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Paddle captain catapulted into rapids on the North Fork of the American River. Photo: James Thomson/Rapid Shooters

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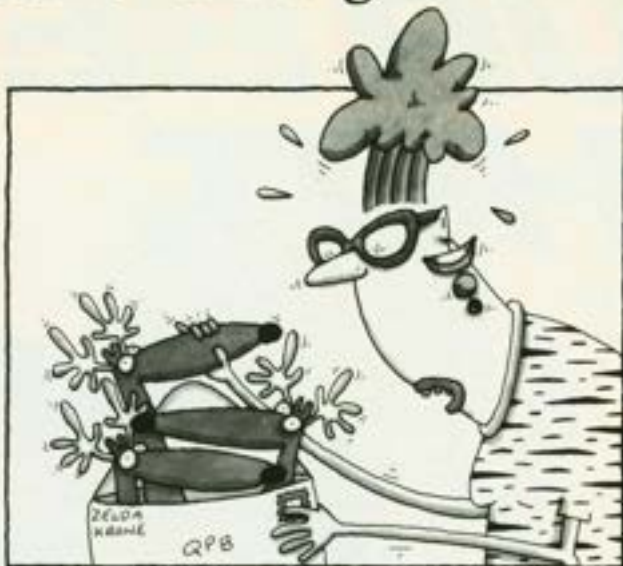
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3. All entries must be received no later than midnight September 1, 1991 at the following address: Giant Bicycle Photo Contest
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4. This Giant Bicycle Photo Contest, sponsored by Giant Bicycle, Inc., is open to amateur or professional photographers. Submit your best shot of you, your family or friends enjoying the pleasure of riding Giant brand bicycles. Purchase or ownership of a Giant bicycle is not necessary to enter the contest.
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10. This contest is not open to employees and their immediate families of Giant Bicycle, Inc., its affiliates and subsidiaries, and agents. This offer is void where prohibited by law. The prize winner will be responsible for paying tax in connection with receiving a prize. Any breach of the above rules will entitle Giant to disqualify any entry.

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COVER: Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, British Columbia. For a report on the menace facing B.C.'s forests, see page 42.

Photo by Gary Fiegehen.

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Editorial, Advertising, and Business Offices: 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109, (415) 776-2211. East Coast Advertising: 1501 Broadway, Suite 1900, New York, NY 10036, (212) 730-0270. West Coast Advertising: Mary Taylor, Peter Stangel, Ed Winchell Co., 22700 S. Crenshaw Blvd., #215, Torrance, CA 90505, (213) 530-4693. Midwest Advertising: Raymond A. Peterson, Share of Market, The Coach House, 110 E. Potawatomi, Chesterton, IN 46304, (219) 926-9663. Michigan Advertising: Donald L. Rowe, 29551 Greenfield Rd., Suite 112, Southfield, MI 48076, (313) 423-7898. Unsolicited submissions must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photo submissions should be insured or registered. Sierra is not responsible for material lost or damaged in the mail.

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BOUND FOR GLORY?

Amazing. Simply amazing.

I refer to your series of articles about alternatives to the United States' environmentally and fiscally ruinous energy consumption ("Positive Energy," March/April 1991). Eleven pages of text about possible detours from this disaster—and not a single mention of the words "railroad" or "train." This is astonishing. But, then, you gave the game away in the editorial introduction when you said "the United States [can save the environment] without lowering our standard of living by a single Volvo or VCR."

If there is one lesson the deterioration of the environment has taught us—or should have—it is that we *cannot* have it all, and that our constantly increasing material "standard of living" is the reason our environmental "standard of living" on this finite planet is getting worse. The environmental

and social costs of an automobile-based transportation system include toxic air pollution, damage to the atmospheric ozone layer, tire-dump fires, stream pollution from highway runoff, groundwater contamination from gasoline storage tanks, 50,000 human deaths each year, an estimated 1 million animal deaths every day, billboards, junkyards, the destruction of city neighborhoods by commuter expressways, the devastation of small-town main streets by strip development at interstate highway exits, and the reckless obliteration of forests and farmland by suburbs, shopping centers, and office "parks." If a nation were *trying* to construct the most environmentally devastating transportation system imaginable, it could not do much worse than ours.

The United States needs trains. Trains consume fossil fuels, but they move more passengers and more

freight per unit of fuel consumed than any other form of mechanized transportation currently available. Anyone who has traveled in Europe knows how well a railroad system can work if it is adequately funded and intended as a true alternative to automobiles. Insofar as the Sierra Club does not vigorously support the revival of rail transportation in this country, it is part of the problem rather than the solution. I urge my fellow Club members to join the National Association of Railroad Passengers (900 2nd St., N.E., Suite 308, Washington, DC 20002), and leave the Volvo at home.

Marc Wilchins
Raleigh, North Carolina

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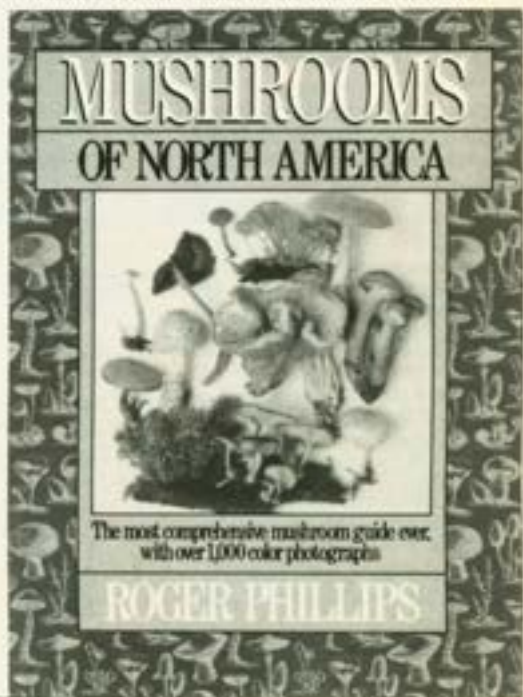


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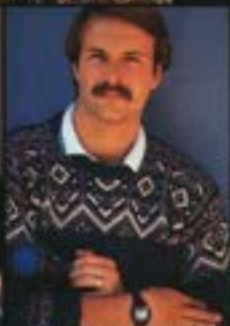
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Photo By Tim Lucas

and physical condition. The Club also recognizes the spectrum of auto-connected environmental threats so concisely enumerated by reader Wilchins. We have covered these issues in the past in Sierra, and will continue to do so. To the extent that last issue's energy package intentionally focused on speculative or infant fuel and power technologies, we necessarily ignored this familiar—yet woefully disadvantaged—alternative badly in need of public support.

I am sure that all Sierrans appreciate the irony in President Bush's "energy policy"—namely, his recommending the exploitation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the purpose of acquiring a few more years' worth of oil. And I hope that we communicate to him our dissatisfaction with a policy that does not come to grips with the need to conserve finite resources.

And yet, as citizens, we must do more. Our country needs a true, long-term energy policy with limits not only upon our consumption but also upon the price we will pay to con-

sume. We must convince our leaders that we do not want to fuel our economy with blood.

Elinor S. Wright
Lynnfield, Massachusetts

For more on this topic, see "War on Earth" on page 54 of this issue.

YES, WE CAN

I have read many disturbing accounts of the terrible ravages of driftnetting, but something finally snapped when I read "Net Losses" (March/April 1991). Enough is enough! Something more has to be done to stop this raping of the sea and its creatures.

Author Todd Campbell mentions that tough legislation calling for economic sanctions against Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan was defeated in Congress. Environmentalists should remember that we do not need government legislation in order to force driftnetting nations to change their minds. We have been successful in the past, and we can be successful again.

All concerned citizens and organizations should take it upon themselves to enact a voluntary boycott of all products made by nations engaged in high-seas driftnetting. These countries may claim that an end to driftnetting would spell economic disaster for them; they won't know what real economic disaster is until they start feeling the effects of a wholesale boycott by a large base of American consumers.

Barry Spitzer
Sandusky, Ohio

TEMPEST IN A DIXIE CUP

I am surprised to find Sierra supporting Portland, Oregon's ill-conceived ordinance banning polystyrene-foam packaging for ready-to-eat foods ("Afield," January/February 1991). It's a real shame to find a city of that size administered by such a narrow-minded, shortsighted group of individuals.

Polystyrene foodservice products do not litter—people do, with plastic, paper, metal, glass, and whatever else they do not want to keep. Second, in



Methylene Chloride Strippers Are So Dangerous, They May Soon Be Banned.

It's extremely difficult to use methylene chloride strippers safely. Soon, it may be impossible to use them at all. Because of the dangers to you and the environment, these strippers may soon be banned. But now there's new Woodfinisher's Pride™ Stripping Gels, which are faster and safer than methylene chloride strippers and, unlike other "safe" strippers, this stuff actually works in 30 minutes or less on most finishes. **In side-by-side consumer tests people preferred Woodfinisher's Pride more than 2 to 1 over Formby's* and Stryppee**** The gel formula doesn't dry out quickly so you can coat and strip an entire piece in two steps. This makes the overall job faster than the patchwork process of traditional strippers. And Woodfinisher's Pride works without the personal dangers or environmental hazards of methylene chloride.

February 1989 the industry began to completely phase out the minor use of CFCs, well ahead of any government timetables. With this complete by March 1990, polystyrene foodservice products are 100-percent CFC-free. Third, waste reduction cannot be expected by replacing a 100-percent recyclable product (polystyrene) with a nonrecyclable product (paper cups and plates). Finally, with a manufacturing cost increase of 250 percent, the alternative to polystyrene can and will have an adverse effect on all of us.

James F. Suplee

Environmental Issues Coordinator

James River Corporation

Norwalk, Connecticut

Lee Barrett ("Styrocop"), City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, responds: *To state that polystyrene is "100-percent recyclable" certainly implies to the public that the average container is being recycled. And that simply is not the case. Instead of finding itself in a recycling plant, the packaging addressed in the Port-*

land ban was either becoming part of the litter problem or going to the landfill. In fact, the National Polystyrene Recycling Company (a consortium of major polystyrene manufacturers) hopes to recycle 250 million pounds of polystyrene a year in their facilities by 1995. Even with the addition of all other plants, the plastics industry estimates recycling capacity for polystyrene would be less than 7 percent of the 5,100 million pounds that will be produced in 1995. The odds are that your PSF cup is in the 93 percent that will end up on the ground or in a dump—hardly the basis for any claims of significant recycling.

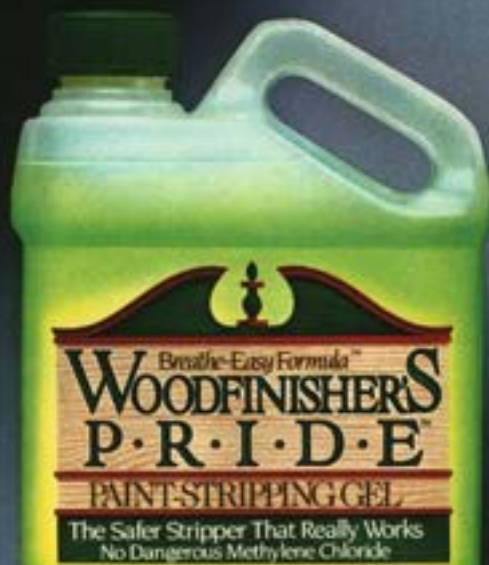
When the plastics industry stops talking about "recyclable" and starts talking about "recycling," I'll believe they're serious.

GEE, MAN (HOO BOY)

As a special agent of the FBI and a longtime Sierra Club supporter and member, I was astonished at the libelous comments made about the FBI in Paul Rauber's "No Second Warning" (January/February 1991). The article contains unsubstantiated accusa-

tions about the FBI and implies wicked motives to Mr. Richard W. Held [special agent in charge of the San Francisco FBI office] and the agents involved in the investigation of last year's Judi Bari/Darryl Cherney car-bombing in Northern California.

Rauber's implication that the FBI may have been involved in any activity that would cause harm to innocent human life, let alone in attempted murder, is unconscionable. He presented no facts, and tried to substantiate his charges with the views of "environmentalists familiar with the two injured activists' philosophies and political histories." In addition, Rauber suggested a connection between "the agency's well-documented efforts to infiltrate and disrupt black and Native American activist groups" and the FBI's role in this investigation. Can someone please explain to me any other interpretation of these statements other than to suggest the FBI is engaging in "efforts to infiltrate and disrupt" the environmental move-



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ment? What absolute, unmitigated nonsense. The facts do not support Rauber's comments or accusations, as I am sure time and continued investigation will tell.

Robert D. Grant
Washington, D.C.

Paul Rauber responds: *It is a matter of public record that the FBI has on numerous occasions sought to infiltrate and disrupt not only black and Native American activist groups, but also Central American groups such as CISPES, and even Earth First! itself. The Bureau's apparent interest in the latter organization was revealed in the discovery phase of the pending trial in Arizona of Earth First! founder Dave Foreman, who is charged with conspiracy to commit sabotage against three nuclear facilities around the West. Foreman claims he was caught up in an FBI sting operation, a contention buttressed by the candid thoughts of FBI undercover agent Michael Fain, who infiltrated Earth First! but forgot to turn off his tape recorder while musing on the case.*

"I don't really look for them to be doing a

lot of hurting people," says Fain in the tape obtained by Foreman's defense team. "[Foreman] isn't really the guy we need to pop—I mean in terms of an actual perpetrator. This is the guy we need to pop to send a message. And that's all we're really doing . . . Uh-oh. We don't need that on tape. Hoo boy."

National news coverage in the 24 hours that followed the Earth First! car-bombing relied heavily on FBI sources and conveyed a strong impression that Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney knew they were carrying the bomb. "Two members of the radical environmental group Earth First! were seriously injured today when a bomb they were carrying exploded in Oakland, California" was a typical one-sentence report carried by major networks. A subtle use of phrasing, perhaps, but the impression left on viewers was unmistakable.

In the weeks that followed, the FBI judiciously timed leaks to several key Bay Area reporters, giving them infor-

mation that also appeared to implicate the Earth First!ers in the explosion. Virtually all of this information was later proved false. But once again the public received its strongest impression from the early broadcasts and articles, which received banner headlines and longer soundbites.

It now appears possible that the bombing case has been so mishandled that the identity of the bomber may remain an open question forever. As tragic as it is when anyone is violently injured, it is equally disturbing when a government agency—at best unknowingly, and at worst unethically—uses the press to convict citizens without a trial. And it is also disturbing to think that some of the toughest and smartest reporters fall so easily under the influence of a government agency. The FBI should not be exempt from the skepticism normally focused on any other news source merely because it has police power.

Susan Zakin
San Francisco, California

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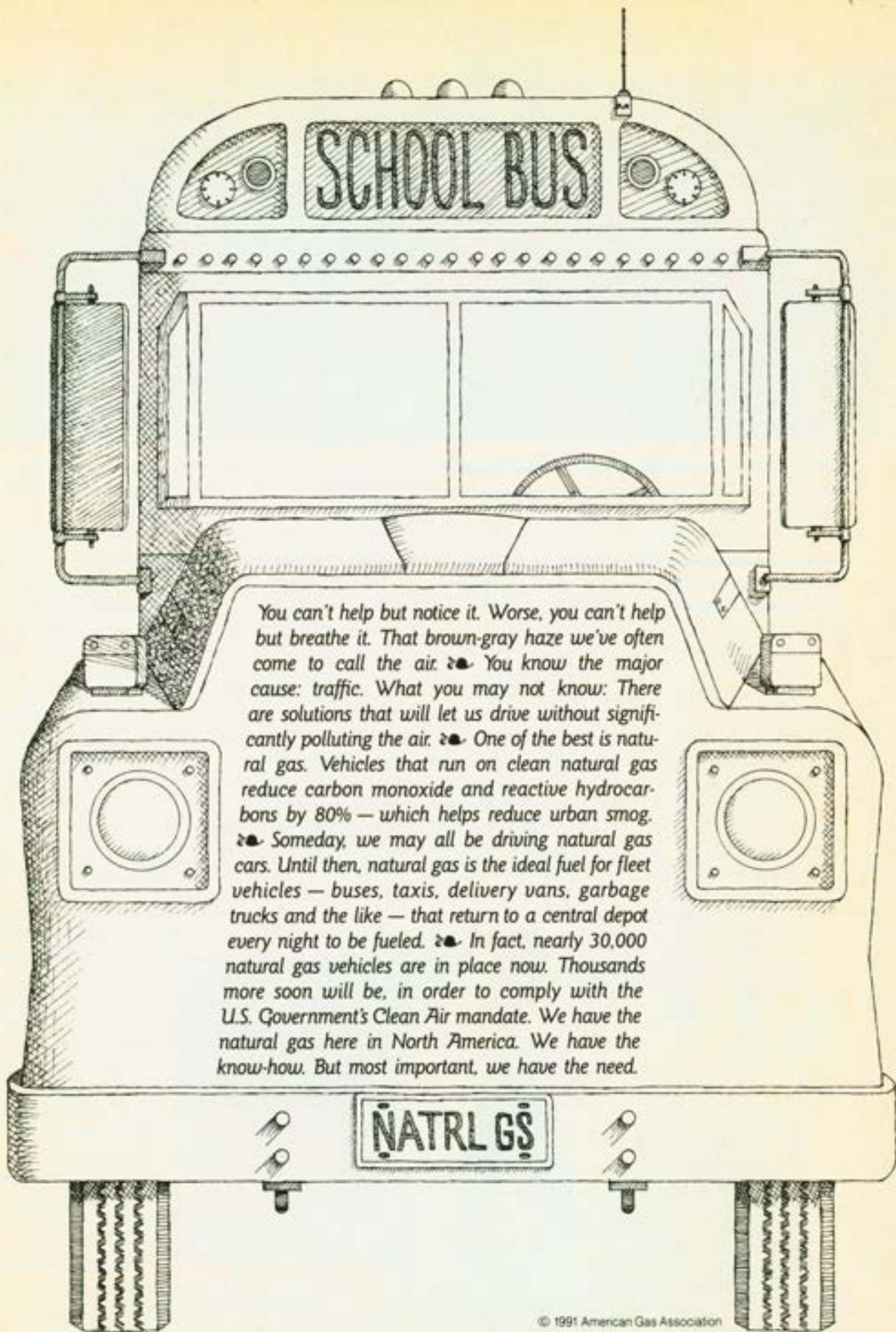
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You can't help but notice it. Worse, you can't help but breathe it. That brown-gray haze we've often come to call the air. 🚗 You know the major cause: traffic. What you may not know: There are solutions that will let us drive without significantly polluting the air. 🚗 One of the best is natural gas. Vehicles that run on clean natural gas reduce carbon monoxide and reactive hydrocarbons by 80% — which helps reduce urban smog. 🚗 Someday, we may all be driving natural gas cars. Until then, natural gas is the ideal fuel for fleet vehicles — buses, taxis, delivery vans, garbage trucks and the like — that return to a central depot every night to be fueled. 🚗 In fact, nearly 30,000 natural gas vehicles are in place now. Thousands more soon will be, in order to comply with the U.S. Government's Clean Air mandate. We have the natural gas here in North America. We have the know-how. But most important, we have the need.

NATRL GS



Flash: Two Out of Ten Reject Materialism!

The table on the facing page represents findings from a recent nationwide survey conducted by The Roper Organization. Commented Roper executive Tom Miller:

"We're not product marketers, but it looks as though someone could make a killing with a red-white-and-blue biodegradable Bart Simpson condom."

Though we're delighted to see environmentalism al-

Mucking About With the Swamp Squad

Ken Stoffel, a suburban dentist, spends his nights and weekends prowling Chicago-area marshes on the lookout for bulldozers and backhoes. He's the leader of the Swamp Squad, a group of citizens who watch over wetlands in concert with government officials.

The squad was formed two years ago by the Illi-

nois Chapter of the Sierra Club, after 100 volunteers showed up at an initial meeting. Since then these wetlands vigilantes have fingered more than 20 property owners who were filling wetlands without a permit. The Swamp Squad has become so good at sleuthing out violators that the EPA recently awarded the group a \$50,000 grant to fund its work over the next three years.

Eighty-five percent of Illinois' wetlands have already been drained, dredged, and filled to make way for shopping malls, parking lots, and housing developments. Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act officially protects swamps, bogs, marshes, and other wetland areas from such threats—but the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers, the two agencies responsible for local

wetlands protection under the act, have always lacked the money and staff to fully enforce its provisions.

"The Swamp Squad will be the EPA's eyes and ears in the community," says Dale S. Bryson, regional director of the agency's water division.

The squad works on several fronts at once, holding seminars and organizing field trips to local wetlands; publishing a bimonthly newsletter; and distributing copies of *Wetlands and Water Quality: A Citizen's Handbook for Protecting Wetlands*, a 48-page booklet that explains wetlands ecology and current laws, and shows citizens how to build a case against a developer who is planning a fill. (For information about this publication, contact the Lake Michigan Federation, 59 East Van Buren St., Suite 2215, Chicago, IL 60605; 312-939-0838.)

—Carolyn Arden Bresler





ELDT HOENESON WITH VOLOSSES TO MATT SPORNANS

most as popular as George Bush, we well recall when bowling filled the nation's TV screens and men in double-breasted suits clogged the sidewalks. And *now* look at them. . . .

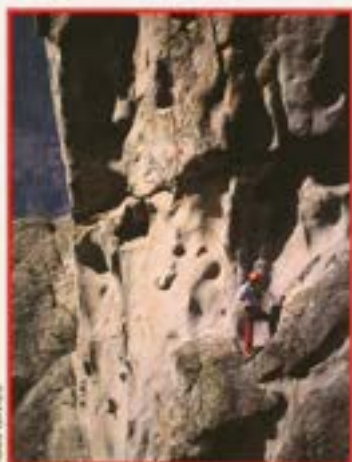
Climbers Reach Pinnacles of Success

Washington state's Peshastin Pinnacles—a cluster of sandstone slabs looming 200 feet above the Wenatchee River Valley outside the community of Cashmere—have been one of the Northwest's premier climbing sites for 40 years. Southern exposures, low elevations, and nearly 90 challenging routes made for great climbing even when the rest of the region was under snow.

In fact, only one obstacle could (and did) make them *un*-climbable: insurance liability, with its twin threats of skyrocketing rates and enormous plaintiff awards. In recent years insurance companies have probably frustrated more ascents than bad weather has, and in 1986 the owners of the private property

that includes the Pinnacles heeded their insurers' advice and shut the gates. The Northwest climbing community was simply left hanging.

Enter the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the recreation-equipment company REI, and a host of outdoor and conservation groups, who together hoped to acquire the property and offer it to the state for a new park. Last year the owners



RUSSELL DAVIES

finally agreed to sell 28 acres (including the Pinnacles) to TPL.

A \$200,000 interest-free loan from REI started things off, allowing TPL to purchase the land. The climbing community raised another \$70,000 to build trails at the site, pay for legal, appraisal, and holding costs, and help purchase another seven acres next to the rocks.

Meanwhile, as volunteers were building trails befitting a potential state park, TPL was working with The Mountaineers, the local chapter of the American Alpine Club, and several regional climbing organizations to get the state to make the park a reality. State ownership could

turn out to be the final piece in the Pinnacles puzzle, because it would eliminate the liability bugaboo.

The reason is Washington's recreation-liability immunity statute, which declares that if a site is open to the public for recreation free of charge, no one can be held liable for accidental injury to a user of it. Climbers would climb at their own risk—the same way boaters boat, hikers hike, and horseback riders ride on other public lands. At presstime the final transfer arrangements were being worked out.

"Cross my fingers and knock on wood," says TPL's Donna McBain, "the park should be open in late spring." —Rob Lovitt

WHAT'S "OUT" AND WHAT'S "IN"

	"OUT"	"IN"		"OUT"	"IN"
Environmentalism	7%	85%	Volunteer/charity work	21%	63%
Safe sex	7	83	Materialism	23	61
Patriotism	15	75	The Cosby Show	29	58
The Simpsons	11	74	American cars	32	56
Short skirts for women	18	72	Long skirts for women	34	54
Weekend getaways	11	72	Day-glo or fluorescent clothes	29	53
Money and investing	17	68	Tanning salons	36	50
Spandex or bicycle clothes	16	68	Bowling	39	41
Marriage	25	66	Double-breasted suits for men	45	32
Having children	25	66			
Golf	19	66			

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Don't Toss That Tube!—It's *Haute Couture!*

When finally retired from service, most old inner tubes are tossed ignominiously onto landfills, into incinerators, or simply by the wayside (though a few patchable ones may serve extended careers as flotation devices for children and laid-back river-drifters). A small number of truck and old-fashioned car tires discarded each year in North America end up as doormats, dock bumpers, or construction material, but inner tubes themselves, by and large, are treated like trash.

Not, however, by Mandana McPherson and Cameron Trotter, who own and operate Used Rubber USA. At their tiny shop on Haight Street in San Francisco, the couple

produce and market "fashionably recycled" handbags and accessories made from old bike, auto, and truck tubes salvaged from here and there.

McPherson, who came up with the idea for the bags in 1985 while a student at Brown University in Rhode Island, designs and assembles each piece by hand. Using aluminum rivets, washers, grommets, and clasps, she fashions a line of durable, waterproof shoulder bags, drawstring pouches, motorcycle saddlebags, belts, passport holders, and beach shoes, many of which retain the manufacturer's stamp and some of the shape of the original tube.

Trotter, meanwhile, tends to the marketplace. Sales, though still quite

small, are increasing as the bags appear in more and more high-fashion stores, environmental shops, and art galleries. The company is even starting to make inroads in fashion-conscious Japan. When ordering 125 items for her Tokyo-based outlet, one Japanese purchaser enthused: "I hope that people walking in Tokyo will use your products as the symbol of 'chic ecology.'"

For the moment, at least, the symbolism of "fashionably recycled" products may be Used Rubber USA's greatest asset: The company's actual contribution to cleaning up the environment is admittedly modest. At present they recycle inner tubes from about 200 cars and trucks and 200 bicycles each year, which they find on the

street, scrounge from city dumps, or receive free from a local salvage company. While this hardly puts a dent in the nation's landfills, it's a start, and goes a long way toward demonstrating, as McPherson and Trotter point out, that "recycling doesn't necessarily have to create second-rate products."

To get a handle on these handbags, request a catalog from Used Rubber USA, 597 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117; 415-626-7855.

—Mark Mardon

Where Are We, Anyway?

The Sierra Club, one of the few prominent environmental groups headquartered in California, has long been viewed as a "western-oriented" organization. That perception may have been justified in the past, when the Club's focus was almost entirely on preservation of the Sierra Nevada, but it's hardly warranted by the facts today. The modern Club works on a spectrum of international, national, regional, and local issues—understandably, since our 640,599 members belong to a total of 57 chapters embracing residents of all 50 states and each Canadian province. (A smaller but measurable number live abroad, or in one or another U.S. possession.)

The map and tables on the facing page show the regional distribution of Sierra Club membership as of February 1, 1991. Each region's percentage of total Club membership is given as well. With 11 chapters, California still contributes more members than any other locality—but at less than a third of the Club-wide total, its proportional representation is at an all-time low. Another way of saying that, of course, is to note that the Sierra Club is an international organization with more than half a million focal points—one more thing, besides its San Francisco headquarters, that makes it unique.



