as milkweed, ornamental grasses, butterfly weed, passionflower, spicebush, thistle, and members of the mallow family (hibiscus) are necessary if you want to raise butterflies through the entire life cycle. However, caterpillars munching away will surely leave unsightly holes in the leaves of your plants. You'll have to tolerate that, or else locate these host plants in an unused or hidden corner of the garden.

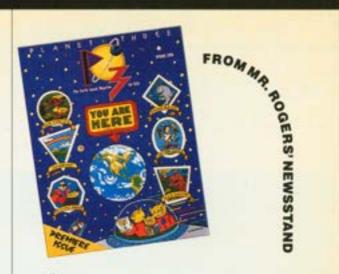
Here are some other tips to follow:

- Plant in full sun. Flowers that attract butterflies tend to be sun-loving.
- Butterflies are attracted partially by color, so use large splashes of it in your design. Groups of flowers are easier for butterflies to find.
- Plant single rather than double flowers; their nectar is more accessible.
- Plant for continuous bloom throughout the growing season so butterflies will have a constant food supply.
- Place flat stones in the sun for basking. Butterflies are cold-blooded, and often bask in the morning sun to warm their wings for flight.
 Provide shallow puddles in the garden for butterflies to drink from.

Butterfly gardening is challenging in many ways you may find, for example, that organic pest-control methods aren't effective against ants and spiders, two butterfly enemies. Birds also feed on butterflies, so attracting both to your garden is tricky.

The Xerces Society (10 S.W. Ash St., Portland, OR 92704), an invertebrate conservation organization, publishes educational leaflets as well as a magazine, Wings. The society also has developed a book, Summer Magic: Butterfly Gardening, to be published by Sierra Club Books this fall.

-Barbara Deane



hen Randi Hacker and Jackie Kaufman realized that there was no magazine for children that deals exclusively with environmental issues, they invented one.

P3 ("The Earth-Based Magazine for Kids") debuts in March. The 32-page premiere issue, with its eye-catching cover promising "singing sea life," "wild history," and "fun and games," features stories about Earth Day, cleanair legislation, recycling, and grassroots activism. Also included are profiles of an animal-rescue worker in Alaska and an elephant researcher in Kenya, a celebration of "Earth: A great place to live!" and the first episode of "The Earth Rangers," an action-packed cartoon strip.

"Randi and I wanted to do something for the environment," Kaufman says. "We're not politicians and we're not scientists, but we do know about writing for kids." So they created the nonprofit P3 Foundation, composed of teachers, grade-school students, environmentalists, even film stars, and developed a plan for the first-ever kids magazine about the environment.

In an era of video games and innocuous sitcoms, are children really interested in environmental issues? Kaufman and Hacker think they are. "Surveys show that kids are really afraid of acid rain and the ozone hole," Kaufman says. "These are scary things even for adults; imagine what it's like for kids!"

P3, named for Earth's position as the third planet from the sun, is written in a playful, accessible style. ("If elephants could dial 911, they would have called for help a long time ago.") And it's informative without being condescending. Each page is colorful, fun to read, and (most important) interesting. Initial inquiries have come primarily from teachers, who receive subscriptions free; paid subscriptions are \$14 for ten issues. For information, write to P3 Magazine, P.O. Box 52, Montgomery, VT 05470, or phone (802) 326-4669.—Chase Reynolds

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Missed Manners

In the wake of the Exxon Valdez disaster, concerned investors have begun prodding corporations to mind their Earth etiquette.



Keiko Ohnuma

or obeying laws or accepting liability, but they know better than to bite the hands that feed them.

At least that's what anti-apartheid activists were betting on in the 1970s when they crafted the Sullivan Principles, a code of conduct for U.S. businesses in South Africa, backed by investors' threats to sell their stock in uncooperative companies.

Environmentalists may now profit from that successful experiment—or so hopes the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES), a consortium of 14 environmental groups and the 325 members of the Social Investment Forum, a national trade association of money managers, brokers, bankers, analysts, and other socially concerned investors. Last fall the coalition unveiled its own set of guidelines designed to hit polluters from a new angle.

The ten rules, christened the Valdez

Principles to commemorate a particularly galling incident of industrial carelessness, are intended to legitimize the idea that corporations are responsible for their impact on the biosphere. "The principles are designed to be both a stick and a financial carrot for a new corporate consciousness," says Joan Bavaria, cochair of CERES and president of Franklin Research and Development Corporation, a Boston-based investment advisory firm. "They're structured to reward responsible corporate actions with significant investment dollars, and potentially to withdraw dollars from irresponsible corporations. For example, a state that is endorsing the Valdez Principles might eventually sell off [its pension-fund] stocks in companies that did not pledge to support the principles."

The principles cover a broad range of topics. Under "protection of the biosphere," for instance, corporations are asked to

 "minimize and strive to eliminate the release of any pollutant that may cause en-

vironmental damage to the air, water, or Earth or its inhabitants;"

- "safeguard habitats in rivers, lakes, wetlands, coastal zones, and oceans;" and
- "minimize contributing to the greenhouse effect, depletion of the ozone layer, acid rain, or smog."

Nine other principles follow, which would commit signatory companies to, among other things, make sustainable use of natural resources; protect wildlife habitat, open spaces, and wilderness; preserve biodiversity; reduce and safely dispose of wastes; use safe and sustainable energy sources; invest in energy efficiency; and disclose accidents and hazards to employees and the public.

The tenth principle requires an annual evaluation of signatory companies' environmental performance in meeting these goals, working toward independent audit procedures that would be completed annually and made available to the public. In this audit "we're talking about something deeper than counting emissions," explains Bavaria. "Our dream is to create a great number of environmental-audit firms" that will be equipped to judge "the institutionalization of environmental practices," including such nebulous factors as management commitment to the Valdez Principles,

Backing up the invitation extended to at least 3,000 corporations to sign on to the principles are endorsements from groups that control 150 billion investment dollars: the Social Investment Forum, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (the investment adviser to the National Council of Churches), and the government offices that control the pension funds of New York City and the state of California.

The coalition's environmentalist members include the Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and Wilderness Society. Although these groups will not be promoting or endorsing signatory companies, they helped draft the principles and are now working—along with investors and corporations—to translate them into measurable standards.

In the business community most companies remain tight-lipped about the possibility of signing, at least while the details are unclear. "We have received the principles and are studying them," said an Exxon spokesperson in December, with "no comment" on the commemorative name.

Representatives of other oil companies, as well as chemical, timber, and manufacturing interests, were similarly vague, preferring to cite their own





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environmental programs and guidelines. The response of Occidental Petroleum's vice-president for health, environment, and safety, Frank Friedman, was typical: "We're doing all these things right now."

Some of the principles' backers are also daunted by the prospect of implementation. John Lickerman, director of research for the social-investment fund Working Assets and a CERES collaborator, questions whether standards that corporations will agree to can still contain any substance. "I'm not saying all corporations are bad," he explains. "I'm just saying it's not in the companies' best interests."

But CERES Co-chair Bavaria takes a different view. Corporations will agree to exacting standards, she believes, because "in the long run companies that pay attention to these principles are going to be more profitable. They're not going to be constantly flirting with disaster."

The coalition's roster of committed investors may also cause some corporations to sit up and take notice—especially if CERES succeeds in wooing the Council of Institutional Investors, a group of state pension funds worth \$400 billion. It's unclear how far investors are willing to push their companies, however. New York City Comptroller Harrison Goldin, the main advocate of the Valdez Principles among pension-fund managers, avers that the principles "are in no way weapons of coercion," and Joan Bavaria is quick to point out that divestiture would be advocated only as a last resort.

Publicity may prove to be the coalition's most effective tool. In the case of the Sullivan Principles, says the other CERES co-chair, Earth Day 1990 organizer Denis Hayes, it wasn't the funds withdrawn from recalcitrant corporations that made the difference, but "the visibility, the substantial PR response." The chemical giant E. I. du Pont de Nemours has already shown strong interest in the Valdez Principles, lending truth to Sierra Club Chairman Michael McCloskey's observation that chemical companies "are among the most likely to cooperate, because they have such bad press."

McCloskey sees his work with CERES as part of a broader movement to teach people to exercise their power for change through the economic choices they make every day. "We want to plant the idea that spending money is a way to vote," he says. "Cast ballots for the kind of economic endeavors you want to see. Businesses have stymied regulatory efforts, but they understand an economic message."

Denis Hayes agrees that this is the main purpose of the Valdez Principles: While legislation and litigation have been useful, he says, "we have to enlist people as consumers, as shareholders, as employees—in every way we can to make sure the necessary changes over the next ten years are actually achieved."

KEIKO OHNUMA is a freelance writer and editor in San Francisco.

Independent research shows:

NordicTrack preferred six to one over bikes and rowers

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The Great White Heap?

Fears that a rush for frozen treasure will ruin a pristine continent have stopped an Antarctic treaty in its tracks.

Paul Larmer

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Antarctica, A 5.5-million-squaremile chunk of real estate awaiting the right combination of economic forces that will send geologists and developers scurrying across its icy skin probing for coal, copper, uranium, and iron, and drilling its continental shelf for oil.

Antarctica's remoteness, nearly impenetrable ice, and harsh climate have long chilled prospects for oil and mineral development. Even today scien-

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tists can only speculate about the riches to be found in and around the land mass. But what for years has been an intriguing riddle has become a fierce debate over the frozen continent's commercial future.

In June 1988 the 20 countries then operating research bases in Antarctica signed a minerals-development agreement. Six years in the making, the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resources Activities (CRAMRA) signaled that, for the first time in three decades of cooperative scientific research, the signatories to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty were ready to get down to the business of resource exploitation.

But the minerals accord got a cool

reception from conservationists who want Antarctica maintained as a wildemess reserve, and they soon found powerful allies. In May 1989, Australian Prime Minister R.J.L. Hawke announced that his country no longer supported the agreement and would instead push for a comprehensive environmental-protection convention and the creation of a global wilderness park. The pact Hawke envisions would "ensure that no mining takes place" in Antarctica.

With the backing of the French government, Australia's move brought CRAMRA to a halt. The agreement cannot take effect until signed and ratified by 16 of its 20 sponsors, which must include the United States, the Soviet Union, and the seven countries with territorial claims in Antarctica. two of which are Australia and France. The United States has signed the agreement, but the Senate has yet to consider it for ratification.

Proponents of a world park see the actions of Australia and France, two

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Lester Bogen doesn't sell anything he wouldn't buy himself. countries that have not traditionally been champions of environmental causes, as a sign of the growing strength of the worldwide conservation movement. Antarctica Project Director lim Barnes, legal counsel for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, an umbrella organization of about 200 groups, says "the Australian and French initiative reflects the thinking of the environmental community. It also reflects, on a personal level, the thinking of the leaders of France and Australia." Naturalist Jacques Cousteau personally urged French President François Mitterand to oppose the agreement.

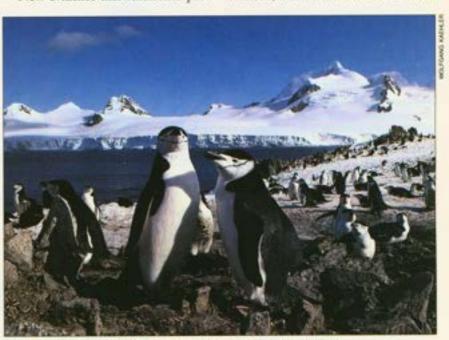
Mining foes have contended for years that any resource exploitation is inadmissible in Antarctica. "Because the food chain in Antarctica's ecosystem is extremely short and tightly interconnected, impact on one component of the ecosystem will spread quickly to its other members," says biologist Beth Marks of the Sierra Club's International Committee, who chairs the Club's Antarctica Task Force. Any damage will be especially devastating to the krill, the small, shrimplike organisms that are the primary food source for many species of whales, seals, birds, and fish.

New evidence that Antarctica pro-

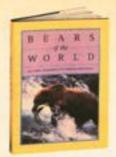
foundly influences the world's climate is fueling the arguments of those who want a permanent ban on mineral development there. The continent is now the frontline laboratory for study of the planet's ecological crisis, a place where scientists can investigate the effects of global warming, the ozone hole, and the history of air pollution.

Environmentalists also point to the poor record of ongoing oil and gas operations in polar regions and the threat posed by tanker accidents. Antarctica's inclement weather makes devastating oil spills like the March 1989 Exxon Valdez accident in Alaska seem inevitable. The damage caused a year ago by a 250,000-gallon fuel spill less than two miles from the United States' Palmer Research Station demonstrates what even a relatively small accident can do to Antarctica's fragile ecosystem. "The spill wiped out a colony of newborn skua chicks, and with it 20 years of scientific research," says Marks. "It also devastated krill and phytoplankton populations, and destroyed the primary research on the biological effects of the ozone hole."

Nevertheless, the United States, along with the Soviet Union, Britain, Japan, and South Africa, remains committed to the 1988 minerals treaty. Lee Kimball, a staff member of the World



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Resources Institute who helped negotiate the accord's environmental provisions, defends the American stance. Under the agreement the voting members (now 25 countries) must unanimously approve opening an area to exploration after assessing environmental risks; Kimball maintains that the agreement will provide essential ground rules for mining development where only an informal moratorium now exists.

"I can't think of a better mechanism to protect the environment," she says. "You've got to realize that Antarctica is the size of the United States and Mexico combined. To put a cap on all mineral development there forever is the kind of stricture most countries won't accept."

Barnes of the Antarctica Project sees no need for a compromise between commerce and wilderness in Antarctica. "We're in the middle of a very long battle in which individual govemments will have to make their own decisions," he says, "but I personally feel that CRAMRA is dead." He hopes that a special meeting of Antarctic Treaty members later this year to discuss the nature-reserve proposal and other environmental concerns will spark stronger support for the "world park" initiative from the United States. "We need to turn our country around," Barnes says, "to unleash the membership of the major environmental groups."

American environmentalists have an ally in Senator Albert Gore, Jr. (D-Tenn.), who is trying to persuade the Bush administration to take the environmental high ground. Gore has introduced a joint resolution that calls for the "full protection of Antarctica as a global ecological commons" and supports the wilderness-park plan. To date 15 senators have cosponsored Senate Joint Resolution 206, which now has a companion measure (H.J.R. 418) introduced by Representative Wayne Owens (D-Utah).

Because the United States has no territorial claims and primarily scientific interest in Antarctica, "the door is wide open for it to lead the protection of Antarctica and the global environment," says the Sierra Club's Marks. While it is unlikely that the United States, which has consistently opposed an Antarctic mining ban, will make an about-face soon, many environmentalists remain hopeful: It was also considered unlikely a few years ago that a world-park proposal would be at the center of a heated debate over the icy continent.

PAUL LARMER is the Sierra Club's mediarelations representative in San Francisco.

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A Panacea Falls Apart

Degradable plastic, touted by many in industry as an answer to our garbage ills, is just something else to worry about.

Stewart Wills

HE PEOPLE OF Minneapolis were furning. Not only had the city's garbage-disposal costs nearly tripled in a year, but the localslong avid recyclers of glass and aluminum-saw their food packaging steadily shifting to mostly nonrecyclable plastic. Result: The city council unanimously approved an ordinance that by this June will ban all food packaging that isn't returnable, recyclable through the city's curbside-pickup program, or made of degradable materials. Since its passage early last year, says Bill Barnhart, government-affairs representative for Minneapolis, some 300 localities nationwide have expressed interest in the ordinance.

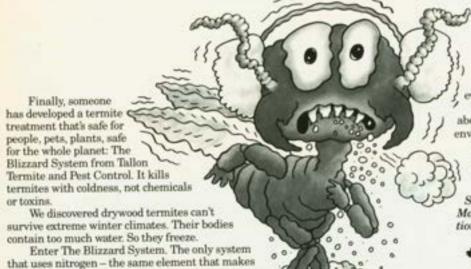
"This is waste-stream management at the gut level," declares Barnhart. "We're telling businesses that before they can put packaging on the market, they've got to figure out how we'll get rid of it."

That kind of thinking has an \$85billion industry shaken up, for never has the public image of plastics been worse. The trade is quick to note that, of the 160 million tons of garbage that Americans churn out yearly, plastic products constitute about 7.3 percent by weight, a seemingly reasonable amount. But they may account for two to three times that percentage by physical volume, a much more important variable when it comes to increasingly scarce landfill space. Further, plastics are the fastest-growing component of our trash: Since 1960, while America's total solid-waste tonnage has roughly doubled, plastic waste has increased by a factor of 20. And more than half the plastic now discarded is throwaway packaging.

This pileup means money in the coffers of one tiny industry segment: the makers of so-called degradable plastics. Although degradables make up less than 1 percent of the total plastics market, and typically cost more than ordinary plastics, consumers are snapping them up. Sales of RMED International's degradable diaper, Tender-Care, burgeoned more than sevenfold in the fiscal year that ended in September 1989. The company woos its clientele with the slogan "Change the world one diaper at a time."

Degradable plastics come in several varieties, but the most ballyhooed mixture uses cornstarch to bond conventional plastic polymers. In theory the product degrades as the cornstarch is attacked by micro-organisms in the





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soil. Agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) sells a cornstarch-based agent, PolyClean, that includes an "oxidative component" said to attack the plastic molecule as well, breaking it into pieces tiny enough to be consumed by bacteria. The company claims that the whole process takes three to five years, compared with some four centuries for ordinary plastics. At present PolyClean is used mainly in diapers, grocery sacks, and

composting bags, but ADM executive Martin Andreas envisions it in milk jugs, motor-oil bottles, even the ubiquitous plastic-foam cups. "I've never seen a product that has as much instant sizzle and reaction on the part of the public," he says.

That popularity worries many environmentalists, who question whether these products really do break down in landfills. Although the public tends to view landfills as vast compost heaps, the sites are very poor places for biological activity, where even naturally degradable items such as newsprint often take decades to waste away. Critics suggest that the new plastics, which usually require light, oxygen, and moisture to degrade, would fare little better in a landfill's dark depths.

Even worse could be what happens if degradable plastics do perform as advertised. Susan Mooney, a scientist with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), points out that when plastic breaks down into tiny bits, more surface area is exposed to the soil. That in turn increases the possibility that heavy-metal pigments and toxic organics used as colorants, plasticizers, and stabilizers could leach out.

Andreas of ADM views these concerns as outdated. He cites as evidence a recent commercially sponsored study by the University of Missouri concluding that polyethylene film laced with ADM's starch breaks down into nontoxic waxes, even in landfilllike conditions. The problem, say environmentalists, is that virtually all such research has been underwritten by private industry, with no government standards to regulate the many technologies now rapidly coming to market. The very definition of degradable remains a gray area, notes Mooney of the EPA, who believes that many of the new products may really only disintegrate or deteriorate. "We're all talking out of different dictionaries," she says.

Meanwhile, several localities and some states, grappling with their mounds of garbage, have passed laws that could promote degradable plastics. Several such bills are also threading through Congress, most notably a measure sponsored by Senator John Glenn (D-Ohio), which unabashedly sets out to boost demand for degradables, particularly the cornstarchbased variety.

The driving force behind such legislation may be more agricultural than environmental. When introducing his bill, Glenn talked as much about the farmer's plight and new markets for cornstarch as he did about the garbage

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Prescott College is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Prescott College, a non-profit organization, does not docrinorate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national or ethnic orgin, or handicap in the administration of its educational policies or programs. problem. Jeanne Wirka of the Environmental Action Foundation (EAF) charges that Farm Belt politicians are being "massively lobbied" by agricultural interests. As a result, she suggests, many members of Congress "aren't really thinking about the solidwaste crisis. They're thinking about corn."

Perhaps the biggest objection to degradable plastics is that they foster a consume-and-dispose mentality rather than a conservation ethic. Manufacturers sometimes make the opposite claim, noting that degradable products conserve nonrenewable petroleum, the raw material of plastics, by replacing it with renewable corn. But, points out Doris Cellarius of the Sierra Club's national Hazardous Materials Committee, "The amount of cornstarch in these biodegradable plastics is really small," typically 6 percent or so. "There's still a lot of petroleum in there." To many environmentalists it makes more sense to recover that resource through recycling than to let it dissipate in a landfill.

Degradable plastics could also spell trouble for recycling efforts, both by complicating separation of recyclables and by sowing complacency. As the EAF's Wirka observes: "It's a lot easier for environmentally conscious consumers to purchase a product that they think will disappear than to separate their plastics in a curbside bin."

