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Photo by William Neill



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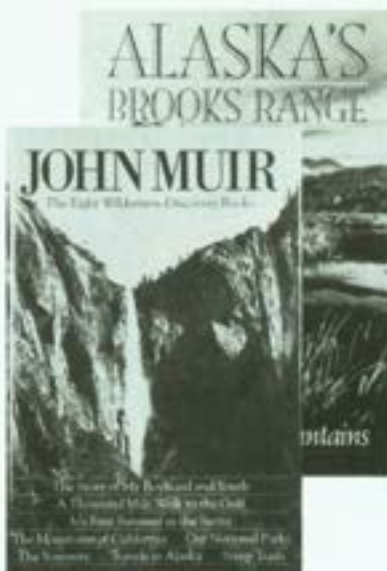
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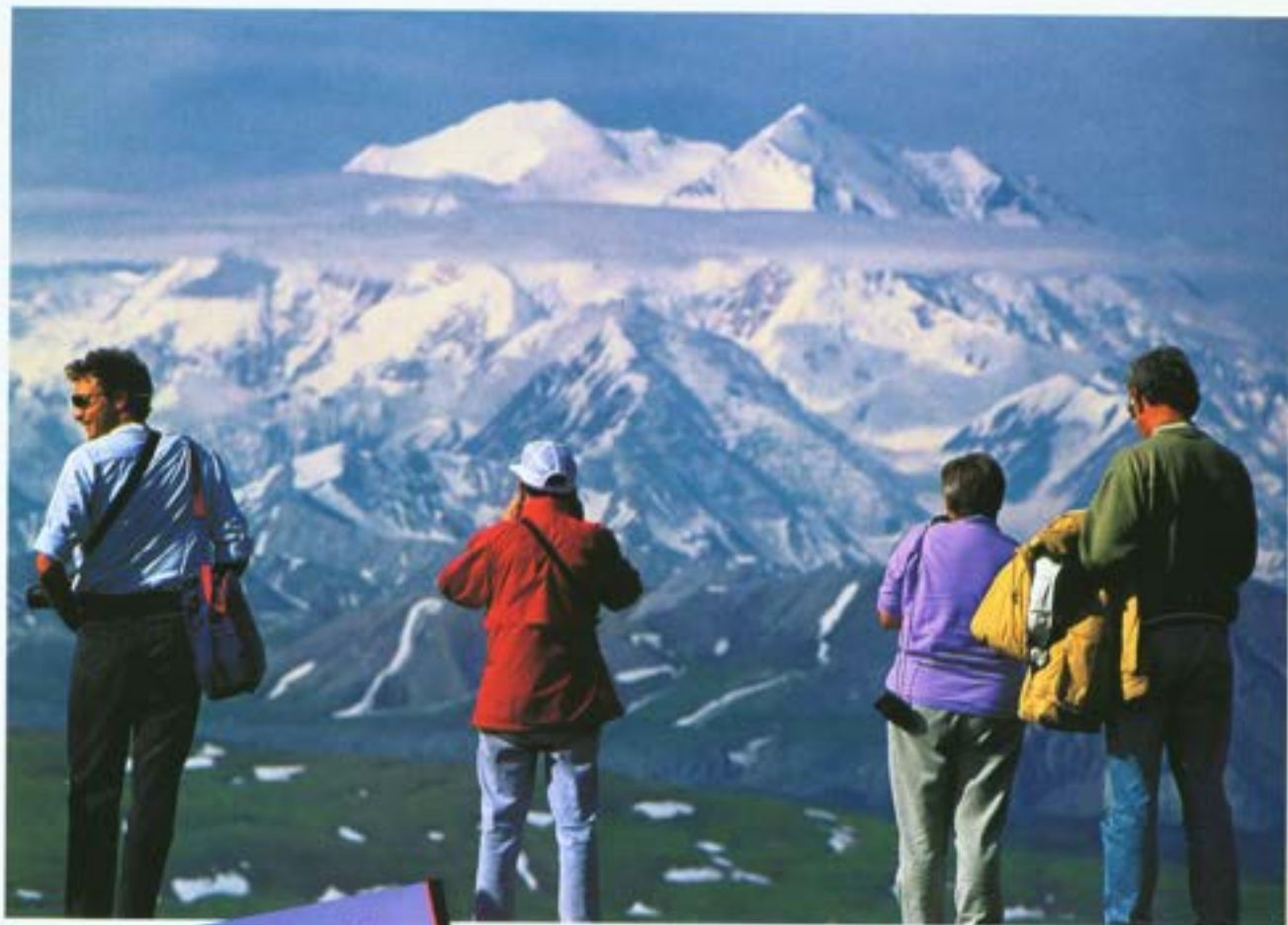
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THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Your endorsement of Bill Clinton for president ("Four Men and a Planet," September/October) was a slap in the face to a lot of people. To think that Clinton takes any promise seriously is inane. He brags that he cleaned up the White River in Arkansas, but fails to mention how he did it: He pumped the "you know what" over the mountain and dumped it into the Illinois, one of Oklahoma's scenic rivers. Someone who cleans up his backyard by throwing the mess into his neighbor's is not what I would consider an ecologist.

*George Mahoney
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

We have suffered for 12 long years under administrations that have been devoid of any concept of preserving or protecting our environment. The Reagan/Bush/Quayle idea of stewardship has ranged from attempts to sell public lands to the highest bidder to the purging of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forest Service of dedicated professionals who had the gall to attempt to obey federal laws; from using Superfund cleanup grants as partisan political pork barrels to the gutting of the Clean Air Act and other environmental and public-health statutes.

Enough is enough: Bush and Quayle must go. Clinton and Gore hold out the promise of a new era—one in which the Sierra Club and other environmental groups are considered not opponents, but allies.

*Tom McKinney, Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Arkansas Chapter
West Fork, Arkansas*

As a resident of Arkansas for several years, I have witnessed Bill Clinton's environmental actions (and inactions) firsthand. I am puzzled that the major areas of concern about his record that you mentioned—relating to clearcutting, and animal-waste problems from poultry production—didn't warrant

taking at least a neutral stance on his candidacy. Please don't let your displeasure with Mr. Bush blind you to the truth here.