STEVEN BARNET

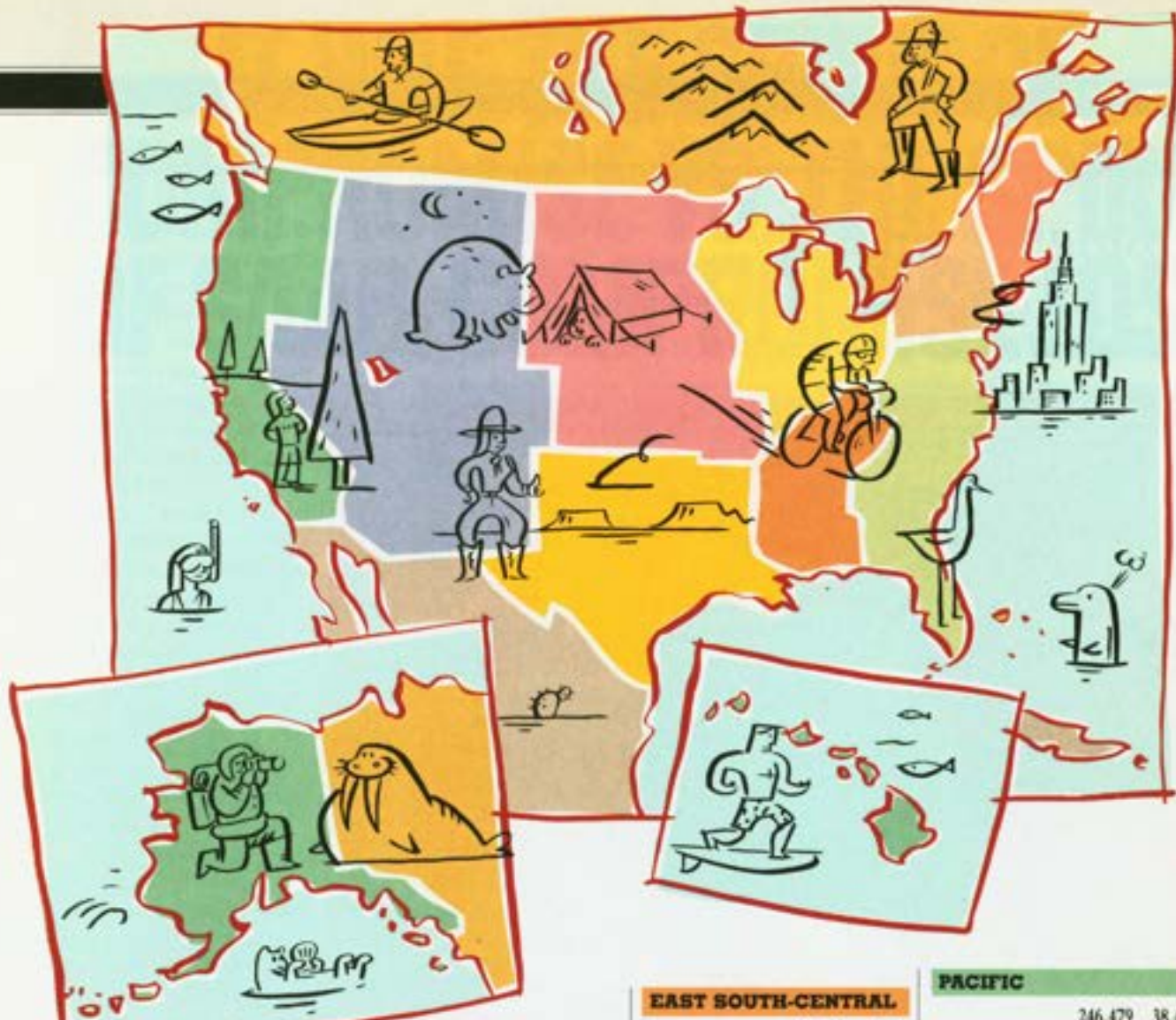


ILLUSTRATION: CARROLL

NEW ENGLAND

	37,101	5.79
Maine	2,341	0.37
New Hampshire	3,032	0.47
Vermont	2,347	0.37
Massachusetts	16,964	2.65
Rhode Island	1,774	0.28
Connecticut	10,643	1.66

MIDDLE ATLANTIC

	85,683	13.38
New York	44,890	7.01
New Jersey	19,224	3.00
Pennsylvania	21,569	3.37

EAST NORTH-CENTRAL

	72,579	11.33
Ohio	18,180	2.84
Indiana	6,123	0.96
Illinois	23,526	3.67
Michigan	14,418	2.25
Wisconsin	10,332	1.61

WEST NORTH-CENTRAL

	29,096	4.54
Minnesota	11,495	1.79
Iowa	4,025	0.63
Missouri	7,561	1.18
North Dakota	425	0.07
South Dakota	541	0.08
Nebraska	1,848	0.29
Kansas	3,201	0.50

SOUTH ATLANTIC

	81,515	12.72
Delaware	1,428	0.22
Maryland	14,388	2.25
District of Columbia	3,358	0.52
Virginia	12,837	2.00
West Virginia	1,298	0.20
North Carolina	12,582	1.96
South Carolina	4,478	0.70
Georgia	8,224	1.28
Florida	22,922	3.58

EAST SOUTH-CENTRAL

	12,910	2.02
Kentucky	3,440	0.54
Tennessee	4,919	0.77
Alabama	3,124	0.49
Mississippi	1,427	0.22

WEST SOUTH-CENTRAL

	30,368	4.74
Arkansas	1,737	0.27
Louisiana	3,583	0.56
Oklahoma	2,557	0.40
Texas	22,491	3.51

MOUNTAIN

	38,190	5.96
Montana	1,534	0.24
Idaho	1,757	0.27
Wyoming	830	0.13
Colorado	13,189	2.06
New Mexico	5,111	0.80
Arizona	9,266	1.45
Utah	3,067	0.48
Nevada	3,436	0.54

PACIFIC

	246,479	38.48
Alaska	2,067	0.32
Washington	17,988	2.81
Oregon	11,422	1.78
California	210,764	32.90
Hawaii	4,238	0.66

CANADA

	5,407	0.84
Western Canada	3,610	0.56
Eastern Canada	1,797	0.28

U.S. POSSESSIONS

	149	0.02
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FOREIGN

	1,122	0.18
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TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

	640,599	100
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Note: State-by-state membership percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Losing the Initiative?

Lessons from the 1990 election: Keep it simple; keep it cheap; and keep it off the ballot if there's going to be a war.



Paul Rauber

IT NOW SEEMS long ago and far away, but only last year the environment was right at the top of the nation's priority list, with voters seemingly poised for significant radical action at the ballot box. Buoyed by the success of Earth Day and anticipating a post-Cold War "peace dividend," environmentalists across the country confidently placed strong measures on state ballots to preserve ancient forests, regulate pesticides, recycle plastics, shut down

nukes, protect wild streams, and buy up wilderness areas. So strong was the apparent green tide that even many traditional opponents accepted it as inevitable and set about honing post-election legal challenges.

It wasn't necessary, however, to unleash the lawyers. Every major environmental measure flopped, none more spectacularly than Proposition 128, California's ambitious "Big Green," which sought to protect everything from the oceans to the ozone layer. Although early polls showed the

Sierra Club-endorsed initiative winning easily, the final result was a crushing, two-to-one defeat. "Forests Forever," the more narrowly focused old-growth preservation measure on the same ballot (also backed by the Club), had 56 percent support in polls taken only a week before the election, but dropped to 48 percent on election day. Also taking it on the chin were environmental measures in Missouri, New York, and Oregon. "They all lost," laments David Schmidt, an initiatives expert and advisor to Forests Forever. "It was a massacre."

From their perch atop Mt. Hindsight, most environmental activists blame their drubbing on the unforeseeable poor timing of the election, which came in the middle of the Persian Gulf crisis, and just as the first effects of the recession were beginning to hit. According to Al Meyerhoff, senior attorney for the Natural Resources

Defense Council, "If we had been on the June ballot in California—60 days after Earth Day, and before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait—we would have won."

There is, of course, no intrinsic reason why war or recession should cause people to vote against environmental protection. But in unsettling times, industry opponents were able to play on voter fears, especially about the economy. "It does too much, it costs too much," was the rudimentary but effective slogan of the \$11-million industry

IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE VS. THE SPIRIT OF SAAB. COMPROMISE LOST.



There's an automobile facility in Trollhättan, Sweden, that may well be the world's most hospitable climate for ideas. Because it's one of the least hospitable for committees.

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The benefits of such unorthodoxy are evident in the Saab 9000S.

Powered by the largest engine Saab ever built, the 9000S is a true European sports sedan capable of all-day runs at triple-digit, test-track speeds.

Computers monitor the combustion cycle for peak efficiency aided by Saab's patented Direct Ignition System. And its emission control system is vigilant in maintaining exhaust cleanliness.

The result is an engine, and a car,

that reconciles the often mutually canceling human needs of fun and responsibility. And tops it all off with extra helpings of practicality.

The 9000S is the only European import that meets EPA specifications as a "Large" car based on its interior dimensions.

Driving enthusiasts are even spared the painful choice between a sports sedan and a station wagon. That choice is made by the simple act of folding down the rear seat — a gesture that creates enough cargo space for a full size refrigerator with all the groceries needed to fill it alongside. In an enclosure designed to protect perishables more precious than groceries.

Like all Saabs, the 9000S has energy-absorbing crumple zones front and rear. The passenger compartment is enveloped by a rigid steel safety cage, and a driver's-side air bag is standard, as is an anti-lock braking system. As a result, according to

the Highway Loss Data Institute — an organization of over 250 insurance companies that monitors safety through actual accidents — 9000-Series Saabs are one of the safest cars in their class.

"Make a list of the desirable design features in today's road cars," summed up one journalist, "and it would describe the Saab."

All of which begs the obvious question, why settle for a less complete list, or a less complete car? And why pay more for that dubious honor?*

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campaign against Big Green. (Proponents were lucky to raise \$5 million.) In Oregon, where early polls showed the plastics-recycling Measure 6 leading with 70 percent, the plastics industry hit back with a \$1.4-million campaign stressing alleged costs to consumers. The measure lost, three to one. Measure 4 on the same ballot, which would have shut down the Trojan nuclear-power plant on the Columbia River, was also successfully countered by industry claims that it would double or triple Oregonians' electric bills. Voters in New York, who have been consistently generous toward the environment in the past, turned down a \$2-billion environmental bond measure—mainly because, according to campaign manager Andy Beers, "Our greatest fear came true: the Bond Act became a lightning rod for people's economic concerns."

"It was very tough to fight a strong 'no to everything' mood among the voters," says Paul Maslin, a pollster who specializes in environmental is-

ssues. Nowhere were voters crankier than in California, where they faced a daunting array of 28 measures—13 put on the ballot by initiative petition, and 15 others, mostly bond measures, tagged on by a state legislature unwilling to raise taxes or save the money elsewhere. To complicate the task further, there were competing propositions on four separate issues, where strong citizens' initiatives were paired with toothless industry facsimiles. (See "Flying False Colors," September/October 1990.) While none of the doppelegangers won, they did achieve the desired effect of muddling and lengthening the ballot: The state voters' guide filled two large volumes totaling 222 pages, and clearly overwhelmed many undecided voters.

Popular skittishness was also exacerbated by the intimidating complexity of Big Green, an environmental laundry list written with an eye cast more toward lawyers than voters. Maslin notes that in polls taken on the last weekend before the election, when

procrastinators finally sat down to study their election materials, every initiative dropped off from four to eight points as frustrated citizens voted a pox on all parties. Other factors working against the California environmental initiatives were a very low voter turnout and a distressing lack of support among minorities and inland suburbanites—the two fastest-growing demographic elements in the state.

The rout in California and elsewhere has led to much soul-searching among conservationists. "I'm not saying we have lost the power of the initiative," reflects Liz Frankel, Sierra Club legislative coordinator in Oregon, "but in the future we have to be much more careful about what we put on the ballot and why."

In retrospect, then, Big Green was a big mistake. According to Maslin, its backers never effectively countered fears about the measure's potential costs of \$100 million a year. He suggests that future initiatives focus on "definable, tangible, limited objec-

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tives," such as one that proved especially attractive to participants in his focus groups: punitive actions against polluters. While voters may be reluctant to shell out big bucks for parkland or fundamental industrial reform, they might gladly pay to put prison uniforms on eco-criminals.

Another, more arduous strategy is to stick with ambitious measures and refuse to surrender the economic argument. "Environmentalists will fail to capture the hearts and minds of the electorate if they allow political struggles to be fought along environment-versus-economics lines," warned outgoing Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Conservation Chair Michael Vickerman in a postmortem election analysis. "But if we lead with our economic arguments—sustainable versus unsustainable forestry, or energy efficiency versus more power plants—and then build our environmental case upon that foundation, we would multiply our effectiveness with both legislators and voters."

Some Californians have concluded from the November fiasco that the initiative process itself is hopelessly tainted and must be reformed. "Important aspects of the state's political agenda are being set, not by its elected leaders, but by unaccountable single-interest groups operating in a fragmented, uncoordinated, and frequently contradictory manner," argues University of California political-sci-

ence professor Eugene Lee. "The initiative is part of the problem. Turned on its head, 'direct democracy' is no longer democratic." Lee, a longtime observer of the initiative process, suggests a variety of changes to the system, including clear identification of major financial sponsors, raising the signature requirement for putting constitutional amendments on the ballot, and giving the legislature or governor power to overturn initiatives after four years.

So far environmental leaders are eyeing such proposals warily, suspecting that they will end up restricting a powerful vehicle for reform while doing little to blunt the power of industries that profit from environmental degradation. "What you really need to do is to fix the legislative process," says Carl Pope, an associate executive director of the Sierra Club. "The initiative process will never work very well if it's forced to be the carthorse for public policy. It was intended to be used in exceptional circumstances, because in normal circumstances it was expected that legislatures and governors would do their jobs."

"If politicians don't accomplish strong environmental reform in the next few years," warns Proposition 128 campaign manager Bob Mulholland dourly, "Big Green will be back."

PAUL RAUBER is an associate editor of *Sierra*.

ENVIRONMENTALISM

The Main Street Solution

Local governments in North America and Europe refuse to wait for higher authorities to come to the aid of the planet.

John Byrne Barry

OFTEN STRAPPED FOR CASH and mired in workaday decisions about parking, potholes, police, and trash pickup, cities seem unlikely places to look for visionary environmental leadership. Yet a few municipalities have stepped into the public-policy fray, addressing the

issues of ozone depletion, global warming, and tropical deforestation—and in some cases stimulating Earth-saving efforts far beyond their borders.

Irvine, California, for instance, has passed a comprehensive law controlling the use of chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that deplete Earth's ozone layer. Berkeley, Califor-

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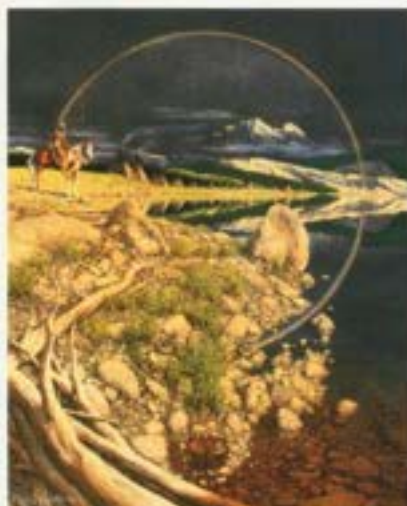
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nia, and Portland, Oregon, have banned polystyrene foam to reduce nonbiodegradable waste and to limit the use of CFCs. Toronto, Ontario, has pledged to cut its carbon-dioxide emissions 20 percent by 2005 to combat global warming. To help slow deforestation, 200 cities in Germany and 60 in the Netherlands have stopped buying tropical timber.

These actions have not immediately improved the cities' environments—nor were they intended to. But they have made it easier for larger jurisdictions such as states and nations to make more sweeping changes. Says Berkeley city council member Nancy Skinner, author of that city's polystyrene-foam ban, "Even though one city's law may make only a small contribution, it demonstrates that there is popular support for this kind of legislation. Successfully implemented, it can also show that businesses can accommodate the new law, even benefit from it."

Local initiatives dealing with ozone depletion have proliferated most widely. Much of the impetus has come from the Center for Innovative Diplomacy, an Irvine-based organization that publishes the urban activists' bible, *The Bulletin of Municipal Foreign Policy*. The Center brought local officials from all over the United States to a conference in Irvine shortly after that city's law against ozone-destroying emissions was passed in July 1989. As their model they held up Irvine's ordinance, which barred the manufacture and use of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances within city limits; barred the sale, purchase, or use of food-packaging materials made with these substances; and required that repair businesses recycle rather than throw away the ozone-depleting chemicals found in the refrigerators and air conditioners they fix. Several North American cities have since passed similar ordinances, including Denver, Ft. Collins, Littleton, and Greenwood Village in Colorado; Newark, New Jersey; Independence, Oregon; New Britain, Connecticut; and Toronto, Ontario.

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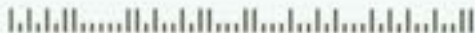
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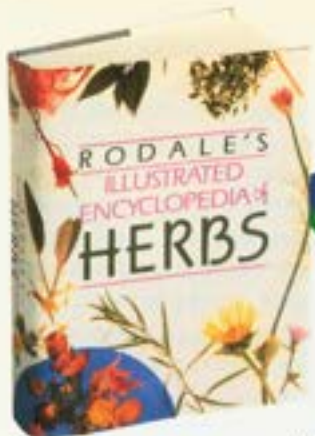
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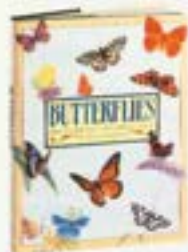
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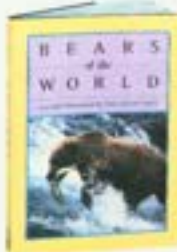
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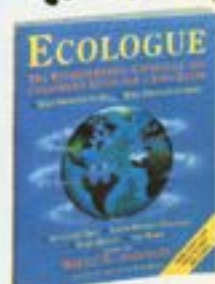
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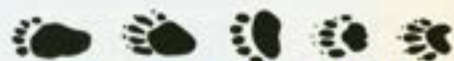
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global warming have taken off more slowly, possibly because they are built around reducing carbon-dioxide emissions and thus could affect every industry and person burning fossil fuels. Toronto's new energy-conservation plan is the first comprehensive local response to the problem; it aims primarily at reducing emissions from automobiles by improving mass transit, increasing auto fuel-efficiency, reducing the number of cars on the road, and increasing the number of riders per car. But the plan hits homes and industries, too, through reduction of electrical consumption at peak hours and retrofitting commercial and institutional buildings with energy-efficient lighting.

Other cities, including Los Angeles, Houston, Atlanta, and Philadelphia, have not yet passed such sweeping laws, but show their concern about global warming by trying to help offset their carbon-dioxide emissions through large-scale tree-planting. (Toronto's plan also includes some tree-planting, in both southern Ontario and Central America.)

While it's hard to calculate the pollution abated or the trees saved by municipal fiat, it's easy to chart the influence of such laws. Ontario's provincial government is following Toronto's lead by banning ozone-depleting chemicals, and New Jersey is planning legislation modeled on Newark's ozone ordinance. Other states are considering similar legislation.

Businesses, too, have been nudged toward alternatives by local environmental laws and are in turn spreading the gospel. Western Digital, one of Irvine's big electronics firms, has replaced the ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons it once used with a water-based solvent, not just in Irvine but in their plants in Singapore, Puerto Rico, and South Korea.

When Irvine first passed its ozone measure, city officials expected a flood of requests for exemption. They never came. "Alternatives are out there," says environmental program administrator Michael Brown. "Those who switch to them now may come out ahead in the long run."

Berkeley's ozone-protecting laws—first a ban on polystyrene-foam packaging in restaurants and later a comprehensive ban on all ozone-depleting substances—have been widely supported, says Skinner. "Businesses that didn't comply immediately were pushed to do so by ornery customers," she notes. "And long before we outlawed chlorofluorocarbons, customers of auto-repair shops were demanding that the CFCs from their cars' repaired or discarded air conditioners be recycled. Citizen awareness was there already. Government is just catching up."

Word of Berkeley's first law traveled fast, swamping Skinner's city council office with requests for information. To meet that demand she set up a clearinghouse in 1989, Local Solutions to Global Pollution, whose fact packets have found their way to activists all over the U.S. and around the world.

While few oppose the causes cities are espousing, some urban residents don't like the idea of taking on issues beyond city limits. "It's not city business," goes a typical complaint. "It's a job for the state or federal government." Yet half of the funds devoted to environmental protection in the United States are spent by local governments, according to Jeb Brugmann, field director of the Center for Innovative Diplomacy. By the end of the century that figure is expected to rise to 65 percent. Some of this money will be spent on problems that extend well beyond municipal borders.

"Most global environmental problems are the result of local activity," Brugmann says. "We need to develop a sense of local responsibility."

JOHN BYRNE BARRY is a writer and designer in the Sierra Club Public Affairs Department in San Francisco. The address of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives is 763 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139; of The Center for Innovative Diplomacy, 17931 Sky Park Circle, Suite F, Irvine, CA 92714; and of Local Solutions to Global Pollution, 2121 Bonar St., Studio A, Berkeley, CA 94702.

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In 1962 the Burmese military regime began steadily shipping thousands of tons of teak and other hardwoods overseas every year. But three years ago, when political turmoil wracked the country and ecological disaster struck neighboring Thailand, the trees began falling at an alarming rate.

In 1988, Myanmar's 200,000-soldier army cracked down on a pro-democracy movement led by ethnic Burmese students in the nation's capital, Yangon (formerly Rangoon). As many as 3,000 people were killed, and at least 7,000 fled to mountainous forest areas along the 900-mile Thai border, a region long controlled by rebel ethnic minorities.

Appalled by Myanmar's actions, most Western governments, as well as Japan, rushed to cut off aid to the country and discourage investment there. Soon the junta found itself desperately in need of cash to continue battling the insurgents.

Its salvation was a neighborly handshake away. Just across the border, Thai logging companies were eager to cash in on Myanmar's plight. Voracious land clearing had wiped out 82 percent of Thailand's forests by 1988, and in places the countryside had become a dust bowl. That year, floods and landslides triggered by denuded hillsides forced the Thai government to ban all logging in the country.

Thailand quickly negotiated concessions for Thai logging companies to cut more than 350,000 Myanmar trees a year. As a result, an area that had known only small-scale logging using elephants and rivers for transport was penetrated by a network of roads that allows easy access to heavy logging machinery—and military convoys.

According to a June 1990 report by the Thai newspaper *The Nation*, Myanmar lost well over a million acres of trees during the preceding five years, a rate five times greater than between 1976 and 1980. Because fewer than 50,000 acres are replanted annually, within a few years Myanmar's border forests will be scraped bare, and the habitats of several of the country's 34

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species of endangered or threatened wildlife could be destroyed.

Rather than wring their hands over a distant disaster, conservationists in the United States (one of the world's top four teak-importing nations) responded with solutions that range from consumer education programs to a boycott.

The Sierra Club is urging Congress to pass a law requiring tropical-hardwood importers to label their products by country of origin. Consumers could then avoid teak coming from Myanmar via Thailand, and Western governments and conservation organizations could more effectively lobby individual nations to grow timber sustainably. The Club lists 16 countries that are depleting their tropical forests and exporting to the United States, and some two dozen threatened tree species.

The Rainforest Alliance, a New York City-based conservation group, is pursuing a similar tactic. Its "Smart Wood" certification program will investigate any claims by sellers of tropical-wood products that their supplies come from well-managed, sustainable plantations. If bills of lading prove the claims to be true, the sellers will be entitled to use the Rainforest Alliance logo on their products. So far, only wood coming from the State Forestry Corporation on the Indonesian island of Java has been approved.

The Rainforest Action Network is calling for a boycott of all tropical timber and wood products imported from nonsustainably managed forests. According to the San Francisco-based group, even "accredited" Javanese plantations are suspect because the state-owned operations provide notoriously dangerous and low-paying work to local people.

Measures as harsh as boycotts raise the hackles of those who believe that lower demand for teak might cause forests to be converted to fields. Sierra Club Chairman Michael McCloskey responds that Myanmar's indigenous peoples are the least likely to obliterate their forests for farms and pasture. "They depend for survival on intact forests, not ones that have been mowed

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down," he says. The real threat comes from accelerated logging that will obliterate Myanmar's forests.

Conservationists found congressional support last year after Myanmar's rulers refused to cede power to a new government overwhelmingly elected by the country's voters. Angered by the junta's intransigence, and lobbied heavily by Sierra Club members, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) successfully sponsored a trade bill amendment urging President Bush to restrict the import of Myanmar timber (and fish as well) until Myanmar honors the election. To date the Bush administration has not acted on the nonbinding directive.

For now, discriminating consumption is one of the best ways to encourage discriminating logging. If it succeeds, the only fashionable teak bench or boat railing will be one that comes with the proper pedigree.

MARK MARDON is an associate editor of *Sierra*.

No Friends to the Fir

As Soviet acid rain falls on the forests of Lapland, nature-loving Finns find that glasnost alone isn't good enough.

Gordon F. Sander

THE SOVIET UNION'S problems in the Baltic region are not limited to burgeoning independence movements in Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. While the end of the Cold War should have brought an easing of tensions between the USSR and neighboring Finland, a new obstacle to harmonious relations is emerging in the form of transboundary environmental issues—most prominently, poisonous air pollution wafting across the border from Soviet factories. At risk are Finland's beloved fir forests, which Finns view as a spiritual as well as an economic resource.

Although they share a common, 700-mile-long border—Finland was a

Russian duchy between 1809 and 1917—there has traditionally been little love lost between these two countries. Three times this century the Finns and Soviets (or their proxies) have clashed with bloody results. The outcome of the most recent confrontation was the grudgingly symbiotic political relationship that has come to be known as "Finlandization."

Finland's last armed conflict with the Soviet Union came during World War II, when the Finns joined with Nazi Germany in a vain attempt to recover territory lost in the "Winter War" of 1939. When it was over, the victorious Soviets could have turned Finland into a communist satellite with the Allies' blessing. Instead, the Finns were al-

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lowed to retain their western-style democracy and capitalistic economy—but the Soviets forced them to pay \$300 million in war reparations and to join the Soviets in a defensive military alliance against NATO. Over the years the ties binding the two countries have gradually loosened, to the point where, in October 1989, on the occasion of his first visit to Helsinki, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev openly endorsed Finnish neutrality.

Nearly as important to the Finns, however, was Gorbachev's pledge that he would take tough action to stop the noxious gases issuing from the Soviet mining and industrial complexes on the Kola Peninsula, pollution that falls as acid rain in Finland. The massive factories, most run by Soviet military industries, send 700 tons of corrosive sulfur-dioxide emissions across the Finno-Soviet border each year—far more than is produced in all of Finland. Much of it falls on Finnish Lapland in the northern third of the country. Forests have been ravaged within a 300-square-mile radius of the factories, extending over the border into the Finnish province of Salla. Another 500 square miles of both Finnish and Soviet forestland have been severely affected, reports the Finnish Green Party, with "clear signs of damage" in an additional 50,000 square miles. In all, an estimated 30 percent of the firs in Finnish Lapland are in danger of dying.

As the largest exporter of paper products in Europe, Finland is economically dependent on its vast forests. But the trees play an important psychic role as well for a nation whose population was still 90 percent rural only 40 years ago. Even today a great many city dwellers maintain lakeside summer cottages and cherish the natural beauty of the countryside. The result is environmental consciousness elevated to an almost mystical level of intensity.