Not surprisingly, petrochemical companies, desperate for something to burnish their environmental image, have also embraced recycling. Practically all the big names in the industry have recently announced recycling ventures of one kind or another. Du Pont, for example, plans to set up five plastics-recycling plants with a total annual capacity of 200 million pounds.

But plastics recycling still has far to go. Right now only about 1 percent of the nation's plastic waste is recycled, virtually all of it polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and high-density polyethylene. Those are the resins found in soda bottles and milk jugs, easily identifiable items that fetch top prices in the scrap market. The recycling potential of other, lower-value resins remains an open question. The packaging industry itself hasn't helped matters. It's pushing complex mixtures of materials that, if they can be recycled at all, can go only into a lowgrade "plastic lumber" used for such items as park benches and boat docks —limited markets at best.

Such kinks could well be worked out over time; plastics recycling and degradable polymers are both still in their infancy. But a better long-range solution, suggests the Sierra Club's Cellarius, is simply to cut back on excess packaging, plastic and otherwise, and to encourage products that can be reused rather than tossed in the garbage pail or recycling bin. The key, she declares, is "to avoid the whole throwaway system."

STEWART WILLS is a freelance writer and editor in Brooklyn, New York.

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POPULATION

Lowering global birthrates requires a mixture of political, economic, and cultural savvy. Perhaps the first step is for the world's wealthy nations to wake up to the problem.

Growing, Growing, Gone

Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich

EMARKABLY LITTLE has been accomplished in population control in the 20 years since The Population Bomb appeared. Global population growth has slowed a little, but nearly all of that slowdown is due to fertility reductions in two principal regions: China and the industrialized West. A few other developing nations have achieved significant fertility declines, but most are growing as rapidly as before.

Halting population growth in less developed countries will be much harder than in industrialized nations. for several reasons. Because these populations contain huge numbers of young people, to end growth quickly (except through high death rates), completed-family sizes must drop well below replacement-almost to the vicinity of one-for a period of time. That is what China embarked on with its one-child-family program, and it is no trivial task. Collectively, the developing nations (excluding China) now have an average family size of 4.8 children, so a decline of more than three offspring per family is required.

Children are highly valued for powerful economic reasons in peasant societies—a factor that has been a barrier to family-planning success in many developing nations. Children are needed as a source of labor or income while young, and as social security in their parents' old age. In societies where as many as 25 percent of all children die before reaching their fifth birthday, large families are seen as

necessary to ensure that some will survive to be adults.

Today more children survive than in the past, but infant mortalities in the poorest nations are still high by our standards, and the compensating tradition persists. Poor farmers with large families end up with several sons among whom they must divide their land. A few generations of subdividing leads to farms that are marginal or submarginal in size or quality. Poor people don't have the luxury of long-range planning. Where food is going to come from today, this month, and this year are problems for now. The size of future farm plots is beyond today's planning horizon; the sons must worry about that later.

Sons help work the farm or they go to the city to find work and, when possible, send money home. In the absence of a social-security system. sons are the principal hedge against starvation in one's declining years. Small wonder family planning has had little impact in much of the developing world, where both economic pressures and the traditions they have shaped (often codified in religions) are strongly pronatalist. The route to successful population control in less-developed countries is through changing these fundamental attitudes, and the best way to do that is to alter the conditions that created the attitudes in the first place.

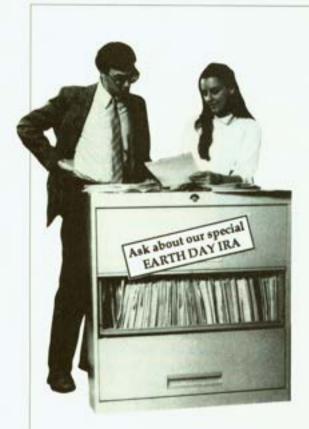
Other problems, of course, must be overcome. In nations with primitive medical, transport, and communications systems, simply extending family-planning programs to remote rural areas can be very difficult. In the past the motives of aid donors wishing to provide population-control assistance have been suspect, and often with good reason when racism or other prejudice has been behind their actions. Corruption among local officials dispensing aid is also a serious problem.

ar too much time has been wasted waiting for what was long believed to be an automatic demographic transition—a decline of birthrates as a result of industrial development. And far too many development advisers have grossly overestimated the carrying capacities of less-developed regions.

Faith in the demographic transition as an inevitable consequence of "development" has proved to be a snare and a delusion, in part because development was viewed as synonymous with industrialization. Because fertility reductions occurred in Europe and North America more or less in tandem with industrialization, it was blithely assumed that the latter caused the former. More recently, a closer examination of both processes revealed that in fact industry per se had little to do with lowering birthrates.

Indeed, the "just aim for development and the population problem will automatically take care of itself" proposition will not bear close scrutiny. Fertility rates generally are lower in more developed nations, but so are rates of illiteracy and malnutrition. Would those who recommend waiting for the demographic transition to solve the population problem also advise taking no direct action to educate or feed people while pressing for economic development? Of course not, because they know that literacy and a satisfactory diet can be achieved by appropriate programs in the absence of high levels of per-capita income, and there are no taboos against such efforts (as there often are in the case of programs to decrease fertility).

According to demographic-transition theory, as per-capita incomes rise people tend to substitute consumer durables (automobiles, refrigerators, TV sets, etc.) for children. But if population growth among the poor prevents that rise in income, the demographic transition simply wouldn't occur. And if incomes rise in spite of the population growth, what exactly are the terms of exchange between goods and children? Will the average Indian have to consume as much as an average Canadian before Indian fertility rates will drop to the Canadian level? The result, if a rich level of consumption were achieved by the world's 4 billion poor, would be an environ-



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mental catastrophe of epic proportions.

In recent decades those wed to demographic-transition theory have had to ignore fertility declines that occurred in some developing countries with little or no industrial development (Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, and China, for instance) and failed to occur in others that had made progress in industrializing (Brazil and Mexico). turned out that other factors were much more important in the fertility equation; not too surprisingly, they are related much more directly to women and families than to overall development. The critical prerequisites to reduced fertility are five: adequate nutrition, proper sanitation, basic health care, education of women, and equal rights for women.

care and sanitation, while men usually use an education to earn a better income. Improving the home situation reduces infant and child mortality, making women and men more receptive to the idea of smaller families. And the women's education makes them more open to contraception and better able to employ it properly. Finally, when women have sources of status

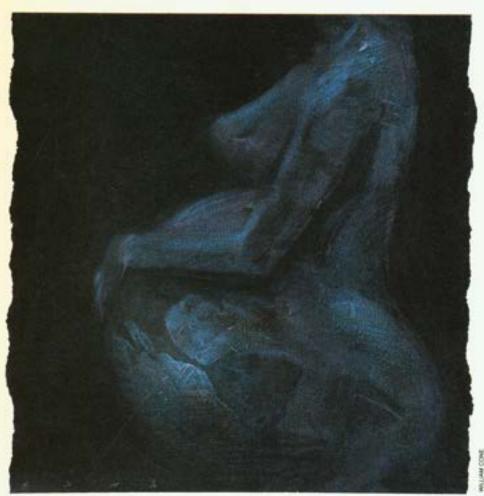
other than children, family size often declines.

Now we know that popula-tion growth in poor nations can be ended humanely, but is it too late? Despite the time that has been lost, the developing nations are ahead of the rich ones in at least one important respect: Most of them have committed their societies to reducing birthrates. Nearly all developing nations now have familyplanning programs, and many of them have set a goal of ending population growth (but, except for China, not shrinkage-yet).

There is, of course, great variation among nations in the degree of commitment to their family-planning programs. But in recent years the commitment has tended to deepen, especially as other countries have witnessed the proliferating environment/ resource problems plaguing Africa south of the Sahara. Most important, government officials in the affected Af-

rican nations have begun to shake off their deep-rooted traditions and take population control seriously.

Meanwhile, the United States and most of the other developed countries remain in a demographic dream world, failing to recognize the impact of our gross overpopulation on our own nations' environments and resources, and on the planet as a whole.



The connection between per-capita gross national product (GNP) and fertility was essentially nil, although development experts had asserted for years that the way to reduce birthrates was to increase the average income.

Part of the answer was that the benefits of industry and increased incomes had not been equitably distributed within the societies in question. It The first four factors reduce infant mortality, allowing a reasonable expectation that a given child will survive to adulthood. Female education is an especially interesting and in some ways the most unexpected finding. Women will apply even a few years of schooling to improving life for their families by providing more nutritious, balanced meals and better home health Rich nations have developed an economic system that increasingly depends on consuming humanity's stored inheritance, but which provides very unequal access to it. It is a system that has encouraged humanity to reach an astonishing level of overpopulation.

It is a temporary game: Serious consequences arising from such irresponsible behavior will sooner or later overtake us. There is no hope for saving civilization unless the rich quickly begin to institute programs aimed at speeding population shrinkage and more sensible policies of resource utilization at home.

People in poor nations are very aware of our role in generating the global environmental threats that loom over us all—of our profligate use of energy and other resources. They can hardly be expected to listen to us telling them they must have fewer children if we still have no population policies whatsoever except to restrict immigration.

So rich nations need to establish population policies and make it clear that stopping growth is the first goal, followed by population shrinkage as soon as possible. They could also usefully launch a wide-ranging public discussion, with participation by scientists who are familiar with global problems and limitations, as well as by social scientists who can contribute ideas on how effective social policy can be developed. The central question is what kind of society each country should have one or two centuries from now. These discussions could be a beginning of planning to realize those goals. The discussions should involve many countries, including at some stage the developing nations.

A model for this process might be the international effort to address the depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer, one of the simpler problems in the whole knotty complex connected to overpopulation. The discussion of ozone depletion began among scien-





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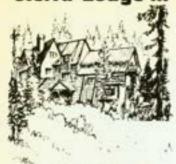
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tists and widened to include the environmental community, and then policymakers. At first it was limited to Western nations, then expanded to the Warsaw Pact countries, and finally to the developing countries.

Even when the developed nations put sensible population policies in place, they will be obliged to expand their assistance to poor countries, both to help curb their population growth and to achieve sustainable development. As is surely clear from the foregoing, the poor can't do it without help; even the highly regimented Chinese require technological aid from rich countries if they are to have a chance for even moderate progress in development. And why should the poor go it alone? The rich played a major role in putting the poor in their present dilemma. Moreover, the rich stand to save their own hides by helping to resolve it.

The flow of aid from rich to poor right now is disgustingly small. The record donor, Norway, gives just 1.12 percent of its GNP, the Netherlands 0.98, Denmark 0.89, and Sweden 0.87. Among Western nations the United States is tied with Ireland for most niggardly: We give only 0.2 percent of our GNP.

In recent years, Japan's foreign-aid contributions have risen dramatically and have broadened in scope as well. Originally, most Japanese aid went to neighboring Asian nations and was targeted for industrial development. More recently, donations have gone to other poor countries and have included rising amounts for environmental protection. The Japanese are now way ahead of the United States in foreignaid generosity in proportion to their wealth and may soon close the gap in dollar amounts.

In population assistance, the largest dollar amount given in 1989 was by the United States-\$197.9 million. That's about one-third the cost of a single. militarily useless Stealth bomber, Na-

tions like Norway and Sweden give proportionately much more population aid. That type of aid, properly given and targeted, is the most necessary of all-although it is only a small percentage of all economic-aid donations. Washington Post columnist Hobart Rowan had the courage to say it right out: "It's time to face facts: Third World aid without birth control is like trying to pour water uphill. . . . The reason for the absence of honesty on this issue is no secret: Most officials panic at the thought of the political backlash from the Catholic Church in poverty-stricken areas of the Third World."

When industrialization began in Europe, obviously there was no competition from other regions, nor was Europe anyone else's source of raw materials or sump for surplus production. When the United States and Japan emerged as industrial powers a century ago, the world was still spacious enough for the newcomers to follow the European pattern. They therefore also sought to bottle up large pieces of the nonindustrial world as resource and marketing preserves. The "Third World" of today, by and large, consists of those formerly bottled-up lands whose infrastructures were formed not primarily for their national or regional benefit, but to serve the metropolitan industrial powers.

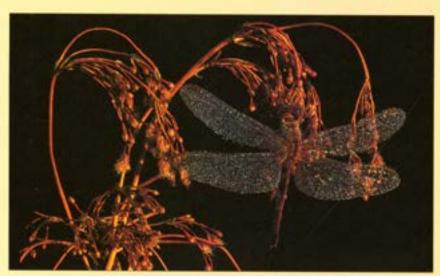
In short, citizens of rich nations will now have to pay for their greed and several centuries of their forebears' greed. But by paying the price, they will be buying a livable world for our children, grandchildren, and their descendants. •

PAUL R. EHRLICH is the author of The Population Bomb (Ballantine, 1968) and several other books. ANNE H. EHRLICH is an author and biological researcher at Stanford University. This article is excerpted from the Ehrlichs' book The Population Explosion, to be published by Simon & Schuster in April.

THE

1990

SIERRA PHOTO CONTEST



"DRAGONFLY AND BUR REED," DONALD JOHNSTON, FIRST PLACE (COLOR), "WLDLIFE," 1889

Through its annual photo contest, Sierra, the national magazine of the Sierra Club, recognizes the contribution that photographers have made toward the protection of our environment. Last year's contest brought in entries from more than 2,000 photographers; we expect another record-breaking year in 1990. The winning photographs will be published in Sierra's September/October issue, then displayed at the Sierra Club's headquarters in San Francisco.

CATEGORIES:

- Patterns: Nature as designer, weaver, or abstract artist.
- People: Our species at play, at work, or otherwise in accord with the natural world.
- Horizons: Give us your sunsets, your vistas; anywhere heaven meets Earth.
- International: Images of nature from beyond the U.S. borders.

PRIZES

- Grand Prize: A Nikon N4004S 35mm SLR camera with an AF Zoom-Nikkor 35-70mm f/3.3-4.5 lens and a versatile all-terrain bike, the Sedona, from Giant Bicycle.
- Eight first prizes: Nike's Baltoro High lightweight crosstrainer boots with EVA mid-sole and polyurethane sockliner.
- Eight second prizes: a special-edition folding knife from Buck Knives.



SUBMISSIONS

N o more than two color transparencies and/or two black-and-white prints may be submitted in any one category (rach category will be judged separately for color and black-and-white). Either originals or high-quality duplicates are eligible as color entries, but prizewinners must provide originals for publication. No color prints or color negatives from print film will be considered. Black-and-white entries must be unmounted prints no larger than 11×14.



ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers. Sierra Club staff, their immediate families, and suppliers to Sierra (including photographers whose work we have published since 1985) are not eligible. Previously published work, photos pending publication, or photos that have won other contests are not eligible. Void where prohibited.



HOW TO ENTER

All entries must be accompanied by Sierra Magazine Photo Contest Submission Forms. To receive the furms, send \$5 (this serves as your entry fee as well) to Sierra Photo Contest. 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. No phone calls, please. Entries submitted without the 1990 forms, or with photocopies of the forms, will not be considered. All submissions must be postmarked by midnight, June 1, 1990; we suggest mailing your request for submission materials by May 15, 1990.





THAT CHICAGO BY DONALD SCHUELER FEELING

When I was young, I sometimes had dreams that featured New Orleans, my adopted hometown, as a familiar Atlantis drowned by the sea. Whatever the Jungians might make of this, I had at least the comfort of knowing that my subconscious was not alone in its fantasizing. When I mentioned my Atlantis motif to a gathering of friends, one of them recalled a dream of his own in which the city was set upon

Son of a gun,
we're gonna
have no fun
on the bayou —
if Louisiana's
coastal wetlands
continue to
disappear.



the deck of a huge barge done up as a Mardi Gras parade float; in fact, the barge was a Mardi Gras float, not at all watertight-as it proved by promptly sinking beneath the waves. Another acquaintance, known as Lucy-Sky. recalled one trippy afternoon when St. Charles Avenue filled up with water like a giant aquarium as she was heading uptown on the streetcar. Luckily, the streetcar proved itself more amphibious than the Mardi Gras barge. Immersed but undaunted, it forged ahead with all the élan of the Yellow Submarine. Not to be outdone, a friend who lived in the French Quarter informed us that whenever he listened to Debussy's "Sunken Cathedral" he heard the bells of nearby St. Louis tolling underwater. "Ding-glug," he intoned, "Dong-glub."

We all laughed. In the late sixties it was fashionable to make much of dreams and spacey visions, but none of us thought for a minute that there was anything prophetic in our shared imagery of New Orleans submerged. True, our wonderful old city was eccentrically moored in an indeterminate zone between solid land and water, forever menaced by floods and hurricanes. But she had been weathering such calamities for hundreds of years.

It would have been stretching credulity a little too far to suppose that one day she might actually suffer death by drowning.

Now, more than 20 years later, the watery fate my friends and I once envisioned for New Orleans no longer seems so farfetched. We want to deny it, naturally. Even though there are facts aplenty to alarm us, the real danger seems unreal. San Franciscans, long before last October's earthquake, had no difficulty picturing the disappearance of their city. But here in

South Louisiana we have a hard time admitting that something like that is happening to us. There are no dishes rattling on the shelves, no pictures falling off the walls. The catastrophe is happening quietly. In slow motion.

Still, "slow" is a relative term. Although TV cameras cannot capture the action for the evening news, Louisiana's coastal plain has been noiselessly disappearing into the Gulf of Mexico at the staggering rate of 50 square miles a year. An area of wetlands larger than Rhode Island has al-

LOUISIANA'S CRUMBLING COAST

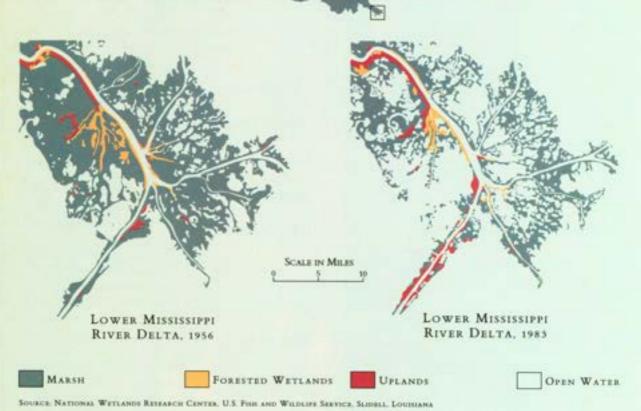
LOUISIANA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented a dramatic loss of wetlands along the Louisiana coast. In the area shown below, wet-

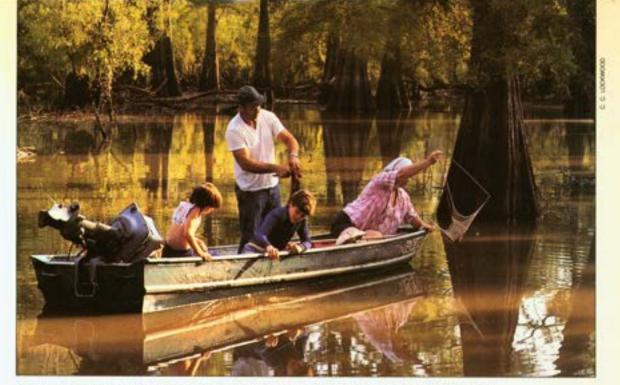
lands shrank by 48 percent over 27 years, from 183,000 to 96,000 acres. Transformed by levees, channels, and dams on its tributaries, the Mississippi no longer delivers the rich sediment that once supported these marshes. As a result, says FWS ecologist Carroll L.

Cordes, "They are sinking into the sea." Only upland areas increased during these years, primarily because of dredge material deposited by

> the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A 1988 map is in progress, but Cordes expects it to be less dramatic than those below because oil activity and the shrinking process have slowed in Louisiana's coastal zone. "The most vulnerable marshes are gone," he says.



BOAME SCHANTON



Among the highly valued products of Louisiana's coastal wetlands are food and family recreation.

ready been lost in just the last few decades; if the status quo prevails, an additional 1,500 square miles will be gone before the middle of the next century.

Nowadays, when my less dreamy self faces up to the facts and figures when I really confront the magnitude of this geological vanishing act—I get mad. Where, I ask myself, are all those agencies and organizations that are supposed to care about wetlands? Why aren't they on the barricades, demanding that something be done?

Actually, I already know the answer: The lower Mississippi Valley—Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas—has always been the nation's Cinderella, lowest of the low in the pecking order of political power, prestige, patronage, and environmental clout. The region has already suffered the largest (and least publicized) loss of biological diversity in the United States in the last 50 years: the transformation of its immense bottomland forests into fields of subsidized soybeans. Yet no one on the national scene raised a fuss until most of the damage was already done.