Come to "The Natural State" and you will see massive clearcuts and pine farms in the south and west; total agriculture in the entire eastern one-third of the state, complete with ditches instead of streams; and chemical pollution so bad that at least two lakes and bayous have been declared off-limits for fish consumption within the last two years.

Bill Clinton is a master at telling people what they want to hear. He will promise to right every wrong, including environmental problems, but he has failed to make any headway in a small state like Arkansas. How can he possibly do more for the whole country?

*John Cloud
Arkadelphia, Arkansas*

Governor Clinton has taken some criticism on his environmental record. I should know, because I delivered some of that critique as chair of the Sierra Club's Arkansas Chapter in 1990 and 1991. Our measured criticism at that time was justified by clear danger signals for the Arkansas environment, and by our dismay at the glacial pace of environmental reform in an era of federal inaction. We asked Governor Clinton to lead the way, since no one in Washington was doing so. He took on the challenge, in the face of legislative inertia and enormous organized opposition by the polluting industries. In the 1991 legislative session, environmental activists were proud to help Bill Clinton achieve passage of a pacesetter set of environmental reform laws.

In that session alone, the governor pushed through the General Assembly a comprehensive solid-waste planning and management act that included mandatory municipal recycling, purchase of recycled goods by state agencies, regional solid-waste management,

and a ban on landfill disposal of yard waste, tires, and motor oil. The 1991 reforms were equally impressive in other policy areas: Arkansas now has on the books a "bad actor" law that puts restrictions on pollution permits to firms that have violated environmental laws in the past; it gradates pollution penalties according to the amount of profit gained by the polluter; and has undertaken the structural reform of our Pollution Control and Ecology Commission.

*George D. Oleson
Fayetteville, Arkansas*

Four more years of the present administration's shortsighted and destructive environmental policies is a fearsome prospect. I urge all Sierra Club members to vote for the Clinton/Gore ticket, and I especially urge those who are able to give your valuable volunteer time to call, mail, get out the vote, and educate the public in all forums on the environmental importance of this election.

*H. Anthony Ruckel
Denver, Colorado*

The writer is President of the Sierra Club.

I have to differ with the endorsement of Clinton for president by the Sierra Club, even though the details presented in "Four Men and a Planet" would tend to convince any environmental advocate.

Paradoxically, the best thing for the environmental movement may be to have a stubborn foe in the White House, an ongoing challenge against which the strength and savvy of advocates can be built up. A Clinton/Gore victory could have a disastrous psychological effect, triggering euphoria and a "we won the war, let's go home" syndrome—especially among some of the most effective, experienced advocates, who are now tired veterans.

*Miles Hopkins
Redwood City, California*

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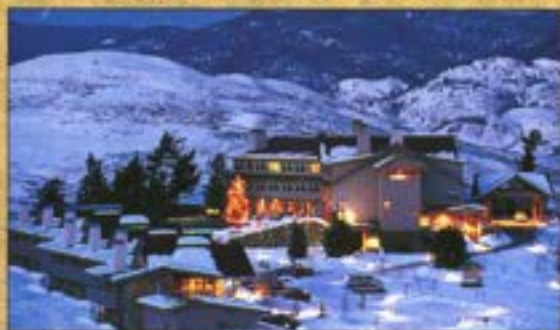


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As a result of your irresponsible action, I am resigning from the Sierra Club; I feel that your position will defeat the purpose of the Club, and weaken its ability to influence legislation that could benefit the environment. If Bush wins—and he will—what influence will you have in Washington after the election?

*Benjamin R. Taylor
Tiburon, California*

I grew up in Arkansas, and often come back to enjoy its natural beauty. Those who say Bill Clinton has done questionable things for the environment in Arkansas are either campaigning for George Bush or just don't know the facts. Go see it for yourself: Breathe the fresh air that I often yearn for, and swim in the crystal-clear streams.

And if you can't do that, at least get the facts. Arkansas is one of only five states that meet all air-quality regulations mandated by the Clean Air Act. As for animal waste, it was Clinton who formed a task force that proposed tough new regulations and got the state to adopt them. The federal government, by contrast, has made no effort whatever to control these nonpoint sources of pollution.

I congratulate the Sierra Club for its endorsement of Clinton and Gore. Though some may criticize your decision, anything else would have been spineless.

*Erik Voss
Atlanta, Georgia*

Although I share the Sierra Club's assessment of the relative environmental attributes of the presidential candidates, I must question your assertion that "the United States refused to support a strong forest agreement at the Earth Summit." Since I helped coordinate the forest-related lobbying efforts of the Sierra Club and other groups through the final months of the Summit, I was able to observe quite a bit of the official U.S. delegation's behavior. It may be hard to believe, but they were not the bad guys on forests. Malaysia and India were.

True, the performance of the United

"JUMP UP AND KISS ME," I SAID.

States in the forest negotiations was mixed, occasionally confused, even diplomatically inept, but U.S. negotiators did support some very beneficial additions to the Earth Summit's forest documents. And I never saw or heard of outright U.S. opposition to any of the Summit's forest agreements.

The real problem was that the Bush administration's overall approach was so destructive on so many other fronts that it severely embarrassed this nation and nearly sabotaged much of what the Summit was all about. It also brought international newspaper headlines proclaiming the United States an "environmental outlaw."