"The beauty of nature affected me almost as profoundly as a religious 'born-again' experience," claims Finnish Foreign Trade Minister Pertti Salolainen, describing childhood visits to



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his family's cottage in the woody archipelago that rings the Finnish coast. "The whole of nature unfolded in front of my eyes. I'm not a religious person, but you could describe me as an ecopantheist."

"Finnish Lapland has always evoked images of pristine purity in the minds of those who admire scenic beauty," writes Pekka Haavisto, a Green Party member of the Finnish Parliament. "But it is threatened by a reality that we have been slow to wake up to: Just across the Soviet frontier, industrial plants on the Kola Peninsula spew three times as much sulfur into the air as does the whole of Finland." Haavisto's tacit acknowledgment that the Finns are not entirely without responsibility for their environmental dilemma is echoed by Jorma Lavrila, editor of the widely read magazine *Suomen Luonto* ("Finnish Nature"), who admits, "We create one-third of our own pollution problems. But," he adds, "two-thirds come from the Soviet Union."

While Finns applauded President Gorbachev's promise to address the acid-rain problem, they are now coming to doubt the value of his word. Finland's delicate position vis-à-vis its powerful neighbor has traditionally made Finnish officials reluctant to air their differences with the Soviet Union in public. Nevertheless, Finnish Prime Minister Harri Holkeri reacted angrily last spring when he paid a visit to the disputed Soviet industrial complexes and saw the chimneys belching away as vigorously as before Gorbachev's promise.

"Mr. Gorbachev received a rapturous welcome when he visited Finland last year, considering that this is a country with a reputation for gloom," grumped a high-ranking Finnish minister quoted in the London-based newspaper *The European*. "He gained great credit for his speech praising Finland's neutrality, and was liked for his warm manner. Every Finn wishes him well. But if there is one issue that clouds the new Finno-Soviet relationship, it is ecology."

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acid rain: A huge dam under construction near Leningrad is resulting in a large amount of untreated sewage from the city being discharged into the Gulf of Finland. Though the USSR is a signatory to the 1974 Helsinki Marine Environment Commission—"a lot has been done to protect the Baltic on paper," says Green legislator Haavisto—there is no indication that there will be any delay in construction of the Leningrad dam.

In the case of acid rain, the sticking point is not so much Soviet will as Soviet pride. The Finnish government offered to pay the Soviets to employ a technology for cutting sulfur-dioxide emissions already developed by the Finnish state copper company, Outukemenu. But the Soviets balked, preferring to employ an experimental process of their own, which they said would do the job—though not for five to seven years. Last September they finally relented, accepting a \$1-billion loan from Finland, Sweden, and Norway (all of whose forests are affected by the Soviet Union's acid rain) to help pay for installation of the Finnish anti-pollution equipment.

"One of the many new features that glasnost has brought to Soviet life is a lively environmental debate," says Haavisto. "New groups of activists have sprung up, and Greenpeace now has an office in Moscow. But the task facing environmentalists in the Soviet Union is gargantuan. It isn't really clear whether the country as a whole really cares about the environment or the problems that their environmental recklessness is causing us."

Are the Soviets capable of being good environmental neighbors? As the European country with the longest air, land, and water boundary with the USSR, Finland is a good place to look for an answer to that question. And Finland is having its doubts. ■

GORDON F. SANDER is a New York-based journalist and historian who lectures at Marymount Manhattan College. His biography of the late writer and social activist Rod Serling will be published by NAL/Dutton later this year.

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Alaska — Mt. McKinley (20,320 feet) Saturday, May 5. Camp was ready — Our leader seems quite serious. I have hoped for this for eight years and now it is happening... **Sunday, May 20.** The wind was fearsome and visibility poor. Huge tongues of spindrift roared up the south face, jetting snowballs up with them. We crawled to the summit...The storm hit just as we approached camp, as if to show anger at being summited. John and I went out and fortified the snow walls in total whiteout and high winds. **Monday, May 21.** So cold sleeping the breath breathed upwards falls back as tiny snow showers on your face...Seems like a lifetime living in these conditions. I have no envy for those heading upward. Still, it is an incredible release to have reached the summit. I threw out a couple of Easter eggs for the mountain gods. *Adrian Crane, Hi-Tec 50 Peaks Diary, May 1990*

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And Adrian? Despite a blizzard on Mt. McKinley and white-out conditions on Mt. Hood, he conquered all 50 peaks (over 58 miles of vertical climbing) in just 101 days — smashing the existing record by over two and a half years.

And he did it wearing Hi-Tec boots. Of course.

The Hi-Tec logo consists of the brand name "HI-TEC" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized red graphic element that resembles a wing or a chevron pointing to the right.

**TESTED TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH**



McKinley

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BIG

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LUMBER LORDS SUFFER

AT LOCAL PROTEST. WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL

ONLY WATCH AS THEIR FORESTS—SOME OF THE

BY JOEL C

Vancouver Island, British Columbia

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CUTT

FEW CHECKS ON THEIR ENTERPRISE, AND SCOFF

SUPPORT, THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE CAN

WORLD'S MOST MAGNIFICENT—ARE DECIMATED.

ONNELLY

A

broad grin spreads across Jerry Lang's face as his boat thumps through waves off the western shore of British Columbia's Vancouver Island. He's musing aloud about his decision, two years ago, to leave his life as a college biology instructor in a sun-baked inland valley for a new career leading outdoor expeditions along this wet and wild coast.

He points north to the shore of Battle Bay, where the last old totem poles on the island stand. "If the weather holds, we'll go there tomorrow," Lang shouts over the din of waves and

Lang says, "Canadians are pioneers."

British Columbia's frontier spirit has felled at least 60 percent of the province's richest and most productive ancient forests in broad swaths along a coast more than 500 miles long. Though the province advertises itself to visitors as "Super, Natural British Columbia," its forests are being logged at an annual rate of more than 600,000 acres, more than is cut in a year from all the national forests in the United States combined.

Most of the trees are wrested from sites never logged before, and 90 percent are extracted by the crudest of all possible methods—the clearcut. At the

85 percent of its land is classified as provincial forest. But only about 5 percent of the province—and less than 2 percent of its temperate rainforest—has been preserved as parks, ecological reserves, or recreation areas. And even if an area is "protected," the British Columbia cabinet can change its boundaries or alter its status with the stroke of a pen.

"We have none of the weapons you deploy in the States," explains Peter McAllister, a leader of the Sierra Club of Western Canada. "Companies can log right down to a major salmon stream with impunity. And we have no endangered-species legislation—so you can kiss the spotted owl good-bye in southwest British Columbia." Furthermore, provincial courts and the legislature rarely interfere with the policies set by the Ministry of Forests, whose minister and senior bureaucrats are picked by the ruling political party and shielded from public scrutiny. Under Canada's parliamentary system, an elected government does what it wants, unfettered by checks and balances, until the voters throw it out of office.

Despite the economic and political forces arrayed against them—the same forces that have facilitated 30 years of unrestrained plunder—conservationists are determined to use the one tool that is available to them: public opinion. They say convincing people at home and abroad that British Columbia's finest forests are more valuable standing than cut offers the only hope of preserving even a sampling of their magnificence.



Loggers have already obliterated three-quarters of Vancouver Island's ancient forests, resulting in desolation like that on Mt. Paxton (above). The towering Sitka spruce of Carmanah Creek (right) may soon win partial protection.

motor. "We may get lucky and see a wolf."

After the mist lifts, Lang's boatload of teachers, naturalists, students, and retirees yelps with excitement as porpoises leap off the starboard bow. An eagle soars out of its treetop nest on tiny Thornton Island as Lang swings his boat into a cove.

With this turn toward land, Lang's crew comes face to face with the eroded summit-to-shore clearcuts of Mt. Paxton and a gigantic logging-triggered landslide down the west face of St. Paul's Dome. Though Lang has spent nearly as much time explaining slash-and-run logging practices to his clients as he has telling them about coastal ecosystems, they are unprepared for the devastation.

"When it comes to giant clearcuts,"

current pace, almost all the commercially attractive trees of the British Columbia coast will be cut in the next 15 years, and the world will lose its largest temperate rainforest.

"Within Canada, British Columbia has symbolized the last frontier, the final flowering of pro-development values," MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., the province's largest forest-products firm, explained in a recent internal memo. "The culture of the B.C. forest industry is rooted in pride of our efficient conquest of the forest resource. Our industry jargon is laden with terms such as *extraction*, *liquidation*, *exploitation*, and *denudation*. We speak of a resource, not a forest; of fibre, not trees."

It's no wonder a pioneer ethic has flourished here. British Columbia is huge—larger than Texas—and about



in the village of Kyuquot on northern Vancouver Island, where Jerry Lang bases his tour operation, residents are fighting with growing desperation to save what's left of their wilderness. The 240-mile-long island is being logged faster than any other part of British Columbia. Of its 89 largest watersheds, only six remain uncut.

All around the village, an environment that has provided a livelihood for



fishermen, a new life for Lang, and plentiful food for Native Kyuquots is rapidly giving way to massive clear-cuts, erosion scars, clogged spawning streams, and muddy estuaries. To the north, Battle Bay is due to be cut within five years. Just south of the town, on Kyuquot Sound, Cachalot Creek is slated for logging, too, despite fears that steep, unstable slopes will give way, covering salmon spawning beds with mud and debris. Villagers' protests have won a temporary deferral of logging in the Cachalot watershed, but it's not expected to last long.

The Tahsish River courses through the largest pristine valley bordering Kyuquot Sound. Its upper reaches have been logged, but the lower Tahsish, guarded by a steep canyon, remains untouched. It is a magical place of dark, still waters, salmon spawning in pools by gravel bars, and towering Sitka spruce. The valley is also a refuge for Roosevelt elk, handsome gold and black beasts that can move silently and swiftly, even though bulls weigh as much as 800 pounds.

"The Tahsish is our bread and butter," says Dick Leo, chief of the Kyuquots. "It is where we hunt for elk and deer, and our largest source of fish. It's

the only good river left: The others run brown and dirty."

The villagers of Kyuquot, white and Native alike, want the Tahsish left alone. A committee appointed by the provincial government to study old-growth forests across the province has echoed their concern, recommending that logging be postponed for two years. But MacMillan Bloedel has rights to cut the valley, and there is no assurance that ministry officials will do anything to stop them.

In a place as big as British Columbia, it would seem that other cutting sites might be found so that eight miles of river valley could be left alone. But salable timber in the province has virtually all been parceled out to logging companies. Whatever *can* be logged, will be logged.

Timber-industry consultant Pat Armstrong has a simple, blunt explanation for the controversies that have erupted over small areas like the Tahsish: "The forest land is committed, every bit of it, to a world-class timber industry. The problem is that other demands are now being made on the land."

An enduring old-boy network stands in the way of the Natives, con-

servationists, recreationists, and fishermen making these "other demands." Timber-industry and forest-ministry officials have often gone to school together, belonged to the same professional associations, and worked together, moving easily between industry and government jobs. As deputy forests minister, for example, Mike Apsey was chief author of the province's 1978 forest act. Apsey has moved on to become chairman of the B.C. Council of Forest Industries. Former forests minister and legislator Dave Parker entered government after working as timberlands manager for Weststar Ltd., which has extensive and controversial logging operations in northern British Columbia.

In its recently published *Access to Information Policy*, the Ministry of Forests inadvertently demonstrates how it keeps a lid on public debate. In this document the ministry classifies 28 sources of information as "confidential," most of which would be routinely available to the public in the United States. In some cases the hush extends to academia. Last year Robert Kennedy, then-dean of forestry at the University of British Columbia, sparked a controversy when he told his faculty they must be "circumspect in their involvement in controversial issues." In a letter to them he wrote: "The large integrated companies are increasingly sponsoring our faculty's research. They can easily be alienated by the perception that the faculty is promoting a subject which they deem not to be in their best interests."

The Ministry of Forests would be ill-equipped to supervise big timber companies rigorously, even if it were not allied with them. "The ministry was gutted in the early 1980s," explains Dan Miller, a member of the British Columbia Legislature from Prince Rupert. "They've turned over monitoring to the forest companies themselves."

Parts of British Columbia's public lands have been taken out of government hands altogether. Nearly 30 percent of provincial woodlands, including many of the ancient forests along

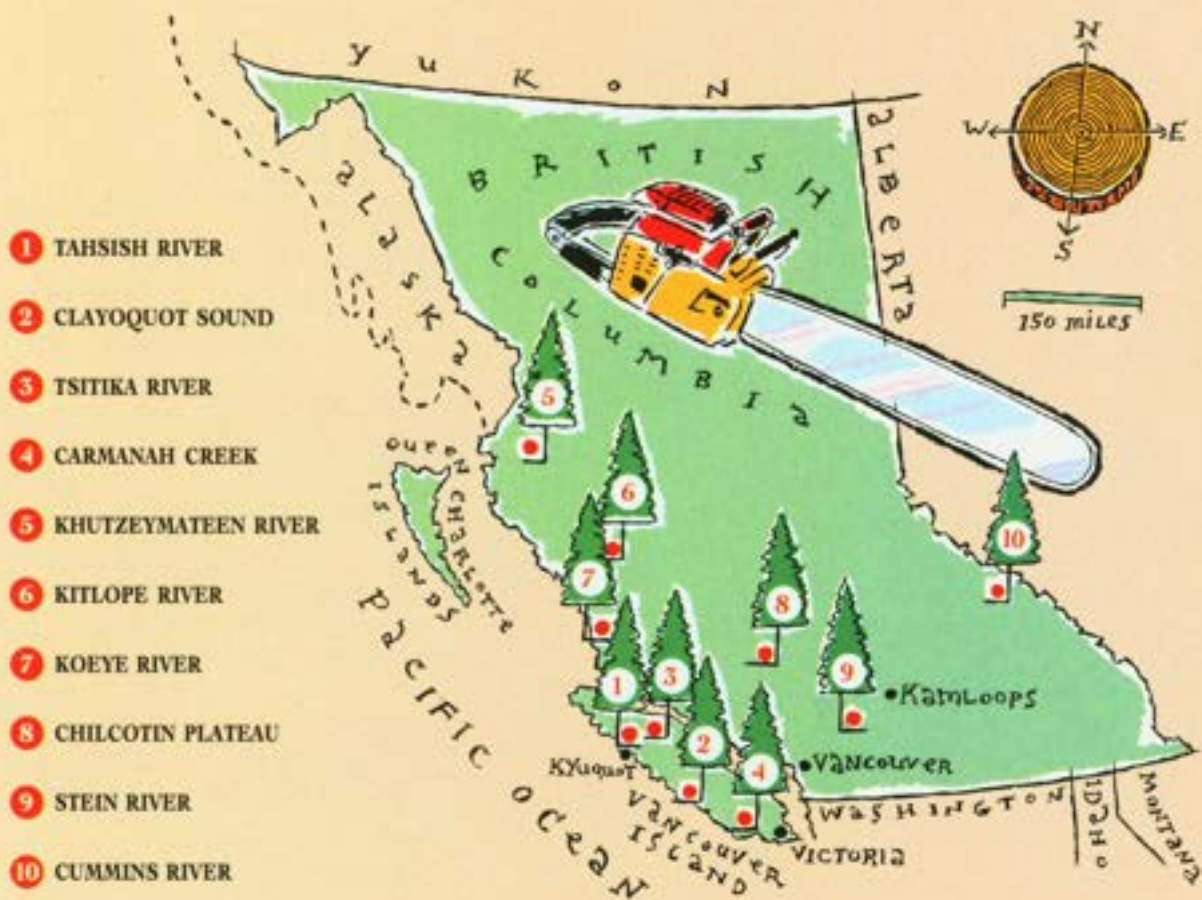


Fall 1990: A protestor is arrested for trying to block logging along the Tsitika River, last uncut drainage on the east side of Vancouver Island.

WHERE THE CONFLICT LIES

The ten areas shown on the map below represent only a sampling of the many sites where conservationists and timber companies are currently at loggerheads. Protests in some areas, such as the Stein and Carmanah

valleys, have made their placenames household words. Other pristine forests, such as that of the Cummins River valley, seem doomed to disappear before most residents of the province ever learn of their existence.



the coast, has been turned over to timber companies. Such arrangements, lasting 25 years and almost automatically renewed, are called "tree-farm licenses." The companies holding these licenses are responsible for gathering information, deciding what they want to cut and when, soliciting public comments, and even drawing up recreation plans.

Though timber companies were granted these licenses gratis, the public must often pay dearly to get its lands back. The province can legally withdraw only 5 percent of a licensed tree farm from cutting. Anything more re-

quires that the timber company be compensated. For example, companies were promised \$31 million Canadian (about \$35 million U.S.) under the 1986 accord that created South Moresby National Park Preserve in the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The high cost of buying back the people's property has also been amply demonstrated in the 16,500-acre Carmanah Creek valley on the southwest coast of Vancouver Island. Its rainforests are home to Canada's tallest Sitka spruce, most notably the 312-foot-tall Carmanah Giant. Thousands of visitors have negotiated logging roads and

hiked muddy trails in order to crane their necks upward and stretch out their arms on the cool, moss-covered mammoths.

But the Carmanah is part of Tree-Farm License No. 44, held by the ubiquitous MacMillan Bloedel. The provincial government has sought a Solomonian compromise, setting aside 8,000 acres as Carmanah Pacific Provincial Park. To get the acreage back from MacMillan Bloedel, however, the forests ministry estimates it will have to pay millions of dollars, and the timber company will still be allowed to log the upper Carmanah valley outside

the park. "We're not going to cut it all at once: We'll probably clearcut over an extended period of time," explains John Cuthbert, chief forester in the ministry. Of course, studies will first be required to determine that logging will not threaten downstream forests. Who will conduct the studies? "The licensee," says Cuthbert.

The popularity of such places as Carmanah Creek has induced the provincial government to change its public posture, if not its policies. The province graces its tourist promos with a new slogan: "British Columbia: Handle With Care." It has also published glossy advertisements bragging about logging bans within existing provincial parks.

Responding to calls to protect more wilderness, the forests ministry has turned to a ploy long ago perfected by the U.S. Forest Service: Give them rocks and ice. "A lot of wilderness can be designated in land that is not working forest," suggests British Columbia's Minister of Forests Claude Richmond. "That way, no compensation of the companies is required."

The ministry is trying this approach in the Stein River valley, the last remaining unlogged watershed in southwest British Columbia. A high-profile campaign for its preservation, which has involved everyone from Benedictine monks to pop singers and TV nature-show hosts, convinced the ministry to designate two wilderness areas in the watershed. One protects glacier-covered Coast Range peaks and alpine tundra at the headwaters of the river. The other safeguards the lower Stein as it descends eastward into the arid rainshadow of the Fraser River canyon. But lush forests at the heart of the valley, which the ministry wants to log, were left unprotected.

The agency that administers the forests ministry's policies, the B.C. Forest Service, recently released a map of the areas it deems worthy of wilderness study. Not surprisingly, the glaciers extending outward from 13,260-foot



TOM & ANNE LEESE/ONE PHOTO



Mt. Waddington, highest peak in the B.C. Coast Range, were included. So were the icy flanks of 11,500-foot Mt. Sir Wilfred Laurier in the interior. But the map excluded the last unlogged ancient forests of the British Columbia coast and Vancouver Island.

It also left out little-known inland areas such as the Cummins River valley in the Canadian Rockies. The Cummins begins in the Clemenceau Icefield on the Continental Divide, tumbling down a 1,000-foot-high waterfall into the first of two turquoise alpine lakes. From the cataracts below, the river meanders 15 miles through a tranquil, spruce-covered valley until it reaches the Columbia River. Though most British Columbians have never even heard of the pristine Cummins, the timber industry knows it well. The Cummins valley is marked for logging, and a road is being pushed rapidly toward it.

The province's timber companies support the Forest Service's rocks-and-ice approach. In his downtown Vancouver office Tony Chevrier, vice-president of the Council of Forest Industries, grows animated as he explains the advantages of protecting high meadows, lakes, and peaks. The wilderness should be "up there," he argues, "not in the deep, dank forest where you can't see anything."



Minister of Forests Claude Richmond is a big, bluff, bearded man who likes to play the trumpet; a tiny replica of the instrument decorates his business card. His home is Kamloops, an interior city with a huge Weyerhaeuser pulp mill. "They're the finest corporate citizen you could ever want," he says. "I can't begin to list the contributions they've made to the community."

Though clearly a Weyerhaeuser booster, Richmond is less openly biased toward the timber industry than Dave Parker, whom he replaced in 1989. Parker infuriated conservationists by using the term "fibre farms" as unabashedly as did his industry col-

leagues. He sought to expand tree-farm licenses to cover 67 percent of the province's forests, which would have left timber companies managing well over half the land in British Columbia. When the plan was stopped by public protest, Parker reacted by suggesting that the participating conservation groups were part of a communist-socialist conspiracy.

Richmond tries to make his case with numbers rather than name-calling. "Forestry pays a lot of the bills," he tells people who complain about clear-cutting. "Close to one-half of the jobs in British Columbia are related to the forest industry."

The minister's figures may once have been accurate, but the province's economy has rapidly diversified. The forest industry currently contributes less than 12 percent of British Columbia's federal, provincial, and municipal government revenues. While the province has been creating nearly 50,000 non-logging jobs a year, employment in the increasingly mechanized forest-products industry has dropped by 10,000 in the last decade.

"Forestry directly provides 85,000 jobs in a province in which 1.4 million people work," explains Ray Travers, a former senior official with the B.C. Ministry of Environment. "They can crank it up to 200,000 or 250,000 if they include indirect jobs, but some of those are outside the province."

Despite timber's declining economic importance, the forests ministry hasn't altered its logging-first mentality. When asked during a meeting about the importance of protecting fish, wildlife, watersheds, and recreation opportunities, Assistant Deputy Minister W.C. Cheston explained, "Within a provincial forest the primary use of all areas is the growing and cropping of trees. Those other uses are secondary."

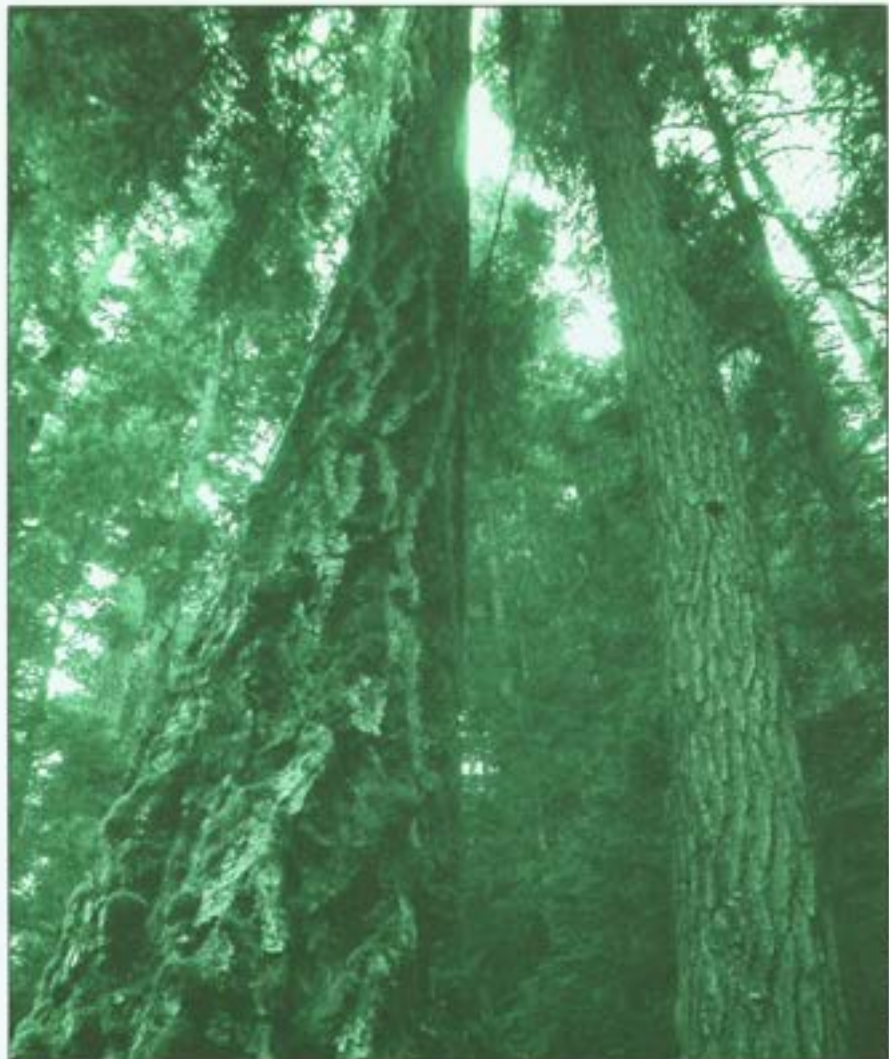
For decades most British Columbians have accepted loss of their wild heritage, always on the assumption that plenty of it remained. Lately, however, the ranks of the dissenters have grown. The Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which had 500 members in 1987, has since signed up 25,000



people. Crowds of up to 15,000 have mobbed conservationists' annual Stein River festival.

Organizers don't completely understand the sudden upsurge of recruits. But they do know that the costs of a timber-dominated economy have finally hit home. Pulp-mill pollution recently forced closure of commercial shellfishing in bays up and down the coasts of Vancouver Island and in Howe Sound just north of the city of Vancouver.

Conservationists are pursuing an inside-outside strategy. The Sierra Club of Western Canada is trying to focus world attention on British Columbia's endangered environment. Club activists orchestrate video documentaries, arrange airplane tours, and guide visitors to places the provincial govern-



©Douglas Plummer 1989 Old growth grove slated for harvest. Groupwoma National Forest WA.

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A shocking 90% of our ancient forests in North America have been callously destroyed. Trees that are hundreds, even thousands of years old, continue to fall to the chainsaw at an alarming rate. Now we are faced with irreversible erosion, and many species of wildlife are endangered. Help us save what remains of the ancient forests.

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SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58	SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108	LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
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One place where government officials spare the axe is Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, British Columbia's largest protected area. Here tourists from around the world hike among luminous lakes (Sitkatapa is shown above), powerful rivers, and spectacular vistas of the rugged rock and ice of the Coast Range. Just outside the borders of the preserve, however, clear-cutting proceeds with abandon (right).

DAVID FEEGHEEN/PHOTOS



Tumbling trees can shake the farthest reaches of a forest food chain. Along the British Columbia coast logging wreaks havoc on streams (right), causing salmon populations to plummet. The salmon's decline leaves local grizzlies at risk, and may even wipe out orcas ("killer whales") accustomed to feasting on salmon at the river's mouth.



MARK HENDERSON

ment would prefer to hide. As a result, British and German television viewers have recently seen films of Vancouver Island's eroded clearcuts. A member of parliament from Luxembourg has toured the Carmanah. Later this year, the Club's McAllister plans to bring together European and North American conservationists at Jerry Lang's camp near Kyuquot.

"We are, in Canada, much more influenced by international embarrassment than the United States is," says McAllister. Economic dependencies explain the difference: British Columbia needs U.S. and European markets to support both its tourism and its forest-products industries.

While the Sierra Club spreads the word outside the province, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee harnesses outrage within it. The group's projects, designed to popularize imperiled places, have attracted numerous young volunteers and drawn considerable attention—not all of it friendly. In the upper Carmanah Creek valley, for instance, the Wilderness Committee built a trail and a research camp topped by a 160-foot-high platform in a Sitka spruce. Early last winter, however, the group's volunteers discovered that their planked trail had been ravaged and their camp had been burned to the ground.