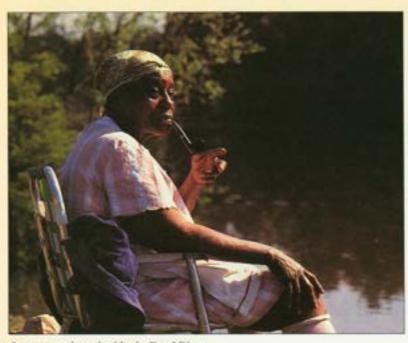
Even that inexcusable loss will rank a poor second in future environmental histories compared with what is happening now in Louisiana's coastal plain. Statistics are a bore, but because few people know we are talking about the destruction of 40 percent of the nation's coastal wetlands—the single most productive natural ecosystem remaining in the United States—I'll recite a few. Although the Louisiana marshes have shrunk by a third, the remaining 2,300 square miles still offer many blessings:

- They are the nursery for nearly all the commercial fish and shellfish and almost half the recreational fish taken in the Gulf.
- They are the indispensable wintering ground for two thirds of the Mississippi Flyway's migratory waterfowl more than 5 million ducks and geese. They also offer the first and last rest station for millions of migratory songbirds crossing the Gulf, as well as a permanent home to the largest populations of wading birds, shorebirds, and southern bald eagles outside Florida.
- They supply, by far, the nation's largest harvest of wild furs and hides, including muskrat, mink, otter, nutria, and alligator.
- They protect New Orleans and scores of small coastal communities from the full fury of devastating tropical hurricanes.
- To their loss and our gain, they and

their offshore waters produce about 20 percent of the nation's oil and almost 30 percent of its natural gas.

So much for all that. A list of assets is useful when federal money is being handed out, but it doesn't define the real value of the Louisiana marshes any more than a bank balance defines a human being. They are, above all else, a bountiful habitat for a multitude of species that waddle, creep, fly, swim, or walk—including, most blatantly, our own. Indeed, I can think of no other place in the United States where a natural ecosystem continues, on such a large scale, to affect the cultural attitudes of its human inhabitants.

The influence is hard to quantify. But every perceptive traveler in the South knows that when you hit the coastal plain it's like crossing from Switzerland into Italy: For better and worse, you have entered a less analretentive country. People down here are no better than they should be, but they seem to know how to enjoy themselves more than most other people in most other places do. The influence of ethnic cultures-Cajun, Creole, and so on-is supposed to account for the easygoing lifestyle. But, the way I see it, ethnic makeup has little to do with it. Thanks to the marshes, no



A woman relaxes beside the Pearl River.

one, not even the poorest of the poor, has had to worry about an insufficiency of nutritious, and delicious, food. We have shrimp, crabs, oysters, redfish, snappers, speckled trout, channel cats, you name it—a couple of steps or a couple of miles from our front doors, ready to be cooked in a hundred plain and fancy ways and served on steaming beds of marsh-grown rice. Thanks to the marshes, South Louisianans have always been able to indulge their sociability and their taste for pleasure.

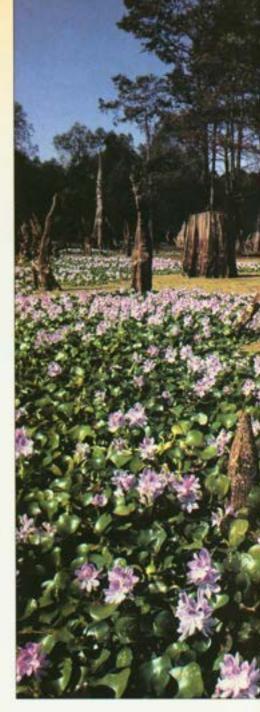
Even in an era of What-A-Burgers and Budget Gourmets, the marshesmosquitoes and all-continue to define the Good Life, the Easy Life. In legions we ply the waterways in grungy skiffs and lofty yachts; or perch on bridges or sagging piers with crab nets or fishing poles; or wade the Gulf shallows at midnight, brandishing lanterns and flounder gigs; or shiver in the duck blinds on winter mornings, always entertaining the reasonable expectation that we will fill our ice chests-the ones not already filled with beer-with whatever bounty comes our way. And over and over again, in all seasons, we gather in each other's patios, or at rackety neighborhood restaurants, or in the citadels

of haute cuisine, to drink and be merry and eat what the marshes provide.

When we have not taken the marshes for granted, we have thought of them in terms of our way of life. Only now, when we are confronted with losing them, does it occur to some of us that they have a lifestyle of their own: complex, changeful, and—ah, that familiar word in the ecological lexicon—vulnerable.

From an outsider's point of view, the marshes are not easy to get to know. You can't ogle them from an overlook, or don your Colin Fletcher—approved boots and hike through them. Unless you know what you're doing, you can't even travel them in a canoe or flat-bottomed boat without losing yourself in a monotonous labyrinth of artificial channels—or worse, getting stuck on a mud flat or in a raft of water hyacinths.

Once you do make their acquaintance, however, they are magical places. They seem spacious, even though, away from the large bays and more trafficked waterways, they offer no wide views of anything but sky. What you notice is what is close around. Ahead, startled egrets, ibis, and yellow-crowned night herons



launch themselves from black willow perches. A nutria, large as a beaver but less work-oriented, mucks around in a bed of wild millet. On the serrated blades of a giant cut-grass, a self-support group of green and squirrel tree frogs keeps safe from ribbon snakes. At the side of the channel a wistfullooking three-foot gator shares his mudbank with three turtles, wishing he were big enough to eat them. Overhead, pelicans pass by, using their wings like oars.



The best times are the early mornings and late evenings. Then the marshes are not only the interface between land and water, but between real and surreal states of being. The world is a mysterious place. One becomes a connoisseur of mists: the dry-ice kind, filming the water like eiderdown; the gauzy-veil variety, spangled with gold dust as the sun rises; the Transylvanian super-special, a wraparound fog in which a passing shrimp boat looms like the spectral Flying Dutchman.





Water hyacinths bloom near bald cypress in the Atchafalaya Basin (far left). Thousands of acres of bald cypress forests in Louisiana have been wiped out by subsidence and increasing salinity. Above and near left: Crawfish boiling; crawfish boiled.

For good reason the Louisiana marshes are always referred to in the plural. Between dry land and the Gulf, a dozen categories of intermediate wetlands separate the salt marshes from the fresh. All are worth exploring, but like the specialized plants and wildlife that live in one zone or another, I have my preferred habitat. This is the border area where freshwater begins to shade into brackish marsh. Here is the chance of seeing an otter, or maybe a white ibis-a bird less versatile than its white-faced or glossy cousins, which settle for any kind of marsh as long as it is wet. Here also, because of its diversity, the vegetation is more noticeably subject to seasonal changes. In spring, blue iris and white-blooming bull tongues are the first to appear. Then the grasses emerge-millet, cattails, maiden cane. By midsummer, when the water has receded, they form dense walls six feet high. The marsh canopy is overlaid with flowering vines and legumesdeer pea, lavender ageratum, climbing hemp weed. Come September, great swatches of marsh marigold burst into flower and the bull tongue blooms again. Then, with the first light frost, the show is over. The grasses are a flattened mat sinking and decaying in the rising winter floods.

In the usual way of the natural world, this process of decay fosters the marshes' life. Trillions of infant marine creatures, among them oysters, shrimp, crabs, and most of the fish species that inhabit the Gulf during their adult lives, come of age in their chosen solutions of salt and fresh water, feeding on a gumbo of rotting marsh grasses—the basic recipe that ultimately produces the glories of South Louisiana cooking.

For thousands of years, the Mississippi has been creating this largest of the continent's marshlands out of soils carried from as far away as Ohio to the east and the Dakotas to the west. Periodically the buildup of its own alluvium obliges the river to find a new outlet to the Gulf. This scene-shifting







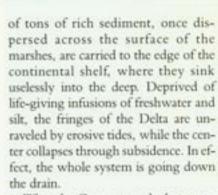
keeps the geography of the marshes in a perpetual state of flux, with longabandoned deltas subsiding into the Gulf even as new ones rise from the waves.

Geologically speaking, the spindly lobe of the modern Delta, the Balize, is a mere youngster; most of it has formed since 1718, when Sieur de Bienville sketched his street plan for New Orleans in the Mississippi mud. In the natural course of things, it ought to have a long, expansive life ahead of it. Instead it has become an emaciated shell of its former self in just the last few decades. To varying degrees the same process is at work throughout the coastal plain. Everywhere, but especially in the parishes nearest the Mississippi, open water is displacing marshland. To use the unusually charged terms of scientists studying the problem, the entire Mississippi River Delta is "collapsing," "falling apart," "breaking up."

How can this be? Why is this stu-

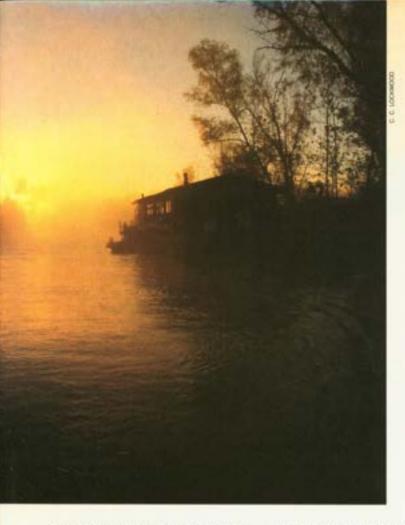
pendous piece of land crumbling like a cookie in a bowl of milk? The short answer is familiar to us all by now: What nature giveth, man taketh away. Although the disintegration of the Louisiana marshes occurs in diverse ways, and the blame for it can be spread around, there is just one basic cause: Thanks to human meddling, the Mississippi River is no longer allowed to do what comes naturally—build land faster than other natural forces (storms, minute rises in sea level, and subsidence) can destroy it.

Human meddling has taken various forms. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers threw the biggest wrench in the works when, 60 years ago, it began to construct levees along the banks of the Mississippi below New Orleans to make its channel more navigable for commercial ships. Hemming in the river intensifies the scouring action of its current, reducing the costs of maintenance dredging for the Corps. Unfortunately, it also assures that billions



What the Corps started, the petrochemical industry has done its best to finish: The big oil and gas companies have sliced the marshes with 10,000 miles of access canals and pipeline ditches. In some areas the spoil banks of these channels prevent the natural "sheet flow" of water across the marshes; in others the channels themselves allow saltwater to penetrate deep into freshwater and brackish marshes, destroying the vegetation.

The Corps has provided yet another killing touch. To accommodate the petrochemical industry, it has gouged







Marsh mists shroud a swamper's houseboat (left). Delta wildlife includes nutria, imported from South America, and white ibis (above).

navigation channels through the coastal plain. Behind the spoil banks of these enormous ditches, tens of thousands of acres of marsh melt away almost overnight, destroyed by impoundment, subsidence, salt intrusion, and the erosive action of water traffic.

Such channels pose a threat to more than the marshes. Straight as Kansas highways, they aim toward human settlement. When a sluggish little hurricane named Juan churned around in the lower Delta four years ago, its unobstructed tidal surge rolled up the Barataria Waterway and right into New Orleans' West Bank subdivisions, swamping small communities en route. If Juan had been a really major storm, there would have been absolute hell to pay.

"What it all comes down to," says Paul Kemp, executive director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL), "is that we couldn't have devised a better plan for destroying the wetlands in the Mississippi River if we'd deliberately tried."

Kemp's point is gloomy, but the existence of the CRCL is evidence that, in Louisiana at least, people are beginning to face up to what is happening. The organization is a grassroots coalition representing 85 business, religious, civic, and environmental organizations (including the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club). In its twoyear history it has rallied popular support for a comprehensive plan that, if implemented, could put much of our Humpty Dumpty of a marshland back together again. It has also successfully lobbied for an amendment to the state constitution that dedicates mineral revenues to marsh restoration-from \$5 million to \$25 million a year, depending on oil prices. By Louisiana's hard-up standards that's a lot of money; but everyone realizes it's chicken feed compared with the likely costs of reclaiming the state's wetlands. Nevertheless, insists Dave Soileau, the governor's coordinator for wetland activities, the money should persuade the federal government of the state's eagerness to do its part in rescuing what is, after all, a national resource.

Federal help—or, for that matter, national support of any kind—has thus far amounted to little more than a kiss and a promise. But the promise elicited from President Bush by state Senator Ben Bagert (R) could be important. In a 1988 letter to Bagert, Bush said, "Wetland preservation is a priority and should enjoy the same level of importance as other responsibilities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Even if Bush is in earnest, he will have a tough time forcing the Corps to accept this new responsibility, especially when it involves undoing the agency's own shortsighted handiwork. Soileau, who at one time worked for the Corps, says ruefully, "On average, it may take the Corps 22 years to implement a project. In that time the value of the wetlands lost will exceed the

cost of projects meant to save them."

At this writing, Louisiana's senators, John Breaux (D) and J. Bennett Johnston (D), are trying to speed change with a bill, S.1371, that would (1) set up a Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund using federal revenues from gas production on the Outer Continental Shelf (the lion's share from Louisiana); and (2) require the Corps, in conjunction with other federal and state agencies, to determine the feasibility of marsh-saving projects without playing its usual pork-barrel games with costbenefit ratios. For Breaux and Johnston, the trick will be to convince Congress of an obvious but unacknowledged truth: The nation's economy, not the state's, has been the chief beneficiary of the exploitation that has ravaged Louisiana's wetlands. Now, if those wetlands are to be saved, the federal Treasury must foot most of the bill.

In theory there are 40 ways to save the marshes, just as there are 40 ways to split the blame for their destruction. Indeed, some marine biologists worry that available funds will be frittered away on a patchwork of "marsh management" schemes, such as stabilization structures and dikes, that would attempt to limit saltwater intrusion or the erosive action of the Gulf. In fact, only one basic cure exists for the one basic problem. The marshes are dying because they have been separated from the river that built them. They can be revitalized only if the river is given access to them again. Even then, we are not talking about the restoration of the original natural system, or of repairing much of the damage already done. The issue is whether future losses can be offset by future gains.

It can be done, if there is the will. And the money. But success will require a sort of "ecological engineering" that is nothing if not grand in scope. The comprehensive plan that the scientists, the CRCL, and Dave Soileau's office have endorsed involves, in the short term, the speedy implementation of several relatively small plans to divert water from the main channel to the marshes, more stringent control of oil and gas operations, and increased diversion of water and sediment from the Mississippi to the neighboring Atchafalaya floodway, the state's only expanding delta system. But the big, long-term projects are the ones that will make the difference. The most necessary, and costly, of them all would be the construction on the eastern side of the Delta of an alternative navigation channel linking New Orleans with the Gulf. Such a channel, complete with locks and control structures, would free the lower Mississippi of its function as a shipping lane, allowing for massive sediment diversions that would regenerate Barataria Bay, Breton Sound, and the barrier islands that flank the Delta.

Ironically, because some of these projects will have a disruptive effect on the breeding grounds of shrimp and oysters, they may be opposed by a fishing industry that will ultimately lose everything if the measures are not put in place. Even more ironically, the Corps, having just completed its most stupendous boondoggle ever, the \$2-billion Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway along the Mississippi/Alabama border, now wrings its hands at the thought of spending considerably less than that to save the largest, most valuable wetlands system on the continent.

Down here we tell ourselves that eventually the federal government will have to do something. It would not be cost-effective, as Dave Soileau points out, for New Orleans to become more or less an island, inadequately defended against future hurricanes by perpetually subsiding levee walls. Nor would it be cost-effective for the petrochemical industry to allow its vast infrastructure of marsh installations to be swallowed by the Gulf. And most certainly it would not be cost-effective to permit the infinitely renewable marine resources of the marshes to disappear.

Yet, you never know. Time is running out. Even as President Bush pledges "no further net loss of wetlands," here in Louisiana another 100 acres of no-net-loss wetlands are lost between one midnight tolling of St. Louis Cathedral's bells and the next. Those bells may one day toll a requiem as an amiable city, the generous marshes that surround it, and, perhaps saddest of all, a better-than-average definition of the Good Life all go down the drain.

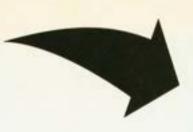
DONALD SCHUELER is the author of Adventuring Along the Gulf of Mexico (Sierra Club Books, 1986) and numerous travel and environmental articles that have appeared in Audubon and Smithsonian.

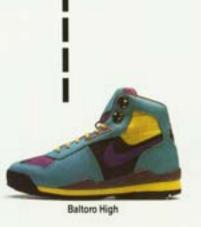
RESTORING AMERICA'S GREAT RIVER

he loss of coastal wetlands is only one of the serious ecological problems facing the Mississippi watershed, a region so vast that few people think of it as a single entity. The area benefits economically and suffers ecologically from producing more agricultural products than any other watershed on the planet. The region also bears the burden of the world's largest offshore oilfield and its most extensive flood-control and navigation project.

The Sierra Club's Gulf Coast, Midwest, and Southern Plains regional conservation committees have made restoring the Mississippi watershed a priority. Readers interested in helping should contact the Public Lands Committee, Michael J. Caire, M.D., 221 McMillan Rd., West Monroe, LA 71291, (318) 325-6790; the Wetlands Task Force, Keren Ensor Larson, 3909 Polk St., N.E., Columbia Heights, MN 55421, (612) 781-5131; the Mississippi River Task Force, Richard Mochow, 871 Kensington Pl., Memphis, TN 38107, (901) 274-1510; the Coastal Committee, Vivian Newman, 11194 Douglas Ave., Marriottsville, MD 21104, (301) 442-5639; or the Agriculture Committee, Robert Warrick, R.R. 2, Box 11, Meadow Grove, NE 68752.







he glaciers worked hard in New England, leaving lots of little hills behind, but no real great mountains. Mount Washington is the tallest one you can find. And so if you're any kind of self-respecting hiker sooner or later you have to try hiking up all 6,288 feet of it. You start at the bottom, where you read the signs erected by the Appalachian Mountain Club, warning you about sudden shifts in weather and how some of the coldest temperatures ever recorded were recorded on top of the very mountain you're at the bottom of, and then you start hiking through hard woods, then through pines, then through small pines, and then you get above the timber line and finally you're nearing the top of the mountain-the tallest mountain in all of New England you remind yourself-and you're going to celebrate your climb at the top and commune with nature up there and speak with God and enjoy the view of the Presidential Range and the White Mountains and you hike up the last few feet and at the top there's a...there's a...there's a parking lot. A stinking parking lot, with cars and trucks and pouring out of those cars and trucks are people and they're eating hot dogs and blasting radios and walking dogs and smoking cigarettes and they're enjoying the same view you earned by climbing up the entire mountain and all they ever did was drive up the thing. And while this is not to say you should not hike up Mount Washington, maybe you should only go up to around the 6,270 foot mark before you start down.



PEDALER'S P A C E

I met Charles Laport years ago while pedaling through Coos County, a wild edge of northern New Hampshire that once was an independent country, with its own president and legislature. I had been out for days, and looked it. My Lycra tights were glued by sweat and filth to my legs. Puddles fed by a quick April thaw had covered man, bike, and gear with a wet slime of black earth. Laport was the only man I saw in six days who looked worse than I did. He had been rummaging in an old barn on his property and had fallen into a hog slop. Abandoned for years, the pit was filled with about a foot of muddy water. It was a stupid thing, he said, since he had built the damn slop himself some 60 years earlier. I met him walking across a narrow road to his house. Saying that we were "mud brothers," he invited me in for a cup of instant coffee.

Laport, a farmer who had given up on farming decades earlier, called his place near the Canadian border "lean country." I asked him why, noting that for the past hour I had been cycling through thick secondary growth already entering the hardwood stage. "There are deer out there," I said, "and beavers, bears, maybe a moose. It doesn't look lean to me."

The farmer grinned, his teeth broken and yellow, as he stoked a cold iron stove with kindling. "I'm talkin' about lean against the modern world," he said in a slow, singsong voice. He was a fifth-generation man of Coos County whose farm, like most up here, was

ON A BICYCLE
TOUR, YOUR THOUGHTS
KEEP TIME WITH THE
LANDSCAPE PASSING BY.