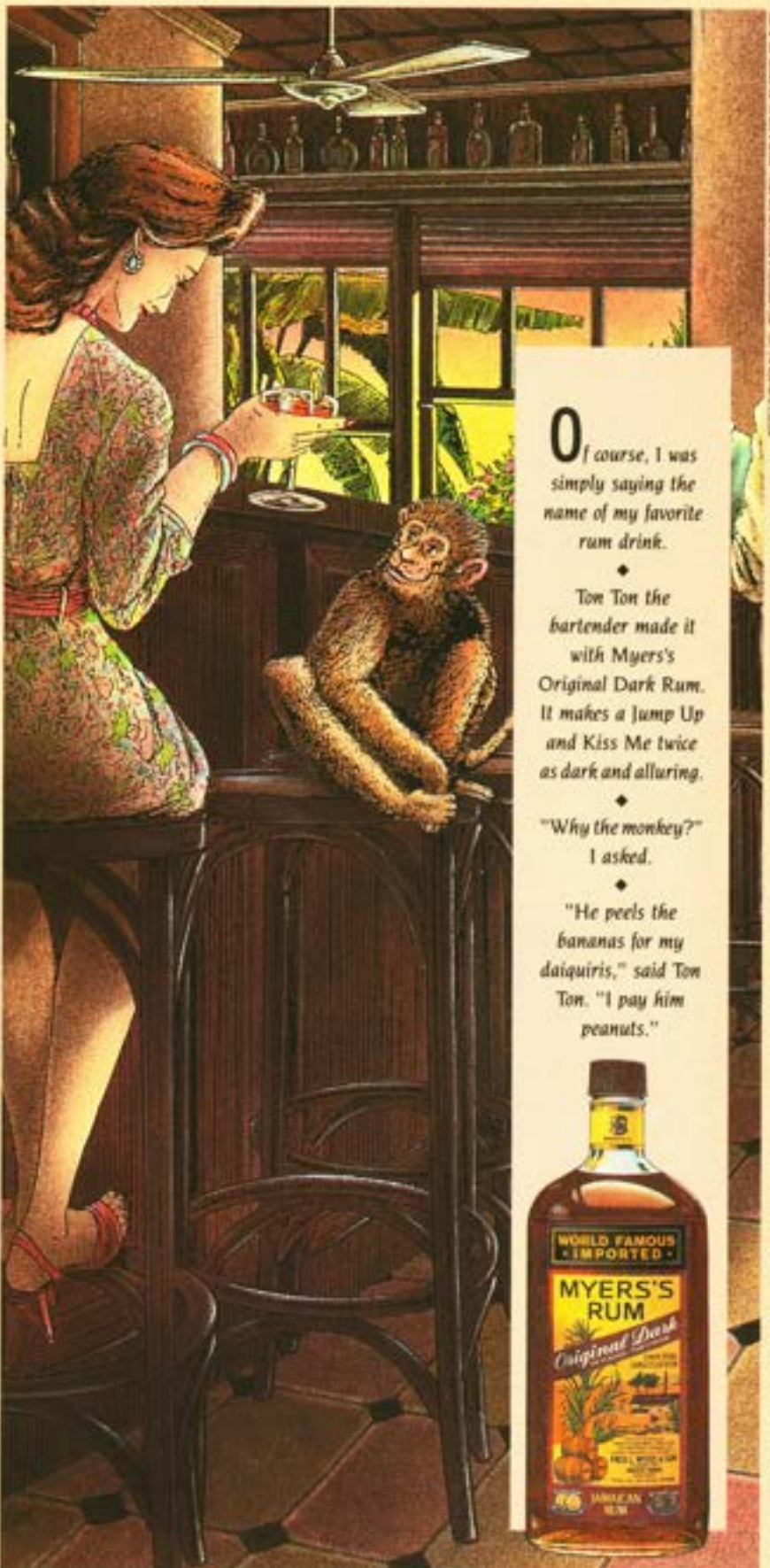
Perhaps the saddest and most telling revelation is that the Bush administration seems unable to comprehend what the post-Cold War international agenda is all about. Much of that agenda was on the table at the Earth Summit, and the United States acted as if it wanted no part of it.

*Bill Mankin
Atlanta, Georgia*

FRIEND, NOT FOE

In your list of federal officials who subsequently found work in the waste-management industry ("EPA's Revolving Door," September/October), the name of Richard Fortuna was included. This guilt-by-association listing obscures the fact that Fortuna and the Hazardous Waste Treatment Council (of which he is a director) are fervent advocates of tougher environmental laws and regulations, and have joined with the Sierra Club in several lawsuits against the EPA. In fact, Fortuna is a strong advocate for some of the positions advocated by EPA critic William Sanjour in the article this list accompanied ("In Name Only"). Although we don't agree with the HWTC on everything, the organization is a critical ally in our fight for a cleaner and safer America.

*Blake Early, Washington Director, Sierra Club Pollution and Toxics Program
Daniel Weiss, Washington Director, Sierra Club Environmental Quality Program
Washington, D.C.*



Of course, I was simply saying the name of my favorite rum drink.

•
Ton Ton the bartender made it with Myers's Original Dark Rum. It makes a Jump Up and Kiss Me twice as dark and alluring.

•
"Why the monkey?" I asked.

•
"He peels the bananas for my daiquiris," said Ton Ton. "I pay him peanuts."



How to Jump Up and Kiss Someone: 1/2 oz. Myers's Original Dark Rum, 4 oz. pineapple juice, 3/4 oz. lime juice, dash of fillers.

Open Eyes, Open Arms

Poor and minority communities throughout the South are in pain, victims not only of social prejudice, but of economic discrimination by multinational corporations with colonialist mindsets. So contends Sierra Club Southeast Staff Director Jim Price, who blames many of the South's environmental woes on corporations seeking cheap, easy places to site their toxics-producing incinerators, landfills, and factories.

As Price vents his outrage at this injustice, his mellifluous drawl takes on an edge of frustration. "Poverty sets people up for this type of exploitation," he says. He rails against local and state political hacks who get cozy with the multinationals, doing favors in exchange for campaign contributions and endangering the health of the people and the environment. Price accuses such "scalawags" of trying to create rifts between oppressed minority communities and the environmentalists who should be their allies. "Powerful economic forces have sought to divide African-Americans and whites in the past," says Price, "and they're attempting to do the same on environmental issues. They're doing everything they can to see to it that some people aren't registered to vote. They make trash industries look like economic development. It's a vast, vicious cycle, and it's killing people." (See "Southern Exposure," page 42.)