A few politicians—a very few—have spoken out for preservation of the ancient forests. The most notable is John Fraser, speaker of Canada's House of Commons and former two-time federal cabinet minister. An avid fly fisherman and a longtime lawmaker in the Progressive Conservative party headed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, Fraser is affectionately known as the "Green Tory." He has become a passionate voice for preserving valleys along the British Columbia coast.

"Do the ancient forests all belong to the forest industry?" Fraser asked recently. "Are we prepared to have them all gone?"

But Fraser must watch his words—the speaker's office is considered above politics. He has therefore specialized in



JEFF FOOTE/OW PHOTO



ROYD MORTON/COMSTOCK



GEORGE KOGLES/ALAMY/JOE RAY/ISTOCK

backstage arm-twisting, even using the tennis court as a place to lobby conservative politicians.

Other conservationist battlegrounds are less genteel. Storms were already pounding northern Vancouver Island last fall when Native and white demonstrators set up camp along the Tsitika River, which runs through the only unlogged old-growth forest on the east side of the island. The river empties into Robson Bight, a bay renowned for the world's largest concentration of orcas.

With clearcuts producing massive mudflows in the upper Tsitika, the protestors feared for the river and the whales nourished by its salmon. They endured threats from loggers and a counterblockade that cut off supplies. In the end the Royal Canadian Mounted Police intervened, arresting 30 demonstrators on civil and criminal charges.

"I do not want confrontation," Forests Minister Richmond said in response to the incident. But in this case confrontation seemed to benefit the demonstrators: In January the province's old-growth committee made the same recommendation for the lower Tsitika it had made for the Tahsish: postpone logging for two years. At presstime in March, the forests ministry had taken no action on the proposal, however.

Change could come after British Columbians go to the polls this year. The Social Credit party, a friend of industry that has governed for 36 of the past 39 years, is beginning to look dowdy in the polls. The opposing New Democratic party is split by a power struggle pitting environment-oriented "green caucus" legislators against the loggers' union, the International Woodworkers of America. Though the IWA fiercely resists any reduction in timber cutting, the New Democrats nonetheless have promised to more than double the size of protected acreage in the province by setting aside 12 percent of its land as parks and wilderness.

If Social Credit hangs onto its majority, though, British Columbia



Another giant falls near the town of Ucluelet on Vancouver Island.

RAINFOREST ACTION

Canadian activist and Sierra Club leader Peter McAllister says that the rainforest that carpets British Columbia's 500-mile-long coast is the richest and most productive temperate rainforest system on Earth. "The decimation of these forests," he says, "is a global, not just a local crisis."

Americans who want to help halt the destruction should send letters expressing their concern to:

- British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm, Parliament Building, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8V 1X4, and
- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6.

seems doomed to repeat its lumbering mistakes. Party loyalist and legislator Duane Crandall sums up the party's conservation credo: "Parks are nice, but they don't supply the standard of living that sawmills, pulp mills, and mines do," he says. "They don't put a microwave on the table or a satellite dish in the backyard."

Premier Bill Vander Zalm has lately proclaimed a generalized love for nature. But he still intervenes to relax cabinet-approved limits on pulp-mill pollution, and told a recent campaign rally: "Let's cut down the trees and create jobs."

If that attitude prevails much longer, all the protests in the world won't save British Columbia's forests. A worried Peter McAllister leans over a map at his

waterfront home to look at his next battleground. Timber companies have never penetrated the forest along Gardner Canal, a 50-mile-long fjord on B.C.'s north coast. Its rivers carry tongue-twisting names like Tsaytis, Kowesas, and Kitlope. It may be the world's largest tract of untrammelled temperate rainforest, yet the province plans to cut it down and truck it away.

"We're not going to save these places on our own," McAllister says, looking up from his map. "Not without a more responsive government—and a lot of help from the rest of the world." ■

JOEL CONNELLY, a national correspondent for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, has written about British Columbia for 17 years.

RECENT EVENTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF

REMINDE ENVIRONMENTALISTS

THAT THERE'S LITTLE WE CAN DO

ONCE THE SHOOTING STARTS.

IT'S IN THE IN-BETWEEN TIMES

THAT WE CAN HELP

SHAPE TACTICS AND POLICIES

THAT MAY—INDEED, MUST—

SOMEDAY LEAD TO PEACE.

BY CARL POPE

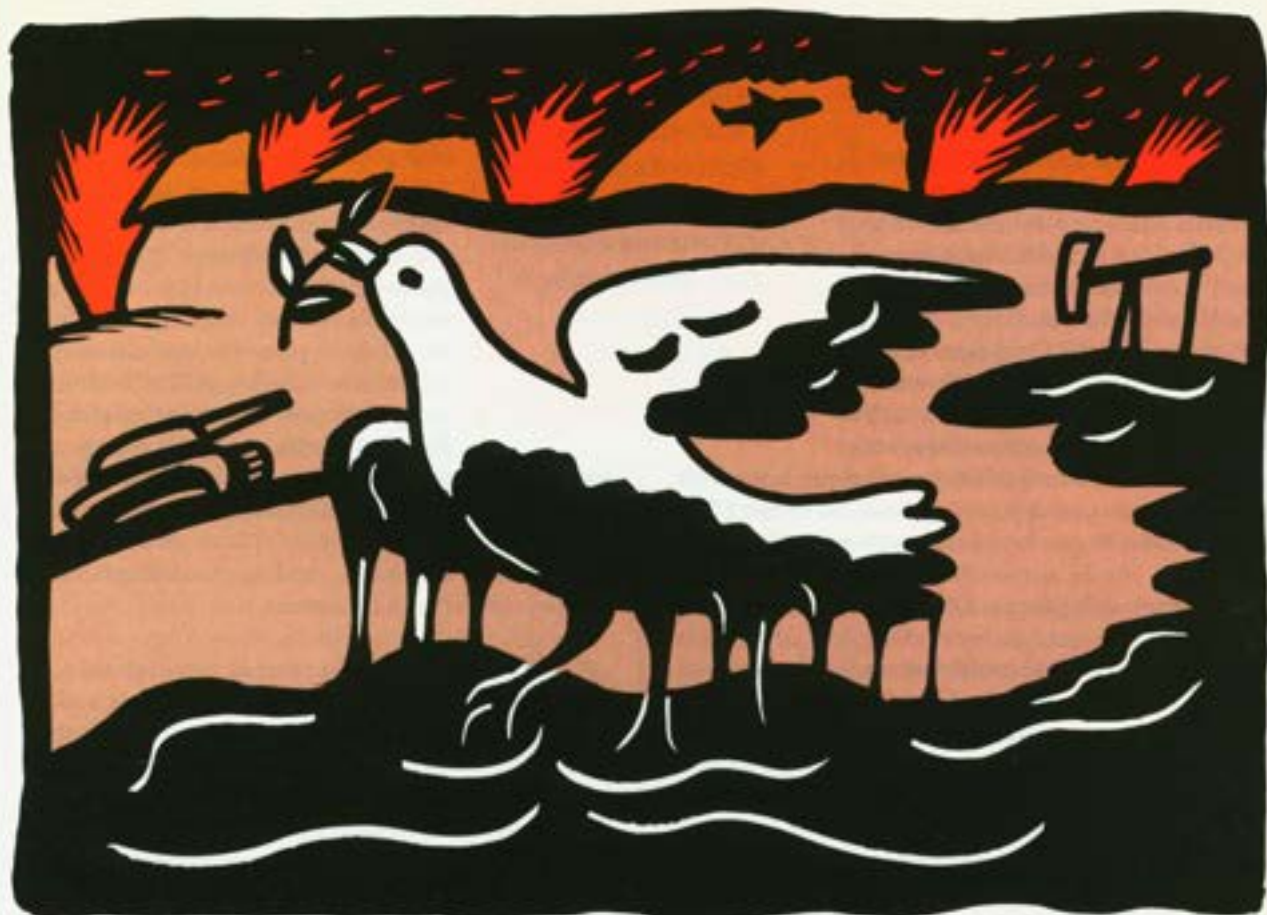
WAR on EARTH

In 1258 the Mongol general Hulagu, commanding his portion of the great nomadic legion forged by his grandfather, Genghis, conquered that part of the world we today call the Middle East. When Baghdad, capital of the Muslim world, fell to his forces, Hulagu burned the city to the ground.

Hulagu's army obliterated not only Baghdad and the other major population centers of the Persian plateau, but also the complex and technically sophisticated irrigation systems between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the canals and dams that had made the floodplain of Iraq the Fertile Crescent of ancient civilization.

The underlying cause of the war was the Mongol hunger for a single resource—grass. Nomadic Mongol society depended exclusively on ever-expanding pastures to support its growing herds of horses. By the early part of the 13th century the Mongols had overrun their own grasslands and, rather than change a way and scale of life no longer supportable at home, they poured out of Central Asia. Within two generations they had conquered everyone and everything around them.

The Mongols rejected more complicated and diverse ways of life: They despised agriculture, scorned urban society. Only when the world was simplified into a vast pasture could Mongol culture, the civilization of the horse, be truly secure.



ANTHONY RUSSO

Seven and a half centuries later, American and allied forces bombed Baghdad, then invaded and vanquished Iraq. The underlying cause of the war was American hunger for a single resource—oil. In the last several decades, American society has become as dependent on oil as the Mongols were on grass. Likewise, we have exhausted the most productive oilfields of the United States—and, rather than change a way and scale of life we cannot support at home, we use our economic and military power to take the oil we believe we need . . . indeed, that we believe we are entitled to. Our policies in the Persian Gulf are driven by the desire to make the world safe for the civilization of the internal-combustion engine.

Other values and other concerns were said to be at stake in the war with Iraq. George Bush evoked Munich and Vietnam; the persona of Saddam Hussein gave us reason to tremble. But in our hearts we knew that a similar political crisis in virtually any other Third World country would not have sent half a million American troops into war.

Iraq's share of the Persian Gulf's wealth made it exceedingly important to the industrial nations dependent on the region's oil. So important, in fact, that they

had given Saddam Hussein money, sold him weapons, and shared technologies that made it possible for him to invade Kuwait. But his goal—control of the Kuwaiti oil fields—was one they could not tolerate. The annexation of Kuwait would put Saddam at the head of one of the major oil-producing nations in the world, with a capacity to set oil prices equal to that of the Saudis. The possibility that he would take over Saudi Arabia itself was even less tolerable.

Given the power Saddam had over the industrial world at that moment, the allied governments believed that the risks of relying upon international sanctions to solve the crisis were too high to bear. If sanctions did not work, not only would aggression be rewarded, but Saddam would control at least 40 percent of the world's oil. At every stage in the crisis, oil greased the wheels of war.

In the critical days after August 2, when troops began to move, the focus shifted to diplomacy. Everyone blamed someone else for the fact that the conflict began, or escalated, or continued. The debate over the war became a debate about which decision to challenge in a long string of complex political miscalculations. Was the critical error made on January 16, when Tomahawk

WHEN OIL BECAME
A WEAPON OF WAR,
THE GULF BECAME
A VICTIM.
THIS WAS
NOTHING NEW:
FOR YEARS THE
GULF HAD BEEN
SACRIFICED TO MINE
THE BLACK GOLD
THAT LAY
BENEATH IT.

missiles struck Baghdad? On January 15, when Saddam Hussein failed to evacuate Kuwait? In November, when George Bush doubled the U.S. troop commitment to create an offensive capability? In late August, when the first U.S. troops arrived in the Gulf? On August 2, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait? In July, when the U.S. ambassador to Iraq assured Saddam that our country would stay out of any confrontation he might have with Kuwait? Or many years earlier, when the British High Commission drew the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait?

Like many other people around the world, environmentalists were confused and distressed during this time. The causes of the conflict were rooted in a natural resource, its consequences disastrous for the natural world. Yet the maneuvers that led to war seemed impervious to traditional environmental analysis; neither environmental values nor ecology shed light on the increasingly dim situation.

So for months the environmental trumpet, if sounded at all, quavered and faltered. To the extent that the war was a failure of diplomacy and foreign policy, and environmental issues were not central concerns, we were as blind as everyone else, wandering in the bell-couse fog where nations stumble from the brink of war into war itself.

Yet the environmental movement *can* help change the habits and policies that draw nations into that fog. In general, the larger environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, did not adequately meet this challenge. Our failure was not in the aftermath of August 2, 1990. It lay many years earlier.

The oil crisis of the 1970s set in motion a process that could have cured the United States of its dependence on imported oil. Alternative energy technologies and energy efficiency were working faster, and costing less, than anyone had predicted. Then, by deliberate decision of the U.S. government, the process ground to a virtual halt. Some environmentalists continued to work for energy conservation during the dark years of Reagan cutbacks and indifference, of the return of cheap gas and big cars. But neither the Sierra Club nor the environmental movement as a whole gave energy issues the priority they deserved—and that would be required to help the United States kick the oil habit. We could, and should, have done more to resist America's relapse

into petroleum addiction in the 1980s.

The tragic events of the past year compel us to recognize that a world economy overly dependent on a single resource, whether it is grass or oil, will inevitably lead us into turmoil. Diversity of energy sources is a mainstay of diplomatic stability, just as biological complexity provides ecological stability.

President Carter never spoke more profoundly than when he said, to much cynical derision, that the struggle to eliminate our dependence on oil was "the moral equivalent of war." Today we see that this struggle is also the ethical and practical alternative to ceaseless conflict among nations.

On January 25 the first in a series of oil spills gushed into the northern Persian Gulf. Within days it appeared that at least three spills, totaling 11 million barrels of oil, had been unleashed. Saudi and American officials charged that the oil had been deliberately released by Iraq from Kuwaiti oil terminals; Iraqi officials countered that allied bombers were responsible for the slicks that were oozing across the fragile, shallow waters of the Gulf.

Later reports indicated that about one-third of the oil was, in fact, the result of allied bombing of Iraqi oil tankers anchored off Kuwait, and that the total volume of the spills was far less than initially estimated. U.S. officials who had decried the Iraqi role in the spills as "environmental terrorism" offered no comment on the conclusion that U.S. bombs had released the equivalent of two *Exxon Valdez* spills.

When Persian Gulf oil became a weapon of war, the Gulf itself became a victim. This was nothing new: For years the ecosystem of the Gulf had been sacrificed to mine the black gold that lay around and beneath it. The eight years of war between Iran and Iraq had been fought largely in the most delicate part of the Gulf, marshes that Saddam Hussein had turned into an electrical and chemical killing zone for young Iranian revolutionary guards—and for any wildlife that had escaped decades of oil production and development.

Now, as the oil slick moved south, the world focused on the Gulf ecosystem for the first time. Here were a rich shrimp fishery, islands where thousands of sea turtles bred, and the home of an awkward, gentle marine mammal called the dugong, related to Florida's manatee. Here millions of birds wintered, and thou-

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THE USE OF
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KEY TOOLS IN OUR
ENERGY STRATEGY
HAS YIELDED
OIL-FIELD FIRES
THAT ARE
CONSUMING
MILLIONS OF
BARRELS OF
OIL A DAY.

sands of people made their livelihoods.

The oil spill was not the end of the environmental war. In February, as Saddam's army prepared to leave Kuwait, Iraqi troops exploded the charges they had laid at Kuwait's principal oil-production facilities. Within hours more than 500 oil wells were aflame, and dark clouds began to spread over the region. Photographs taken in the Saudi town of Khafji at noon were surreal midnight portraits, and the rain that fell on the marshes of the Gulf was black with soot.

The Worldwatch Institute concluded that the combination of the spill, the fires, and the direct destruction of the desert ecology by bombs, shells, and tanks made the Gulf war the greatest environmental disaster in modern history.

Once the bombs began to fall, there was little that environmental organizations could do to prevent this tragedy. Tactical suggestions from environmentalists would scarcely have been heeded. Our years of silence on matters of warfare were proven to be a mistake.

We can make up for this now. While we work to build a world that avoids war altogether, we must work to limit those weapons and tactics that are the most destructive. The bombing of hospitals and the use of poison gas are now viewed with revulsion and prohibited by international convention. We must add to these constraints the targeting of ecosystems and their most sensitive components: wetlands, forests, estuaries, and critical wildlife habitats.

These fragile environments are offered some protection by a multi-lateral treaty ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1979. Nations adhering to this treaty agree not to employ environmental warfare as a tactic against an enemy that also adheres to the treaty. (Though a signatory, Iraq has never ratified the agreement.) However, neither the United States nor Iraq has ratified Protocol I to the Geneva Convention, a protocol that contains two provisions prohibiting tactics "intended" or "expected" to cause environmental havoc. Iraq's setting fire to the Kuwaiti oil fields would certainly have been prohibited by Protocol I, as would, arguably at least, the U.S. bombing of Iraqi oil tankers. Environmentalists must pressure the United States and other nations to ratify and honor this treaty.

Nor should we limit ourselves to the concept of environmental warfare that prevailed when the Geneva

protocol was developed in 1977. We now understand far better than we did then how devastating such acts of war as the destruction of wetlands or the firing of oil fields can be. Our goal should be to restrict the freedom of military commanders to exploit technology for destructive ends.

The public seems ready for a serious debate on this topic. Though official and

media interest in the oil spill turned out to be cynical and short-lived, there was a surprisingly intense public response. As the Saudis rushed to erect booms around wildlife refuges and desalinization plants, the world mourned an environmental tragedy. The shattering of the Gulf's ecology became an emotionally charged issue that brought a distant war closer to home.

When the United States initiated defoliation in Vietnam, there was no spontaneous outcry; environmental scientists had to campaign even to raise the issue. The public response to the Gulf oil spill, although soon eclipsed by the ground war, revealed how far we have come since Vietnam—however far we have still to go.

Many Sierra Club leaders were reluctant to comment forcefully on the oil spill in the midst of war. Was it possible to speak out without seeming to value sea cows over children? If the Club had no clearly defined solution to the dilemma posed by the invasion of Kuwait before the spill, did the spill change anything? Probably not. But now that the hostilities have ended, we can and must mobilize to intensify the public revulsion against environmental warfare.

If new forms of arms control make combat a less attractive form of conflict resolution, well and good. We can only hope that ecological awareness will help nations understand the folly of war as a solution to their disputes.

Means other than military might do exist, and are in many ways more reliable and certain than war. Sanctions against Iraq were beginning to have an effect; their failure, in the eyes of the world's statesmen, was that they took too long. Because of that rush to judgment, we will never know if sanctions would have forced Saddam to leave Kuwait. An essential value that environmentalists have tried to inculcate in our society is that of patience, of gearing up for the long haul. If the world is to resolve its dilemmas without destroying the biosphere, it must prepare to resolve them more slowly. Quick, simple fixes—such as pesticides and armored

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divisions—are illusory and dangerous.

The same impatience, hubris, and recklessness that have caused our environmental crises are behind our over-reliance on military force. It is up to environmentalists to make explicit these connections, to promote and build on profound changes in public values, and to turn what is still an inchoate desire to protect the environment in time of war into a concrete realization that war's time has passed.

On February 20 the Sierra Club launched a major, long-term campaign to "detoxify" an economy so dependent on oil. The centerpiece of this campaign is our effort to pass legislation that will increase auto fuel-efficiency 40 percent by the year 2000. Such legislation almost passed the Senate last summer, in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait. It has been reintroduced this session, by Representative Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) in the House, and by Senator Richard Bryan (D-Nev.). Its passage will reduce American oil consumption by 2.5 million barrels a day by the end of the century, and by 5 million barrels a day in the decade from 2015 to 2025.

By contrast, the Bush administration has offered a plan whose centerpiece is drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Experts dispute how productive this would ultimately be. But even if "successful," this approach would yield—at the cost of the nation's last Arctic wilderness—only 300,000 barrels a day, and even that would be exhausted in two decades.

Passage of the Bryan-Boxer bills would mean that the United States could phase out imports from the Persian Gulf altogether by the end of the century. At that point, as we continue to reduce the demands for energy by increasing efficiency, we would also be able to substitute renewable energy resources for an ever-increasing portion of our remaining energy needs. Solar thermal, photovoltaics, and biomass technologies—if supported with research and development funds in the next decade—can easily become more economically and environmentally attractive than conventional fossil-fuel technologies. (See "Positive Energy," March/April 1991.)

The key here is consistency. The Sierra Club must build its campaign to kick the oil habit to the level necessary to pass the Bryan-Boxer bills and to safeguard the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We must then continue to mobilize the American people around

energy issues until this nation is firmly committed to the most rapid abandonment feasible of our excessive dependence on oil.

The technology to end this dependence is well within our grasp. Long-term economics favors energy efficiency and renewable resources; environmental protection demands them. And finally, as has been proven so painfully this year,

our national security requires an end to this dependence; the use of Stealth fighters and M-1A1 tanks as the key tools in our energy strategy has yielded oil-field fires that are consuming millions of barrels of oil a day. The vigorous, sustained pursuit of this campaign over the next decade can be our memorial to the victims—all the victims—of the Gulf war.

Wars have historically been justified not by the benefits they secure for those who fight them, but by appeals to our concern for our children and grandchildren. Yet war impoverishes the ecological systems that our children and grandchildren need to survive.

No one today glorifies the prowess of Hulagu's horsemen. Few are even aware of the reasons that supposedly justified his punitive expedition. For centuries he has been remembered for burning Baghdad and destroying the irrigation systems of the Tigris-Euphrates floodplain. Last winter's destruction of the Persian Gulf, the devastation of the desert, the poisoning of the atmosphere, and the relentless bombing of Iraq and Kuwait will be remembered by the great-grandchildren of the Iraqi, Kuwaiti, American, and other allied participants in the Gulf war. They are less likely to remember the war's immediate political origins or its moments of military drama, glorious though these may seem to Americans in the flush of "victory."

Environmentalists should forgive themselves for being caught unprepared by the events of the past ten months. We cannot be forgiven if we fail to learn their lesson. We have greater capacity to secure the peace of the world than we may have realized. We have a small and inadequate window of time in which to wield that power—but that has always been true of the challenges we have undertaken. ■

CARL POPE is the Sierra Club's Associate Executive Director for Conservation and Communications.



GETTING AROUND SHOULDN'T BE SO EXHAUSTING.

Photograph Tony Stone Worldwide

Better fuel efficiency can save more than just a few dollars at the pump. It can help save us from the devastating effects of global warming. Cutting down on motor vehicle exhaust is the biggest single step we can take right now to fight air pollution and global warming. It's time to protect our precious atmosphere. And stop exhausting our planet's resources.

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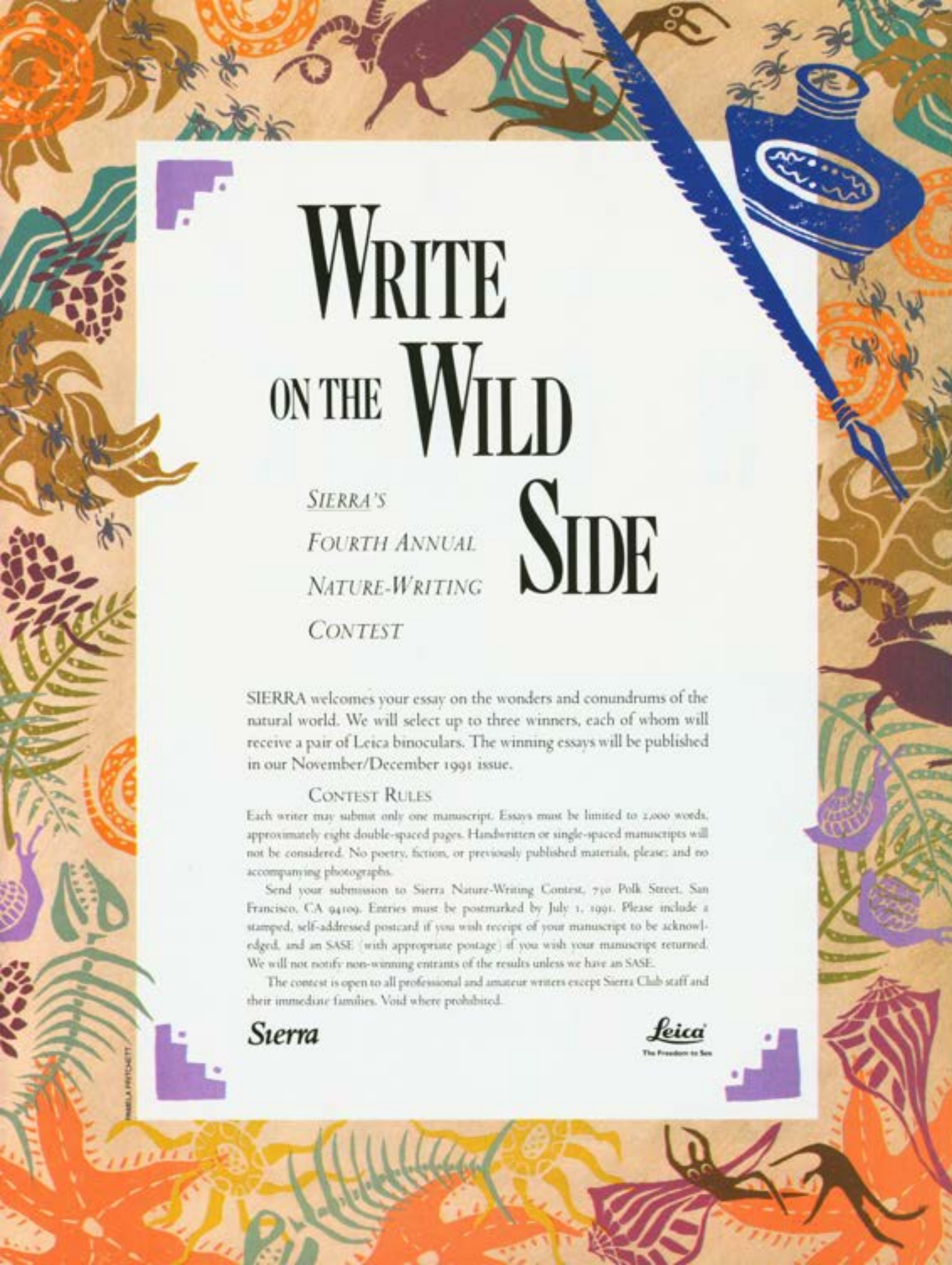
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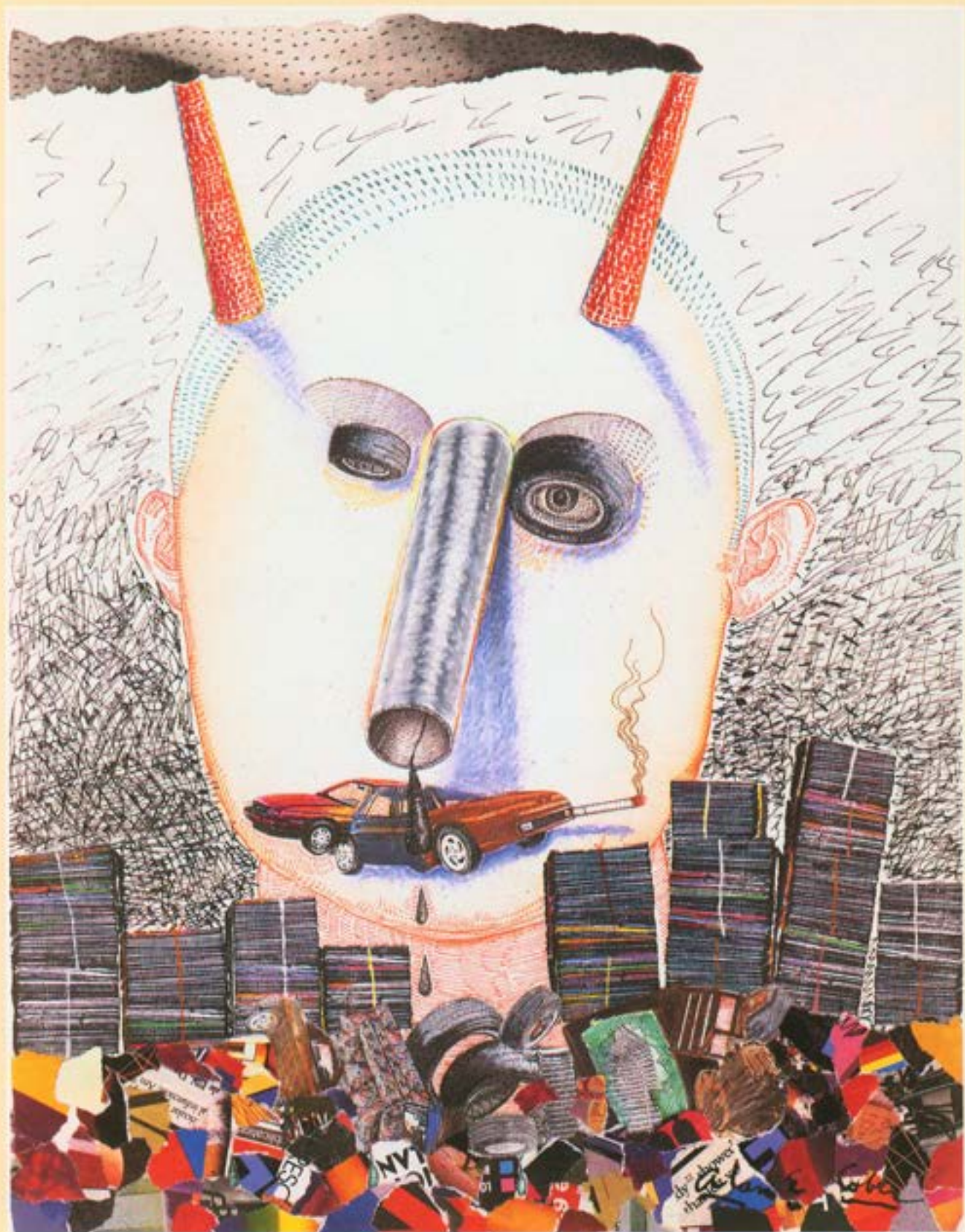
WORKS

In a powerful display of mutual commitment, 150 of America's foremost graphic artists have donated their time and talents to a major exhibition devoted to environmental themes. "The Illustrator and the

Environment: Art for Survival" was developed by the Society of Illustrators in conjunction with Earth Island Institute and the United Nations Environment Programme, and curated by Charlotte Bralds. ■ Working in an assortment of media and from a variety of perspectives, the contributing artists express their common concern for the well-being of the planet. *Sierra* is delighted to help communicate that concern to our broad audience in the pages that follow. ■ Each image from the project will be included in a deluxe edition to be published later this year by Graphis Press (141 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016); plans are under way for a traveling exhibit to coincide with the publication date.