BY DAVID EWING DUNCAN



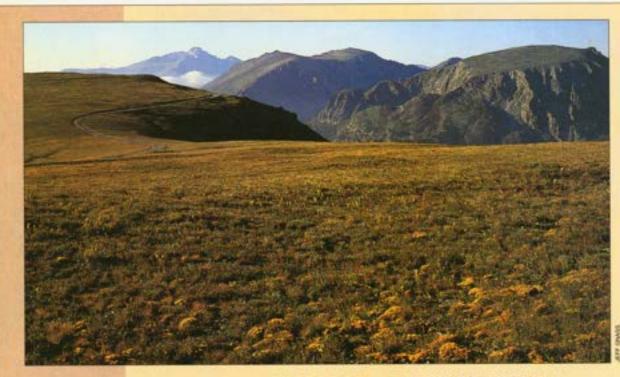


turning wild after two centuries of being organized. "This country is lean on modern things, on fancy things people don't really need. Everything here has its use. The trees and all, and my old house here—it's all lean. There ain't no fat. Only what's needed. Even the junk's turnin' lean." He pointed across the road at the farm's old dairy barns and silos, collapsed into heaps of gray boards and tangles of farm machinery—umber-colored scythes, a twenties-vintage tractor, a horse-drawn plow half-buried.

Charles Laport gave me more than coffee during that afternoon in his warm kitchen. He gave me a name for back roads where I bicycle, which I have come to call "lean highways." Lean because the trees and the farms run right up to the edge of the road, lean because the meat is still walking on four hoofs, lean because everything is weather-beaten and functional, whether it is natural or human-made, though there is a lot of the sort of junk Laport said couldn't be helped: rusted Model A's, abandoned gas islands, a half-crushed mobile home where people still live, huddling for warmth around their TV.

I have no favorite highway. Not in New Mexico, California, the Deep South, or my home state of Vermont. I don't ride to rate this path in West Texas over that state highway in Maine. I ride for the experience, for what I may or may not see, hear, smell, feel, and touch. I ride because I like to move, but not too fast, and because I like to stop. I ride to absorb things, to shut off my mind or to turn it on. I think about things: global warming, my years spent in Africa, my wife, sunsets. I talk to people—to the only person still living in Redeye, Arizona; to Bert Peasley, one of the last potato farmers in Vermont; to a black man in Georgia who says he was a slave before "the war," though I don't believe anyone could be that old. Other times, I purposely avoid people, stopping to watch a pair of eagles watch me, or because I have found the perfect campsite under a canopy of birch. Each ride has its particular memory, even the quickest rides squeezed in at lunchtime.

I own three bicycles, which seems embarrassing for a man chasing lean. My father, who can remember the days when a boy could wear the same pair of five-dollar sneakers to play baseball and tennis, asked me one day if I were gathering inventory to open a bicycle shop. He reminded me that I used to be happy with an old red Schwinn, a canvas pack, and a pair of pliers. My father was raised in Missouri, the son of a preacher and a farmer's daughter. He is properly modern about most things, but, maintaining a stronger link than mine to the frugal blood of our ancestors, he cannot understand why one bicycle won't do—or one backpack, rain jacket, or pair of gloves. He's got a point, though I insist that I'm going places far beyond the reach of



COLORADO . ROCKY MOUNTAINS



Not for the faint of heart, this high-mountain circuit climbs nearly 12,000 feet and covers about 250 miles. North of Denver, follow state route 14 west along the Poudre River and over Cameron Pass, then head east on U.S. Highway 40 to U.S. Highway 34, which becomes Trail Ridge Road as it traverses Rocky Mountain National Park (above).—Raymond Bridge



RIBE

NORTH CAROLINA BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

Starting from Asheville, cyclists can set out on tours of any length through the hills and mountains of western North Carolina. Take rarely traveled rural roads, or well-known stretches such as the Blue Ridge Parkway, which leads to Great Smoky Mountains National Park (above).—R.B.

my old Schwinn. I start to talk about absorption into one's environment, about the power of memories, about the old ex-slave in Georgia, and he stops me.

"What kinds of places?" he asks.

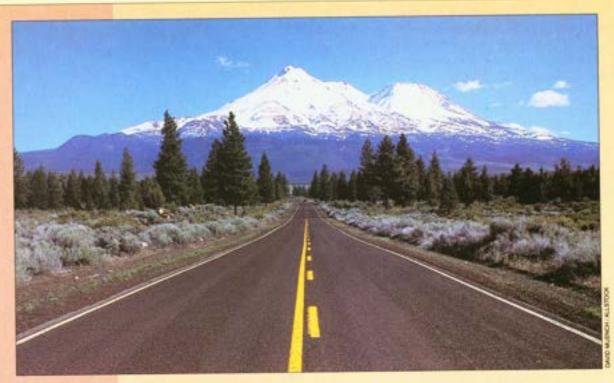
I point at my racing bike, painted blue and gold, slender and beautiful. I tell my father that the racer is for fast, physical rides, a form of relaxation, a method of burning off aggressions and blue moods. The world passes by in a blur, I explain, a rush of the wind, of colors and sensations. I never stop on the racer. This is cycling at its most personal. To ride the racer is to revel in movement for movement's sake, to connect with the pump of muscles and the beating of one's heart. There is something primitive about riding the racer, about the importance of simple, exhilarating motion—though the technology of the bicycle is, paradoxically, the most advanced of my three machines.

My mountain bike, I tell my father, is for wilder places, for splashing about like a child in the mud and bounding up trails. I have ridden the mountain bike across the bush in Africa, up mountains in Appalachia, and across hopeless bogs during mud season in New England. I travel light, carrying two panniers for an overnight or a small backpack for an afternoon. Some mountain bikers ride for the death-defying challenge of bouncing like mogul skiers off boulders, bellowing like rutting antelope. I spend more time off

the bike than on it. I like to reach places and stop—a village on the Serengeti plain, an overview up high in the mountains with just enough space for a tent, a half-frozen waterfall in Vermont. Sometimes I meet up with people—that happened frequently in Africa. At a bonfire one night in Kenya, an aged Nandi warrior told me the story of his tribe's great migration. Another night, I ate roast goat with a Bushman who explained to me the significance of the stars. I seldom plan in advance where I'm going to stop. Mountain biking is random, an excursion to anywhere.

"And what about this mess?" my father asked, frowning at my touring bike, my oldest machine, the one I rode around the world. Panniers gaped open. Equipment and filthy clothing were strewn about and hanging off the bike's crossbar and handlebars. The heap reeked of sweat and campfire smoke. I'd been up north again, pedaling the back roads of New Hampshire.

I told him that touring was what I enjoyed most about cycling, taking off for several days, and occasionally for several weeks, with the stated goal of exploring a particular place, to focus on a destination. The best tours move slowly, to allow maximum absorption, though even the most laidback cyclist has compulsive moments and wants to make time. I have taken tours on roads that delve deep into the wilderness—in the Green Mountains of Vermont, in the





CALIFORNIA . MOUNT SHASTA

Like a sentinel, Shasta's volcanic cone rises more than 14,000 feet over north-central California. A scenic 275-mile tour circumnavigating the peak follows U.S. Highway 97 and state routes 161, 299, and 89 through three national forests and across the Pacific Crest Trail.—R.B.

Himalayas, in the deserts of Africa. I have pedaled in human domains ranging from the Ganges River Valley, where villages follow one after another for days without a break, to the scattered mountain enclaves of central New Mexico, where towns are composed of three or four trailers, a general store, and, without fail, a tavern.

It was hopeless trying to convert my father to life with three cycles, though he is as responsible as Charles Laport or anyone else for teaching me to appreciate lean highways. Dad would call them lean paths, since he is a hiker, but the meaning is the same. Hiking and biking each offer a connectedness to the land, to people, to living. Years ago, when most Americans lived in one place, they knew every inch of their immediate country-the trees, the birds, who lived where. Today we are nomads, always rushing off. My father, who has done his share of moving around, once said that only a stretch of road or trail was dividing him from a deeper understanding of wherever he happened to be. This may be optimistic, because truly learning about a place takes longer than an afternoon. But we have to start somewhere, to take in at least a broad sweep, to absorb enough particulars from enough places to create our own whole.

My place to start is a simple, uncluttered road. It might be anywhere in the world. Lean highways are where the Charles Laports live, the Bert Peasleys, the Nandi warriors. They are places where no people live, where the sands cover everything or the jungles buzz and steam. The link is in the humbleness of the roadways, in their function, in their steady, pragmatic attitude toward life.

Last spring, I pedaled back to Laport's farm. The rear half of the house had collapsed, joining the farm's other relics. Laport was gone. So was most of the furniture and the big iron stove. Someone had knocked down his mailbox, probably bored teenagers swinging bats from speeding cars, a rural pastime revived by the film Stand By Me.

I rode on to Pittsburg, New Hampshire, once the capital of the sovereign state of Coos County, and asked after Charles Laport. I tried the bait shop, the gas station, and the general store, which to my horror had recently been fixed up to look like a "real" general store by new owners from Massachusetts. No one knew what had happened to Laport. His place, they said, was too far from Pittsburg, as if 30 miles away were another world. Later that day, I swear that I saw his old stove, which was a peculiar shape, in the yard of a junk collector. Frank, the owner, was short and thick-waisted. His oval-shaped head and face were covered with white stubble, like a fuzzy melon. Some locals warned me that he was a little off.

Frank said he was sorry, but he knew nothing about the origins of that stove, which was set to one side of several other stoves lined up in a row on his lawn. "Sometimes," he said, "these boys steal things from the old farms where the people have left. Take things away and leave 'em off here. I don't always know where they come from, which is a shame." He looked at the stove, as if trying to make it talk. I noticed it still was edged in soot from the last time it had been used. I imagined old Laport stoking it up for a final cup of instant coffee. "I'll tell you, though," Frank said, "all this junk has a story behind it. Sometimes I think about the stories, you know. Who used this thing or that." His voice faded out, as though he had caught himself saying something crazy. He seemed bewildered, so I started looking at his junk, which pleased him and brought him around.

His collection seemed entirely random, fragments of lives, like Charles Laport's, that made sense only to Frank. Why had he neatly arranged six faded track-and-field trophies in a bathtub? Why had he nailed ten smashed cans onto the amputated door of an automobile? Maybe he needed these things to feel secure, as if he could be more complete by surrounding himself with the junk of other people's lives. I asked him about the trophies, and he surprised me by having a ready answer. "Those were all won by the Wilson boys," he said. "They were the fastest boys in the history of the high school."

"And the bathtub?"

"That belonged to old Mrs. Wilson, their mother." He grinned, enjoying himself. "And over there, that's the hubcap off Mrs. Wilson's best friend's car. Her name was Wanda. She worked for the city government."

Then, pointing a stubby thumb at my bicycle, he said,
"Hey, I'd like to buy that bicycle off yah. Five bucks sound okay?" He pointed at a collection of bikes and a graveyard of
rusty bike pieces, arranged in a rough circle. As I was trying
to figure out what to say, Frank started to stare at my
machine. He stood transfixed for so long that I thought
something really had snapped in his head. Then he looked
up, his face abruptly eager. "I'd bet that bike of yours has its
story to tell."

"It does," I said, feeling drawn into Frank's world, realizing that he was a lot like me, a collector of stories from lean highways. Except that he has his things laid out in his yard instead of scattered in his head. "I'm afraid, though, it's not for sale."

"Well, I hope you'll keep me in mind when the time comes," said Frank. "I'd sure like to have that bike in my collection."

DAVID EWING DUNCAN is the author of From Cairo to Cape Town (Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 1989) and Pedaling the Ends of the Earth (Simon & Schuster, 1986).





NORTH-CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

In the countryside of the Keystone State, a 40-mile stretch of state route 287 (from U.S. Highway 220 to Wellsboro) serves as a jumping-off point for many pastoral, often hilly, loop trips. A side road leads to the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania (above), near the northern end of the tour.—R.B.

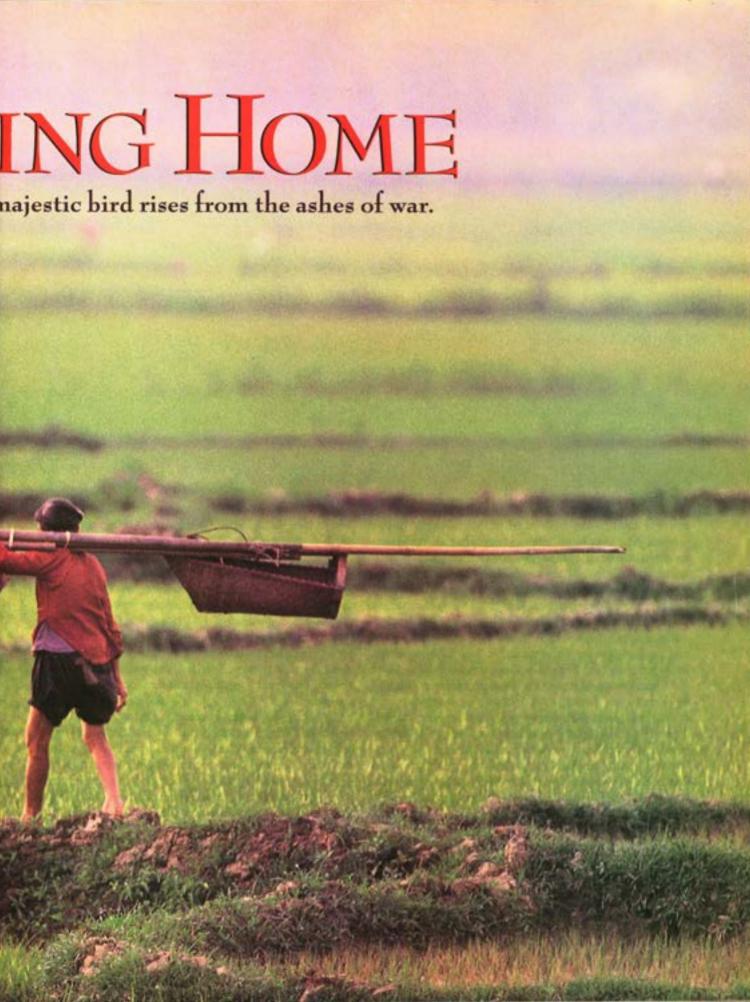


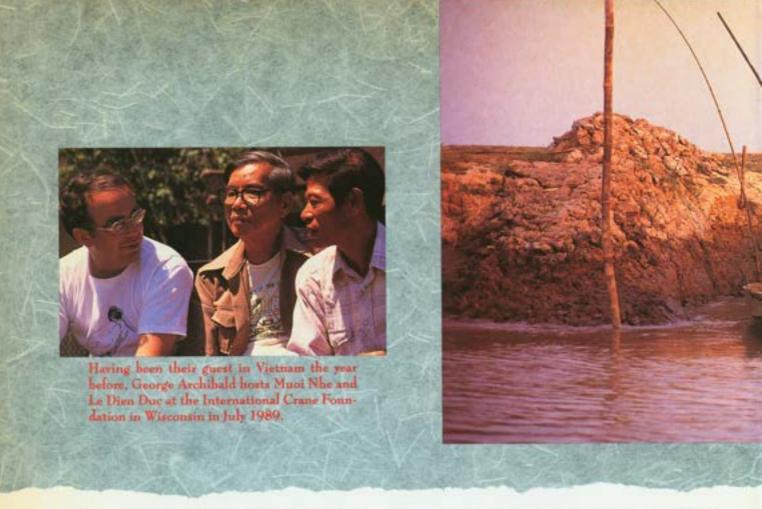
Eastern sarus cranes.

wenty years ago a face-to-face encounter with Muoi Nhe might well have been fatal for one if not both of us. But that was wartime. Now his large, brown hands ease his robust frame back a space from the edge of the table. He lights a Jet cigarette, and I watch his congenial face as the thick smoke curls up toward the light. Muoi Nhe begins to speak, looking across the table at his American visitors, pausing every few sentences for his interpreter to translate. We are in the guest house of the People's Committee of Tam Nong District in Dong Thap province, the heart of Vietnam's Mekong River Delta. Twenty kilometers or so to the north lies the Kampuchean (Cambodian) border, and a few hours away to the west by boat runs the muddy main channel of the Mekong River. Its waters once saturated the entire

BY PAUL P. ROME







region, creating a vast wetland called Dong Thap Moui.

Muoi Nhe was born here, and for most of his life he fought here, first against the French with the Vietminh, later against the United States as a commander of Vietcong operations. He talks candidly of the war; like most Vietnamese his point of reference is either "the French time" or "the American time."

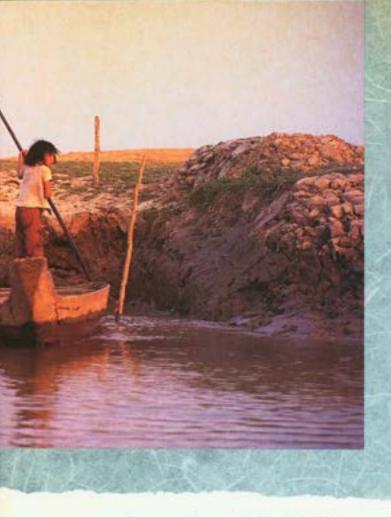
These upper reaches of the Mekong Delta were important staging areas for Vietcong activity, a main entry point for supplies coming across the Kampuchean border. In an effort to roust the Vietcong from their marshy stronghold, the French (and later the Americans) dug huge canals to drain the wetlands. With the water levels thus disrupted, the drying forests and fields were an easy target. American napalm left the countryside in ashes. The vegetation that survived soon faced further assault: Under Operation Ranch Hand, American warplanes unloaded some 40 million liters of the herbicide Agent Orange and its cousins, Agents White and Blue. By some estimates 35 percent of the south was defoliated before spraying stopped in 1971.

As formidable as his reputation as a guerrilla leader was 20 years ago, it is Muoi Nhe's status as a conservationist that has drawn us to Vietnam. He is responsible—to the extent any one person can be said to be—for the restoration of this part of the delta and for the return of one of its rarest inhabitants, the eastern sarus crane. he slate-gray, red-headed sarus is the tallest flying bird in the world, standing some four to five feet high. Its wingspan can reach up to ten feet. Once found throughout Southeast Asian wetlands, Gns antigone sharpii has been extirpated from much of its natural range, having disappeared from southern China, Thailand, the Malay Peninsula, and the Philippines. On Dong Thap Moui about a thousand birds survive, the last of their kind known in Asia. A sizable population does exist in northern Australia, but it apparently has been separated from the Asian birds for a long time, and the flocks do not intermingle.

"When I was young, I would see many, many cranes," says Muoi Nhe. "The war was hard on all the wildlife here, as it was on the people. When the fighting stopped, the birds were gone. I thought they would not return at all."

After the fall of Saigon and the reunification of Vietnam in 1975, Muoi Nhe was made chairman of the Dong Thap Province People's Committee. The post, one of 37 such provincial leadership positions across the country, carries power and influence roughly equivalent to that of a governor in the United States.

But he became the leader of a wasteland. Agricultural production had been all but obliterated. Of the vast mangrove stands that had covered much of the area, only patches survived. The native fauna was decimated; the





A girl tends an irrigation gate along a postwar canal (left). The water system has restored the wetlands—and lured sarus cranes back to Vietnam.

cranes retreated to parts unknown. It fell to Muoi Nhe to orchestrate the recovery of Dong Thap's people, economy, and environment.

"We knew that we must have the swamps here," Muoi Nhe says. "The water is very important, yet it was draining away. Also, it was too dry for the melaleuca, which the local people use for many things." Melaleuca leucadendron is a wetland mangrove with a resinous sap. It is important to the villagers for its medicinal value, and is crucial for construction. In the swampy delta, virtually every peasant house is built on rot-resistant melaleuca supports.

Determined to change things, Muoi Nhe launched a program of dike-building in the center of the province, near the village of Tan Cong Sinh. By 1984 he had overseen the construction of some 32 kilometers of dikes and the restoration of more than 5,500 hectares of wetlands. The area was recovering from its wartime pounding, and with the building of the dikes the lush wetlands bloomed.

Along with the rest of Vietnam, Dong Thap began a massive tree-planting program after the war, intending not only to repair its bombed and defoliated forests but to stem the tide of deforestation, as intractable here as in other areas of Asia struggling under massive population pressures. Melaleuca was replanted across Tam Nong as well as in other sections of the province. By 1985 the wetlands had regained a semblance of their former health and appearance,

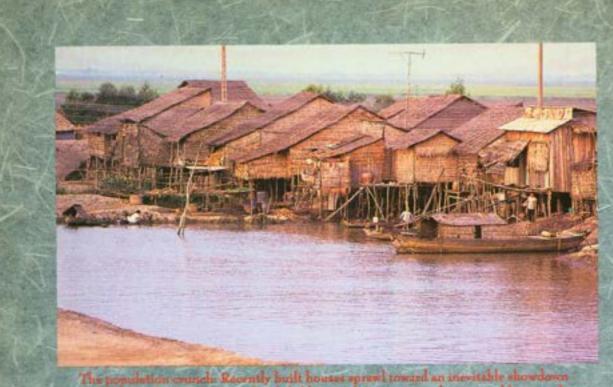
and reclaimed their historic role as a major wintering area for Asian waterfowl.