Price says it's time for the Sierra Club and similar organizations to help boot out bad politicians, elect good ones, and keep carpetbagging polluters at bay. The best way to do this, he believes, is to link the national groups to the many minority-led grassroots organizations in the South that have long

struggled for social, economic, and environmental justice. He intends to make the Club instrumental in helping to build broad, cross-cultural coalitions modeled on the southern labor movement of the 1930s and the civil-rights movement of the 1960s.

A key player in these coalition-building efforts is veteran environmental activist and grassroots community organizer Scott Douglas, who recently joined the Sierra Club's Southeast Office as head of the Gulf Coast Environmental Justice Grassroots Organizing Initiative. Douglas is well known to



Community organizer Scott Douglas

minority activists in the South; in his new post he'll use the Club's clout to assist them in their battles against the toxic wasting of black, Hispanic, Native American, and poor white communities.

Douglas believes that only a united effort can dissuade powerful politicians and industries from preying on minorities. "A lot of environmental aggression is targeted toward areas where there's little or no effective political resistance," he says.

Much of the struggle for grassroots activists, Douglas continues, is against all forms of intimidation, including economic reprisal by employers who

resent those workers who insist on knowing what poisons they're being exposed to and how they can avoid contamination.

"We must buttress the right to vote with the right to know and the right to act in defense of our lives and our children's lives," he says.

Part of Douglas' job is to highlight the issue of environmental justice—the need for equity in solving waste problems—for the Sierra Club's 40,000 members in the Deep South. Like Price, Douglas feels it's essential to get environmentalists of all races to agree on objectives. But bringing everyone to the same table may prove one of his more difficult tasks. Until now, minority environmentalists have felt excluded from or ignored by national environmental organizations. These divisions have begun to heal, but a legacy of mistrust and anger persists. Many of Douglas' African-American friends may not immediately welcome him as a Sierra Club ambassador. "Where I was previously received with open arms," he says, "I may be greeted with suspicion."

Minorities *should* be wary, Douglas admits. He recounts how, in the 1970s, a leading white environmentalist negotiated the siting of a giant toxic-waste dump in Alabama, Douglas' home state. The environmentalist held private negotiations with the waste company, but never consulted with the mostly black community near the proposed site.

"It had never crossed his mind to consult with grassroots leaders," says Douglas. "The battle was fought and lost outside the county. Well, if the local people can't even see the fight, how the hell can they win it?" —Mark Mardon



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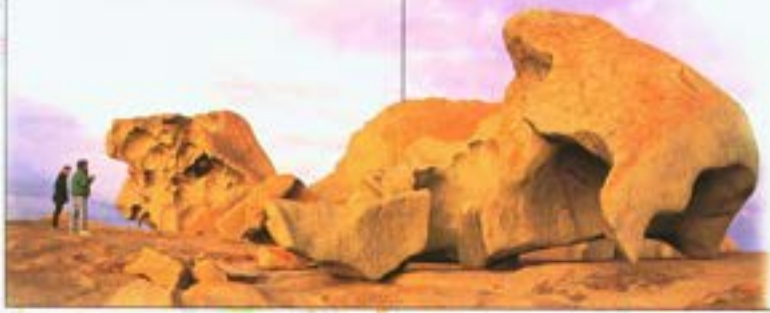


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MARC LECARD

Though a well-maintained motor vehicle should last for years, the very act of maintenance has long left auto parts and fluids clogging alleys and fouling waterways. But these days you can take the edge off the damage used tires, oil, batteries, and antifreeze wreak upon the environment.

To start with, make sure you get rid of your old motor oil properly. You might think that shade-tree mechanics with even minimal environmental consciousness would know not to dump their used crankcase oil on the ground or down the storm drain—since it flows from there directly into lakes and streams or settles into the water table—but according to the EPA, 91 percent of home oil-changers dispose of their used oil improperly, releasing 193 million gallons into the world at large every year. It's become a little easier to find places that will take your used lube: many recycling centers, gas stations, repair shops, and

quick oil-changers now accept it. Some states require retailers to accept used oil from their customers, or to list recycling collection centers.

Unfortunately, most of this waste oil is burned rather than cleaned up for reuse. Recent ad campaigns by some of the big oil companies—Mobil, Exxon, Amoco—have touted their used-oil collection programs, but most of what's collected is blended with new oil without refining out lead and other toxics, such as arsenic, zinc, and chromium. The resulting mixture is used as fuel in refineries or sold as residential and industrial heating oil—and when it's burned, the toxics in it are released into the atmosphere.

No, driving to the recycling center is not enough . . .

Legislation now in Congress would declare used motor oil a hazardous waste and regulate the lead content of reused oil. The oil companies oppose the bill, claiming that this would make used motor oil more difficult to collect and recycle by "stigmatizing" it; in the nine states that have similar laws already on the books, however, used-oil collection has increased.

Currently there are only two re-refiners in the country—Evergreen in California and Safety-Kleen in Illinois—that clean up old crankcase oil to the point where it can be used to make new lube. But with increased consumer awareness of the problems caused by dumping or burning old motor oil, the market for re-refiners should grow. Ask your recycling center where they send their collected oil and let them know you'd like it to be processed into new lubricant, not sent skyward in a cloud of toxics. Look for and buy re-refined motor oil, and let your retailer know you prefer it.

Antifreeze is subject to many of the same abuses as motor oil; do-it-yourselfers often dump it into storm drains or on the ground. But used antifreeze is a hazardous waste, according to the EPA. It contains lead, and the main ingredient—ethylene glycol—is toxic. There are processes that can recycle antifreeze completely; call your auto-repair shop or local recycling center to see if they accept used antifreeze.

Worn-out tires pose another big disposal problem. Buried in landfills, they tend to pop back to the surface over time; incinerating them releases a host of toxics into the air. There are second uses for your old tires besides tree swings and boat bumpers, however. They can be shredded and used to make things like roofing tiles and rubber mats; added to asphalt, chopped-up car tires make a thin, durable paving. In New Mexico, architect Michael Reynolds packs old tires with

Waiting for the Boat

ANNIE STINE

dirt and uses them (along with aluminum cans, cement, and adobe) to build inexpensive, energy-efficient houses he calls Earthships.