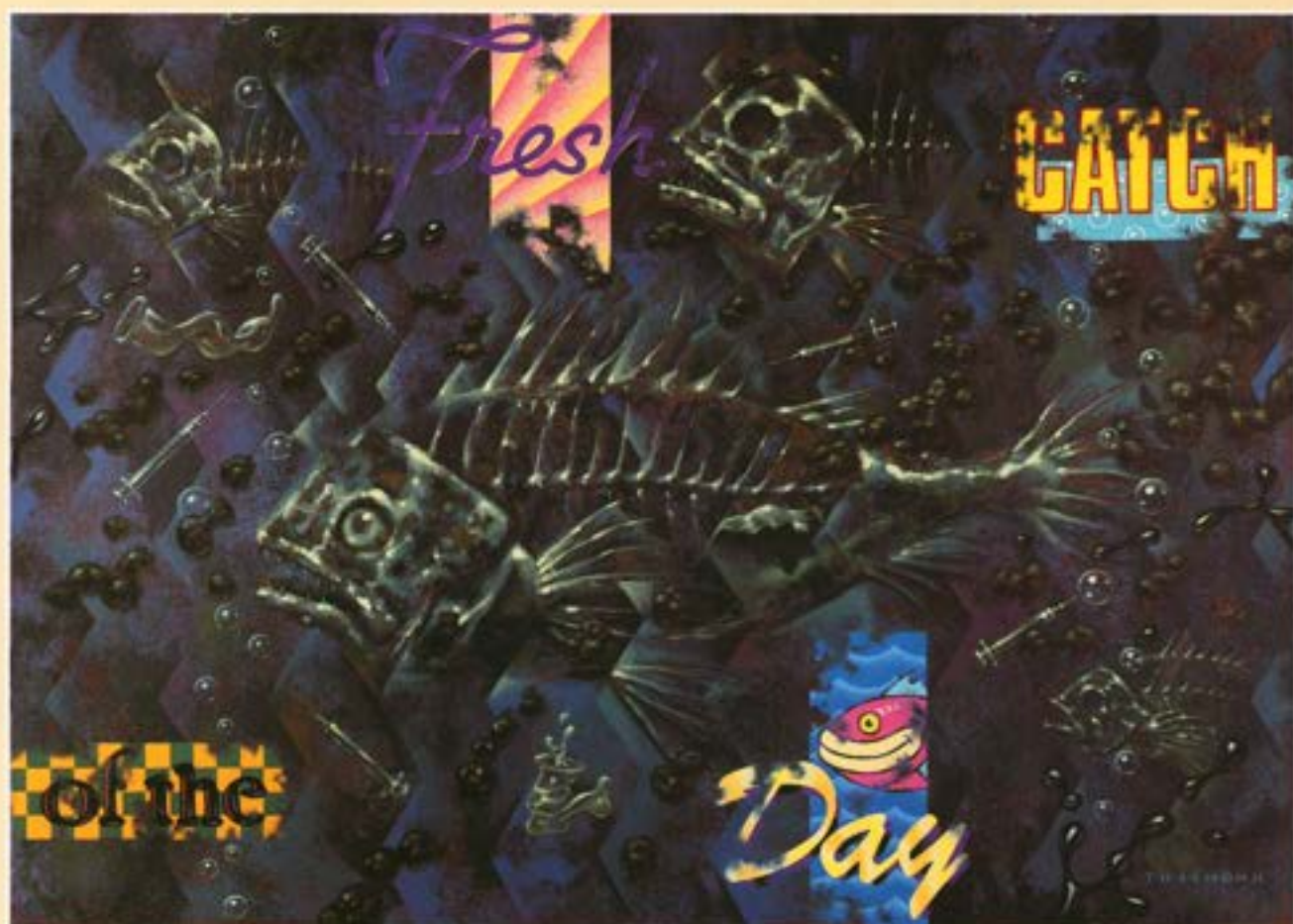
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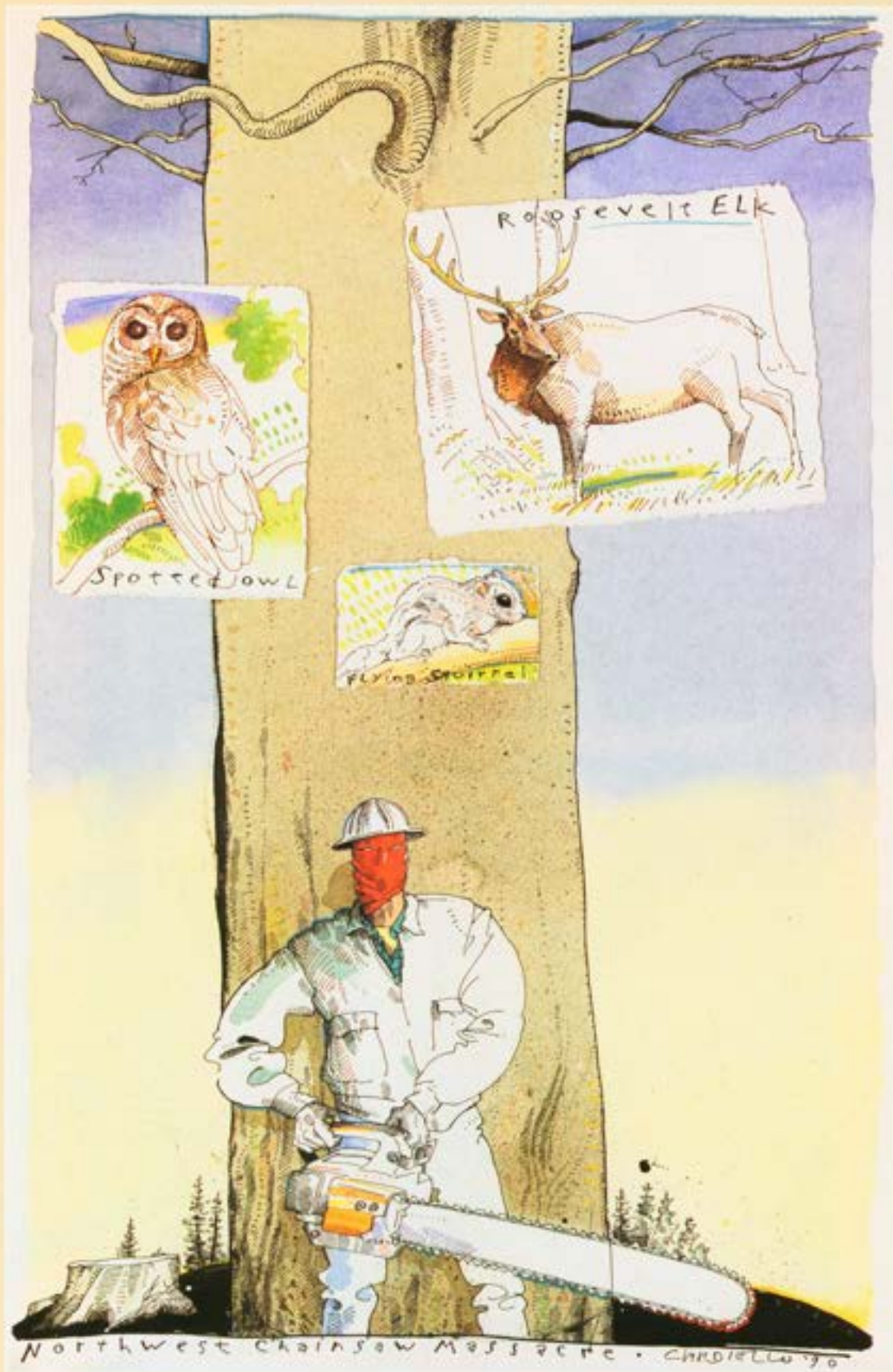


PAUL BUNYAN'S PINWHEEL

BY ALEX MURAWSKI



THE LAST CALL • BY WENDELL MINOR

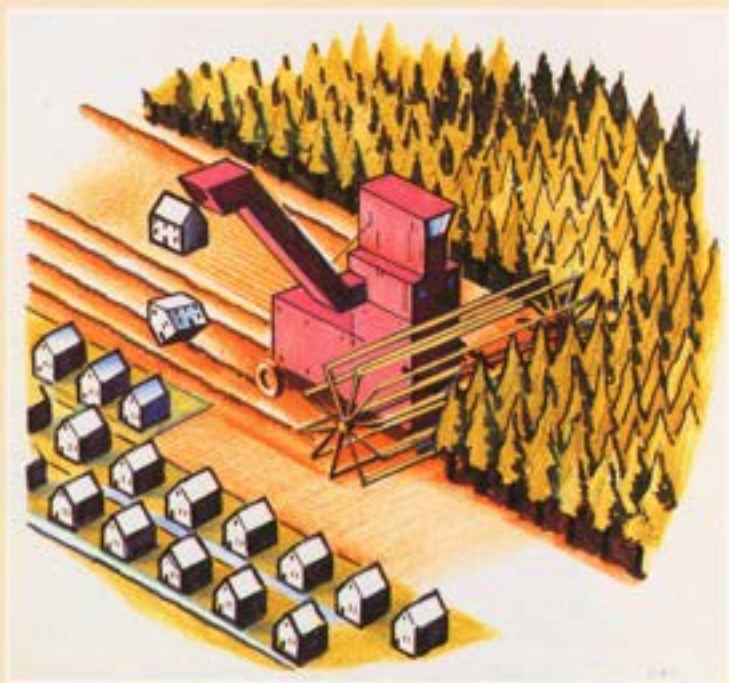


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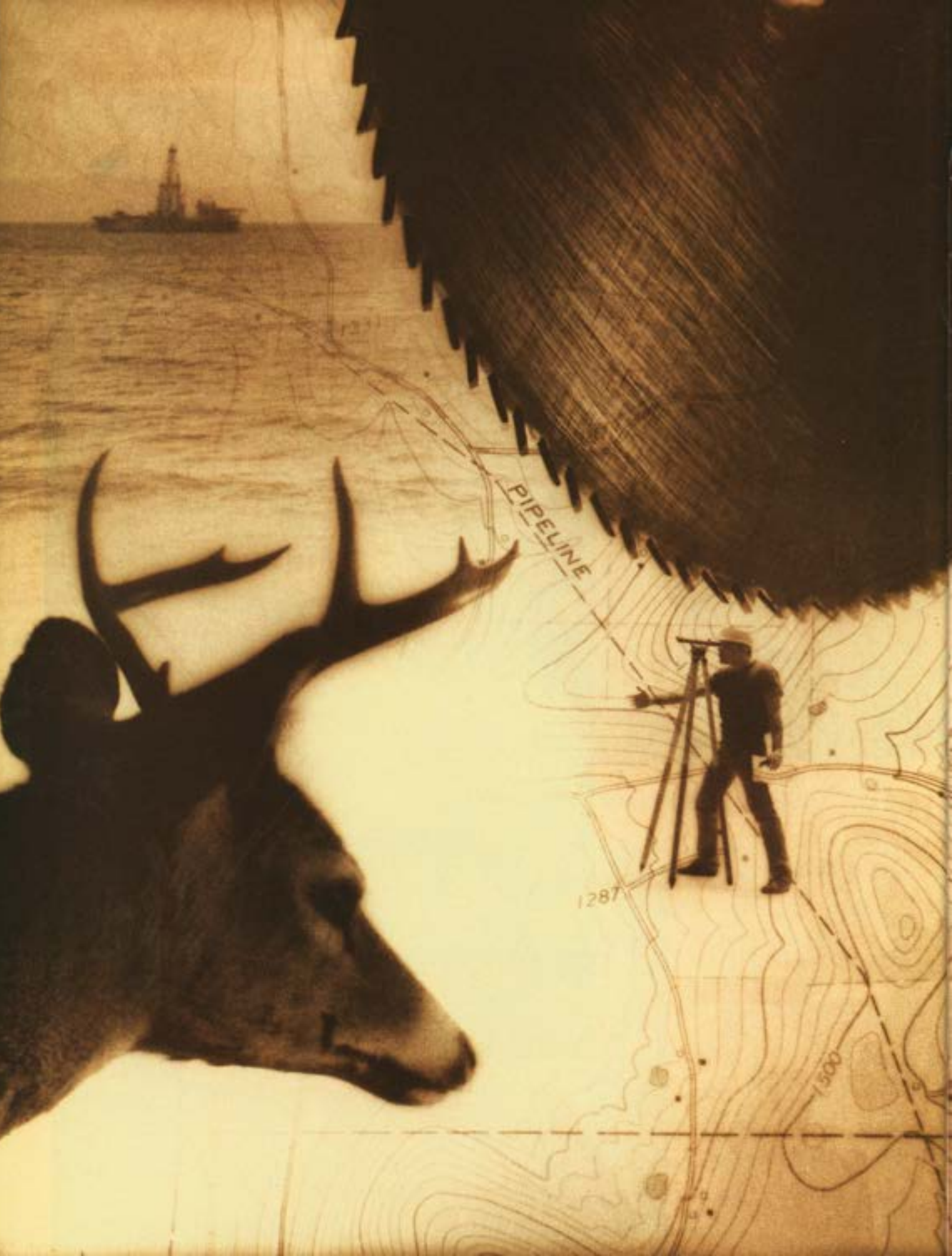


SUNSET IN THE YEAR 2001

BY DANIEL SCHWARTZ



FAMILY • BY GARY KELLEY





WISE GUISE

The environmental movement is filled with pointy-headed pagans who don't give a damn about people. So says a group of folks who call themselves conservationists...

From where he sits in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, Mike Nickols sees little wrong on Earth—certainly nothing serious enough to warrant putting people out of work or denying them simple pleasures. Nickols and his friends ranch and cut timber, and on weekends they take to the woods in all-terrain vehicles. They've been doing these things for years, and to their eyes the valley looks none the worse for wear.

But some people, Nickols thinks—people off in New York and San Francisco and wherever—have been so fooled into thinking the environment is about to die that they're organizing to dismantle the timber industry, chase cattle off the public lands, and seize every acre they can as wilderness for backpackers only.

Nickols got so mad about what those people were doing in his valley that he started a neighborhood association to fight back. He thought long and hard about what to call his organization, wanting to imply that it wasn't an industry front but a genuine movement of little guys. And he wanted the name to speak to his central beliefs: that public land has many uses, and none of it has to be locked away. He settled

BY DAN BAUM

on Grassroots for Multiple Use.

Nickols convened the group's first meeting in March 1990. By late that summer he had attracted 1,400 members from an area with a population of about 25,000.

"It started out very timber-oriented," he says. "But at a rally a guy stood up and said, 'Hey, I'm a snowmobiler, and they're shutting us out! And then the cattlemen got in, and then some folks with mining claims. We see this environmentalist movement gathering steam and getting ready to run right over the top of us.'"

Dozens of organizations similar to Grassroots for Multiple Use have sprung up in the past three years, mostly in the West. Through newsletters, conferences, and rallies, farmers are finding common cause with snowmobilers, hunters with loggers, ranchers with miners, dirt-bikers with millworkers. By some estimates it's a movement with more than 50 million potential members, bound by a fervent belief that designating public land as wilderness is elitist, unnecessary, undemocratic, even vaguely un-Christian. What's more, certain of the movement's leaders say, preservation is bad for business. "Wilderness has no economic value," writes Henry Yake, a past president of the BlueRibbon Coalition, a confederation of 220 off-

road-vehicle organizations headquartered in Pocatello, Idaho. "No timbering, no oil and gas production, no mining, no livestock grazing, no motorized recreation."

The growing anti-wilderness crusade in the United States defines itself as promoting "wise use" or, as in the case of Nickols' organization, "multiple use" of public land. "The very essence of conservation is the wise use of resources," says Ron Arnold, the 53-year-old ex-Sierra Club activist who coined the term and is the burgeoning movement's chief ideologue.

The slogan "wise use" has been carefully designed for a time when a large majority of Americans regularly tell pollsters of their concern for the environment. Wise-use activists call themselves conservationists, but their brand of conservation is, in Arnold's words, "pro-industry, pro-development, pro-people." Arnold is succinct when it comes to his feelings about those who espouse a different definition; he once vowed to "destroy the environmental movement once and for all."


Resistance to wilderness and environmental regulation has been around for years, but the wise-use movement started organizing on the grassroots level only in 1988, at the first of three confer-

ences sponsored by the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise (CDFE), a somewhat amorphous organization (directed by Arnold in Bellevue, Washington) "devoted to protecting the freedom of Americans to enter the marketplace of commerce and the marketplace of ideas without undue government restriction." The "Multiple Use Strategy Conference" brought to Reno, Nevada, almost 300 representatives of sympathetic organizations, from the Cougar Mountain Snowmobile Association of Boise to Exxon U.S.A. (Exxon Corporation's exploration and drilling subsidiary); from the Jackalopes Motorcycle Club of Taos to the National Rifle Association. Out of that conference came a slim volume called *The Wise Use Agenda*. While not all who call themselves wise-use activists agree with every point, and local groups focus on the issues of specific concern to themselves, the *Agenda* stands as the official, printed conscience of the movement. Among its "top 25 goals" are:

- clearcutting old growth on national-forest lands;
- rewriting the Endangered Species Act to remove protection for such "non-adaptive species" as the California condor;
- immediate oil-drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;
- opening all public lands—including national parks and wilderness areas—to mineral and energy production;
- development of national parks under the direction of "private firms with expertise in people-moving, such as Walt Disney";
- civil penalties against anyone who legally challenges "economic action or development on federal lands."

The Wise Use Agenda contains a congratulatory telegram from George Bush and features a back-cover photo of the smiling president alongside CDFE president Alan Gottlieb, a convicted tax felon who got his political training in Young Americans for Freedom and Youth Against McGovern.

Items from the *Agenda* have found their way from Reno to Washington,



There is a significant constituency out there not convinced our environment is in trouble, and that considers those who think otherwise a snobbish, unfair, and even blasphemous threat to honest American livelihoods and lifestyles.

Ugly Guys With Baseball Bats

D.C.: Three bills were introduced in Congress last year that appeared to have been taken straight from the document. The Community Stability Act would have placed the economic effects of timber policy above environmental effects; the Recreational Trails Fund Act would have diverted a portion of federal gasoline taxes to build motorized-vehicle recreation trails; and the National Forest Plan Implementation Act would have put production ahead of all other forest values.

The three pieces of legislation died before reaching the floor, but they "probably wouldn't have been introduced if not for a lot of pressure from these wise-use groups," says Bill Arthur, the Sierra Club's Northwest representative.

Another *Agenda* item was written into the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, designed to eliminate discrimination against the disabled. One provision of the new law requires a study to see if the Wilderness Act of 1964—which bars any mechanical vehicles from designated wilderness—should be amended to admit motorized wheelchairs. That sounds innocuous, but BlueRibbon Coalition president Clark Collins, who helped get the provision included in the bill, says he hopes it will bring a large, non-industrial constituency into alliance with wise-use groups.

Wise-use activists may not have enjoyed great legislative success yet, but they're putting together quite a machine. The Turner Broadcasting System felt the hot breath of wise-users in September 1989 when it planned to air "Rage Over Trees," an Audubon Society documentary about the logging industry. Turner and its advertisers were hit by a cyclone of letters, phone calls, and faxes protesting the film even before it was aired, with the result that every sponsor dropped out. "Often they were identical calls," says Joel Westbrook, Turner's vice-president for nonfiction development. "They already had the system together to get at this show. They couldn't have organ-

continued on page 92

The wise-use movement is not limited to lobbying and education. One of its byproducts is the Sahara Club, a Southern California-based organization of off-road motorcyclists, miners, ranchers, and loggers who have declared war on environmentalists.

"You have to do whatever you feel is necessary to fight our enemy and fight for our freedom," the club's newsletter advises its 4,100 members. "We don't want to know who you are, or what you're doing, BUT GET THE JOB DONE!"

The Sahara Club's enemies have multiplied since it was founded in 1989 by 51-year-old Rick Sieman, a professional off-road racer, and Louis "The Phantom Duck" McKey. Its original foes were everyone who opposed the enormous annual Barstow-to-Las Vegas dirt-bike race: the Sierra Club, Earth First! (which on several occasions disrupted the race), and the Bureau of Land Management, which finally banned the event in 1989. Since that time, targets of abuse have included California Senator Alan Cranston (sponsor of desert-protection legislation), Hollywood stars who support environmental causes, and even the American Motorcycle Association, derided by Sieman as "a bunch of wimps."

Crude harassment is the favored Sahara Club tactic. "We will disrupt Earth First! meetings and eco-freak activities as much as we can," says Sieman. To assist in this endeavor, his newsletter publishes the names, addresses, and phone numbers of its enemies "to make them responsible for their actions," as Sieman puts it. The newsletter attempts to stop somewhat short of directly advocating violence: The third issue, for example, merely offers a \$100 "bounty" for the arrest of any Earth First! member breaking the law. "At first we were thinking of offering a \$150 reward if the Earth First!er was delivered to the cops with a bloody nose and a few broken bones, but our lawyer advised us against this, saying it was illegal. Then there's the fact that so many of them are homos that you might get splashed with AIDS-tainted blood."

As Sieman views it, the Sahara Club is only reacting to the "anti-land-use scum" who want to "lock up" the desert. "We will defend ourselves in a very, very strong fashion," he boasts. "We have a special division of the Sahara Club called the Sahara Clubbers; I'm the smallest, at 220 pounds. Our biggest are ugly, 300-pound desert riders. If indeed we find Earth First!ers setting traps, we're going to take care of them with baseball bats. If the police can't take care of business, we're going to take care of business for them."

Recently, the Sahara Club has expanded beyond the Southern California desert, linking up with other western wise-use groups. Last August, toward the end of the anti-clearcutting "Redwood Summer" protests, Sieman traveled to Northern California to present a "Dirty Tricks Workshop" for local anti-environmental groups. Shortly afterwards, the Arcata Action Center, where Redwood Summer activities were being coordinated, received a visit from a man wearing dark glasses and a hat pulled low over his face. He deposited a box heavily wrapped in duct tape on a table, then fled when asked his name. Office staff assumed the object was a bomb and called the police; the man was apprehended and charged with placing a facsimile explosive. After it was doused with water, the package was found to contain not a bomb but something equally incendiary: the Sahara Club newsletter. —Paul Rauber

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22. Old Town Canoe Company Thirty-five classic canoes. Rugged, affordable modern materials and traditional wood. Call 24 hours. 1-800-543-4340. Free.

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24. Programme for Belize Join a task force organized to acquire 150,000 acres of tropical forest, to engage in reef protection, and to provide natural-resources consultancy to the government of Belize. Free information.

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OPEN-TRIP LIST

Sphinx Lake, Kings Canyon National Park, California

Space is still available on a number of 1991 Sierra Club Outings. If you act promptly, you can probably find a spot on one of the trips listed below. Refer to the 1991 Outings Catalog (January/February *Sierra*) for a complete list of 1991 trips and trip descriptions. Check with the Outing Department for trips not listed below—vacancies

may occur. Please see the catalog for our reservation and cancellation policy and a trip application form. Read the policy carefully before applying. To order more information on any of the 1991 outings, send for the trip brochure using the coupon on page 78. A listing of 1992 Foreign Trips will be published in the July/August *Sierra*.