In August of that year, with help from West Germany's Brehm Fund for Bird Conservation—a philanthropic organization funded by profits from the huge Vogelpark Walsrode bird park near Hannover—a group of Vietnamese scientists undertook an expedition to the Mekong Delta to survey bird species. These scientists, from the Center for Resources Management and Environmental Studies at the University of Hanoi and from the National Center for Scientific Research of Vietnam, made up the Wetland and Waterbird Working Group (WWWG).

The team saw a single eastern sarus crane in the Ho Chi Minh City zoo that had been captured in An Giang province near the Kampuchean border. A search of that area proved fruitless, however, although the local people remembered the birds, the wetlands had been converted to cropland throughout most of the region.

On the recommendation of local officials, the WWWG scientists also went to nearby Dong Thap province, where they met Muoi Nhe. He and other residents confirmed that, historically, many of the eastern sarus spent the dry season in the area. But they had disappeared during the war, and very few cranes now frequented the local marshes.

The scientists recognized ideal crane habitat as they surveyed Muoi Nhe's restored wetlands. August is the wet



The population cruricle Recently built houses sprawl toward an inevitable showdown with the nearby crans seasons; local children (right) grow toward an inevitable struggle for food, land, and mah. Restrictions on family size are virtually impossible to enforce.

season, though, and the marshes were flooded with deep water. The team left, optimistic that the cranes might appear during the winter dry season.

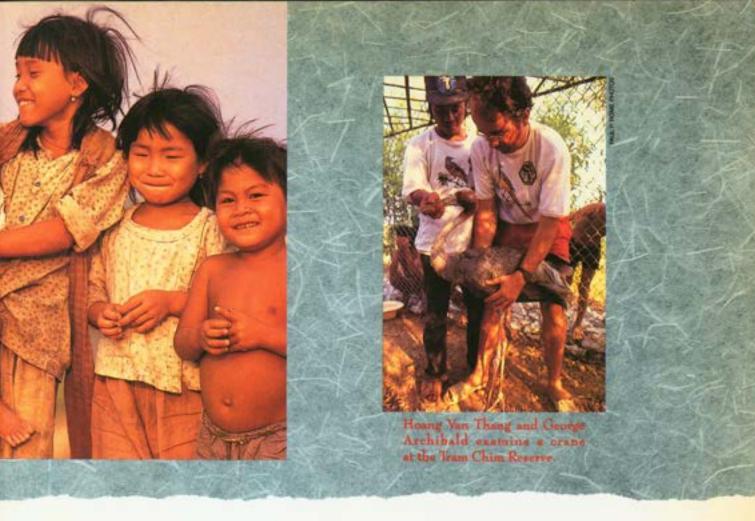
"I was the first scientist to see one of the cranes when we went back," says Hoang Van Thang, a 31-year-old ornithologist at the University of Hanoi. Thang was surveying the marshes in the diked wetlands with Le Dien Duc, another ornithologist and a senior faculty member at the university. "We were looking out over one of the marshes in Tam Nong, and there was a very large bird there. Oh! What is this? But we could see its red head clearly. We were very happy and excited that we had found the cranes."

n the lore of Vietnam the crane is a powerful symbol, the icon of happiness and longevity, the bird that carries to heaven the souls of those bound for eternal life. Cranes also carry symbolic power in other parts of Asia and the world. They are revered in Japan, China, India, and North America. The majestic whooping crane, whose population had dwindled to just 15 birds by 1941, has been the focus of one of the most intensive, long-term wildlife-preservation efforts ever undertaken in Canada and the United States, its plight continually drawing international attention.

This legacy of crane, myth, and man comes together in George W. Archibald. Archibald is director of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He began his quixotic quest to save the world's cranes after completing his doctoral dissertation at Cornell University on the birds' comparative ethology. In 1973, given a lease on some Wisconsin farmland and new horse barns from the parents of colleague Ronald Sauey, Archibald established the ICF.

The foundation prospered under Archibald and Sauey, growing from the shared dream of two graduate students into an organization of worldwide prominence. Its mission is single-minded: to save cranes. The organization pursues this goal through education, research, and its own special brand of conservation diplomacy. "We play middleman," says Archibald. "We are a catalyst, helping bring governments and private organizations and people together to help the birds."

At 43, Archibald himself is perhaps the most important ingredient in that catalytic process. He is the organization's director and guiding light, having taken over leadership duties after Sauey's death in 1987. He is uniquely qualified for the role: a competent scientist, a passionate conservationist, and an astute player in the big-money games of charitable foundations. Crane-protection plans in China, the Soviet Union, India, Japan, and Korea have been established through his adroit maneuvering, as have eight working groups of crane researchers throughout the world. He



was the first to breed Siberian and hooded cranes in captivity, and he pioneered captive-breeding techniques now in wide use.

Archibald started down the path to Vietnam in 1987, when he attended the International Crane Workshop in Qiqihar, China. "This intense Vietnamese man with incredible charisma gave a seminar on the eastern sarus they had found in the Mekong Delta. He had a presence that really impressed me." That man was Le Dien Duc, one of the WWWG members who had first found the cranes of Dong Thap.

"I was really excited about their finding the birds," Archibald says. "The ICF has had a project going in Thailand to reintroduce the eastern sarus there from the Australian stock, so to find out that there was still a wild population left on the Asian continent was really something."

Duc made arrangements for Archibald to go to Vietnam in January 1988, along with two other notable conservationists, George Schaller from the New York Zoological Society, and Abigail Avery, a member of the ICF Board of Trustees and the Sierra Club National Wildlife Committee.

The trip was a success. Muoi Nhe had formalized protection of the restored area, creating the Tram Chim ("Bird Swamp") Nature Reserve. The group spent two weeks in Tam Nong gathering important new information on the cranes' habits and habitat, and laying the groundwork for a conservation program to help the cranes in the district. Perhaps most important, it directed international attention toward the Tram Chim sanctuary.

"Our government and our university have few resources to use for the conservation of nature," says Le Dien Duc. "We are very grateful for help from the Brehm Fund, the ICF, and similar organizations."

"One of the problems of working in some foreign countries, like Vietnam, is that their social and economic problems are staggering," Archibald says. "How do you convince governments that some little reserve for birds is important when they don't have many basic services like sanitation and transportation? It's fine when you want to bring their researchers over for a view of how we do things, but you sometimes wonder just how applicable it really is."

n early 1989, I accompanied Archibald to Vietnam as part of an ICF-sponsored research and educational expedition. We assembled in Ho Chi Minh City (most locals still call it Saigon) to meet the ICF team, a mélange of people Archibald had gathered from diverse sectors: a Southeast Asian historian, an official from the U.S. Agency for International Development (traveling as a private citizen; the two countries still have no diplomatic relations), a bird-watching entomologist, a public-health nurse, an environmental educator, two ICF members just

interested in seeing the birds and helping in their conservation, two photographers, and myself.

It was an arduous six-hour journey overland from Ho Chi Minh City to Tan Cong Sinh village, where we were put up at the newly constructed guest house of the People's Committee of Tam Nong. Our group brought in nearly 500 pounds of basic medical supplies for the village's primitive hospital, donated by the Georgia-based group Americans for International Aid.

The villagers warmed to us slowly. Often people assumed we were Russians, which did not make us any more welcome. Soon, however, the village children would come running out of their reed huts along the road shouting "send send"—the Vietnamese word for crane—as they saw us coming. We spent many evenings watching the cranes as they crossed low over a road about a kilometer from town, flying to their evening roost. The people from nearby huts stood beside us, intently scanning the horizon and pointing out the birds as they appeared over the trees.

While the other photographers and I spent most of our time vainly chasing the wary cranes around the marshes, others in the group worked more closely with the villagers. Some traveled to local schools—both in Tan Cong Sinh and in neighboring villages—to talk about the cranes.

As our group and the Vietnamese acclimated to each other, the villagers opened up, inviting us into their houses and stores as we walked by, or, through an interpreter, sharing recollections of the wetlands and fauna before the war. Many locals' knowledge of the native birds was considerable—albeit mostly along the lines of "heron tastes more like egret than bittern."

Whether the long-term prospect for protecting the wildlife of Tram Chim will improve is another matter entirely. While the efforts the Vietnamese have made to preserve the restored habitat are encouraging, the task remains formidable.

Vietnam is heartbreakingly poor; with a per-capita annual income of less than \$200, it is among the world's ten poorest nations. It receives limited foreign aid—about \$4 billion from the Soviet Union and \$50 million from Sweden in 1988. Inflation still runs rampant, though it is down from '88, when it was nearly 1,000 percent.

Overarching all these concerns, however, is population pressure. The population of Vietnam has now passed 65 million; the density is 200 people per square kilometer. (The average for other Southeast Asian countries is about 75 per square kilometer.)

The Vietnamese are aware of this growing burden, and have taken some steps to reduce their 2.4 percent annual growth rate. Couples are officially permitted to have just two children, and are threatened with the loss of state-supported health care and education for any children beyond the allotted pair. There seems to be little mechanism for enforcement, however, especially in rural areas, where the cultural pressure to have children is particularly high.

In the long run the people's toll on the land will surpass that exacted by war. At the end of World War II about 44 percent of Vietnam was forested. Today that figure has fallen to less than 25 percent, and despite the country's efforts at reforestation, Vietnam is still losing nearly 200,000 hectares of forest annually.

Necessarily, more and more undeveloped land is being converted to agriculture in an effort to match the growing demands of the population. Tam Nong is no exception. The government is moving a thousand families from highly populated regions around the country to less populated areas of Tam Nong. These settlers face a bleak existence along the edges of the district's myriad canals. They are given land, but little else. They can grow some rice and vegetables, and trees as a cash crop. The time between planting and payoff, however, is considerable, leaving intermittent years of hand-to-mouth agriculture with no means to generate cash income.

Even growing food is tough in this part of the delta, because the soil is poor and often highly acidic. On Vietnam's fertile plains, farmers can produce as many as 15 tons of rice per hectare annually, yet around Tam Nong the yield is often no more than four tons. Meanwhile the inexorable stream of settlers moves in, digging new canals, draining new land, growing poorer.

one of this was here last year," George Archibald says as he surveys the sprawl of new huts reaching toward the Tram Chim reserve at the village's edge. A new bridge spans one canal between the village and the reserve on the other side. In the 13 months since Archibald first visited this place, a new line of huts has formed along the road at the reserve's flank and out along another of the canals. Children are swimming in the tepid waters, and rice is already going to seed in the fields on the other side. Twenty meters of muddy Mekong backwater separate the reed shacks from the "protected zones" of the reserve. Farther down the canal, fresh dredging is evident right up to the reserve boundary.

We stand in the bright sun, the tropical heat already oppressive at 8:30 a.m. We are on the second story of a building that is soon to become the management office for the restored wetlands. An impenetrable matrix of melaleuca poles supports the concrete molds for the building's superstructure. We set up a spotting scope and look out into the reserve at a flock of 30 or so eastern sarus cranes feeding. Below us young girls stir cement in piles, A stream of men carries buckets of sand and mortar out of a barge moored in the canal and enlarges the piles. The path between this noisy construction site and the birds half a mile away is too clear.

Archibald drops his gaze and leans his forehead against the eyepiece. "Now the battle is against time." ■

PAUL P. ROME is a photographer and freelance writer in Madison, Wisconsin.

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IN IAMELESS DLACES

here's a raven's wing in the wash. Angled sleekly, it reveals a blue sheen, the color of space through thin atmosphere. I picture it in a coyote pup's mouth. He drops it to follow his mother through one of the animal-

mapped paths out of the canyon, routes I can never find. Raven's Wing Draw.

Twenty miles upriver, where the spruces throng, it was snowing a mean spring pellet snow when I left the house. Knowing a little about Wyoming microclimates, I decided to rummage for something better in the badlands. Until recently, before four-wheelers, only cows foraged dismally here each spring before being sent to the mountains. A few hunters, a few walkers. It's just more Bureau of Land Management land, little attention paid to it.

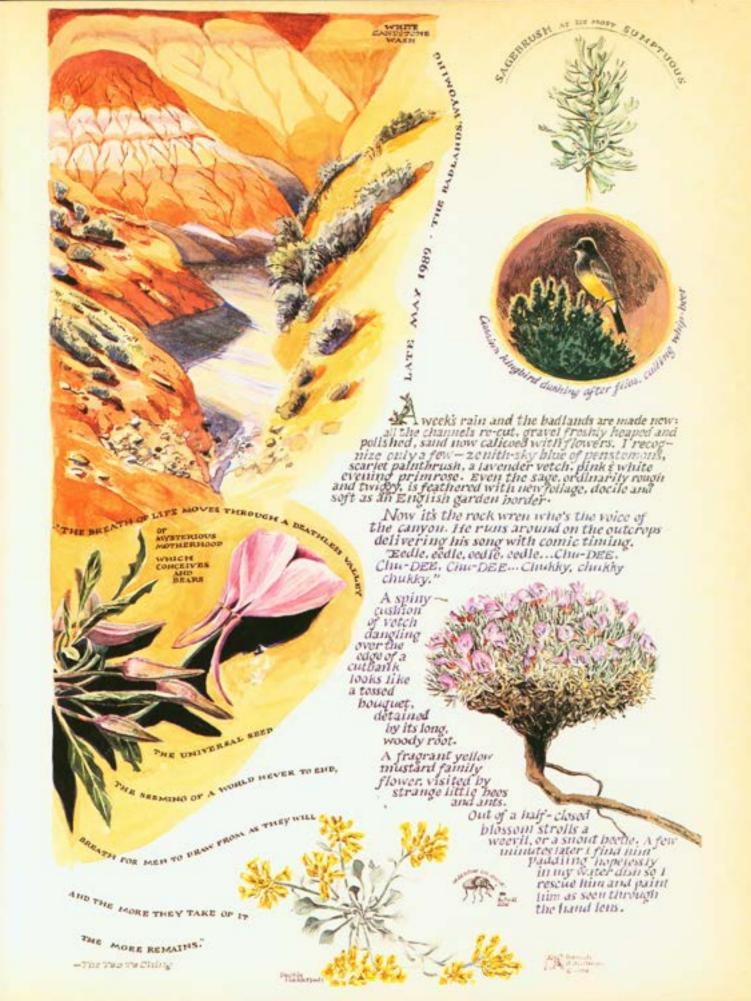
In the badlands it's not only the colors that capture me
—layers of red, pink, pearl-gray, and buff—but the substances. Scramble along steep terra-cotta flutings and
break off a piece. Out pours red sand so fine it must have
been sifted by crickets. Thunderstorm sheet-floods are
responsible, mixing up a muck that then settles into a
clay outer shell with sand inside. But vertically? These
columns always look just poured, or melting.

Then there are walls of conglomerate: granite cobbles smoothed by some ancient river, entombed here way back in the Eocene. I like to spring a few, let 'em rejoin the dance after sitting out for 55 million years. There's also a harder layer of pale sandstone that forms lips, brinks, falls, and traps, and is responsible for many a thwarted route.

I'm following the wash, the least efficient path, admiring the braidings in the streambed and the crisp mud
curls that look good enough to eat. This little canyon,
offered up to the southern sun arc, is now warm enough
to make me stop and look for a sandy bank away from
anthills where I can lie down. To the north the pelletspitting cloud is still closed over the spruces, but I'm
sweating, and a hover fly is looking me over. Two bends
of the draw block any sound from Route 287, a mile
away. Now I hear only the spring air molding itself into
notes of a mountain bluebird. Time for a snooze, full
length, given over, cowboy hat on face, the ground fairly
twanging with working roots and ready shoots.

Later, when the shadows start breathing coolness out of the side canyons, I cross the color threshold. After an hour outside walking, colors begin to appear much more brilliant, more saturated. Oxygen to the brain? Rods and cones sufficiently steeped? I get out the paints and brushes and pour canteen water into a cup. How many

ESSAY AND PAINTINGS BY HANNAH HINCHMAN



times have I felt this urge, almost desperate, to paint the badlands? It's the repeated lines here, a regular pattern, like the designs on African bark-cloth painting. Cascades of intersecting Vs. Yet if you get too seduced by the flat pattern, you miss the sensuousness—a creamy expanse of sandstone curved and chiaroscuroed just so, a Botticelli forehead of pink clay, siltstone in languorous poses.

Sometimes I imagine that if I get the arrangement and proportions exactly right—a massive columned wall above a ribbon of wash, the precise slant of an alluvial fan—I will be able to conjure up the particular emptiness of this place. When people accustomed to cities, those people who avoid being alone, encounter this almost obstinate stillness, they run, sure they'll be crazy in a matter of hours. The mind does at first rebel, churning out a steady flow of thoughts, then core-memory debris, and sometimes, when the disturbance deepens, gibberish.

As you leave the car and start into the canyon, the place is just another setting. A little while later you look up and realize it might swallow you. Whenever I approach the canyon in that frame of mind, I know I must stop at the first bend and sift through a gravel bar, or go to sleep on the ground, or just sit. By the time I get out the paints I've reached an accord with the emptiness, knowing it to be the original expression of the world. "Stillness becoming alive, yet still," Theodore Roethke described it.

Next time I look up from my paper, the horizon has changed, sprouting big Vs of ears: a dozen mule deer.

Another dozen deer look up, startled, as I emerge from a juniper grove farther down the canyon. I try the grazing method to put them at ease: look at the ground and paw it with my boot, turn my back on them idly. Unthreatening gestures. They remove to the next bench, turn their backs on me, and browse on new growth of a wiry grass. Lofty Doe Draw.

I remember seeing a dead fawn in one of the narrow arms of this canyon. There was no sign of how it died, no dismantling by ravens or coyotes. Dead in a cave-painting position, ribs like a Tang dynasty ivory birdcage, a little haystack where its rumen had been.

What about death, its evidence and presence everywhere? Briefly, occasionally, I think I glimpse how life and death embrace. Of course I know the story of their mutual dependence, and keep reciting it to myself for reassurance, but it reads more like a legal document or economics paper. Sadness from witnessing pain has left me with a permanent wince. The vulnerability of all creatures to pain often seems like the most vicious of jokes, and the best I can do is to envision a tangled web of empathy: If the worm isn't stuffed alive down the nestling's throat, the nestling may starve. If the fox doesn't bring the nestling to her kit, the kit may die. We cling to life; the transition is rough.



any days I'm not content to stay in the draws, but feel a need to get up onto the plateaus, the high mesas, the remnants of an ancient plain. The geometric change from vertical wall to horizontal plateau is itself satisfyingly precise—no halfway about it. My favorite of these I've

named for its giddy aerial wreaths of horned larks. Lark Lyric Plateau. To be accurate, it's a peninsula linked to a long, ascending ridge that becomes a foothill of the Absaroka Range. Except for a few sections, this is all BLM land too.

About a mile long and equally wide, Lark Lyric is napped with low grasses and fragrant white phlox. Oddly, it supports no sagebrush, and there are no badger holes. Rising gently, ringed by mountains, it's cowgirl heaven.

My pony Scout carries me up. We carefully open and shut gates, following trails that avoid the steepest badland walls. This is the time to slouch comfortably, to sing whatever best fits our pace: "Blue Shadows on the Trail" or "Riding Down the Canyon." We top the last rise and suddenly there it is, spread out before us, perfectly smooth and empty. For a while there are just wind-streaming eyes and thundering pony hooves. Then we pull up and the plateau, its sky and larks, its level swell, resolve into a particular music, a pealing air, a welling carol.

All this open western space, unattended! I always get out the maps when I come home and trace my route, amazed at how little ground I've covered, and at how unremarkable the places look on paper. My Lofty Doe Draw, my incomparably lovely canyon filled with bluebirds and echoing swifts, is nameless to the U.S. Geological Survey. Lark Lyric Plateau, an island of heaven, is not considered worth naming either. So I get out my smallest pen, bend over the topo, and carefully write the names the places gave me. •

HANNAH HINCHMAN lives and works in Dubois, Wyoming. This essay was chosen as the winner of the 1989 Neltje Blanchau Award for nature writing and the 1989 Frank Nelson Doubleday Award for women's writing.



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THIS EARTH DAY

Economists worldwide are predicting that the 1990's will be the decade of the environment. Since photovoltaics is one of the only technologies capable of generating electricity without waste or pollution, many money managers also believe that the 1990's will be the decade for solar power to come of age.