Right now, most tires are either dumped or incinerated; finding a good place to take yours can be difficult. With tipping fees going sky-high, however, and with fewer landfills accepting old tires at any price, recycling is on the rise.

Not long ago, the Freon gas in your car's air conditioner was routinely vented during servicing, releasing CFCs into the atmosphere. Now, however, repair shops nationwide must collect it for cleaning and reuse. This is not something to try at home: The equipment for recycling Freon costs about \$3,000. Keep an eye on your air conditioner, and have a repairperson check it for leaks that could be letting CFCs escape.

Batteries are probably the easiest part of your car to recycle, and over 90 percent of those purchased are turned in for reuse. Most states have laws requiring some form of battery recycling, and many retailers will take your old battery from you when you buy a new one. Just about every part of the battery can be used again: The lead is taken out and melted down to be recast; the plastic casings are chipped, melted, and made into new casings; and the sulfuric acid can be cleaned and reused.

Of course, even if you take care to auto-pollute as little as possible—driving a fuel-efficient model, keeping it tuned up, and recycling as much as you can—your automobile is still probably the most environmentally destructive thing you own. So while waiting for electric cars and solarmobiles to hit the market, your best investments might be a comfortable pair of walking shoes, a good bike, and a discount book of bus tickets. ■

The canoe is late, but after only one day in the Amazon I have learned to measure heat and light, soggi-ness and insect bites—and not to bother with time. We had waited hours in Quito for the plane that flew us to the jungle airstrip, hours more for the pickup truck that bumped us to this five-shack, two-field clearing. Now, sweating on the steps of the room-on-stilts that is the Cuyabeno Preserve headquarters, I feel that even years are irrelevant: The solemn children who watch us, the generic mutts who lethargically prowl the dirt road, the oil pipeline that worms its way hundreds of miles to the coast of Ecuador, all

seem to have been here forever.

I wander up a slight hill to a thatched hut displaying a Coca-Cola sign. Six small faces are perched along the window. "Fanta?" asks one. I nod, and she goes to a cooler for the orange soft drink. A calendar adorned by a blue-eyed blonde in a topless bikini stands out among the posters of mustachioed presidential candidates that paper the shack's inner walls. I thank the six faces and walk the 20 yards back to the river's edge. Leaning over the bridge railing I see in one clump of bushes more kinds of butterflies than have flown through my entire life.

Intermittently a decrepit but cheerfully painted bus rumbles past, bulging with pipeline workers and other "colonists," as our guide, Ana Cecilia, calls them. Off in the distance the whining rasp of a chainsaw creates another forest clearing. Finally the sound of a different motor interrupts the lan-

Floating days in
Ecuador—and
ever-darker nights



ILLUSTRATION BY

guid afternoon, and a 30-foot-long dugout powered by a Johnson outboard appears from around the bend and slides up to the muddy bank. A dark, compactly muscular Siona Indian stands in the stern, his eyes lost in the shadow of a baseball cap. Ana Cecilia introduces him as Luis, our boatman.

We load up, and for the next three hours Luis navigates the 20 winding, uninhabited river miles to a lodge in the Cuyabeno Biotropical Preserve, a 1.6-million-acre, theoretically protected area near the Colombian border. "They drill even here, though," Ana Cecilia says.

My family and I are the only guests at the lodge, and are free to develop our own routine. Mornings we trek through the rainforest, Luis and his machete in the lead. From one tree he hacks a strip of bark and within minutes carves a blowgun dart; from another he takes a leaf and fashions a piece of twine of the sort the Indians use to weave hammocks. This sap cures the ache in your gut, Luis tells us; this nut eases the one in your head. These ants have a lemony taste; those will eat your toes if you stand on that log too long. Luis sees monkeys and macaws where we see only rustling leaves; he waits patiently for us to find the kingfisher with our binoculars. When we offer him the glasses he shakes his head and smiles, pointing to his eyes.

Afternoons are less strenuous. We drift in the dugout on the lakes that appear with the rainy season, float lazily among the trees that stand stoically knee-deep in the water. Their branches bear orchids and bromeliads; the bromeliads hold water and frogs.

Late one afternoon we follow a maze of waterways to the Community, a gathering place for the Indians who live in Cuyabeno. As nimble as the bats that



flit from the darkening jungle, Luis maneuvers through increasingly narrow channels overhung with vines.

Only a few Indians live at the Community now; most people come only for festivals, Ana Cecilia tells us. An open area is barren of structures except for a small wooden building raised high on stilts. "The oil company built it," says Ana Cecilia, "to make the Indians willing to have their land drilled."

It is dark when we get back in the boat. I can't even see the river's banks, which aren't more than ten feet away on either side of us, but Luis motors through the labyrinth as speedily as he brought us in. He turns sharply into walls of blackness, veers around protruding stumps invisible to me until their shadowy points appear at the side of the boat. Bats and insects zip past my face; I close my eyes and imagine the crackup of the canoe—will I stay in the water or swim for the shrouded shore? I look back at Luis, barely able to see his outline in the darkness. He is imperturbable. I will not die here, I think, because I am with Luis. I relax my grip on the side of the boat. And if I do die, I will not mind.

Back at the lodge I realize that we have experienced nothing unusual, that Luis brought us home the same way that I might lead someone from

one end of my unlit house to the other.

The last morning we pack up the boat for the journey out. Ana Cecilia and a Siona sit in the bow, laughing and talking. Then they huddle silently over a matchbox. Ana Cecilia holds it out to me. Inside, nestled in toilet paper, is a dead beetle half the size of a dime. Its casing catches the sun and throws back stripes of silver, blue, and gold. "We will take it to the university in Quito," she says. "None of the Siona has ever seen one of these before."

I lean back and watch the trees fly overhead. I have grown used to their staggered heights, the riotous contrasts in trunk and leaf that I found so unsettling at first. Sitting up, I catch a glimpse of the pipeline crawling through the underbrush. Suddenly I feel unnerved by the fragility of this place, frightened for Luis, for the newfound beetle, for the preposterously blue butterflies that chase us down the river. I have known about the desecration of the rainforests for years, but never felt the loss, never wanted forgiveness until now.