Trip Number	Dates	Trip Fee (including deposit)	Deposit Per Person	Leader	
ALASKA TRIPS (Prices do not include airfare to Alaska or charter air costs.)					
91102	Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, Katmai Park	June 17-28	1125	200	Gary Aguiar
91116	Ride the Alaska Range Bike Tour	Aug. 4-17	1525	200	Libby Dresel
91118	Central Alaska Van Tour	Aug. 19-Sept. 6	1750	200	John Ricker
BACKPACK TRIPS (See Alaska and Hawaii trips for other backpack outings. Rating Key: L = Light; M = Moderate; S = Strenuous.)					
91125	Leadership Training, Zion Park, UT (M)	June 16-22	145	50	Don McIver
91127	Monarch Divide, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra (M)	June 20-29	320	50	Diane Cook
91129	Mono and Silver Divides, Sierra Forest, Sierra (M-S)	June 23-30	320	50	Peter H. Frorer
91133	San Juan Mountains Cross-Country Route, CO (M)	July 1-8	430	50	Dan Galatzer
91141	Pine Creek Loop, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M)	July 9-18	380	50	Carol Murdock
91142	New Army Pass, Golden Trout Wilderness, Sierra (L-M)	July 12-15	185	50	Joseph Sinclair
91145	Cirque of the Towers, Wind River Range, WY (M-S)	July 12-21	485	50	Roger Grissette
91148	Natural History of the Trinity Alps, CA (M)	July 14-20	325	50	Gerry Dunie
91149	Alpine Lakes, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M)	July 14-21	335	50	Brian Jacobs
91150	Continental Divide Trail, San Juan Wilderness, CO (M-S)	July 14-21	345	50	John Sellers
91151	Lakes of the Emigrant Wilderness, Sierra (L-M)	July 14-21	275	50	Jerry Shluker
91153	Ramble in the Recesses, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M)	July 19-27	305	50	Lasta Tomasevich
91154	A Women's Walk in Adirondack Park, NY (M)	July 20-27	295	50	Edith Schell
91156	The Zirkel Circle, Routt Forest, CO (M)	July 21-28	340	50	Gene Goldberg
91158	Beetlebug Lake, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M-S)	July 22-30	295	50	Cal French
91159	Fountains of the Kings, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra (M-S)	July 22-31	330	50	Jim Watters
91160	Rocky Basin Ramble, Golden Trout Wilderness, Sierra (M)	July 23-30	285	50	Bill Engs

Trip Number	Dates	Trip Fee (including deposit)	Deposit Per Person	Leader	
91161	Mt. Electra, Ansel Adams Wilderness, Sierra (M-S)	July 25-Aug. 4	395	50	Mari Calhoun
91163	Triple Divide Peak, Sequoia Park, Sierra (M-S)	July 27-Aug. 4	285	50	TBA
91166	North Boundary Crest, Yosemite Park, Sierra (M)	July 28-Aug. 4	295	50	Eric Sieke
91167	Mt. Brewer Loop, Sequoia Park, Sierra (M)	Aug. 2-9	280	50	Bob Madsen
91168	Bloody Mountain, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M)	Aug. 2-10	375	50	Al Lyon
91169	For a King's Ransom, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 2-10	315	50	Scott Kingham
91171	Great Western Divide, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 3-11	310	50	Terry Flood
91172	Collegiate Peaks Wilderness Adventure, CO (M-S)	Aug. 3-12	320	50	Al Ossinger
91173	Continental Divide, E-W, Rocky Mountain Park, CO (M)	Aug. 4-10	360	50	Jim Halverson
91174	Continental Divide, W-E, Rocky Mountain Park, CO (M-S)	Aug. 4-10	360	50	Jack B. Zirker
91175	More Wildflowers of the San Juan Wilderness, CO (M)	Aug. 4-10	445	50	Gerry Dunie
91180	Glacier Divide, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 9-18	340	50	Cahit Kitaplioglu
91181	A Glimpse of Baxter Park for Photographers, ME (M-S)	Aug. 11-17	395	50	Laurie J. Buck
91186	Blackcap Basin, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (L-M)	Aug. 13-24	425	50	Mac Downing
91187	Siberian Outpost, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (L-M)	Aug. 15-24	365	50	Paul McKown
91189	Palisade Adventure, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra (L-M)	Aug. 16-24	405	50	Joe Uzarski
91190	Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Divide, CO (M)	Aug. 16-25	330	50	Joanie & Mike Hoffmann
91191	Sierra Crest Zigzag, Ansel Adams Wilderness and Yosemite Park, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 17-24	310	50	Carol & Dexter Hake
91194	Sierra Crest Ramble, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M)	Aug. 18-25	300	50	Denise LaBuda
91196	Colorado's Largest Wilderness: The Weminuche (M-S)	Aug. 18-28	430	50	Gary Cline
91198	John Muir and the Three Bears, Sierra Forest, Sierra (M)	Aug. 22-31	375	50	Barry Bolden
91199	Pyramid Peak, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 22-31	320	50	Gordon Peterson
91201	Valhalla Vista, Sequoia Park, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 25-31	235	50	Frances & David Reneau
91203	Yosemite Natural History, Yosemite Park, Sierra (M-S)	Aug. 25-Sept. 1	325	50	Alan Stahler
91204	Wheeler Peak, Great Basin Park, NV (M-S)	Aug. 31-Sept. 7	325	50	Ellie Strodach
91206	Kaweah High Country Traverse, Sequoia Park, Sierra (S)	Sept. 1-8	275	50	John Kerr
91207	Convicts' Escape, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M)	Sept. 4-12	315	50	Vic Porter
91208	Mammoth Crest, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (L-M)	Sept. 6-14	375	50	Lou Wilkinson
91209	Silver Divide, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra (M-S)	Sept. 7-15	315	50	Bill Flower
91211	Hermit Basin/Bright Angel Loop, Grand Canyon, AZ (S)	Sept. 15-21	450	50	Bob Cole
91212	Summer's End in the Adirondacks, NY (M-S)	Sept. 15-21	395	50	Ken Limmer
91214	Fall Color: Lake Superior Pictured Rocks, MI (L-M)	Sept. 22-28	360	50	Jack Thompson
91215	Mesas Milagrosas: The Continental Divide Trail, NM (M)	Sept. 22-28	295	50	Brian Johnson
92430	Thunder River, Grand Canyon Park, AZ (S)	Sept. 28-Oct. 5	270	50	Gene Glenn
92432	San Francisco River Canyon, NM and AZ (L)	Oct. 6-12	315	50	Don Lyngholm
92433	Oklahoma Wilderness: Grassland to Granite (M)	Oct. 26-Nov. 2	280	50	John Sellers
92434	Winter Solstice, Grand Canyon Park, AZ (M-S)	Dec. 16-22	330	50	Bob Madsen

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For information please contact:

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Trip Number	Dates	Trip Fee (including deposit)	Deposit Per Person	Leader	
BASE CAMP TRIPS					
91219	Spring in Canada's Coast Mountain Wilderness, Tweedsmuir Park, British Columbia	May 27-June 2	1340	200	Katie Hayhurst & Dennis Kuch
91223B	Donner Pass Art, Hiking, and High Living, Sierra	June 16-22	355	50	Barbara Poole
BICYCLE TRIPS (See Alaska, Foreign, and Hawaii trips for other bicycle outings.)					
91233	Southern Oregon Coast	June 9-15	520	100	Peter Bengtson
91234	Finger Lakes Tour, NY	July 7-13	395	50	Maggie Seeger
91235	Mountain Biking in Adirondack Park, NY	Aug. 4-9	570	100	John Borel
91236	Central and Southern Vermont	Aug. 11-17	365	50	F. Traficante
91239	Lake Placid Circuit, Adirondack Park, NY	Aug. 18-24	660	100	M. Rivard
BURRO TRIP					
91248	In the Shadow of the Ritter Range, Sierra	Aug. 18-25	520	100	Rich Hamstra
FAMILY TRIPS					
91253	Havasu Canyon Backpack, Grand Canyon, AZ	June 9-15	Adult/Child 485/325	100*	Beth & Bob Flores
91257	Finger Lakes Toddler Tromp, Finger Lakes Forest, NY	July 14-20	360/250 *per family	100*	Valerie & Larry White
FOREIGN TRIPS (All Foreign trips are tier-priced; prices do not include airfare.)					
Africa					
91827	Kenya Game Parks and Preserves: Aardvarks to Zebras	June 24-July 6	2995/3250	200	Gary Dillon
91850	Victoria Falls and the Parks of Zimbabwe and Botswana	Aug. 5-19	3410/3665	200	Mary O'Connor
Asia					
91840	Himalayan Traverse—Zaskar and Ladakh, India	July 8-Aug. 8	2575/2790	200	Peter Owens & David Horsley
92501	Rajasthan Desert Kingdoms, India	Sept. 14-Oct. 2	2360/2610	200	Bob Madsen
92505	Happy Birthday, Confucius! China Walking and Study Tour	Sept. 25-Oct. 14	2605/2860	200	Phil Gowing
92515	Annapurna Circuit, Nepal	Oct. 5-31	2175/2385	200	Jerry Clegg
92520	Kangchenjunga: Spirit of the Great Snows, Nepal	Nov. 4-Dec. 4	2560/2795	200	Patrick Colgan
92535	Langtang Holiday Trek, Nepal	Dec. 21, 1991-Jan. 3, 1992	1355/1520	200	Kern Hildebrand
92550	A Journey To Thailand: Temples, Hills, and Beaches	Feb. 11-27, 1992	2230/2490	200	Wayne Martin
Europe					
91822	Walking in the West Country, England	June 8-22	2470/2750	200	Robin Brooks
91828	Cycling the Hebrides and Highlands, Scotland	June 28-July 9	2305/2560	200	John Rogers
91835	Sleeping Beauty Awakes: A Glimpse of Czechoslovakia	July 8-20	2720/2975	200	Diana Bunting
91847	Hut-Hopping in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland	July 22-Aug. 3	2460/2715	200	Modesto Piazza
Latin America					
91830	Amazon Villages and Machu Picchu, Peru	June 29-July 11	2810/3065	200	Sallee Lotz
91845	The Magical Galápagos Islands, Ecuador	July 12-25	2675/3025	200	C. Castleman
91870	Brazil's Amazon Basin and Pantanal: Nature's Wonders	Sept. 19-28	2265/2520	200	John Garcia
92513	River Rafting, Jungle and Beach Adventure, Costa Rica	Oct. 20-26	1835/2075	200	J. Victor Monke
92525	Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, Argentina	Nov. 12-28	3445/3700	200	Carol Dienger
92530	Thanksgiving in Belize: Reef and Ruins, Central America	Nov. 23-Dec. 2	1800/2025	200	Margie Tomenko
92540	Holidays in Belize: Reef and Ruins, Central America	Dec. 22-31	1800/2025	200	Peter Owens
92545	Holiday Kayaking in the Sea of Cortez, Mexico	Dec. 23-29	1220/1300	200	Harry Neal
92555	Magdalena Bay Whale-Watching, Baja California, Mexico	Feb. 16-22, 1992	1295/1375	200	Jon Kangas
Mediterranean					
92510	Egypt and the High Sinai	Oct. 12-26	2465/2715	200	Ginger Harmon
Soviet Union					
91825	Trans-Soviet Adventure	June 17-July 5	3450/3705	200	Dolph Amster
91857	Bike and Hike in the Soviet Union	July 22-Aug. 9	3200/3455	200	Frances Colgan
HAWAII TRIPS					
91268	Kilauea Point Wildlife Refuge Habitat Restoration, Kauai	June 16-23	760	100	Suzanne Ortiz
91269	Kauai Coastal Wilderness Sea Kayak	June 25-July 1	1015	200	Carolyn Braun
91270	Helping Preserve Hawaii's Special Places	June 25-July 4	870	100	A. Kaohelaulii
91272	Bicycle Tour of Kauai	July 7-21	1080	200	John Ruzek
92451	Big Island Coasts, Hawaii	Oct. 1-12	910	100	George Winsley

Trip Number	Dates	Trip Fee (including deposit)	Deposit Per Person	Leader	
HIGHLIGHT TRIPS (See Alaska trips for another Highlight outing.)					
91278	Glacial Basins Route, Inyo Forest, Sierra	July 13-25	1120	200	Len Lewis
91279	Palisade Mountains of Wyoming	July 14-20	855	100	Ernie Jackson
91280	Ansel Adams Wilderness, Yosemite Park, Sierra	July 14-23	975	100	Richard Terra
91281	Wet Canyons of Southeast Utah, Van and Hiking Tour	July 21-27	750	100	Joseph Sinclair
91283	Cirque Crest, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra	July 28-Aug. 7	1085	200	Jerry Clegg
91284	Sawtooth Wilderness, ID	Aug. 8-16	995	100	Modesto Piazza
91285	Cloud and Deadman Canyons, Kings Canyon Park, Sierra	Aug. 18-29	925	100	Bruce Gillies
91286	Seven Gables, John Muir Wilderness, Sierra	Sept. 7-14	845	100	Gus Benner
91287	Muir Crest Trek, Inyo Forest and Kings Canyon Park, Sierra	Sept. 8-21	1215	200	Bill Davies
92454	Thanksgiving in the Desert, Arizona and Mexico	Nov. 22-30	675	100	John Ricker
SERVICE TRIPS (See Hawaii trips for more Service outings.)					
91296	Fish Creek Trail Project, Apache Forest, AZ	June 8-15	125	50	Rod Ricker
91300	Ukonom Lake, Marble Mountain Wilderness, CA	June 19-28	195	50	John Sherman
91301	Sierra Club's Own Trail Project, Sierra Forest, Sierra	June 20-30	195	50	Bill Weinberg
91308	Cottonwood Lakes Basin, Sierra	July 10-20	195	50	Jeff Myll
91310	Pine Valley Trail Maintenance, Dixie Forest, UT	July 13-20	195	50	Paul Pochan
91313	Deer Creek, Trinity Alps, CA	July 16-26	195	50	David Stern
91314	Beginners' Trail Reconstruction, Washakie Wilderness, WY	July 16-26	195	50	TBA
91326	Pike Forest Trail Maintenance, CO	July 20-28	195	50	Larry Wheelock
91329	Honeymoon Lake Trail Maintenance, Inyo Forest, Sierra	July 28-Aug. 7	195	50	Bill Gibson
91332	Mt. Evans Wilderness Trail Maintenance, CO	July 31-Aug. 10	195	50	Ron Thomas
91336	Mandall Creek Trail, Flat Tops Wilderness, CO	Aug. 2-12	195	50	Bart Hobson
91339	Hidden Lake, Selkirk Range, ID	Aug. 3-13	195	50	Didi Toasperm
91349	Bear Creek Canyon Trail Maintenance, Sierra Forest, Sierra	Aug. 10-20	195	50	Gary Anderson
91350	Pemigwasset Wilderness Bog Bridge Project, NH	Aug. 11-16	195	50	Andy Sipp
91351	Hidden Lake Trail Maintenance, Panhandle Forest, ID	Aug. 17-27	195	50	Rowena Villarias
91352	Mystic Lake, Mt. Rainier Park, WA	Aug. 17-27	195	50	P. Van Haagen
91353	Yosemite Revegetation Project, Yosemite Park, Sierra	Aug. 18-29	325	50	C. E. Vollum
91371	Pictured Rocks Lakeshore, MI	Sept. 8-18	210	50	Larry Ten Pas
91372	Golden Link Trail, Gila Wilderness, NM	Sept. 14-22	195	50	Linda Buchser
92457	Chiricahua Wilderness Trail Maintenance, AZ	Sept. 24-Oct. 4	195	50	Sherri Serna
92459	Zion Trail Construction, Zion Park, UT	Sept. 30-Oct. 8	210	50	Dan Galatzer
92464	Trail Building, Buffalo River, Ozark Forest, AR	Oct. 20-26	195	50	Mark Winn
WATER TRIPS (See Hawaii trips for other Water outings.)					
Boat					
91379	The Escalante via Lake Powell, UT	June 2-8	570	100	Ron Miller
Canoe					
91382	Trinity River, Northern California	July 28-Aug. 2	505	100	Carol Malcolm
91384	Raquette River, Adirondack Park, NY	Aug. 10-17	680	100	Kevin Cresci
Kayak					
91381	High Sierra Lakes by Kayak, Sierra	July 21-27	1155	200	Margie Tomenko
91389	California Bays Sampler	Sept. 16-21	1200	200	Laura Short
92467	Sea-Kayaking the Atlantic Coast, MD and VA	Oct. 13-19	435	50	Bob Hartman

For More Details on Outings

Outings are described more fully in trip brochures, which are available from the Outing Department. Trips vary in size, cost, and the physical stamina and experience required. New members may have difficulty judging which trips are best suited to their abilities and interests. Don't sign up for the wrong one! Ask for the trip brochure before you make your reservations to save yourself the cost and inconvenience of changing or canceling a reservation. The first three brochures are free. Please enclose 50 cents apiece for extras. Write or phone the trip leader if any further questions remain.

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The Military and the Sublime

FORT SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS

ALTHOUGH THE PERSIAN GULF conflict has rumbled to a conclusion, its ripple effects are still being felt in the Midwest. The clash has helped to shape a land-use controversy on the scenic shores of Lake Michigan just north of Chicago—a skirmish that might be called the Battle for Fort Sheridan.

At issue are about 700 acres of some of Illinois' most valuable real estate: the oak-shaded acreage of Fort Sheridan, a picturesque Army base bordering spectacular cliffs at lake's edge. The fort is dotted with buildings dating from the 1880s as well as with 1960s-style ranchettes.

The conflict began two years ago when Congress and the Department of Defense (DOD) decided to close the fort as part of a nationwide "base realignment" and to relocate the current occupants, the Fourth U.S. Army Headquarters and the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, to larger quarters.



The DOD wants to sell the fort; vying to acquire or preserve all or part of it are some big guns, and others not so big. The Navy is the most powerful contender: It wants to take over about 330 of the fort's existing houses. Next comes the Department of Veterans Affairs, whose request to expand the fort's existing cemetery from 7 to 188 acres could well be granted as a result of the increased clout all military and veterans' groups have gained in the wake of the recent war.

Then comes a handful of North Shore communities that border the fort and want to develop the complex. Bringing up the rear is an assortment of conservation groups that want the National Park Service to take over the fort and manage it as a national lakeshore. Each of these rival factions has its own vision for the property.

"The fort contains an 18-hole golf course that should be retained," says the mayor of Highland Park, an upscale community on the fort's southern edge. He'd support construction of two resi-

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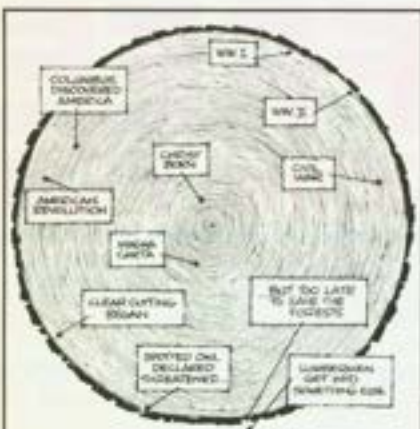
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dential homes per acre, he adds.

"The golf course should become part of a veterans' cemetery," says a supervisor of Lake County, which abuts the fort's northern perimeter.

"We need a cemetery there like I need to go to the moon," the mayor of tiny Highwood, west of the fort, told a Chicago-area newspaper. The mayor wants a chunk of Fort Sheridan in order to expand his town's commercial development.

"Keep the whole area preserved as open space," says a Sierra Club representative. "This is the last and best chance we'll have to get a national lakeshore in Illinois. This is precious land, the likes of which is to be found nowhere else along the North Shore."

Precious indeed: After the Army relinquishes the more than century-old fort, the DOD will have the option of selling the property or giving it away; estimates of the going price range from \$35 million to nearly \$500 million—that is, from \$50,000 to \$700,000 per acre. Conservationists, not surprisingly, say the fort's worth should not be measured in real-estate terms, but in view of its priceless historical setting and natural landscape.

"The fort is a mixture of the military and the sublime," says Carolyn Rafensperger of the Sierra Club's Illinois Chapter. "Forty-foot bluffs overlook the lake; deep ravines harboring threatened and endangered plant species cut through the terrain; a beach runs along the shore." And in the center of the fort, clustered amid a grove of oak trees said to be some 900 years old, stand handsome brick buildings and a landmark water tower dating from the late 1800s.

Virtually everyone in the dispute concurs that at least some parts of Fort Sheridan should be preserved as natural areas. No one, however, agrees on which parts, or on who should manage them. Mediating the dispute is Representative John E. Porter (R-Ill.), who chairs the Fort Sheridan Commission, a body set up to advise Defense Secretary Richard Cheney on how to dispose of the property. From its inception, the commission has been embroiled in controversy.

"There's more political intrigue here than meets the eye," says Gerry Rodell, chair of the Sierra Club's North Suburban Group. The construction industry is lobbying Representative Porter hard for permission to build on the fort, he notes, while the DVA is capitalizing on "an intimidating groundswell of support" stemming from the recent Gulf war.

Unfortunately, says the Club's Rafensperger, "If a decision were made right now, Fort Sheridan could well become another casualty of the war with Iraq."

The best hope for a national lakeshore at Fort Sheridan, says the Sierra Club, is for conservationists to lobby key decision-makers: Representative Porter; his colleague, Sidney Yates, chair of the House Interior subcommittee; Senator Alan J. Dixon (an Illinois Democrat who serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee); Defense Secretary Cheney; and Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan. The Club wants them to bear in mind that, while a cemetery could easily go elsewhere, no alternatives exist for open space along Lake Michigan's North Shore.

—Mark Mardon

Rural Residents Face a Sweep

ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO Gordon and Sophie Tapper, acting on a lifelong dream of country living, settled in a remote meadow outside Gainesville in north-central Florida's Alachua County. Like many nearby residents—

most of whom own between five and ten acres of land—the Tappers moved to this rustic area, where cows and cornfields dominate the landscape, because Alachua County had zoned it as "rural-residential," a category allowing limited housing but no commercial development.

Soon, however, the Tappers may have a new neighbor, one with a spread nearly 25 times the size of theirs, and with a preference for parking lots over pastures. The county plans to allow the construction of a sports arena on 120 acres of agricultural land near the Tappers' home. When completed, the facility will include six softball diamonds (to be used for national semi-pro tournaments), 11 soccer fields, concession services, a souvenir shop, a video arcade, and parking lots big enough to accommodate the cars of the 300 to 500 people the events are expected to draw nightly.

Like many of his fellow escapees from the urban din, Gordon Tapper objects to such a mammoth project impinging on his chosen lifestyle. "Almost no one in this area I know wants this sports complex," he says. But the project's developer, L. L. "Skip" Clemons, feels that plenty of people will drive out from Gainesville and towns throughout the county to take advantage of the facility. "If there wasn't a demand for the softball fields, I certainly wouldn't build here," says Clemons, who has lived four miles from the site for 17 years.

He and the Alachua County Board of Commissioners believe the scheme will energize the local economy. During recent semi-pro softball tournaments held at schools in the town of Alachua, says Clemons, "tremendous crowds" filled every motel and revitalized small businesses in the community. "The economic impact could be astronomical," he enthuses.

Many in Alachua County, however, believe the county government's commercial interests are shortsighted, potentially illegal, and ecologically harmful. "Building this complex will be a toe in the door for rampant commercialization," says Owen Howard III, conservation chair of the Sierra Club's Florida Chapter, who has lived in the vicinity for 25 years.

To circumvent rural zoning restrictions, Alachua County commissioners tried to push through approval of the sports complex by deeming it a

"public park." But their gambit failed when residents learned that children would not be allowed to play on the fields during the day, and that anyone using the grounds after hours would be considered a trespasser. County officials then granted developer Clemons a "special use" permit, which Howard fears sets a precedent for future suburban sprawl.

With assistance from the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Howard, the Tappers, and other residents are challenging the county's approval of the complex. "The project is a good commercial idea in the wrong location," says attorney Bice Hope. "Sites are available in the county that already have municipal water and sewer systems in place."

More than the aesthetics of country life are threatened by Clemons' project, environmentalists say. The structure will sit on acreage draining into the Floridan Aquifer, from which eight counties and hundreds of thousands of people draw their drinking water. Since much of the land at the site is sandy, residents who pump their water from wells fear drinking water could easily become contaminated by pesticides (used to maintain playing-field turf) and sewage. "With the water table here only 25 or 30 feet below the surface, we're obviously concerned," says Howard.

Already, work on the sports arena is well under way. In February, as workers began putting down clay for the softball diamonds and laying lime rock for the parking lots, more potential victims of the complex were unearthed: several gopher tortoises, an endangered species. The builder's response was to move the reptiles to a new location and pave over their old habitat. To Howard, this action is one more indication of the arrogance with which the county and developer Clemons are pursuing their project. "They intend to build this thing regardless of the environmental and legal issues. But after we've had our day in court, they may just have to let the fields stand there empty."

—David Rompf



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SIERRA NOTES

The Earthcare Network is an information-sharing project of some 160 environmental groups worldwide. One of its principal goals is to help increase the stature and clout of conservationists in developing nations, where governments often do not take them seriously. On behalf of the network, the Sierra Club publishes *Earthcare Appeals*, a quarterly newsletter reporting on global environmental hot spots.

Recent issues included bulletins on the "teak war" along the Myanmar/Thailand border, the damming of Chile's Bio-Bio River, and a resort development that threatens the Piton Mountains of St. Lucia—the highest coastal peaks in the Caribbean. Each published report includes an address—usually of a government official or corporate director—to which activists can write expressing their concerns. The publication also seeks field reports from its readers. For a sample copy of *Earthcare Appeals* send \$2 to Sierra Club, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 7959, San Francisco, CA 94120. Sierra Club members who place their names on the Club's International Activist list receive the newsletter automatically. To sign up, write to Campaign Desk, Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109.

To help limit destruction of the environment by the military, the Sierra Club has adopted an environmental-security policy calling for, among other things, arms-control negotiations and limits on new military spending. The policy also supports diversification and conversion of the present U.S. military-industrial economy to one more open to pollution-control and renewable-energy programs. The policy, developed by the Club's Military Impacts on the Environment (MIE) Committee, urges the United States to recognize that its national security depends as much on environmental protection as on military prowess.

Sierra Club members who want to help further these goals may join the MIE activist network. Write to Madge Strong, 4415 View St., Oakland, CA 94611. Please indicate which Club chapter you belong to and the names of your members of Congress.

The Sierra Club learned with sorrow of the passing on March 8 of Honorary Vice-President Lewis Clark, 90. One of the Club's oldest and most continually active members, Clark served on the Board of Directors between 1933 and 1969 (including a term as President from 1949 to 1951). He was for many years the Club's Inspector of Elections. His Club honors included the Walter A. Starr Award (1972) and the William E. Colby Award (1987). He was instrumental in the funding and construction of the Clair Tappaan Lodge, as well as in the development of the Sierra Club's ski-mountaineering program.

"Re-use It or Lose It" is a new Sierra Club video examining efforts to solve the garbage crisis in North America. Produced by the Club's National Solid Waste Committee, the 20-minute tape explains how individuals, communities, and businesses can recycle to decrease the amount of waste they produce. Copies of the video may be purchased (\$20 each for Sierra Club members; \$25 for nonmembers) or rented on a one-week basis (\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers). Send orders with check or money order to Consolidated Media Services, 2565 Cloverdale Ave., Suite C, Concord, CA 94518-9955.

The Green Guide, a sourcebook for environmental educators, is a compilation of more than 470 teaching aids covering 67 topics. Prepared by the Sierra Club Environmental Education Committee, it catalogs free or inexpensive information on issues ranging from acid rain to wetlands preservation. Each entry includes a brief description of the

available material, its cost (if any), and an address from which it may be obtained. Copies of *The Green Guide* are \$6 each for Sierra Club members (\$8 for nonmembers) plus \$1.75 postage and handling from Sierra Club, Dept. SA, P.O. Box 7959, San Francisco, CA 94120.

Sierra Club Books presents the literature of heights in *One Step in the Clouds: The Sierra Club Omnibus of Mountaineering Fiction* (\$25). The volume, edited by Audrey Salkeld and Rosie Smith, includes four novels, two novellas, a play, and more than 30 short stories. An extensive bibliography describes virtually all published work in the field.

Journalist Augusta Dwyer traveled to Brazil to research and write *Into the Amazon: The Struggle for the Rain Forest* (\$10, paper). The book describes the waste, exploitation, and brutality that have turned much of that forested paradise into a "green hell." Dwyer offers a personal portrait of the late rubber tapper and forest defender Chico Mendes.