If you agree, you are not alone. According to a recent Gallup Poll, 3 out of 4 Americans now consider themselves an environmentalist. And these environmentalists are looking for a way to take personal action in both making the world a better place to live and to profit from the trend.

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HOT SPOTS



The Waorani face "wrenching changes" if an oil road is built through their forest home.

Piercing the Jungle's Heart

YASUNI PARK, ECUADOR

ORTHEASTERN Ecuador's Napo River region has for centuries been home to the Waorani Indians, a fiercely independent people who live in cane dwellings and wear only waist cords and a few ear. hair, and neck ornaments.

But more and more, this land lush with tree ferns and orchids, sloths and anteaters, parrots, manatees, and Amazon dolphins has become a drilling field where multinational oil companies sink their bits and pump their fortunes. Since 1967, oil workers and

contractors have swarmed to the area, bringing bulldozers, toxic chemicals, viruses, guns, and alcohol. They frequently secure the sexual services of Waorani women by bribing their brothers with sugar, boots, axes, and chainsaws-goods and equipment often pirated from company supplies. Sometimes the pilfering workers even contrive to blame the thefts on the

One group of about 125 Waorani living in and around Yasuni National

Waorani

Park-one of the Amazon Basin's largest rainforest preserves-has mostly avoided contact with oil workers. But its isolation from Western culture may soon be shattered. As early as March or April, Conoco Ecuador Limited, an affiliate of the Texas-based oil giant, expects to begin carving a road for pipeline construction more than 100 miles into the park, penetrating to the heart of the Waorani nation.

Not only will Conoco's road carry oil crews and equipment into Yasuni Waorani territory, says the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, but it will draw colonists to the forest from all across

Ecuador-speculators seeking to clearcut land for farms and cattle ranches. And that, the Defense Fund's lawyers say, will prove so disastrous to the Waorani way of life that Conoco and the Ecuadoran government,

which approved the project, could be held liable for ethnocide, a criminal offense under international law.

"The Waorani Indians face cultural annihilation if there are any major incursions into their territory," says Karen Parker, a human-rights attorney

retained by the Defense Fund. "They aren't very adaptable to new influences. The Waorani are migrant people, hunters. Their territory has already been reduced to an area too small for their traditional lifestyle."

Conoco officials strongly object to the allegation of ethnocide. "In fact," says Conoco attorney H. J. van Wageningen, "we're trying to avoid any harm coming to the Waorani."

As evidence of their concern, Conoco officials point to an environmental assessment they commissioned from anthropologist James A. Yost, who lived among the Indians from 1973 to 1982. The company says it has developed policies based on Yost's observations that will prevent disruption of the Waorani culture.

Among Conoco's plans is a medical clinic for oil-company employees that would also be available to the Waorani. Whether that measure would suffice to guard against the spread of such discases as influenza, which is alien to the Waorani people, is an open question. In areas of the Ecuadoran rainforest where flu viruses have been carried in by oil-company workers or tourists, many Waorani have died of secondary pneumonia.

Conoco Ecuador recognizes that the most severe threat to Waorani society would come from colonization along the new pipeline road. The company points out, however, that such settlement in Yasuni National Park is forbidden by Ecuadoran law. Colonists can be turned back, the company maintains, by means of around-the-clock police surveillance at key check-points along the road; those who ship through can be detected by satellite monitoring of the entire park.

Anthropologist Yost isn't reassured. "Colonists in all parts of the developing world have proved time and again to be tenacious and relentless," he says.

Yost believes the potential for disaster in Conoco's roadbuilding scheme is enormous. "Imagine the world of a Wao," he wrote in his environmental assessment, "a person born into a culture that has a technology limited to stone, wood, and fiber; a person who



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has never seen a horse, much less imagined an automobile. . . . Imagine how easily this person's sense of wellbeing is going to be challenged when the age-old solutions of survival no longer work and he or she has no sense of control over the future."

Acknowledging that oil development seems inevitable in the face of world demand for energy resources, Yost nonetheless advised Conoco Ecuador that his personal preference would be that no road be built into Yasuni National Park. "No matter how sensitive Conoco or any others going into the area might be," he observed, "the Waorani will undergo some wrenching changes."-Mark Mardon

A Hotbed in the Making

ONTONAGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Economic booms have come and gone in Michigan's Upper Peninsula-but in recent times their noise has faded to whispers. Rare now are the immigrants to the U.P. who hope to earn their liveli-

hoods at lumbering, farming, or mining. These days the people coming here are likely to be just passing through: an-

glers, backpackers, canoeists, carcampers. If they happen to be looking for something more permanent, chances are good they're governmentcontracted geologists or engineers. several of whom have been seen scouting the sparsely populated western U.P. recently, searching for a place to bury tens of thousands of cubic feet of low-level nuclear waste.

"The only people who pay attention to us are the ones who want to dump their garbage here," says Pat Koski, a native of the region who lives and works in Ontonagon County, near the Wisconsin border.

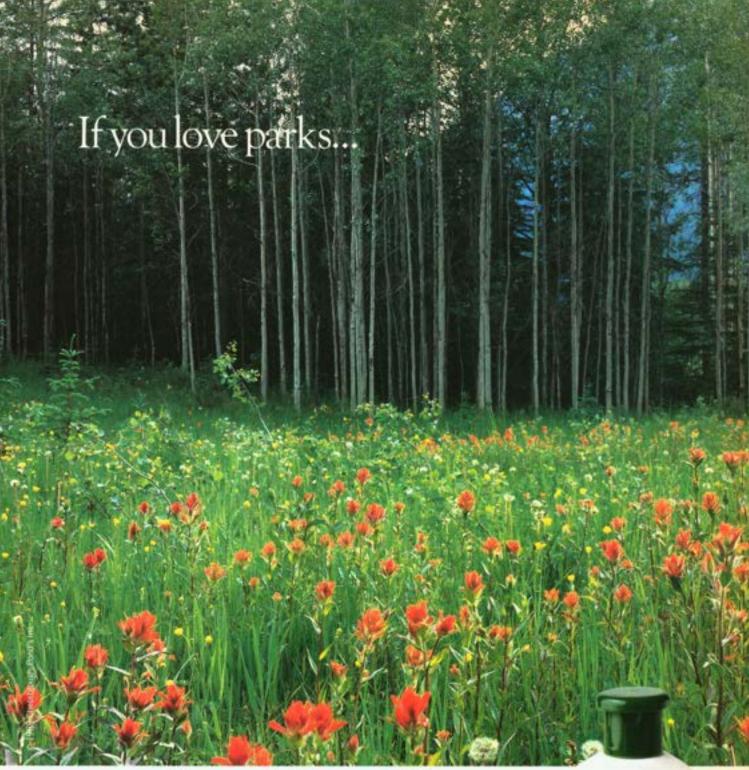
> Koski and many other western U.P. residents are alarmed that a nuclear-waste dump proposed for their area could contaminate a section of the Lake Superior watershed. They

charge Michigan Governor lames Blanchard and his radioactive-waste commissioner, Jim Cleary, with playing politics while disregarding the environment. The two officials, they contend, targeted Ontonagon County for a possible dumpsite primarily because of its remote location and lack of political clout.

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of low-level nuclear waste has become what Sierra Club Midwest Representative Jane Elder calls a "political morass," involving not only radioactive garbage from its own nuclear reactors, factories, research institutions, and hospitals, but from those of six other states as well. Following passage in 1980 of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act, which shifted the disposal burden from federal to state jurisdiction, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri formed a compact to find a regional home for their waste. Michigan drew the unlucky straw.

But settling on Michigan for the site didn't put the issue to rest. Next came a predictable phase in the contentious process: the NIMBY ("not in my backyard") syndrome. Now Commissioner Cleary must negotiate difficult political terrain to find a final resting place for a lot of nasty material, and grassroots activists are loaded with potent arguments against a U.P. site. "It's absolutely ridiculous to gather up all this radioactive waste from nuclear facilities and haul it 500 to 1,600 miles to contaminate the shores of Lake Superior," says Pat Koski.

As Sierra Club Board of Directors member Roy Hengerson sees it, the choice of Ontonagon County as a potential dumpsite could have been avoided if the federal government had retained control of the siting process. Now, he says, the country may have 14 regional dumps by 1993, when states must have found homes for their lowlevel nuclear debris. "We really don't need that many sites," he says. "Four or five would be sufficient."

Nonetheless, the Sierra Club doesn't want to see the decision-making process degenerate as a result of NIMBY arguments, and for that reason, Hengerson says, the Club is working to strengthen the regional dump-siting process. Though he hopes the Michigan dump won't be located in Ontonagon County, if the state demonstrates that it has selected its site carefully and will manage the waste responsibly, the Club will not challenge the decision. - M.M.



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SIERRA NOTES

The 20th anniversary of Earth Day, an occasion to celebrate the natural world and redouble efforts toward its protection, will be commemorated on Sunday, April 22, the day following John Muir's birthday.

In a special effort to assist Sierra Club members and others in directing their post—Earth Day conservation activities, the May/June issue of Sierra will include a copy of The Sierra Club Earth Day Sourcebook, a guide to identifying and obtaining posters, videotapes, books, brochures, and other materials of interest to environmental activists. For information on obtaining the Sourcebook in bulk quantities, contact Sierra Club Public Affairs, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109; phone (415) 776-2211.

National and international promotion of Earth Day is being orchestrated by Earth Day 1990, an organization based in Palo Alto, California. The group encourages ecology fairs, treeplanting ceremonies, beach cleanups, and other public events to mark the anniversary, and has solicited widespread support from government officials, entertainers, religious leaders, educators, and the media. For information contact Earth Day 1990, P.O. Box AA, Stanford, CA 94309; telephone (415) 321-1990.

Wetlands Preservation 90, an outdoor fair for heightening public awareness about shrinking waterfowl habitat along the Pacific Flyway, will be held in Los Angeles April 7–8. Hosted by the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, the event will take place at a site adjacent to Ballona Lagoon, a wildlife-rich wetland where shifting tides attract ducks, mergansers, least terns, herons, egrets, and sandpipers. The weekend's activities include foot races, art exhibits, nature walks, bike rides, and kite flying.

For more information contact the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, 3550 W. Sixth St., Suite 321, Los Angeles, CA 90020; telephone (213) 387-4287.

A festival of environmental films will be held April 27–29 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to coincide with Earth Day. Billed as the first such festival in the United States, the program will allow actors, scriptwriters, filmmakers, and environmentalists to meet and discuss project ideas. Some 40 to 50 feature-length, short, and animated films and videos will be shown in competition. For more information contact the U.S. Environmental Film Festival, 1026 Colorado Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904; telephone (719) 520-1952.

An expedition to clean up Mt. Everest, whose flanks have been strewn with the litter of countless mountaineering ventures, will take place this summer. Led by veteran Everest climbers Liz Nichol and Bob McConnell, the Everest Environmental Expedition ("E3") will arrive at base camp in Tibet in early August. From there a work party will set out to accumulate and compact garbage that cannot be burned or otherwise disposed of on the mountain. Bundles of trash will then be carried by yak back to base camp. With the support of local Tibetans, the crew will attempt to devise a permanent system for recycling metal, plastic, and glass trash carried in by foreigners. To participate in or support the trip financially contact the Everest Environmental Expedition, 3730 Wind Dance Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

For those who can't join the Mt. Everest expedition but wish to lend a hand in a Nepalese environmental restoration project, the Sierra Club Outing Program is organizing a service trip to Nepal in 1991. The details of this undertaking are currently being negotiated with Nepalese environmentalists and officials. See future Outing Program announcements in Sierra for further information.

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Pay Your Respects to the Rainforest

Fascinating and fast-disappearing, tropical forests are worth saving—and seeing.

James L. Castner

N THE SARDONIC LEXICON of overseas journalists, countries that never reach the front page are TINs, "totally invisible nations." These unknowns languish until a coup attempt or natural disaster pushes them into the international spotlight, when they gain the status of TFNs, which translates (roughly) as "totally fouled nations." Such is the case with the world's tropical rainforests. For cons these regions were impenetrable jungles little known to and hardly noticed by the world at large. Just in the last decade or so have we learned of their richness, complexity, and importance-only to find that they are disappearing into the maw of progress at the rate of 50 to 100 acres per minute. This sobering fact should

make an environmental evangelist out of any traveler to

the tropics.

A little more than half of the world's tropical rainforests are in Central and South America, a quarter are in Southeast Asia, Australia, and the islands in between, and about one fifth are in Africa. They are home to several million kinds of organisms, barely half a million of which have been classified. The Amazon region alone harbors one of every five plant species on Earth.

For all their mystery, tropical rainforests are easy to visit. Formerly inaccessible Amazonia can now be reached by a four-and-a-halfhour commercial flight from Miami to Iquitos in northeastern Peru, where you'll find probably the highest concentration of rainforest facilities in the New World. Explorama Tours is one of the most established tour companies here, accommodating guests at three "jungle lodges" along the Amazon River and its tributaries.

In adjoins a network of more than 18 miles of mapped trails in the Tambopata Wildlife Reserve. In the same region the Manu Lodge provides respite to tourists at the Manu Biosphere Reserve. Visitors reach the area via a 45-minute flight from Cuzco or a two-day bus trip over the Andes. Either route ends with a river voyage of at least several hours through terrain where it is common to see macaws, monkeys, and, on occasion, jaguar.

Central America's rainforests are less extensive but more accessible to North Americans. I highly recommend Costa Rica for the first-time tropical traveler or those traveling on their own. The country has a long history of political stability, and 20 percent of its land is protected as national parks or preserves—more than in any other Latin American country. Less than four hours from the capital of San José lies the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. The mist-shrouded forest straddling Pacific and Caribbean slopes offers an excellent system of mapped, marked trails.

How you visit the tropics depends only on your time, budget, and desire for comfort. Numerous companies organize natural-history package tours with fixed itineraries and all logistics prearranged. Among the best known are International Expeditions, Questers, and Journeys. Travelers with

> more specific interests can hook up with companies such as Field Guides or Victor Emanuel Nature Tours for birdwatchers, Joseph Van Os Nature Tours for photographers, or Holbrook Travel for butterfly enthusiasts. Many conservation organizations (including the Sierra Club) and research institutions sponsor group trips to rainforest areas. If you want rugged adventure, look into the rafting, canoeing, and hiking trips offered by the likes of Sobek Expeditions, Mountain Travel, Wilderness Travel, and Canyon Explorers Club.

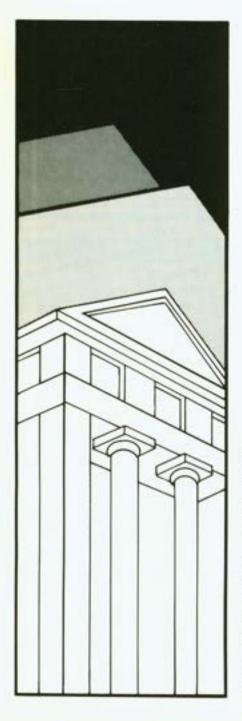
Travelers interested in research experience can volunteer as field assistants through nonprofit organizations such as Earthwatch, International Research Expeditions, and the Foundation for Field Re-



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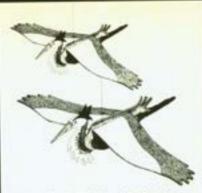
Unless you're familiar with Latin America and proficient in Spanish (which is useful even in Portuguesespeaking Brazil), I don't recommend solo traveling. However, two to four people with a flexible schedule and a lot of patience can travel together in relative comfort for much less than they'd pay for a comprehensive tour. Several good guidebooks for independent adventurers are available. One of the most engrossing sources of information is the Denver-based South American Explorers Club, whose quarterly journal serves up timely tips and advice to a well-connected network of vagabonds.

Whether you sign on with a group or go it alone, keep in mind that tourism is hardly benign. While travelers leave cash rather than clearcuts, they represent a cultural intrusion (and in some instances introduce diseases). Scrutinize tour companies and guides carefully for their environmental and cultural sensitivity.

North Americans have several other opportunities nearby for visiting ancient-forest ecosystems. Tropical rainforests in the 28,000-acre Caribbean National Forest in Puerto Rico and Morne Trois Pitons National Park on the relatively unsulfied Caribbean island of Dominica are protected refuges. On the island of Hawaii, the fate of one of the last large parcels of tropical forest in the 50 states is being decided by the courts; geothermal developers have already begun bulldozing roads through the area.

Finally, North America's temperate rainforests come close to matching the tropics in beauty and richness. Stretching from southeastern Alaska through British Columbia, the Pacific Northwest, and into Northern California, this ecosystem has more in common with its southern counterpart than most people would like: Deforestation is destroying it as well.

JAMES L. CASTNER is author of Rainforests: A Guide to Research and Tourist Facilities (Feline Press, P.O. Box 7219-S, Gainesville, FL 32605; 1990; \$14.95).



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SIERRA CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

Pursuant to provisions of sections 6321 and 6322 of the California Corporations Code, the following information is furnished as an annual report:

The Club's complete financial statements for the fiscal years ended September 30, 1989 and September 30, 1988, together with the report of Peat Marwick Main & Co., independent auditors, are available on request from Sierra Club headquarters at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109.

The membership list of the Sierra Club is on file at the Club's headquarters at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109;

There are no transactions to disclose that constitute a conflict of interest involving directors or officers; no member has voting power of 10% or more:

The books of account and minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors are available for inspection by members on written request at the Club's headquarters at 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, California 94109.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors Sierra Club San Francisco, California

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Sierra Club as of September 30, 1989 and 1988, and the related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances, and changes in cash for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Sierra Club's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain trasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of exaterial missiatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also iscludes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by

management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Sierra Club at September 30, 1989 and 1988, and the results of its operations and changes in its fand balances, and changes in its cash for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

KPMG Peat marrich

Certified Public Accountants December 13, 1989

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SHIRIKA CLUB:

Fiscal Year 1989 was an outstanding year for the Sterra Club financially and in many other ways. Membership grew to more than 350,000 members, as merease of 12, 2% over 1988. The number of volunteer groups increased by 5% to 366, and chapter dues allocations increased 6, 3% to a record high of \$2, 402,000. All the while, fund balances (net worth) mereased \$2,066,200, up 34, 2% from fiscal year 1988 to a record high of \$8, 107,000. The operating surplus was \$2,060,400, \$1,174,700 increasing the unrestricted fund balance and \$885,700 distributed to board extended 100 membership surplus.

restricted life membership endowments. Total revenues increased 20.3% in fiscal year 1989, to \$37,331,600. This was due primarily to the growth in membership revenue, up 7% to \$13,025,800, and also to increased contributions and grants, up 27.9% to \$10,708,400. Life membership revenues rose 53.3% to \$885,700. Outings and lodge revenue increased 50.4% to \$2,025,000. Book sales rose 40.5% to \$4,201,000. Royalties increased 9.3% to \$1,394,100, and advertising and investments increased 20.8% to \$3,022,800.

Expenses increased 13.3% to \$35,260,000. Program expenses represented the largest proportion (90%) of this increase, with the expenses associated with the studying and influencing of public policy rising \$1,681,100, and the associated costs of information and education rising \$1,761,800. Outdoor activities expenses were up 7.2% to \$2,455,400, while expenses for support services rose only 3%, to \$12,476,700.

This excellent financial performance was achieved while the Club also provided a Member Handbook for each membership, hosted its Third International Assembly, embarked on the Centennial Campaign and Celebration, and facilitated the growth of such Club functions as the Volunteer Development and Public Affairs offices. These results reflect the institution of a more comprehensive budget and financial review process, as is required for an organization the size and complexity of the Club, as well as excellent teamwork by those staff and volunteers with financial responsibilities.