Around the next bend the preserve headquarters comes into view. Out of the boat for the last time, we say goodbye to Luis, who has looked after us so generously but whose averted eyes revealed nothing. We give him gifts of money and a Swiss Army knife, somewhat awkwardly, wondering if what we offer is an insult because it is so little—or because it is so much.

I'm thirsty and go up to the shack to buy a Fanta. The children are still at the window, the blonde still tacked to the wall. I walk back down and sit on the steps of the office, where a lifetime ago I waited for the dugout to come floating under the bridge. ■

► For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.

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Telltale Tissue

MICHAEL CASTLEMAN

Should you spring for that free-range chicken? A growing number of consumers are saying yes, believing that the poisons in the general food supply will eventually come home to roost. As a result, more and more people are paying premium prices for produce, meats, and poultry they believe to be "organic," or chemical-free. Many scientists, however, have dismissed such behavior as paranoid, saying there are no credible studies suggesting any significant hazard from the average American's exposure to minute levels of toxic chemicals. Now, though, just such a study is raising eyebrows among cancer specialists.

A research team led by a University of Michigan physician and toxicologist has linked human breast-cancer risk to several environmental contaminants,

including the pesticides DDT and DDE and a class of industrial chemicals called PCBs. The study by Frank Falck, Jr., and colleagues in New York and Connecticut involved 40 Caucasian women who had breast lumps removed at Connecticut's Hartford Hospital from May through September 1987. Falck's group analyzed fatty tissue from the breasts of 20 women with cancerous lumps and 20 whose lumps were benign. In the breast-fat tissue of the women with cancer, Falck found significantly higher levels of DDT, DDE, and PCBs. As a result,

A few new
directions in the
breast-cancer maze

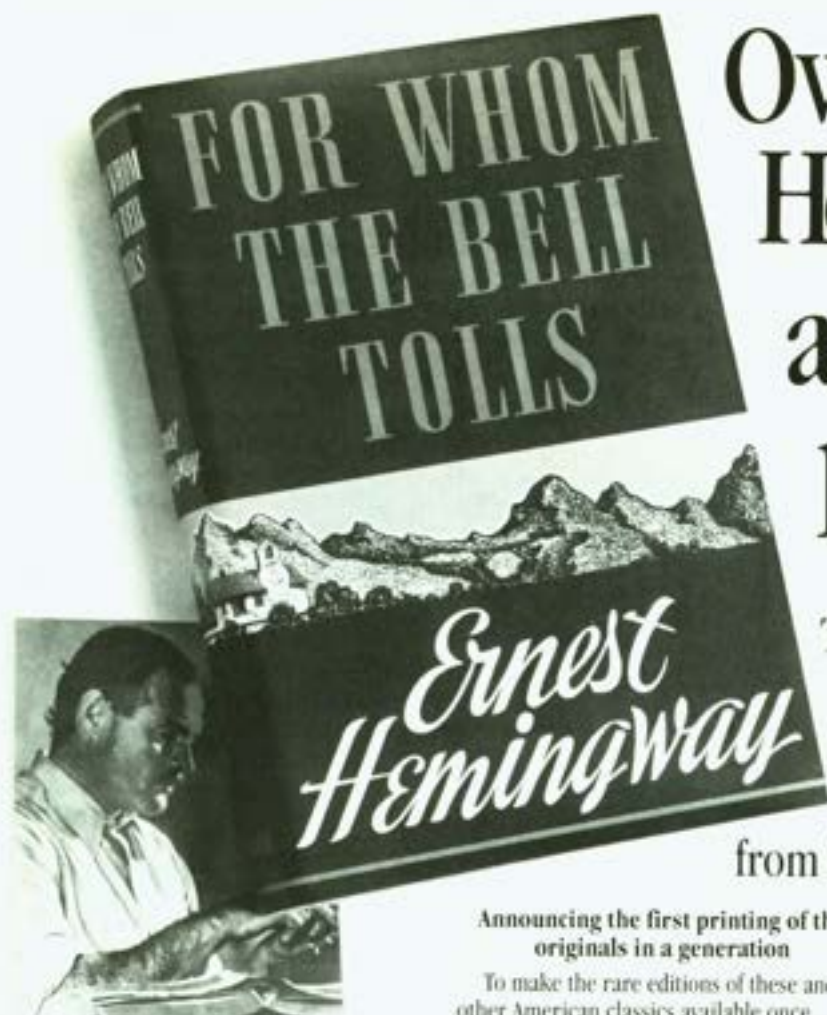
Falck and his team "suggest a role for environmentally derived suspect carcinogens in the genesis of mammary carcinoma."

Critics have questioned Falck's conclusions, pointing to his small sample size. Falck insists that, based on standard statistical tests, his findings are highly significant. "In fact," he explains, "we were stunned at the high levels of toxics we found in the cancerous breast tissue. We could have found considerably lower levels, and still wound up with statistically significant results." The National Cancer Institute agrees that Falck's data warrant concern, and is planning to begin an international investigation of toxic chemicals in breast fat and their relation to breast-cancer risk next year.

Falck's work may help explain one of the enduring mysteries of breast-cancer causation—its connection to fat in the diet. Many large epidemiological studies have shown that breast cancer is linked to dietary fat—the more fat, the higher the risk. The most compelling studies have traced the risk of Japanese women who have migrated to the United States. While living in their home country, Japanese women who adhere to that nation's traditional low-fat diet have a very low breast-cancer rate (7.9 per 100,000, compared with the U.S. rate of 22.4). But when Japanese-born women move to the United States and begin to consume higher-fat foods—burgers, fries, pizza, ice cream, etc.—their breast-cancer rate rises. And American-born ethnic Japanese women raised on our higher-fat diet have a higher breast-cancer rate than Japanese-born immigrant women.