In *The Long Shore: A Psychological Experience of the Wilderness* (\$20), Jane Hollister Wheelwright and Lynda Wheelwright Schmidt draw on their insights and experiences as Jungian analysts to describe the power of the natural world to bring healing, inner balance, creativity, and wholeness to individuals and societies.

With tips on everything from haggling in a Marrakesh market to skiing in the Atlas Mountains to trekking across the Sahara Desert or the Hoggar Mountains of Algeria, Scott Wayne's *Adventuring in North Africa: The Sierra Club Travel Guide to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and the Maltese Islands* (\$16, paper) opens avenues to one of the world's more exotic locales.

These books may be ordered from the Sierra Club Store, Dept. T-150, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Include \$3 per order for shipping and handling. California residents should also enclose applicable sales tax. Sierra Club members may take a 10-percent discount from prices listed. Allow four weeks for delivery. ■

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Danger: River Crossing Ahead

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Marjorie McCloy

IT WAS COMING DOWN in sheets when Sophie and I awoke, a curtain of warm gray veiling the lush scenery of Nepal's Arun Valley. "We go!" called out our guide, Galzene, as he disappeared into the downpour. We hurried after him, skidding up and down muddy paths, our clothes plastered against our skin by the rain.

Suddenly Galzene stopped. Ahead was a normally quiet stream, now wild and foamy from the storm. Traffic built up as others traveling the trail were equally stymied. Then one bold fellow plunged ahead, and Sophie and I were amazed to see that the water barely reached his knees. We exchanged glances, linked arms by grasping each other's wrists, and stepped in. The current was fast, but the bottom was smooth and the water warm. We crossed over and back, and began to ferry people across one by one.

You won't find seemingly impassable streams only in the Himalaya. Even if you usually keep to domestic destinations and established trails, a sudden storm, a failed bridge, high spring runoff, or a lost trail can force you to bring stream-crossing skills into play. If you're prepared, the challenge will add adventure to your hike instead of halting it.

The best place to cross a stream may not be where the trail meets water's edge. Be ready to hike a mile or more to find a desirable route; safety, not speed, should be your primary concern. You may even luck out and find a dry

crossing: stable stepping-stones, a dry downed tree to walk on, or a chasm narrow enough to leap.

In many instances, though, the safest or only passage will be a wet one. To determine whether a stream is safe to cross, you need to consider the depth and temperature of the water, the swiftness of the current, the width of the channel, and the composition of the bottom.

It's easy to cross a warm, shallow stream with a sandy bottom and little or no current. But most North American backcountry streams are cold, so it becomes essential to find a shallow crossing, preferably one reaching no higher than mid-calf.

Because a stream is shallowest at its

widest point, a shallow crossing may seem less attractive than a deeper, narrower one. After all, you want to get in and out quickly. But the deeper water, even if you're only in it for a few seconds, will make you ache to your hair-line, slow your motor coordination, affect your balance, and add resistance to each step.

Gauging the depth of a stream is tricky, even in clear water. Look for sandbars or gravel beds, as well as for surface ripples and lighter color, which often indicate shallows. Plot a continuous line (not necessarily a straight one) from one side to the other, preferably angling downstream—you want to work with the current. Make sure you've scouted a route up the opposite bank. If you're unsure about depth, plan to probe the water ahead of you with a walking stick.

The strength of the current is also difficult to judge. The shallower the crossing, the stronger the current you can handle alone. You could negotiate an ankle-deep stream, for example, with a riffling current; thigh-deep water should be flowing sluggishly at most. Whether you're alone or with others, never attempt to cross whitewater. Its force is too great, and you won't float if you fall.

Test the water temperature and look at the stream bottom. If the water is cold or the bottom is rocky, wear sneakers or hiking boots—you'll be able to maintain better balance and increase your speed. If you wear boots, take off your socks and keep them dry, so you can hike in relative comfort later. Loosen your



Plan ahead—and unhook your hip belt—before stepping in.

pack's shoulder straps and undo the hip belt (and any other strap) so you can slip out easily if you fall.

Now step in and place your walking stick so that it and your feet form a broad, stable triangle. You can plant the stick upstream or downstream; a downstream plant lets you lean against the stick, but if it slips you may fall. Walk sideways to the current, one short, slow step at a time, keeping an eye upstream for large floating objects.

If the current is strong, or the water is knee-deep or more, it's essential to buddy up. One method is to grab one another's forearms and cross sideways to the current. But if one of you is heavier or stronger than the other, cross with that person upstream, so that his or her body will break the force of the current. If more than two people are crossing, form a circle or wedge.

Ropes can assist river crossings, provided you have several people in your party. Send the strongest person across with the rope, unburdened by a pack, feeding it out to him on his downstream side. (Never tie someone into a rope: If he falls, it could trap him underwater.) When he reaches the far shore, he can tie the rope to a tree or rock; secure your end in the same way. This creates a handline that everyone but the final party member can use for stability. Always keep downstream of the rope when you cross. The last person unties the rope and wades over.

If you lose your balance, try to regain it by using a bouncing step, aiming downstream and toward shore. If you fall underwater and can't get up, immediately slip out of your pack and swim downstream diagonally—this will also head you toward shore.

With the proper precautions, you can avoid having to test this last bit of advice. Save your dips for intentional plunges in remote swimming holes instead—and you won't have to go in with your boots on. ■

MARJORIE McCLOY is senior editor of *Women's Sports & Fitness in Boulder, Colorado*.

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The Object of Our Desire

The Prize: The Epic Quest for Money, Oil, and Power
 by Daniel Yergin
 Simon & Schuster; \$24.95.

Max Holland

THERE IS NO MORE revealing window on the ideology and practice of American business over the past century than the history of petroleum. To write this history, with its achievements and catastrophes, is a very ambitious task, and Daniel Yergin strives to tell it all. His scheme for *The Prize* properly addresses each of the three ways petroleum has been perceived in this country since the Industrial Revolution: first as a marketable product, then as a strategic resource, and finally as a pollutant of the first magnitude.

After being used as a medicinal nostrum for about 4,000 years, petroleum began to be commercially exploited just before the Civil War, when a few ambitious entrepreneurs, aided by a Yale chemist, decided that "rock oil" might be sufficiently abundant to market as an illuminant. Helped by the likes of John Rockefeller, the oil industry would become the world's biggest and most pervasive business over the next century, inextricable from modern capitalism, multinational enterprise, the international economy, and relations between business and the state.

Oil's pivotal role in the political and economic struggles of the 20th century is the second great theme of *The Prize*. The marriage of petroleum and the internal combustion engine (which it made possible) transformed oil into a strategic commodity capable of making and breaking nations. Yergin dramatically describes how in 1911 a young Winston Churchill became the first in any government to recognize

that geopolitical mastery itself was the prize conferred by control over oil. Petroleum gave naval fleets greater range and speed and faster refueling capability than its predecessor, King Coal, and petroleum derivatives powered the new machines (trucks, tanks, aircraft, and submarines) that were revolutionizing warfare. Oil ceased to be merely a commodity that generated deals, frauds, and Rockefeller-size fortunes, and became the object of desire for nation-states as well.

Between the two world wars future combatants vied for access to petroleum, and oil both dictated and constrained the strategies of the Axis powers during World War II. Cheap oil subsequently helped fuel the postwar recovery of Germany and Japan, key economies in the West's Cold War struggle to outproduce the Communist bloc, while the United States' ability to supply this fundamental resource played no small part in cementing the Western alliance under U.S. leadership. Postwar oil was as important to U.S. hegemony as dominance over trade and capital flows and the dependability of the almighty dollar. Building on the work of many scholars, Yergin also shows how the struggle for oil pitted users (predominantly rich and industrialized) against producers (poor and undeveloped) for much of the 20th century. The nationalization of Mexican petroleum in 1938, Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh's effort to gain control of his nation's reserves in 1951, the founding of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1960, and OPEC's assertion of control over prices and production in the 1970s are phenomena that all flow from the same well.

For his final theme, Yergin reaches into anthropology to present the notion of Hydrocarbon Man; here he discusses the growing alarm over pol-

lution, congestion, and global warming, noting that these issues primarily concern the oil-addicted societies rich enough to worry about them. Yergin's depiction of the high-energy (read: American) way of life is perhaps the most sobering aspect of the entire book. We have been well prepared, after all, by past history and current events for stories about individual, corporate, or national struggles for wealth and power. But wasting a non-renewable resource, and fouling the planet in the process, are vices of an altogether different magnitude. By the end of *The Prize* the reader is left with an unflattering picture of man's relationship to this crucial resource. An alternative strategy, one that might have husbanded petroleum and achieved a more sustainable standard of living worldwide, has been persistently ignored.

Given such themes, a roguish, often profligate cast of characters, and the frenzy oil produces in otherwise measured individuals, Yergin could hardly have produced a dry book, and *The Prize* is rife with telling detail. If anything, though, it's clogged with too many facts, unimportant details that diminish rather than add to the history. Assessing how well Yergin has illuminated the corporate, geopolitical, and environmental themes rightly identified at the outset, the reader is left feeling that the trivial has overwhelmed or substituted for the substantial. What does the history of oil finally reveal about the relationship between business and the state? Has the U.S. government ever pursued a foreign policy that can be distinguished from the goals of the multinational oil companies? Is there such a beast as a rational hydrocarbon civilization, a market alternative to the "let 'er rip" attitude toward unreplenishable resources? Yergin amply proves his basic thesis, that ours is the age of oil. Yet ultimately the reader is left hanging, with formidable questions implied but never quite answered.

The unevenness of *The Prize* can be traced in part to the difficulty of writing a book that includes recent history.

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The Sense of Wonder

Text by Rachel Carson

Photographs by William Neill

The Nature Company; \$19.95.

Could we but retain a child's sense of wonder, wrote Rachel Carson, we adults would have "an unflinching antidote against the boredom and disenchantment of later years, the sterile preoccupation with things that are artificial, the alienation from the source of our strength."

Good primary sources are harder to come by the closer one gets to the present, and reportorial legwork has to take up the slack when documents are unavailable. Yergin does well discussing the ins and outs of oil politics in the 1950s. But when it comes to the ferocious battles over energy policy after the oil shocks of the early and mid-1970s, he is content with a bleached summary of Jimmy Carter's attempt to fashion a strategy supposedly "the moral equivalent of war." The time is once again ripe for a na-

tional reassessment of the high-energy way of life, and a searching examination of Carter's failure might have goaded the public conscience. This lapse is all the more noticeable now that American blood and treasure have been spent in the Middle East, and the present administration has conceived a national energy strategy of its own. George Bush's plan is a timid one hardly likely to curb the appetite of a nation that consumes a quarter of the world's annual oil production while containing only 5 percent of the world's popula-

tion. Unleaded regular at a dollar a gallon is not one of the protections enumerated in the Bill of Rights.

Daniel Yergin has produced a readable primer by every measure, one that ably distills a vast body of research and writing. That is no small achievement. But while *The Prize* outlines an epic tale, it never masters the drama.

MAX HOLLAND, a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., is writing a biography of John J. McCloy, the international lawyer, banker, and diplomat.

You'll Go, You'll Come Back, You'll Write a Letter

Hiking the Southwest's Canyon Country

by Sandra Hinchman

The Mountaineers; \$12.95, paper.

Wilderness at the Edge

The Utah Wilderness Coalition (P.O. Box 11446, Salt Lake City, UT 84147)

\$29.95, paper.

Jonathan F. King

AN IRONIC LOGIC compels those who would protect a landscape to simultaneously risk its abuse. By singing the praises of some special place, hence inviting others to see it for themselves, wilderness activists knowingly put its most fragile features in at least temporary jeopardy.

A classic case in point is that of the Sierra Club, which a century ago began trundling large numbers of citizens up to the roadless, largely

uncharted Sierra Nevada to help generate popular support for its protection. The strategy worked awfully well—and the principle has been successfully applied many times since. But the Club also watched in surprise and alarm as meadow and stream throughout the range began to suffer from the bootprints of the converted. Efforts to address the problems caused by over-visitation were often far outstripped by the sheer volume of traffic.

Every hiker, it seems, has had a virtually private paradise publicized, then overrun (though perhaps eventually protected). In the mid-1970s New Yorker Sandra Hinchman was captivated by the canyonlands of the Colorado Plateau. "The desert insinuated itself into my soul," she writes, "becoming a vital part of the way I define myself." She logged enough time there to find personal Edens occupied by

guidebook-clutching *ausländers*, and submitted (briefly) to resentment at their intrusion. But she's since come to view much of the crowd as allies who share her affection for the land, and who, at least potentially, represent its salvation.

Hence, in her new trip-planner/trail-guide (*Hiking the Southwest's Canyon Country*), she acknowledges the short-term threat posed by this astonishing landscape's growing popularity. Yet she also sees that long-range benefits can be realized if the landscape is legally protected, so that solutions to its problems—stemming from ranching, mining, logging, and, yes, tourism—can be developed and applied. "I am gambling," she goes on, "that people who appreciate the Southwest will work on its behalf: writing letters to government personnel, joining organizations that protect wild places, or simply en-

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couraging friends to experience nature's beauty and majesty."

Hinchman's guide extends beyond the Colorado Plateau, covering a generous assortment of dayhikes, backpack routes, and scenic drives in southern Utah, northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and a slice of southwestern Colorado. You're directed around the area on six not-quite-three-week-long itineraries, each linked to a special-interest theme: canyon hiking, for example, or Anasazi ruins, or desert rivers. Of course, the scenic Southwest being what it is, you can't really poke around a good canyon-hiking area without encountering Anasazi sites, strange-looking buttes and hoodoos, or the odd desert river along the way; fortunately, Hinchman's itineraries are sufficiently relaxed toward their themes to suggest and permit attractive side trips.

Since each trip plan is pegged to the length of a reasonable annual vacation, any one is appropriate for either the first-timer or the more frequent visitor. The former will be impressed by how much variety can be taken in on a well-planned excursion, particularly when head-scratching and backpedaling are minimized. The latter—the urban desert rat who makes it to the region once a year, and who despairs of living long enough to ever fit it all in—will probably appreciate Hinchman's efficient advance work even more. Also helpful are the book's nearly four dozen maps, which provide enough detail to point you toward your day's destination but don't attempt to substitute for the USGS quads and other cartographic aids you'd be foolish to travel without.

None of the itineraries excludes southern Utah, and two or three decline to direct you anywhere else. Thanks to this close attention, you can become familiar, over the course of just a few hiking seasons, with an impressive assortment of must-sees and don't-misses. Stupendous national parks and monuments are included—but a great deal of the territory Hinchman covers is completely unprotected against the federally sanc-

KUWAIT, OIL, UNEMPLOYMENT, IMMIGRATION & DEMOGRAPHY

Make no mistake about it. The Kuwait crisis is about oil. The United States does not mount its expensive white horse and rush off to save distant feudal principalities from neighboring dictators, unless its vital interests are involved.

We have been a resource-rich subcontinent, and it is hard for Americans to believe that it can happen here, but we have come to the end of an era. We are running out of oil, and we are becoming aware of the environmental penalties of using the nuclear and fossil fuels we have. The Geological Survey in 1989 estimated that U.S. oil resources equal just 16 years' current consumption. Our production declined about 10 per cent last year. Imports provide half our petroleum supply and are rising. The *Wall Street Journal* points out that our foreign exchange budget would be in balance but for the imports of oil and automobiles.

The politicians have not yet heard. In the midst of twin crises over Kuwait and the budget deficit last autumn, Congress took time out to pass—and the President signed—a new law which will raise immigration about 50 per cent in coming years. It will pose new budgetary strains, particularly on the hard pressed cities. American fertility has risen, and a population increase of 25 million during the 'nineties was already on the way. If Congress had stopped to think, we wonder if it would have increased our energy needs by adding millions more.

For that matter, would it have imposed more strains on the cities? Would it have increased the competition for jobs during a recession, and made it harder for the cities to get on with the task of educating and helping the people we have to become producers rather than burdens on society?

Dr. Paul Werbos has examined our energy alternatives in the current series of **NPG FORUM** essays on optimum population. He spent a decade as an energy planner with the Department of Energy. Perhaps you should know what he has to say about how to convert to benign and solar—and reliable—sources of energy, the capital necessary to make the transition, and the population policies that will promote it.

Dr. Vernon Briggs has some things to say about the human aspects.

For copies of their essays, and an introduction to the way we make the connections between population and the issues that face the nation and the world, write

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tioned multiple uses that continue to degrade it far more rapidly and decisively than battalions of backpackers ever could.

This fact, too, promotes Hinchman's thesis: that the land's only hope is to be defended, successfully, by the people who come to know and love it. Those are the people who, we hope, will take one last piece of Hinchman's advice when they return home: Contribute to the work of groups like the Sierra Club, the Utah Wilderness Association, and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, all of whom are lobbying for protection of these spectacular, still-lonesome, and desperately threatened areas.

Where does the fully tithed and primed-for-action activist turn for practical political information? One can imagine no more valuable single resource for the redrock lobbyist than *Wilderness at the Edge*, a detailed overview of the Utah Wilderness Coalition's ambitious legislative program. (This umbrella organization comprises nearly 40 conservation groups ranging from the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society to the Natural Arch and Bridge Society and the Friends of the Dixie Forest.) The coalition has inventoried every corner of imperiled Utah that it has proposed for wilderness status: 5.7 million acres of mountains, mesas, watersheds, and canyon systems. Each pristine area is placed into its political as well as its ecological context. Tables interspersed throughout indicate the minimal acreage totals considered worthy of protection by the BLM, the woefully miscast federal "protector" of so many of Utah's wilderness-quality acres. The entire BLM proposal—which excludes many areas prized for their mineral content, hydropower potential, oil reserves, or marketable forest cover—adds up to about a third of the coalition's.

Only persistent and unceasing activist pressure led the BLM to draft even its current, pathetically small wilderness proposal; the Utah Wilderness Coalition intends this book to step up the pressure still more, before Congress passes a wilderness bill so inade-

quate that it settles the matter, permanently, in the interests of such visionaries as uranium miners and petroleum multinationals. The coalition supports H.R. 1500, sponsored by Utah Representative Wayne Owens (D), as best exemplifying the shared vision of its member organizations, and encourages you to write to your representative on the bill's behalf.

Wilderness at the Edge features some passionate writing, and even a cursory reading yields enough tantalizing de-

scriptions to keep freelance itinerarians poring over topos till the wee hours. But it's not a guidebook in any conventional sense—surely not as useful in this application as Sandra Hinchman's effort. Rather, the two complement one another, each supporting the notion that today's wide-eyed day-tripper is tomorrow's smitten and committed wilderness warrior. ■

JONATHAN E. KING is the editor-in-chief of *Sierra*.

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WISE GUIDE

Continued from page 73

ized it that fast." Ford Motor Company pulled its ads after receiving "urgent requests from our dealer associations in the Pacific Northwest," says spokesman Michael Parriss. "We did so reluctantly, but our dealers thought [Ford sponsorship] would really hurt their businesses." Turner lost \$100,000 in advertising revenue, but aired the film anyway.

While some corporate sponsors abandoned Turner, others sidled up to wise use. Chevron, Exxon U.S.A., Shell Oil, and the timber giant Georgia-Pacific were among the sponsors of the third annual wise-use conference in April 1990, says its organizer, Grant Gerber, founder of the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation in Elko, Nevada, and a central figure in the movement. Du Pont, Boise Cascade, and Louisiana-Pacific attended or supported the first conference and are listed in the *Agenda*. And Honda, Kawasaki, and Yamaha—makers of all-terrain vehicles and off-road motorcycles—have lent "substantial support" to the BlueRibbon Coalition, says Ed Wright, editor of the coalition's newsletter.

While it's not clear how much money Exxon has donated to wise-use groups, the corporation clearly embraces the movement's philosophy—and turns of phrase. "Exxon isn't anti-wilderness," says spokeswoman Sharon Curran-Westcott, "though we do encourage multiple use on land that we're interested in exploring."

Proponents of wise use have discovered another ally in the American Freedom Coalition, a four-year-old nonpartisan grassroots organization founded by an evangelical minister to "lobby and educate" in favor of virtually every item on the far-right political agenda. The AFC vehemently trumpets anticommunism; supports the Strategic Defense Initiative, Contra aid, and a military buildup; and demonizes ho-

mosexuality, abortion, taxes, and unregulated artwork as the enemies of "traditional Christian family values." No small entity, the AFC is a licensed lobby that boasts ten former members of Congress on its national advisory board, offices in all 50 states, more than 300,000 contributors, and an annual national budget in excess of \$1.3 million.

While it does not dominate the AFC's work, wise use crops up consistently on the group's environmental agenda. According to an article in the October 1990 issue of its newsletter, *American Freedom Journal*, the AFC sponsored wise-use conferences in four states last summer and is planning 15 more for this year. It also held a press conference in February 1990, when it petitioned President Bush to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development, one of the AFC's principal crusades. "It's time for a Wise Use approach to the energy-versus-environment question," the *Journal* stated. "It's time to put adolescent concerns about the environment into their proper priority."

Wise-use activists get practically apologetic denying their movement is supported by Reverend Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, but the trail is easy to follow, and leads through the AFC. Writing in *The Washington Post* in 1989, AFC founder and president Robert Grant said "business interests" of the Unification Church have donated about a third of the \$17 million his organization has raised since its inception.

Ron Arnold, who calls himself "unchurched" and denies any connection with either the Unification Church or the Christian right, shares with other wise-use activists a penchant for portraying environmentalists as lacking in compassion, and evil in a biblical sense. "Environmentalism is the new paganism," he says. "It worships trees and sacrifices people." Ed Wright of the BlueRibbon Coalition compares environmentalists to "pantheists, like the druids" and specifically accuses the Sierra Club of practicing "weird science and earth religions."

"They're trying to make out as though it's un-Christian to have a reverence for nature, when really the biblical notion of dominion implies responsibility, a sacred trust," says John Gatchell, project director for the Montana Wilderness Association, a wildlands-preservation group. "Tree-huggers and tree-cutters both have an interest in sustained yield, but the wise-use movement is deliberately and purposefully trying to drive a wedge between people who should be natural allies."

The wise-use wedge has also been hammered between the less-educated and the well-educated. In conversations with dozens of wise-use activists from New Hampshire to Oregon, rants against "Ph.D.'s" and "pointy-heads" came up again and again. Nickols, for example, thinks "the Ph.D.'s in the environmental movement don't have half the common sense of working folks" like him. The problem, as he sees it, is that working people's causes—such as jobs—aren't as sexy or telegenic as the lofty environmental issues of the advanced-degree set.

Arnold does everything he can to support this kind of populist anti-intellectualism. "How dare you city-bred, upper-middle-class assholes, with all your high education, put these decent people into economic peril?" he asks.

It was outrage at just that arrogance, Arnold says, that led him to resign from the board of the Sierra Club's Northwest Chapter in 1970 and become a freelance timber-industry spokesman and the Sierra Club's sworn enemy. Arnold tells of sitting in on one meeting in which Sierra Club officers planned a campaign against a timber company he says they knew was based on falsehood. "Probably everybody in that room had at least one Ph.D.," he said. "And the loggers I knew, who had an average education of ninth grade, were trying to figure out why these educated people wanted to put them out of work, why they were lying all the time."

Brock Evans, currently a vice-president of the Audubon Society, was presi-

dent of the Club's Northwest Chapter at the time and remembers Arnold as "sort of average," someone who came to meetings fairly regularly but never distinguished himself in conservation work. "I remember him being disgruntled and leaving because we wouldn't buy a slide show he was trying to sell," Evans says. "The next thing I knew he was denouncing the Sierra Club to a timber-industry convention."

The wise-use movement is often dismissed as nothing more than a new name for such old, failed, anti-wilderness efforts as the Sagebrush Rebellion. But the Sierra Club's Arthur, active in environmental politics for 18 years, sees a qualitative difference: "It's better organized in its latest incarnation," he says. "They're better at identifying dissatisfied elements and using them. They've learned from their mistakes over the years. They've learned you need to have more of a grassroots image rather than appearing like the timber barons setting the political agenda."

Evans argues there is a wilderness ethic built into the American character that has kept anti-conservation movements of the past and present isolated and ineffective, and that deep down Americans are fundamentally environmentalists. He and other detractors of the wise-use movement say a groundswell of anti-wilderness sentiment isn't in the cards, and that the wise-use activists aren't as dangerous as they think they are.

But the movement's activities so far are certainly worth watching, and they should serve to alert the environmental community that there's a significant constituency out there not convinced our environment is in trouble, and that considers those who think otherwise a snobbish, unfair, and even blasphemous threat to honest American livelihoods and lifestyles. How much power that constituency eventually wields could determine the shape of environmental politics in the years to come. ■

DAN BAUM is a freelance writer in Missoula, Montana.

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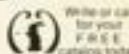
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SIERRA CLUB FINANCIAL REPORT

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, 1990 and September 30, 1989, 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

The Board of Directors
Sierra Club
San Francisco, California

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Sierra Club as of September 30, 1990 and 1989, 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 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 reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material

misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide 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 Sierra Club as of September 30, 1990 and 1989, and the results of its operations and its changes in cash for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

KPMG Peat Marwick

December 20, 1990

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SIERRA CLUB:

Despite a rough beginning—a 7.1 earthquake at our San Francisco Headquarters, damage minimal—the past year was an exciting and productive one for the Club. Membership grew 80,000 to more than 630,000 members, an increase of 15% over fiscal year 1989. The number of volunteer groups increased by 5% to 382, and National funding support to our chapters for local and statewide activities increased 16.4% to a record high of \$2,797,500. Fund balances (net worth) increased \$1,079,500 to a record high of \$9,187,100. The operating surplus was \$953,300; \$946,600 distributed to board restricted life membership endowments, and the remainder increasing unrestricted fund balance.

Total revenues increased 9.0% in fiscal year 1990, to \$40,659,100. This was due primarily to the growth in membership revenue, up 16.3% to \$15,144,600, and also to increased contributions and grants, up 19.2% to \$12,764,000.

Total expenditures—the money we spend to do our crucial work—increased 12.6% to \$39,705,800. Program expenditures increased by 7.1% to an all-time high of \$24,409,600. The increase in Support Service expenditures reflects an aggressive membership recruitment program and implementation of the early stages of the Centennial Campaign, a joint effort of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation. When it is fully implemented, the Centennial Campaign will provide program and endowment funding for a number of critical needs.