Bob Howard Treasurer



Source of Funds

Use of Funds

SIERRA CLUB BALANCE SHEETS

Years ended September 30, 1989 and 1988

| Assers | 1989 | 1988 |
|--|--|---------------|
| Cash and tash oppivalents | \$ 1,496,000 | \$ 1,007,000 |
| Acousti recevable | THE PARTY OF THE P | |
| Trade, Irsa allowances for remotes of \$199,000 and \$93,000 Advertising, less allowances for doubtful accounts | 1,824,400 | 1,317,100 |
| of \$49,000 and \$49,000 | 228,000 | 159,700 |
| Grants (mote 10) | 385,300 | 300,700 |
| Other (note 10) | 670, 500 | 541,500 |
| Net realizable value of assets hild for realiz- | 948,500 | 952,800 |
| discontinued operations (note: 9) | -0- | 19,400 |
| Prepaid expenses | 326,900 | 790,900 |
| Advances, less allowances of \$75,000 and \$40,000 | 456,800 | 578,400 |
| Investments - endowment fund (1900; 2) | 5,152,600 | 4,261,100 |
| Property and equipment, net (note 3) | 2,895,300 | 2,732,100 |
| Paintings, photographs and books (note [1]) TOTAL ASSETS | 5 14,945,900 | \$ 12,660,890 |

| LIABILITIES AND FUND BALAN | | 1988 |
|--|---|---|
| Accounts payable (name 10) Account expenses | 2,764,300 1,590,900 | 3,408,900 1,408,900 |
| Defented revenue: Unstructed Restricted Obligations under capital base (sere ti) Long-term debt (note 4) | 468,600 276,800 126,700 1,612,000 6,839,300 | 368,800 422,300 172,000 1,658,900 6,619,400 |
| FUND BALANCES: Universitized Net investment in property and equipment Endowment: | 1,798,400 1,156,600 | 839,100 941,200 |
| Quasi-ordine trattors Life memberships Coher Endowment-accume restricted Term endowment | 4.239,800 870,100 32,700 10,000 8,107,600 | 3,354,100 964,800 32,200 30,000 6,042,400 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES | \$14,940,900 | \$12,660,800 |

See accompanying more to financial statements

SIERRA CLUB STATEMENTS OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Years ended September 30, 1989 and 1988

| Tears enited September 20, 1989 and 1988 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | 199 | | | | 1968 | | |
| | Literaturel | Endowness | Romost | limi | Unmercont | Endowner | Restricted | Tent |
| MEVINUE Mensal dan Annual dan | 803/03/800 | -0- | - Teller | (3.425,404 | 12,569,600 | -de- | -0- | 12,169,600 |
| Life memberships Countibutions and grants (more H1) | 8.644.700 | 86,700 | 2063.700 | 985,700 (III 206,400 | 0.577.490 | 377,600 | 1.798,500 | 8,375,200 |
| Ourneys and lodge reservations and free | 2,625,000 | -6- | 0 | 2.625,000 | 2.012.200 | -0- | -0- | 2,012,200 |
| Book salm | 4.200,000 | -0- | and the same | 4.201,000 | 2,989,600 | -0- | -0- | 2,989,600 |
| Forsiton Afterning, eventures and other sames Reinbergment have 100 | 3,002,500 | -0- | 20,500 | 1,394,100 3,022,600 | 1,275,200 | -0- | 1,300 | 2,500,900 |
| Fundrating Other | 1,279,700 | -0- | -0- | 1,279,700 | 125,700 | -0- | -0- | 120,700 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 34,390,700 | 863,700 | 2,194,200 | 37,320,600 | 24,652,000 | 377,600 | 1,801,800 | 31,031,400 |
| Program services | | | | | | | | |
| Sudying and influencing policy information and education Outdoor activities Chapter discusses | 7,760,700 9,007,600 2,574,200 2,402,000 | -2- | 254,500 254,500 81,200 | 9.633.600 8.292.300 2.438.400 2.402.000 | 6,623,498 6,251,500 2,210,000 2,258,600 | -0- -0- -0- | 259.000 79.600 | 7,952,700 6,530,900 2,289,800 2,258,800 |
| Longest Association | 20,744,700 | -0- | 2100,000 | 22,783,500 | 17,353,500 | -0- | 1,678,100 | |
| | 20,744,700 | | 27100,000 | 20,183,300 | 11-143-201 | | 1.6-8.100 | 19,031,400 |
| Support services. General and administrative Microforship | 4,680,500 | | 45,400 | 4,728,980 | 4,536,600 | -0- | 71,300 | 4,587,900 4,536,900 |
| Fundationing Serva Club Attitutes | 1,466,700 | 727 | -20 | 1,466,700 | 1,744,500 | 7.00 | 32,400 | 1,741,500 |
| | 12,430,300 | 101 | 40,400 | 12,476,700 | 71,955,500 | -0- | 123,700 | 12,079,200 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 33,176,000 | -0-1 | 2,064,200 | 35,260,280 | 29,309,200 | -0- | 1,801,000 | 21.111.000 |
| Exems (deficiency) of revenue over expenses from communing operations | 1,174,700 | 865700 | -0- | 2.000,400 | 057,200 | 577,600 | -0- | (79,600) |
| Discontinued operators (NOT) Vi | | | | | | | | |
| become from operations of discommand catalog division Loss on disposal of catalog division | | -0- | | - 11- | (252,290) | | -0- | (252,200) |
| Loss from discontinued operations | | -0- | -4- | | (244,690) | -0- | -0 | [16K,60F) |
| Easter (deficiency) of treatmic over superiors before capital additions. | 1,174,700 | 80,700 | -0- | 2,000,400 | (925,800) | 377,600 | -0- | (248.200) |
| Other quan-endownesss | | 9,300 | influe. | 3,300 | -6- | 45,500 | -6- | 46,500 |
| Income tooricaed indoveniens | -6- | 9.0 | -0- | 500 | | \$10,7181 | -00 | 10,700 |
| Excess (deficiency) of terromon over express also capital additions. | 1.174,700 | 991,500 | | 2.000,200 | 025,900 | 434.800 | -0- | (190,000) |
| Fund balances at beginning of year | 1,780,306 | 4,361,100 | | 6,041,69 | 2,606,191 | 1.626,500 | | 6,712,800 |
| FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR | \$ 2,955,000 | 3,132,600 | | 8,007,648 | 1,780,984 | 4.261.310 | | 6,041,400 |

See accompanying news to focus of statements.

SIERRA CLUB STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN CASH

Years Ended September 30, 1989 and 1988

| Manager Confe | 1989 | 1998 |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| SOURCES OF CASH Euros (deficiency) of revenues over expenses Add (deduct) min-cash terms | 52,090,400 | 5 (246,200) |
| Depreciation and accordances Amortization of discussions in provinces TOTAL CASH PROVIDED BY | 335,100 | 295,800 (196,800) |
| (USED IN) OPERATIONS | 2,274,200 | 0.020 |
| Proceeds from sale of incontinues between to other indoorness. Fronting of food user additions through capital lesses Dictrase in incommunity. Dictrase in incommunity. | 4,351,200 5,900 31,400 3,800 | 1,221,600 57,300 -0- 523,000 |
| discontinued operations Decrease in advances Societies in accounting psychia Societies in account express Societies in account express Societies in defined resource—universitated | 18,400 521,400 151,400 282,000 79,400 | 38, 7(8) 434, 2(9) 190, 8(8) |
| Proceeds from acquisition of long-term delte Decrease in advertising receivable, net Decrease in grains receivable. | -0- -0- | 1.620,000 8,700 32,240 |
| Decrease in other receivables. Decrease in perpaid expense because in deferred revenue — instructed | -0- -0- | 1,700 8,000 346,100 |
| TOTAL SOURCES OF CASH | 7.223,000 | 14:323.000 |

| 12234212 | 1989 | 1998 |
|--|---|--|
| USES OF CASH Parchases of meetingeds Auquisition of perpetry and rapigment, not Arquisition of Washington, D. C. building Bioduction of shilp atoms under capital feare Reductions of long-term data Biomese in relade accounts receivable, not biomese in advartanta processable, and factorial in grains receivable, and factorial in grains receivable, and factorial in grains receivable biomese in other receivable biomese in other receivable factorial in perpud regions factorial in perpud regions factorial in our violation violation of assets held for small — discontinued operations biomise in advance. Distributed in deferred processor— Distributed in deferre | 5,123, 440 498, 300 75,700 6,500 60,000 125,000 126,000 136,000 145,500 4772,600 | 1,699,600 344,900 1,843,300 1,800 343,900 -0- -0- 18,400 117,600 -0- 4,262,500 |
| INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 450.600 | Water |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 1,007,600 | 947,000 |
| Cob and cob operations at end of year | \$1,458,000 | \$1,007,600 |
| Not asset | spanying most or finan | statements. |

SIERRA CLUB NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Notte 1 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (i) Organization

The Surra Chil (the Chil) is a nonprofit robustary membershap organization results held in explore, expoy and penter the wild places of the earth. The Chils operates many public motors proquests overstag a bread tange of newconsumital states. The wind-rang and mifinancing public policy program consists of staff and midamerys engaged in legislative and nonlegislative services, including labellong, restarting, legal and policy development, beloemsation and observation stated in the laterary programs of hierarch Chils books and Serva, Vie Chily) resparses. Observations and soluble national and intermational outsing programs, consisting of approximately, 250 regs, assumily. The membership program serves approximately, 250 regs, assumily the membership program serves approximately 250 regs, and over the program and over 36 groups, and the development of a broadbased volunteer membership.

Observations

(b) Bank of Presentation

Obstate of Personatales

The financial statements include the accounts of the Club and its wholly counted subschaes, Serra Club Property Management, her. All material energy terms are the Property Management, her. All material energy terms in our management have been elemented. The financial statements of the Club's various self-detected thapter and group regardenium. The Serra Club Foundation and Seria Club Legal Defined Pond are apparet legal reviews and, thus, are not authorities of Club financial statements.

To ensure observation of limitations and revisations placed on the Club financial statements.

To ensure observation of limitations and revisations placed on the Club in the execution available to the Club, the accounts of the Club are not exceeded accounting. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes an classified for extending and importing purposes into leads existent and accounting the statements and purposes. Separate accounts are maintained for each final, however, in the accounting the material statements, funds that have certain characterisms have been convinced more for fand groups. Accordingly, all financial transactions have been recovered and reported by found group.

The serves, liabilizant and final balancies of the Club are reported in two well-balancies final of groups as follower.

Uncertainty funds reposition the positions of expensivele

Ucesarierd funds represent the postions of expendable funds that are available for support of the Clab's operations, meloding the Clab's investment to property and equipment

Endowness feeds include funds that are permanently restricted by outside donous requiring the the principal leasurement and only the recovery to seed. The Board had designed and restormed and finder one of seed The Board had designed quasi-endownment family the concernation relient activities and finder one.

(i) Densird Services
Social members of the Club have donested agentizant amounts of taxe to both the Clob and its chapters, groups and communities in furthering the Club and programme and objectives. No amounts have been included in the financial manipulation donested in desember. or volumeer nervices since no objective hum is gradable to measure the value of such services.

(d) Cost Egoviolosy
The Clob's policy is to prese cash in excess of operating requirement in transfer starket accounts. Investment in the tracket accounts an encount in El. 22, 800 and \$594, 200 at September 30, 1080 and 1080, respectively.

Trade Assumes Receivable
 Allowance for publication returns is described using bastorical neturn name.

10 Seventenion

10. Asymmetric Development primarily of brooks and are stated at the lower of circle or marker on the firecoin, firecoing basis. Unit coats for new busins are based on paper, principle and busing charges undy Production cross are advection fore unit sales for the firecoing business, and the producing that the first twicky ministers.

(g) Advences

Resulties are advanced to authors of the Club's publications.
An allowance is provided against advances to authors for
retirested looses resulting from unextend regulars.

h) Property and Equipment

(b) Property and Equipmont
Property and equipmont are stand at cone at the date of
argumentom or fair value at the date of gift or brigants. Distanted
positings, plumographs and books are not enforced on the
accompanying Gasancial statements; proof 13). Deprocations
suppose to provided on a situality-law basis over the estimated
anishal loves (2 to 32 seps.) of the infant oners. Whim assum are
retired on otherwise disposad of, the cost and related accumulated
deprocations are resourced from the accumulate, and not resulting
gain on less in recognized in nazione fas the period. The cost of
manifestant reservable and betterminists are capitalised.

On Definial Research.

Deferred Revenue

The Club defers resonant from natings, grants and other docurresented accurates with the period the mp in completed or the matrictum are men.

(i) Menter Due

Membership dam are recognised as recome when received

(k) Contributions

(k) Contribution
All contributions are considered available for university
and unless specifically entricined by the distance Restricted
interributions are recognized as revenued as the enviryations are more
Legal services performed on behalf of the Club by the Surray
Chin Legal Technical Found are troineded as constributions with
repair along amounts charged to experience (accept II).

D. Endowment Funds

It Endowmen Fund:

The Chit has received certain funds for which the diseases have operated that the principal by maintained in properties; with the assume to be used for certain specified activities (primarily related to outings). The Chit's below poweds that all his membershape and such other funds as designated by the Board for permanent receivement that he held as quant-endownment faith. The minimary from the quasi-endownment forth endit he held as quant-endownment faith. The incident from the quasi-endownment is recognized as not sold deversus at the time any dissor remaining in the Cherrose, this revenue is necessarily as the remaining in the womentained fund.

| IEC Brokenspleations | Commission of the Commission of Sections | Commission of Sections | Commission of Section | Commissio

NOTE 2 -- Investments-Endowment Fund

Intersection of the Endowertent Facilities and are stated as automatical cost. It is the Clab's successor to hold accessor to exact the Case and market values as September 30, 1989 and 1988 were 1989.

American Meker American Market

| U.S. govern- torer and fed- eral agency bonds. Money market fends and | | | \$4.003.900 \$ | |
|--|-------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| swings accounts | 385,000 | 365,000 | 177,200 | (177,200 |
| | \$3,132,600 | \$5,514,200 | \$4,261,100 % | 6.326,000 |

Investment on over arounded to \$471, 99 to 1997 and \$325,000 at 1998 and \$52,000 at 1998 and \$5, in 1998 and \$5, in 1998 and \$5, in 1998.

NOTE 3- Property and Equipment

| Control of the Contro | Septemb | es St. |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| | 1989 | 2986 |
| Land Buildings and brasehold | 1.563,300 | 5 563,300 |
| improvements | 3,975,500 | 1,655,800 |
| Furnisare and repagneter. | 2.055,400 | 2,960,500 |
| Leaved repaigment (water to | 363,900 | 328,400 |
| Low accomplised dependance | 4,957,900 | 4,506,000 |
| and amornization | (2,042,600) | (1,775,900 |
| | \$2,895,300 | \$2,732,000 |

Departments and amortization experies was \$335,100 and \$250,800 for the years ended Septimides 30, 1000 and 1000, trapectively. Accumulated department for brased equipment was \$250,600 to 1000.

NOTE 4— Long-term Debt
In August 1990, the Cold-retered may a learn agreement for
\$1,420,000 with Attention Security Basis of provide framiding for
the purchase of an office building in Washington, D.C. The
agreement adhress the hards to call the loan or change the interest
rate at the end of each three-year period and express at the end of
Invest, or which time the oremaning balance is due to the form of
a bulloon payment. The current monthly payments are \$15,830
with an interest rate of 11,35%. The debt is secured by a deed of
that on the office bulling. Scheduled superiors of long-term
follows unitarising on September 30, 1999 are as follows:

Wher Endde

| strar Engled implember 30 | |
|--|---|
| 1990 1990 1992 1993 1994 Thereafter | \$ 290,000 290,000 190,000 190,000 190,000 3,000,000 |
| lotal obligations | 3,996,200 |
| eta attonum representing interest | (2.384.290) |
| Nevent value of rotal obligations | \$1,612,000 |

The Club is in compliance with all community of the loan

NOTE 5—Line of Condit

The Clab has available used April 30, 1990 a revolving law of bank yields which persons borrowings of up to \$2,000,000 as the bank's person interest rate. The line is instituted by the Clab's agreemed with a presentation of the Clab's agreemed with a security of the Clab's agreement of the Clab

Note 6-Leases

PACIFE CO- Extract

Leaves are for office facilities inner 1%, comparer equipment,
notent software and other equipment. Comain house provide for
extractions and additional stread per meters haved on expenses.

Festive minimum paymonts under all nonclasciable leaves with
terms greater than one visar at September 30, 1999 are at follows:

| You Ended September 30 | Legen | Operating |
|--|---|--|
| 1990 1991 1992 1993 1904 Theresites | \$ 90,600 31,965 0,500 -0- -0- -0- | \$1,315,200 1,275,000 1,225,200 1,196,400 1,588,000 148,500 |
| Total leser payments | 137,709 | \$6,346,210 |
| Less amount representing secreci- Persons value of lease payments | 3129,700 | |

Minimum future eretals receivable under remanciable

| Year maked September 30 | Operating tableses |
|--|---|
| 1990 1990 1990 1990 1994 Thereafter | \$119.800 99.700 79.600 56.000 56.000 86.700 |
| Total romals recovable | 9457,840 |

Bare expense for operating brace was \$1,300,500 to 1989 and \$3,201,000 in 1988. Unsed recognition in pledged as services and/or the related capital bases. Resid occurre on undesteen was \$1.75,900 in 1989 and \$1.20,300 to 1988.

Least related interpret expense was \$16,900 and \$33,500 in 1985 and 1988, respectively.

NOTE 7-Income Tax Status The Club's principal activities are enemys from Federal and California microtic store. However, certain of the Club's resemble are subject to the usersland becomes microtic at. Provision for the storeland becomes microtical financial storeland becomes tax was \$100,000 and \$100,000 or 100.

and 1998, respectively.

Contributions to the Clab are not deducable as a chantable contribution for an purposes by the down.

Nors 8- Pension Plan

NISTER 8— Penalizer Plan
The Club has a distance benefit presson plan covering
substantially all of its employers. The benefits are based on peans
of service and employer's consequences income.
The following schoolar sers fresh the plan's funded status and
amounts recognized in the Club's balance when in beponder 30:
1999 and 1998.

| | thesi | 1966 |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Actuated present value of benefit obligations: Accumulated benefit obligation all of which is vested. | \$1,300,200 | \$5,070,10 |
| Properted benefit obligation for service tradered to date. Plan assets at far value, which consists of a pushed severances. | (2.294,281) | (2,694,90 |
| excessed. | 2,515,000 | 2.125.20 |
| Plan assets in excess of propertial functio subgastions Unercognised peter service conta Unercognised and goes Unercognised test asset at October 1. 1947 being amortised over 15 seam. | 216,900 67,900 (22,900) | 228,30 -0- (28,90 (31,40 |
| Prepaid persons our authors in prepaid exposes | 1 139,000 | 1 67,00 |
| Net prission cost for 1900 and 1900 in- | haded the follow | e bet |
| The state of the s | 1989 | 11969 |

\$ 173,500 136,000 (383,500 (5,400 20,900 1 2(6,900 173,200 (195,500) (3,900) (3,600) Interest cost: Actual terain in plan anero Net amortisation and deferral Deferred asset gain floor. Net periodic persion costs 9 - 185,300 \$ 146,000

The weighted average discount rater and rater of occurate in future improvation levels used in development as a strained present value of the properties bondle obligation were 9% and 7%, respectively. The expected long-term rate of structs on assets was 9%. Contributions to the plan were \$250, 100 in 1900 and \$251,230 in 1900.

NOTE 9 — Disconninsed Operations
In Ise March 1998, the Clob decided to discontinuous in Catalog
lains Department. The Clob disquised of its catalog investory in
February 1999. Feeal liquidation was in the form of both, sain to
wholesalem. At September 36, 1998, catalog investory was
raised a \$18, 600. The Catalog Sales Departments insies from
inperations in 1998 was \$50,000. Not sales of the division were
\$5,00,200-for 1989. Not sales of the division were \$37,400 from
\$4,001. Li998 to September 30, 1998. Proceeds from final
liquidation did not aggregate definition for the sales of the division of the sales of \$18,000. The sales of the sales of \$18,000. The sales of the sales of \$18,000. The sales

Note 10-Transactions with Affiliates

Notes 11—Pointings, Photographs and Books
Store its inorpose, ore Sures Cub has been the requires of
various distanced patternage, photographs and note books. During
1967, the Club had certain patternings and photographs appealsod
for observancy purposes. The appropriat market value of these
patternings and photographs initials \$850,000 at that zeroe. The
hooks have now been appealsod for everyal treat. The last approach
indicated a market value of \$50,000. There is no value assigned to these trees in the accompanying fina

NOTE 12—Commitments and Contingencies
The Chilt is a defreshment in a low-our alleging breach of contract
among not of an afficient credit rated monthership agreement which
was transmared. It is the operation of material properties of the Chiland no provision has been made in these financial statements.
The Chilt is involved in a manches of Low-unite resulting from the
operations of its Osetings program. The Chilt is inverted by
montance for the program and, therefore, no provision has
been made.