But the connection between a fatty diet and breast cancer is not that simple. Some countries with cuisines that are relatively high in fatty meats, fish, and oils—Sweden, France, and Spain, for example—have breast-cancer rates considerably lower than those in the





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United States. Falck thinks he knows why: "It's not just the fat in the diet that raises breast-cancer risk," he says. "It's *what's in the fat.*" Falck posits that the countries with high-fat diets but low breast-cancer rates probably have low levels of environmental contamination by pesticides and other toxic chemicals. This is what the upcoming NCI study plans to investigate.

The toxics Falck discovered in cancerous breast tissue are "lipophilic," meaning they accumulate in fatty tissue. Though no longer in widespread use, DDT and PCBs are still very much with us. "Chemically, they are extremely stable," Falck explains. "They get into animal fat, and they stay there. We eat those foods, and the toxics get stored in our fatty tissues."

Those experts in breast-cancer epidemiology who are skeptical of Falck's findings are sure to remain so unless several other studies confirm his results. Falck himself, stating that the toxics are probably promoters or inducers of cancer rather than direct carcinogens, recognizes that their involvement in human disease needs to be clarified by further investigation.

Meanwhile, Falck urges women not to panic about the bacon and ice cream they may have consumed over the years. Plenty of women have diets rich in fatty, toxics-laced foods and never develop breast cancer. Breast cancer is a very complicated disease, and despite associations with certain risk factors, scientists still aren't clear on what causes it. If you're concerned about your risk, ask your physician for a referral to a comprehensive breast-health center where professionals can help assess it; most major metropolitan areas have such facilities. In the meantime, should you avoid high-fat meats? Falck says that, in light of our limited knowledge of the causes of breast cancer, doing so would be "prudent." ■

► For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.

Three Neat Hops

HANNAH HINCHMAN

I've forgotten how to draw. Sitting above the wash in the canyon, I push the pencil around with all the worst attitudes: impatience, second-guessing, fear. The pencil marks in my sketchbook look fake, listless, graceless. I assume I'll remember how to draw again, though in this state it's hard to be absolutely sure the ability will come back. The best way to endure such an exile is to think of it as a chrysalis phase. The most basic skills have dissolved, but even now are in the process of regeneration.

A few days later I come to the canyon with a heavy heart and no drawing tools. The canyon's south-facing wall is a puzzle of light and shadow, the pieces all rounded, like shoulders, or the hollow under the rib cage when you lie on your back. A fly as big as a cicada has appeared on a rock in front of me. I think it's a bot fly, the kind whose larvae live under the skin of mammals, breathing through a small, round opening. The fly is blacker than any ink and casts a precise shadow that makes me want to head for home immediately and do something reassuring, like ironing.

On another morning, early, the canyon is jolly with swallows. All the members of this group are violet-green, little bullet-bodied birds, sociable and deft. They vanish into the great shadow cast by the north-facing wall, then blink on again, emerging from it.

Rescued by a lamb
when the shadows
seemed so deep

One swallow passes near me repeatedly and shoots down the narrow wash, following each curve. I try a few tiny thumbnail sketches based on that flight, pretending not to notice that I've started drawing.

If I'm going to converse with natural forms by drawing them, I need to look first, and to look carefully I need to forget about the world of obligations, to believe that I have an endless supply of time. The best drawing excursions have an idle, dawdling quality, when I feel like a bear ambling, turning over rocks, pulling at loose bark. What would ordinarily be noted in passing as an old bone on the sand becomes something arresting, to be hunkered over and examined. In fact, it's a very old bone, the polish long gone, porous and fibrous, mineral- and wood-like. It has lain on red sand so long that its underside has been stained a delicate salmon pink.

Pebbles clatter down from the darkened, north-facing canyon wall behind me. I position myself in the shadow of a juniper tree and scan what looks like a vertical rock face. Finally I spot a very small bighorn lamb wobbling along a little shelf. It stops and looks up toward a group of ewes and lambs silhouetted on the skyline. One of the ewes is watching and gives a guttural "baah." The lamb moves ahead hesitantly, scatters pebbles, stops again. I'm beginning to think the lamb is trapped, when suddenly it makes three leaps upward, supported apparently by nothing, and gains the ridge top.

Three neat hops, executed with miniature power and confidence. I try to draw that gesture, not caring whether I succeed. ■



A JUBILATION OF SWALLOWS

Wash newly designed by recent downpours: silt fans, gravel crescents, scourings, edge cuttings pebble sortings, hydrodynamic flutings. Brand new anthills in recently flooded channels. My favorite stones: the polished black ones. Swallows en masse, all chattering, angular rune-like shapes.



The ewe watches

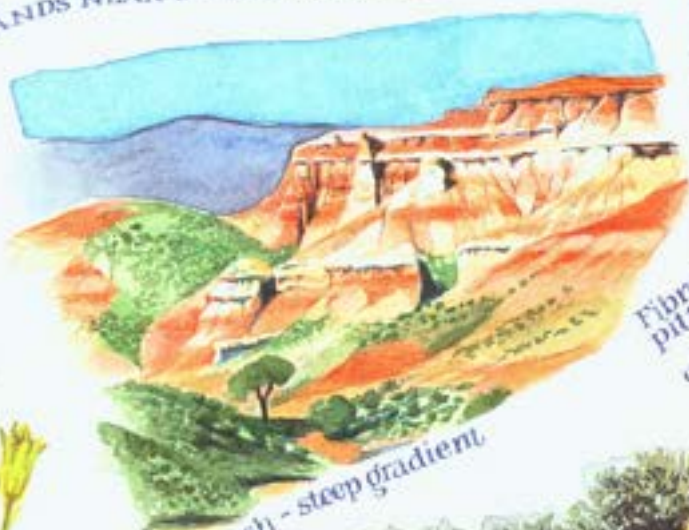
the lamb begins its



scrambles

IN THE BADLANDS NEAR DUBOIS, WYOMING

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Hinchman
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The wash - steep gradient

Fibrous, pitted tip of the old bone



with lichens



Cannot identify this unusual, verbena-like flower...

Growing on the margin of the wash



Skin

M. GARRETT BAUMAN

One December afternoon I discovered a snakeskin in my woodpile. Translucent and crumbly, the outside was scaled, while the elastic inner layer was ribbed with bony hoops. The skin lay in whorls where it had been shed sometime last summer.