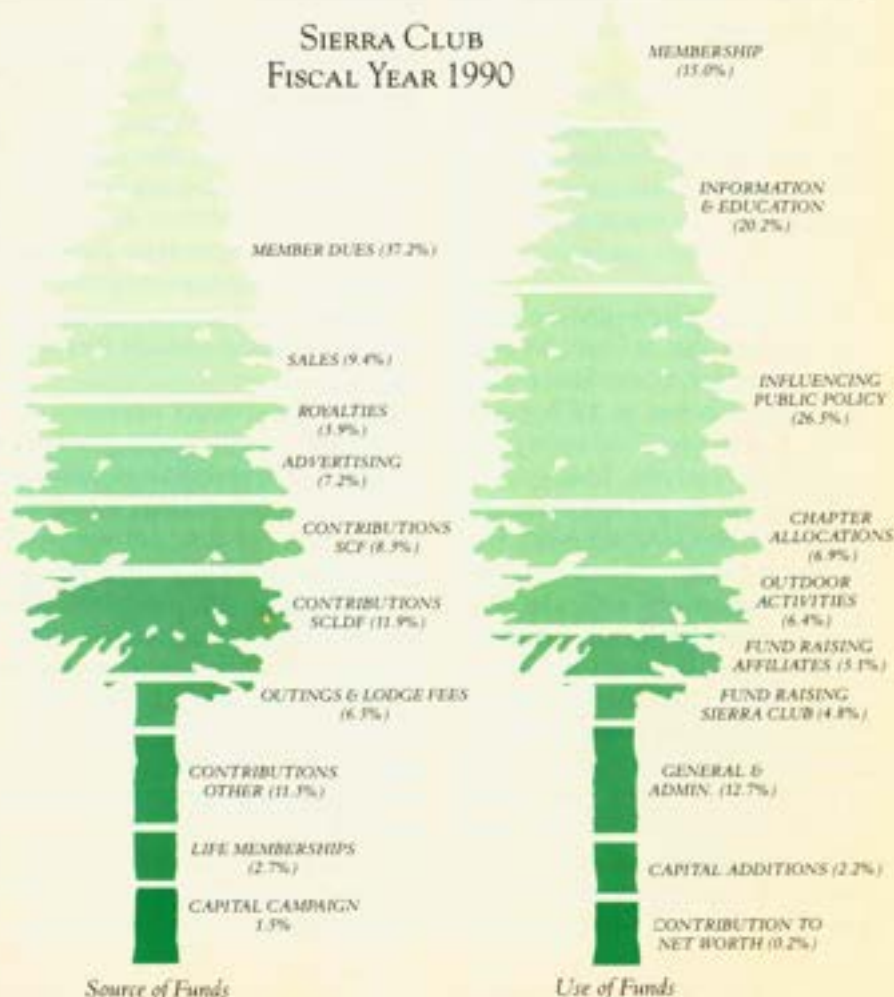
Highlights of the fiscal year included:

- the most ambitious conservation campaign agenda ever, the high point being the passage of landmark clean-air legislation;
- shifting *Sierra* magazine to recycled paper ahead of schedule and without major increase in cost;
- the first sessions of an ongoing chapter treasurer's training program;
- development of a grassroots information system, to be implemented in the second quarter of FY 1991.

I am very proud of the Club's many achievements in the past fiscal year and am pleased to be able to report further enhancements of our financial strength.

Richard Fiddler
Treasurer

SIERRA CLUB FISCAL YEAR 1990



Source of Funds

Use of Funds

SIERRA CLUB BALANCE SHEETS

September 30, 1990 and 1989

ASSETS			LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	
	1990	1989	1990	1989
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,875,300	\$ 1,458,000	Accounts payable (note 8)	3,301,800
Receivables:			Accrued expenses	2,014,300
Trade accounts, less allowance for returns of \$227,000 in 1990 and \$289,000 in 1989	1,167,900	1,824,400	Deferred revenue:	1,590,900
Advertising, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$44,000 in 1990 and \$49,000 in 1989	266,100	228,600	Unrestricted	425,400
Grants (note 8)	784,000	385,300	Restricted	235,300
Other (note 8)	727,700	670,500	Obligations under capital leases	44,000
Prepaid expenses	1,155,500	948,500	Long-term debt (note 4)	(1,604,200)
Advances, less allowance of \$39,000 in 1990 and \$75,000 in 1989	329,100	928,900	Fund Balances:	6,839,300
Investments - endowment fund (notes 2 and 4)	443,000	456,800	Unrestricted	1,171,600
Property and equipment, net (notes 3 and 4)	6,225,400	5,152,600	Net investment in property and equipment	1,790,100
Patents, photographs and books (note 9)	3,438,300	2,895,300	Endowment:	1,136,600
	—	—	Quasi-endowments:	
Total assets	\$ 16,812,300	\$ 14,946,900	Life memberships	3,186,400
			Other	996,200
			Endowment-income restricted	32,800
			Trust endowment	10,000
				9,187,100
			Commitments and contingencies (note 10)	
			Total liabilities and fund balances	\$16,812,300

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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

September 30, 1990 and 1989

REVENUE	1990				1989			
	Unrestricted	Endowment	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Endowment	Restricted	Total
Member dues:								
Annual dues	515,144,600	—	—	515,144,600	13,025,800	—	—	13,025,800
Life memberships	—	1,113,000	—	1,113,000	—	885,700	—	885,700
Contributions and grants (note 9)	9,096,900	—	3,757,100	12,754,000	8,644,700	—	2,063,700	10,708,400
Outings and lodge reservations and fees	2,643,300	—	—	2,643,300	2,625,000	—	—	2,625,000
Book sales	3,806,800	—	—	3,806,800	4,201,000	—	—	4,201,000
Resales	1,588,800	—	—	1,588,800	1,394,100	—	—	1,394,100
Advertising, investment and other income (note 2)	2,925,800	—	12,600	2,938,400	3,002,300	—	20,500	3,022,800
Reimbursements (Note 8)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fundraising:								
Capital Campaign	614,900	—	—	614,900	298,500	—	—	298,500
Other	83,300	—	—	83,300	178,100	—	—	178,100
Total Revenue	35,774,400	1,113,000	3,769,700	40,657,100	34,350,700	885,700	2,084,200	37,320,600
EXPENSES								
Program services:								
Studying and influencing public policy	8,691,600	—	2,092,900	10,784,500	7,960,700	—	1,673,100	9,633,800
Information and education	7,567,500	—	851,100	8,218,600	8,007,800	—	284,500	8,292,300
Outdoor activities	2,151,900	—	257,100	2,409,000	2,374,200	—	81,200	2,455,400
Chapter allocations	2,797,500	—	—	2,797,500	2,402,000	—	—	2,402,000
	21,208,500	—	3,201,100	24,409,600	20,344,700	—	2,038,800	22,383,500
Support services:								
General and administrative	4,429,600	168,400	564,600	5,152,600	4,680,500	—	45,400	4,725,900
Membership	6,306,600	—	4,000	6,310,600	4,715,800	—	—	4,715,800
Fundraising	1,957,000	—	—	1,957,000	1,466,700	—	—	1,466,700
Sierra Club	2,066,000	—	—	2,066,000	1,568,200	—	—	1,568,200
Affiliates	14,559,200	—	—	14,559,200	12,431,300	—	—	12,431,300
Total Expenses	35,767,500	168,400	3,769,700	39,705,600	33,176,000	—	2,084,200	35,260,200
Excess of revenue over expenses	6,700	944,600	—	951,300	1,174,700	885,700	—	2,060,400
Capital additions:								
Other quasi-endowments	—	126,100	—	126,100	—	3,300	—	3,300
Endowment-income restricted	—	100	—	100	—	500	—	500
Excess of revenues over expenses after capital additions	6,700	1,070,800	—	1,077,500	1,174,700	891,500	—	2,066,200
Fund balances at beginning of year	2,955,000	3,152,600	—	6,107,600	1,780,300	4,361,100	—	6,041,400
Fund balances at end of year	\$ 2,961,700	\$ 6,225,400	—	\$ 9,187,100	\$ 2,955,000	\$ 5,152,600	—	\$ 8,107,600

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SIERRA CLUB STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN CASH

September 30, 1990 and 1989

Sources of cash	1990		1989	
	1990	1989	1990	1989
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 953,300	\$2,060,400		
Add (deduct) non-cash items:				
Depreciation and amortization	337,300	335,100		
Amortization of discounts on investments	(287,700)	(321,300)		
Total cash provided by operations	1,002,900	2,074,200		
Proceeds from maturity of investments	608,700	4,351,200		
Increase in other quasi-endowments and endowment-income restricted funds	126,200	3,800		
Financing of property and equipment additions:				
through capital leases	—	30,400		
Decrease in inventories	—	3,800		
Decrease in net realizable value of assets held for sale— discontinued operations	—	18,400		
Decrease in advances	11,800	(21,600)		
Increase in accounts payable	337,300	(35,800)		
Increase in accrued expenses	423,400	182,000		
Increase in deferred revenues—unrestricted	—	79,800		
Decrease in trade accounts receivable	656,500	—		
Decrease in prepaid expenses	392,800	—		
Total sources of cash	3,763,800	7,223,000		
Uses of cash:				
Purchases of investments	1,390,800	5,121,400		
Acquisition of property and equipment	880,300	498,300		
Reduction of obligations under capital leases	82,700	75,700		
Reductions of long-term debt	7,800	8,900		
Increase in trade accounts receivable	—	(307,300)		
Increase in advertising receivables	17,500	68,900		
Increase in grants receivable	398,700	83,600		
Increase in other receivables	57,200	129,000		
Increase in inventories	407,000	—		
Increase in prepaid expenses	—	(136,000)		
Decrease in deferred revenue—unrestricted	43,000	—		
Decrease in deferred revenue—restricted	41,500	145,500		
Total uses of cash	3,346,500	6,772,600		
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	417,300	450,400		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	1,458,000	1,207,600		
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$ 1,875,300	\$ 1,458,000		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

SIERRA CLUB NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1—Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Organization

The Sierra Club (the Club) is a nonprofit voluntary membership organization established to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth. The Club operates many public interest programs covering a broad range of environmental issues. The studying and influencing public policy program consists of staff and volunteers engaged in legislative and nonlegislative activities, including lobbying, research, legal and policy development. Information and education include the literary programs of Sierra Club Books and Sierra, the Club's magazine. Outdoor activities include national and international using programs, consisting of approximately 295 trips annually. The membership program serves approximately 630,000 members and includes support and funding of 37 volunteer chapters and over 382 groups, and the development of a broad-based volunteer membership.

(b) Basis of Presentation

The financial statements include the accounts of the Club and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Sierra Club Property Management, Inc. All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated. The financial statements do not include the financial activities of the Club's various self-directed chapter and group organizations. The Sierra Club Foundation (the Foundation) and Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (the Legal Defense Fund) are separate legal entities and, thus, are not included in the Club's financial statements.

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Club, the accounts of the Club are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purposes. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund, however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds that have similar characteristics have been combined into fund groups. Accordingly, all financial transactions have been recorded and reported by fund group.

The assets, liabilities and fund balances of the Club are reported in three self-balancing fund groups as follows:

Unrestricted funds represent the portions of expendable funds that are available for support of the Club's operations, including the Club's investment in property and equipment.

Endowment funds include funds the Club has received for which the donors have specified that the principal be maintained in perpetuity, with the income to be used for certain specified activities (primarily related to outings). The Club's bylaws provide that all life memberships and such other funds as designated by the Board for permanent investment shall be held in quasi-endowment funds. The income from the quasi-endowment funds is unrestricted. The income from endowments is recognized as restricted revenue at the time any donor restriction is met. Otherwise, this revenue is recognized in the unrestricted fund.

Restricted funds represent contributions and grants which have some restriction as to how they can be expended and are recorded as deferred revenue in the period received. Such deferred funds are not considered earned until they have been expended in accordance with their restriction.

(c) Donated Services

Some members of the Club have donated significant amounts of time to both the Club and its chapters, groups and committees in furthering the Club's programs and objectives. No amounts have been included in the financial statements for donated member or volunteer services since no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of reporting changes in cash, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits with financial institutions and money market accounts.

The Club's policy is to invest cash in excess of operating requirements in money market accounts. Investments in money market accounts amounted to \$1,623,200 and \$1,626,800 at September 30, 1990 and 1989, respectively.

(e) Trade Accounts Receivable

The Club sells books it publishes to retailers located throughout North America, and grants credit to these customers. The allowance for publication returns is determined using historical return rates.

(f) Inventories

Inventories consist primarily of books and are stated at the lower of cost or market on the first-in, first-out basis. Unit costs for new books are based on paper, printing and binding charges only. Production costs are capitalized and amortized over unit sales for the first printing; however, the amortization period is not longer than the first twelve months of sales.

(g) Advances

Advances are advanced to authors of the Club's publications. An allowance is provided against advances to authors for estimated losses resulting from unearned royalties.

(h) Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost at the date of acquisition or fair value at the date of gift or bequest. Donated paintings, photographs and books are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements (note 9). Depreciation expense is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the related assets, usually 2 to 32 years. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts, and any resulting gain or loss is recognized into income for the period. The cost of maintenance and repairs is charged to expense as incurred, significant renewals and betterments are capitalized.

(i) Deferred Revenue

The Club defers revenue from outings, grants and other donor restricted activities until the period the trip is completed or the restrictions are met.

(j) Member Dues

Membership dues are recognized as revenue when received.

(k) Contributions

All contributions are considered available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue as the restrictions are met.

Legal services performed on behalf of the Club by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund are recorded as contributions with equivalent amounts charged to expense (note 8).

(l) Reclassification

Certain 1989 balances have been reclassified to conform with the 1990 presentation.

NOTE 2—Investments—Endowment Fund

Investments of the endowment fund are stated at amortized cost. It is the Club's intention to hold investments to maturity. The amortized cost and market values at September 30, 1990 and 1989 were as follows:

	1990		1989	
	Amortized cost	Market value	Amortized cost	Market value
U.S. government and Federal agency bonds	\$5,567,600	\$5,663,500	\$4,767,600	\$4,929,200
Money market funds and savings accounts	657,800	657,800	385,000	385,000
	\$6,225,400	\$6,321,300	\$5,152,600	\$5,314,200

Investment income amounted to \$303,800 in 1990 and \$401,500 in 1989, and is included in advertising, investment and other income in the statement of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances.

NOTE 3—Property and Equipment

A summary of property and equipment as of September 30, 1990 and 1989 follows:

	1990	1989
Land	\$ 363,300	\$ 363,300
Buildings and leasehold improvements	2,364,300	1,975,300
Furniture and equipment	2,546,700	2,053,400
Leased equipment (note 5)	363,900	363,900
	5,638,200	4,955,900
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(7,399,900)	(7,062,600)
	\$3,438,300	\$2,893,300

Depreciation and amortization expense was \$337,300 and \$335,100 for the years ended September 30, 1990 and 1989, respectively. Accumulated depreciation for leased equipment was \$334,600 and \$255,600 as of September 30, 1990 and 1989, respectively.

NOTE 4—Long-term Debt and Credit Agreement

In August 1988, the Club entered into a loan agreement for \$1,620,000 with a bank to provide financing for the purchase of an office building in Washington, D.C. The agreement allows the bank to call the loan or change the interest rate at the end of each three-year period and expires at the end of 15 years, at which time the remaining balance is due in the form of a balloon payment. The current monthly payments are \$15,800 with an interest rate of 11.31%. The debt is secured by a deed of trust on the office building. Scheduled maturities of long-term debt outstanding on September 30, 1990 are as follows:

Year Ended	
September 30,	
1991	\$ 189,600
1992	189,600
1993	189,600
1994	189,600
1995	189,600
Thereafter	2,836,200
Total obligations	3,806,200
Less amount representing interest	(2,200,000)
Present value of total obligations	\$1,606,200

The Club has available, until April 30, 1991, a revolving line of credit with a bank which permits borrowings of up to \$3,000,000 at the bank's prime interest rate. The line is secured by the Club's endowment fund investments. No amounts were outstanding at September 30, 1990 and 1989.

NOTE 5—Leases

Leases are for office facilities (note 8), computer equipment, system software and other equipment. Certain leases provide for extensions and additional rental payments based on operating. Future minimum payments under all noncancelable operating leases with terms greater than one year at September 30, 1990 are as follows:

Year Ended	
September 30,	
1991	\$1,452,000
1992	1,368,700
1993	1,343,200
1994	1,339,700
1995	1,263,800
Thereafter	148,500
Total lease payments	\$6,915,900

Minimum future rentals receivable under noncancelable operating subleases at September 30, 1990 are as follows:

Year ended	
September 30,	
1991	\$ 99,900
1992	80,400
1993	58,000
1994	58,000
1995	58,000
Thereafter	4,800
Total rentals receivable	\$399,100

Rent expense for operating leases was \$1,380,200 in 1990 and \$1,330,500 in 1989. Rental income on subleases was \$126,800 in 1990 and \$175,900 in 1989.

NOTE 6—Income Tax Status

The Club's principal activities are exempt from Federal and California income taxes. However, certain of the Club's revenues are subject to the unrelated business income tax. Accordingly, the Club recorded a tax provision of \$253,000 in 1990 and \$310,000 in 1989 which is included in unrestricted general and administrative expenses. The balance in the related accrued tax liability account was \$745,000 and \$540,000 as of September 30, 1990 and 1989, respectively.

Contributions to the Club are not deductible by the donor as a charitable contribution for tax purposes.

NOTE 7—Pension Plan

The Club has a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation history. The following schedule sets forth the plan's funded status and amounts recognized in the Club's balance sheet as of September 30, 1990 and 1989:

	1990	1989
Actuarial present value of benefit obligations		
Accumulated benefit obligation all of which is vested	\$1,366,800	\$1,366,200
Projected benefit obligation for service rendered to date	(2,930,200)	(2,298,200)
Plan assets at fair value, which consists of a pooled investment account	2,856,300	2,315,000
Plan assets in excess of (less than) projected benefit obligations	(73,900)	216,800
Unrecognized prior service costs	158,600	67,800
Unrecognized net gain	(2,000)	(22,800)
Unrecognized net loss at October 1, 1987 being amortized over 15 years	(112,600)	(122,000)
Prepaid pension cost (prepaid liability) recognized on the balance sheet	\$ (29,900)	\$ 139,800

Net pension cost for 1990 and 1989 included the following components:

	1990	1989
Service cost	\$ 368,400	\$ 216,900
Interest cost	212,900	173,200
Actual return on plan assets	(156,500)	(195,500)
Net amortization and deferral	3,800	(3,900)
Deferred asset loss	(77,400)	(7,800)
Net periodic pension cost	\$ 349,200	\$ 182,900

The weighted average discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 9% and 7%, respectively. The expected long-term rate of return on assets was 9%. Contributions to the plan were \$161,200 in 1990 and \$256,100 in 1989.

NOTE 8—Transactions with Affiliates

Effective October 1, 1989, the accounting services and fundraising agreements between the Club and the Foundation was modified. Under the new arrangement, the Club provides fundraising services for the Foundation at a rate which is lower than the previous arrangement. Reimbursed costs related to fundraising and the Capital Campaign totaled \$624,900 in 1990. The Club receives contributions from the Foundation which represent direct grants to the Club in support of various programs that totaled \$3,363,000 in 1990 and \$1,413,700 in 1989. Of the preceding amounts, \$794,000 and \$385,300 were included in grants receivable at September 30, 1990 and 1989, respectively. In 1989, the Club received \$1,457,800 for providing the Foundation with fundraising, accounting and other services. As September 30, 1989, the receivable related to such services was \$289,600 and was included in other receivables.

The Legal Defense Fund performs legal services on behalf of the Club. The value of these services totaled \$4,846,000 and \$4,620,000 in 1990 and 1989, respectively. In addition, the Club received contributions on behalf of the Legal Defense Fund. At September 30, 1990 and 1989, \$39,300 and \$51,300, respectively, was payable by the Club to the Legal Defense Fund. These amounts are included in accounts payable.

The Club's wholly owned subsidiary, Sierra Club Property Management, Inc., is the general partner of National Headquarters Associates (a limited partnership). The limited partnership was formed to raise capital for purposes of acquiring and rehabilitating an office building for lease by the Club. The building was completed and occupied in November 1985. This operating lease has a five-year term and requires monthly payments of \$99,000, subject to adjustment in certain circumstances for changes in the limited partnership's debt service requirements. In addition, the Club is responsible for taxes on the property, repair and maintenance, and other insurance, utility and security costs with the limited partnership.

NOTE 9—Paintings, Photographs and Books

Since its inception, the Sierra Club has been the recipient of various donated paintings, photographs and rare books. During 1987, the Club had certain paintings and photographs appraised for insurance purposes. The appraised market value of these paintings and photographs totaled \$850,000 at that time. The books have not been appraised for several years; however, the last appraisal indicated a market value of \$50,000. There is no value assigned to these items in the accompanying financial statements.

NOTE 10—Commitments and Contingencies

The Club is a defendant in a lawsuit alleging breach of contract arising out of an affinity credit card membership agreement which was terminated. It is the opinion of management that the outcome of the lawsuit will not materially affect the operations of the Club, and no provision has been made in these financial statements. The Club is involved in a number of lawsuits resulting from the operations of its Outings program. The Club is covered by insurance for this program. Management, in consultation with legal counsel, does not believe a provision is necessary.

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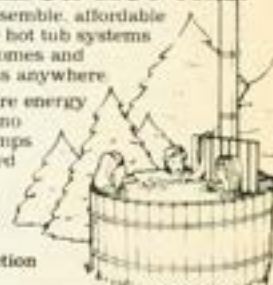
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Can biological controls be used in home gardens as well as on commercial farms? (Bob Kohler, Chicago, Illinois)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can indeed be applied in your own backyard. Using bugs to eat other bugs is perhaps IPM's best-known aspect; putting plants that repel pests around plants that attract them and choosing pest-resistant plant varieties are also important strategies. Domestic IPM programs can include such exotic techniques as spraying bugs off your plants with a hose, and picking or shaking them off by hand.

Insects and plants for living pest control can often be obtained from your local garden center; some shops keep common predators such as ladybugs or praying mantises in stock, and will special-order others you might need.

Biological controls are pest-specific, however, so it's important to know what's causing trouble before you go out and buy any old box of bugs. To help you get started, the Bio-Integral Resource Center (P.O. Box 7414, Berkeley, CA 94707; 415-524-2567) offers free consultation with IPM experts. Membership is \$30 yearly, and includes a subscription to *The Common Sense Pest Control Quarterly*, geared to home gardeners.

I'm worried about the pollution of our beaches.

Could you give me some in-



formation on beach clean-up programs and groups? (Debbie Breen, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida)

Every fall the Coastal States Organization (CSO) sponsors Coastweeks—a three-week volunteer project to clean up beaches and spread coastal consciousness. This year Coastweeks will run from September 21 to October 14; in addition to beach-cleaning, the program will include educational events, films, guided tours, and seaside festivals.

Coordinating their activities with CSO, the Center for Marine Conservation is organizing volunteer efforts at the state level, and sponsoring International Beach Clean-up Day on September 21. Last year's surfside scouring was their most successful, with

105,407 volunteers in 27 states and 4 countries picking up 2.6 million pounds of trash from 3,200 miles of beachfront.

For details of Coastweeks activities in your state, call CSO at 202-628-9636, or write to them at 444 N. Capitol St., N.W., Suite 312, Washington, DC 20001.

The Center for Marine Conservation is located at 1725 DeSales St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036; call them at 1-800-CMC-CLEAN. They publish a newsletter listing local coordinators; these are the people you should contact to sign up for the program in your area.

With "green marketing" the latest trend, how can I tell the hype from the truly

helpful? (Susan Harris, Phoenix, Arizona)

There are few state and no federal laws regulating claims such as "recycled," "recyclable," or "biodegradable"; goods so labeled could contain only a small percentage of recycled material, or be packaged in stuff that degrades in the lab, not the landfill.

Broad assurances like "environmentally friendly" can be equally misleading. A manufacturer may change only one aspect of its product, improving the packaging while what's inside remains ecologically harmful. For example, some of the new concentrated detergents—in smaller boxes that give you "less to throw away"—still contain phosphates, which can turn lakes into fish-free algae farms.

Two symbols will soon make it easier to sort through these issues. The Green Cross symbol appears when specific product claims (especially regarding biodegradability and recycled content) have been certified. The Green Seal, to begin showing up on labels later this year, will vouch for the environmental purity of goods from manufacture to disposal.

In general, try to buy things that are durable, reusable, recycled, truly recyclable, and minimally packaged. And buy only if necessary: The best way to be a "green consumer" is to consume less—not a message you're likely to see on many product labels. ■



(Fig. 5.1)

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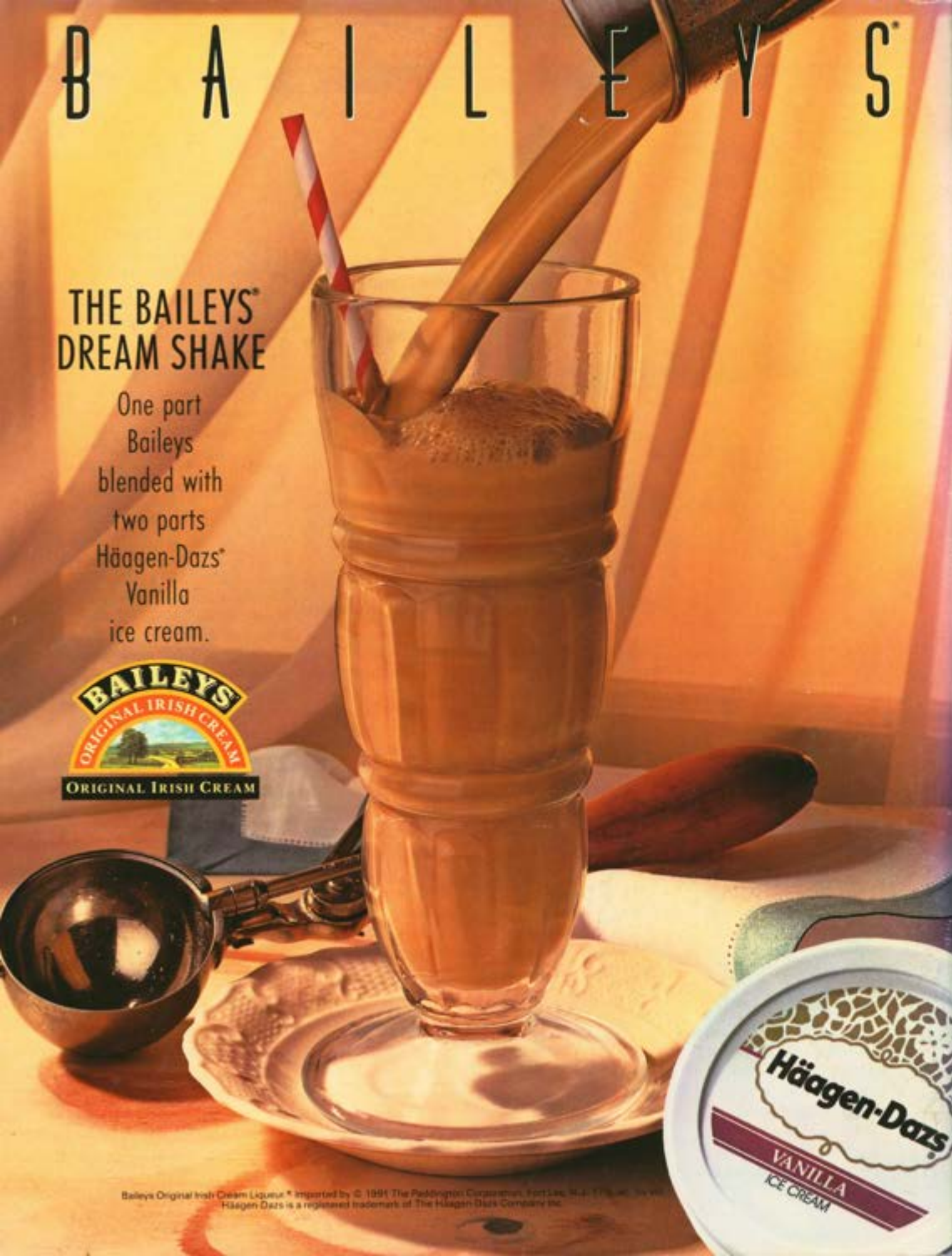
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