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BOOKS

An Unsettling Dose of Isotopes

Multiple Exposures: Chronicles of the Radiation Age by Catherine Caufield Harper & Row \$19.95, cloth

Carol Polsgrove

F THE MANY sad stories in this book, the one that tugs hardest at my sympathies is the tale of those women and girls-some of the girls only 12 years of age-who painted luminous dials on the faces of watches in the era of the First World War. To erase excess paint around the fine lines of the numbers, a painter had to clean her brush and draw it along the edge of the numbers. The best way to wipe the brush clean, the dial-painters found, was to pass it between their lips. Each time they did, they swallowed radium.

Less than ten years later, the young dial-painters began to die, several after operations on their jaws. Their employer, U.S. Radium Corporation, blamed the women: Poor oral hygiene, the company said. But, privately, the company commissioned a report from the Harvard School of Public Health. Let Catherine Caufield tell the story:

On their first visit to the U.S. Radium plant, the Harvard team found the work area spattered with radium paint. Examining workers in a dark room, they found that their hair, faces, hands, arms, necks, the dresses, the underclothes. even the corsets of the dial-painters were luminous." Dust collected from the light fixtures and wall beams of the painting room and from offices in the plant glowed in the dark. Gamma rays emitted by the radium fogged up sealed dental films placed in the painting room within two or three days-at least five times faster than considered acceptable. Tests of 22 employees failed to find a single one whose blood count was normal.

The conclusion: All the workers had been exposed to excessive radiation. They had swallowed it, they had inhaled it, it had penetrated their skin.

The company suppressed the report, but the county medical examiner turned up other evidence linking new deaths to radium exposure. He had made an important discovery: Radioactive materials inhaled or ingested stay in the body to irradiate and destroy. His finding cast a shadow of doubt over then-popular uses of radioactive substances to treat rheumatism, high blood pressure, menstrual irregularities, depression, and other ailments.

Yet the government established no standards for exposure to radium. In the 1930s the element was still showing up as an ingredient in face cream, contraceptive vaginal jelly, and other consumer products.

And so the story goes on—Caufield's long, painful narrative of America's failure to measure the power of radioactivity to destroy human health. With relentless discipline, as she describes the development of the atomic bomb, the nuclear tests, the coming of nuclear power, Caufield keeps the spotlight exactly on her subject: the failure of government and science to protect the public by setting clear and valid standards for exposure to radiation.

Instead, standards have shifted, and shifted, and shifted again, as new evidence has ominously lowered the threshold of safety. Even today our regulatory shield is a jerry-built structure, Caufield says, with standards based not "on scientific certainty, but on judgment, hunches, and compromise."

Caufield's account comes at a crucial time, as the nuclear-power industry lobbies hard to make a comeback after years

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of performance and public-relations problems. But the author's greatest contribution is to remind us that nuclear power and nuclear weapons are not the only radioactive threat. In fact, to her mind, the greatest threat lies in other uses of radioactivity, medical and industrial in particular. She comes down especially hard on doctors and dentists, who routinely inflict unnecessary and damaging X-rays on patients for a variety of reasons—among them advance protection against lawsuits.

To this day, she points out, in 35 states anyone can operate an X-ray machine. and secretaries and office clerks often do. In California, which has the most stringent X-ray regulations, the latest survey turned up unsafe equipment in 75 percent of the state's hospitals. Doctors do not even heed the warnings of their own medical establishment; Caufield notes that "in 1980, the year in which major American medical groups recommended that doctors not routinely X-ray pregnant women to check the size of their birth canal, 266,000 pregnant women in the United States were X-rayed for that reason."

This is not a book for the fainthearted. Laying fact upon fact, anecdote upon anecdote, Caufield builds a bizarre chamber of horrors, all the more chilling because of the undramatic, deadpan tone of her voice. There is no comfort here—not a shred; no reassurance that the powers that be have our best interests at heart; no basis for trust, even of doctors. In a grim array of situations during nuclear testing, uranium mining, or at the X-ray department of the local hospital—what is deemed "safe" is what is expedient.

had barely written the preceding paragraphs when I shattered my wrist into several pieces and found myself under the X-ray machine in the hospital emergency room in a small city. My wrist lay on my stomach as the technician slipped a small rectangular sheet of lead under the X-ray film. As he took several pictures, I kept saying, "It's slipping off. My shield's slipping off."

"Don't worry about that," he said, snapping away. "Worry about your arm." As if to prove how foolish my Of digger bees and underground virgins...

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| | ☐ Hotel/Restaurant | □ Bectro | INCS . | Short Story | |
| И | Hotel/Restaurant Management | □ Travel | Agent | Writing | |
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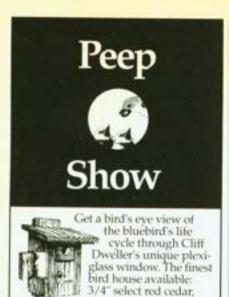
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Join experts from the University of California, Davis fears were, he held my wrist with his own unprotected hands for two shots.

The doctor looked at the X-rays and suggested the treatment he thought would offer the best results: fixing the bones with pins to an external steel frame. As he performed the procedure, he would be guided by near-constant X-rays. "What about the radiation hazard?" I asked. "Minimal to you," he said. "You'll have a lead apron. Considerable to me, because I do these all the time."

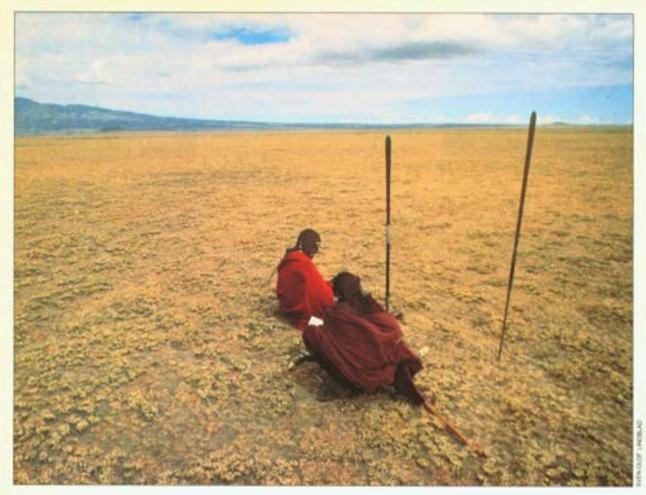
I did not hesitate to accept his sacrifice: I wanted my wrist as restored as it could be.

The experience crystallized for me a reservation I had as I read Multiple Exposities. Something important is missing in this book: a larger perspective on risk. I know Caufield is not a scientist and cannot say on her own authority how risks weigh out in the medical use of radiation. But she is a thoughtful and experienced journalist, author of In the Rainforest (Knopf, 1985). She could have offered a concluding essay on the risks of daily life in America. Aren't automobiles, practically speaking, a bigger risk to most of us than X-ray machines? lust about anyone. I notice, can drive one, and both driver and car can be in just about any condition. When will we as a society take a hard look at the deaths and injuries inflicted by our system of transportation? Or will we go on accepting the price because it is expedient to do so?

Shouldn't radiation hazards also be considered in the context of the other chemical hazards to which we are subjected? Caufield notes that "ionizing radiation is the best-understood and most tightly controlled toxic substance known to men." How much energy and money should we be spending, therefore, on refining our understanding of radiation, and how much should go toward understanding other common hazards?

But I also understand why Caufield drew back from these questions—they lead to so many more. She acknowledges as much in her concluding sentences: "Radiation is a scientific matter, but radiation protection is more than





The Serengeti: Land of Endless Space by Lisa and Sven-Olof Lindblad Rizzoli \$40, cloth; \$25, paper.

When you take a nomad's land away," writes anthropologist Lisa Lindblad, "you are erasing his stories, the collective memory of his culture." She and Sven-Olof Lindblad, whose camera captured this image of two Maasai warriors, spent years documenting the shifting fortunes of both Maasai and wildlife on the Serengeti.

that. It is, as [physicist] Lauriston Taylor has eloquently pointed out, a 'problem of philosophy, morality, and the utmost wisdom,' and these are qualities on which science does not claim to have a monopoly."

These are qualities, we might add, for which journalism is not the most suitable expression. And so, Multiple Exposures, a journalistic account, is a book with limits. But it is still a book that tells true stories, and tells them well.

CAROL POLSGROVE has written for Sierra, The Progressive, and Oceans. She teaches journalism at Indiana University.

How Sweet the Hard Life!

The Stars, the Snow, the Fire by John Haines Graywolf Press \$16, cloth

Peter Wild

tury-long struggle to survive in the far north, John Haines remembers sledding over a frozen river in midwinter when the ice suddenly cracked and buckled under the runners, scaring the dogs and sending his heart racing. "How swiftly the solid bottom of one's life can go," he observes.

By contrast, most of us take for granted the safety and ease provided by our technological society. No longer are we frightened prowlers of the wilderness; instead, everyday necessities come to us by flicks of switches and pushes of buttons.

Yet despite this commotion of con-

veniences, a few people turn backward, chancing what wild nature has to offer and becoming, once again, haulers of wood.

John Haines is such a person. After serving in the Second World War, Haines took up homesteading outside Fairbanks, Alaska, and this book on his life there offers deeper and more profound reasons than we usually hear for taking leave of civilization. Yes, the former homesteader gives us stories of building cabins, running trap lines through the vast, gelid forests, and confronting an irate grizzly bear. But all this says something quite beyond the immediate drama of the situation—and says it, furthermore, in a well-honed and poetic account.

He begins the chapter "Shadows," for instance, by recalling what looked like a large, dark leaf blowing toward him through the dusk. The flittering object turns out to be a bat, a species not usually found that far north. This leads him to muse on other shadows flickering through his life, and he launches into a larger statement on the wonders and fears of existence. "Turn out all the lights in your town or city." he concludes, "and see how swiftly life returns to the shadows, how soon from within unlit trees and from silent doorways the ancient dread comes back, and night is once more filled with snouts and whispers, with leathery wings, and heavy bodies."

As lush as his writing may be, however, Haines is careful not to burden the reader with overly earnest attempts to wring meaning from nature. Sometimes his words spring from the sheer delight of being alone and at peace in the far north; on these occasions he finds a transcendent beauty in his surroundings, a beauty made hard and bright by intimate dealings with the raw give-and-take of wildness. In one such passage, the author stands on a chill gravel bar, hooking migrating salmon with a long pole:

If the fish happened to be a female heavy with eggs, the eggs sometimes spilled through the torn side of the fish, to lie pink and golden in the shallow snow with

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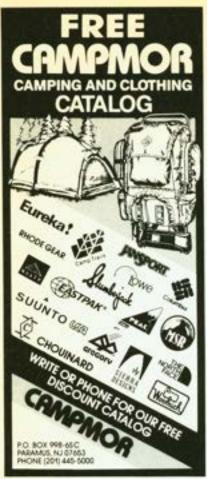
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the glazed, mottled bodies of the freezing salmon.

There was something grand and barbaric in that essential, repeated act. To stand there in the snow and cold air toward the end of the year, with a long hook poised above the ice-filled river, was to feel oneself part of something so old that its origin was lost in the sundown of many winters: a feeling intensified, made rich by the smell of ice and cold fish-slime, by the steely color of the winter sky, and the white snow stained with the redness of the salmon.

The Stars, the Snow, the Fire is a sensory book, full of smells, sights, and memories of the friends and animals of a wilderness life richly lived. As a painter and one of our country's foremost poets, Haines has done more than his share to help preserve the nature he loves. Many people have gone into the wilderness and been inspired; only a handful have emerged with the enviable ability of a John Haines to enrich us with first-rate stories about how—and how deeply they lived.

Peter Will is a poet, professor, and author in Tucson, Arizona.

Trickle, Trickle, Little Stream

Down by the River: The Impact of Federal Water Projects and Policies on Biological Diversity

by Constance Elizabeth Hunt with Verne Huser Island Press \$34.95, cloth; \$22.95, paper

Jim Stiak

been manipulating the country's rivers ever since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began clearing sandbars from the Mississippi in 1824. Waterways have been dammed, dredged, and channeled for

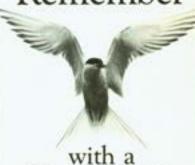
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irrigation, flood control, transportation, and electricity. As a result, according to Constance Hunt, biological communities across the United States are "unraveling like a loosely knit sweater right before our eyes."

Down by the River is Hunt's account of the economic folly and ecological damage associated with the federal government's waterworks on four rivers—the Columbia, Colorado, Missouri, and Mississippi. A biologist who has worked for the National Wildlife Federation, Hunt details the sad legacy of dams and diversions that often look curiously like pork barrels.

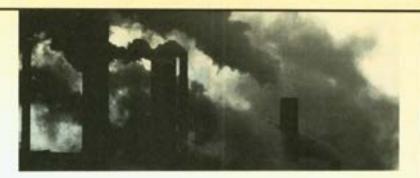
On the Columbia and its tributaries, 28 dams have reduced the populations of a host of animal species, while the river's concentrations of selenium, pesticides, and fertilizers have risen. On the Missouri, channelization has caused a 60-percent decrease in total water-surface area, and continuing work is endangering the whooping crane, piping plover, sandhill crane, and interior least tern—destroying the diversity essential to any ecosystem.

The Colorado, Hunt points out, tamed by Hoover Dam, no longer annually overflows its banks, and peters out before it reaches the Gulf of California. Because legal rights to water in the West are governed by the principle "use it or lose it," communities and Indian tribes wield water rights like poker chips in a game they will lose by default if they don't play.

The stakes in this game are especially high in the dry Southwest, according to Hunt, where riparian groves are "the veins of life." Eighty-five percent of Arizona's riparian vegetation has been destroyed by irrigation diversion. By 1977 only 500 acres of pure cottonwood communities remained along the lower Colorado.

On the upper Mississippi, habitat destruction has led to decreases in waterfowl, bald eagles, beavers, herons, and egrets. The river is already losing those organisms at the bottom of the food chain. Not even national wildlife refuges along the waterway are damage-free.

On the lower Mississippi, wetlands



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that provide winter habitat for half of the nation's wood ducks and for more than 220 other species of birds have been disappearing at an alarming rate. Federal agencies are helping turn hardwood forests into sovbean fields, causing erosion and pesticide contamination of the water. Dams, channels, and levees have pushed the river's mouth nearly to the edge of the continental shelf, carrying the fertile delta soil into the ocean.

Fortunately, Hunt offers several solutions, among them:

- Stop development in floodplains. It would make more economic sense for the federal government to buy the 2 percent of the land in the country that repeatedly floods than to continue distributing \$3 billion to \$4 billion in disaster payments every year.
- Stop viewing hydropower as a benign energy source-especially in the Northeast, where small, privately constructed dams have recently become popular.
- Collect user fees on the more than 25,000 miles of inland waterways that the federal government operates. Taxpayers now provide the river-traffic industry with a subsidy of more than \$350 million a year.
- Restore our rivers. The Bureau of Land Management has revegetated riparian sites in Arizona for as little as \$100 an acre.
- Create a system of local greenways, already begun with river-conservation programs in 28 states. Waterways with guaranteed in-stream flows could eventually connect the entire North American continent.
- Create an Endangered Ecosystem Act. The Endangered Species Act protects habitat only after a species reaches the brink of extinction.

In the sunset of the 20th century, writes Hunt, it's time for a "new American conservation ethic" of careful stewardship of our natural resources. The rivers of life that flow through our land, she proposes, are perhaps the best place to start. .

JIM STIAK is a freelance writer in Eugene, Oregon.

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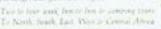
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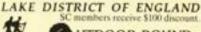
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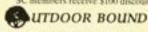
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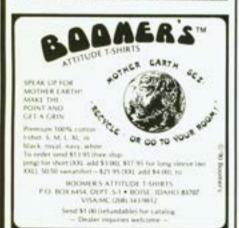
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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why are balloon launches considered bad for the environment? (W. E. Cooke, Charlotte, North Carolina) Magnificent helium bal-

loons seem to carry our hopes and dreams to the heavens—but they come back to Earth before a day has passed, littering land and sea for months or years.

The chief danger is to the sea creatures that mistake floating balloons for a jellyfish lunch. Even balloons launched inland can fly or float to sea. Once eaten, they become a sticky mass that blocks the intestines, slowly starving these animals to death. The Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, New Jersey, has found both latex and mylar balloons in the digestive systems of several dead sea turtles and in that of a dead baby sperm whale.

Responding to environmentalists' concerns, Florida banned mass balloon launches last summer, and entities from Disneyland to the Department of Defense —along with many towns and schools—have canceled launches and opted for safer festivities.

Alternatives for buoying up school or civic spirit include tethered balloon arches, water-balloon contests, hot-air or weather balloons, indoor balloon launches, make-and-fly-akite day, and planting trees or colorful bulbs. For more information contact the Balloon Alert Project, 12 Pine Fork Dr., Toms River, NJ 08755-5152; the Entanglement Network, c/o Defen-



ders of Wildlife, 1224 19th St., N. W., Washington, DC 20036; or the Marine Mammal Stranding Center, P.O. Box 773, Brigantine, NJ 08203.

Do artificial firelogs burn cleaner than cordwood? (George Martin, Portland, Oregon)

Information on pollutants in firelogs is scant and conflicting; about the strongest statement that can be made based on existing studies is that firelogs may emit less of some kinds of air pollutants.

In a 1988 test for three firelog manufacturers, Santa Fe energy consultant Jay Shelton found that artificial logs emitted less carbon monoxide, creosote, and particulates per hour than a variety of woodfires. The study compared cordwood with three brands of firelogs burned one at a time in a fireplace, and didn't measure all possible pollutants.

By contrast, a 1984 study by the Environmental Protection Agency found that one brand of firelog burned two at a time in a woodstove emitted much more air pollution than an oakwood fire. (Firelogs are labeled with warnings against burning more than one at a time, because it makes the fire dangerously hot.)

Fireplaces have relatively unrestricted air flow, which might account in part for the differing results of the two studies. This factor also makes fireplaces less efficient than woodstoves as sources of heat. Also, in Shelton's study the cordwood and the firelogs actually gave off similar amounts of pollu-

tants per pound of fuel, but because firelogs (which are half sawdust and half wax) burn more slowly and efficiently, they used less total fuel for an evening's fire.

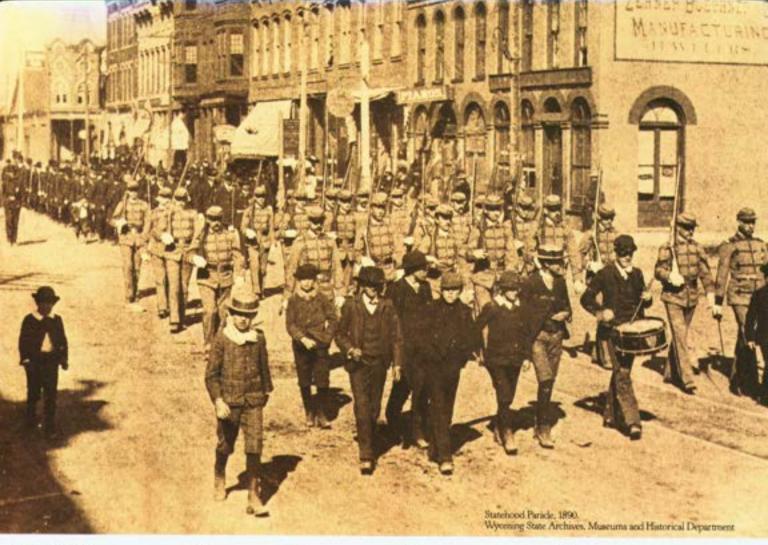
I just received a handmade ceramic bowl as a gift. Is it safe to use for serving food? (Beverly Simmons, Walnut Creek, California)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has learned of isolated cases of lead poisoning caused by frequent use of ceramic mugs, bowls, plates, and pitchers with improperly fired glazes. Unfortunately, you can't tell by looking at a ceramic item whether it is safe to use.

Although the agency has set limits on the amount of lead in domestic and imported dinnerware, it admits that it can't inspect every piece; nor do the regulations apply to antique and collectible items or to ceramic pieces purchased in other countries or at crafts fairs.

You can reduce possible lead exposure by not using any ceramic vessel to store acidic foods such as coffee, juice, wine, tomato products, or salad dressing. Lead may also leach from painted or gold-rimmed glassware especially if children suck on the edges of the glasses.

To be sure you're not serving a leaden lentil soup, you can get Screen America's \$24.50 lead-testing kit in some drug stores, or order the more advanced Frandon Lead Alert Kit (\$29.95) from Kerner Industries in Chico, California; (800) 332-7723 or (916) 342-8000.



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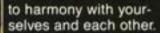
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