The shedding of skin is a private act. I pictured the snake slithering into my woodpile, "sniffing" crevices with flicking tongue for the right one in which to come apart and crawl out of itself. The inner layer had not split like the outer, and I wondered if snakes ever suffocated trying to wriggle free of their former selves.

Back in the house, I uncoiled the snakeskin on my desk amid the clutter of other things left behind—an oriole's pendant nest, a cicada's discarded skin, a striped fungus. Most of these had been given to me by my students, who needed tangible verification of what they'd seen. We are what we see, I tell my classes.

I need to listen to my own advice.

Forty years old, I've barely begun to examine the few square feet of real estate I inhabit. I twirl a snakeskin in my fingers and test its elasticity, but how often do I stretch out of my own skin? When I watch students fan through woods and fields, it's hard to believe that I am the teacher. I can give them nothing but superficial facts. "Thou shouldst not have been old till thou hadst been wise," the Fool counsels Lear. When did I become a "professor" and not just someone who likes to read and write and walk in the woods? Where has the ancient, younger, confident teacher disappeared? I never noticed him peeling off. And when the final integument is unzipped, will I be wise, or will I have shed all my layers

Look beneath the surface
and the center
bursts with emptiness



only to find I was nothing but skin?

As a teacher, I am a professional slougher of skins. On one autumn expedition a young woman asked me about the galls on goldenrod, the brown, golf-ball size lumps that swelled from the plants' stems. I told her they grow where a wasp punctures the stalk and lays an egg when the stem is young and tender. After the egg hatches, the wasp larva secretes a growth-stimulating chemical that induces the plant to produce soft cells for the larva to eat. Another larval chemical makes the plant's stem-support cells multiply cancerously into plump insulation. The gall, then, is a layer of thick skin around the larva.

After my explanation, the student wanted to know how big the larva was, if it were dormant, if it were wasp or larva now. "I don't know," I told her. "Find out."

She commandeered a penknife, peeled away the layer of dead brown crust, then cut wedges from the spongy white gall. Inside a womb-like chamber was a yellowy-white grub less than half an inch long. Thin skin barely contained the larva's gelatinous insides. Was it re-organizing into wings and stinger as we watched? My students glanced at me; I imagined them wanting to trust their teacher, yet doubting that scientific principles would ever transform this blob into a chitinous-shelled flying machine.

Someone prodded the larva with a bit of dry straw. It rippled like a tiny waterbed. "What's going to happen to it now?" someone asked.

"It's going to die," I said.

"Couldn't we put it back?" asked the woman who had performed the surgery. I didn't answer. She returned the penknife, shifted the dissected gall from hand to hand. Perhaps she thought she had ceased being a discoverer and become a killer, but I knew that she had only grown more than she intended. Blind to my own changes, as



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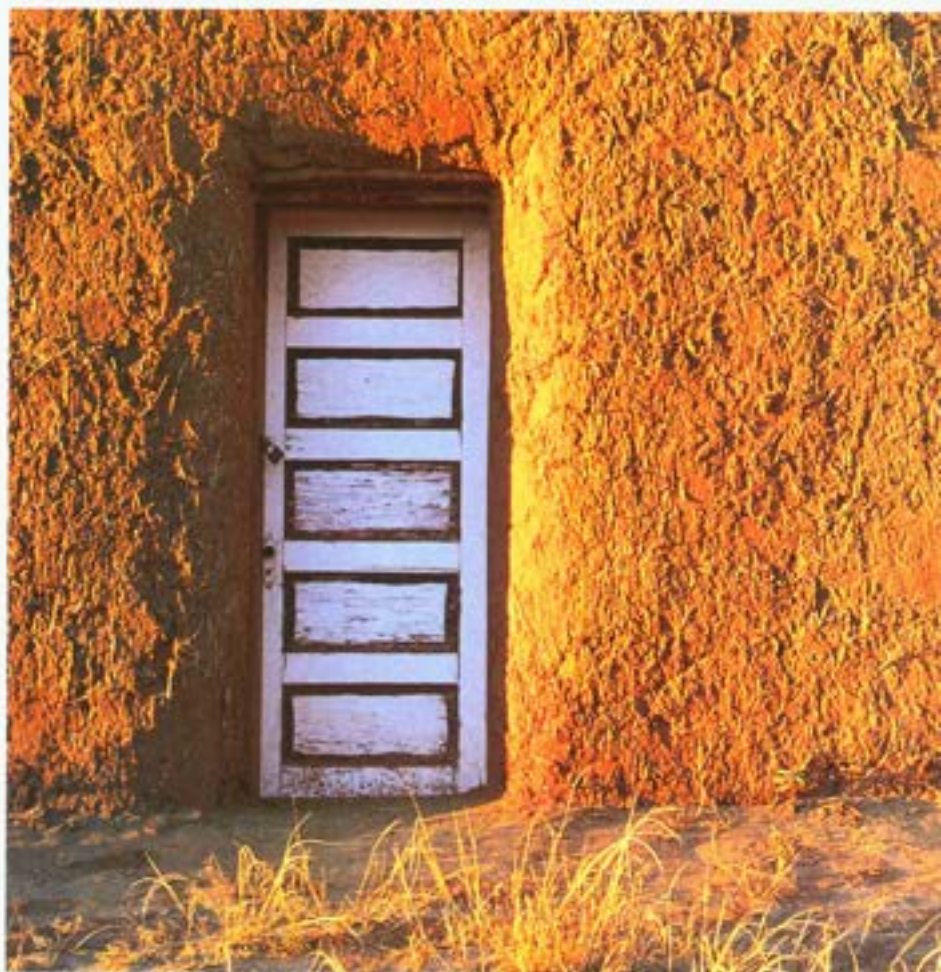
snakes are during sloughing when they lose the eye scale that serves as their focusing lens, I could see the changes in her with clarity, pride, and pity. I took the gall.

"There are many more," I said, nodding toward the patch of goldenrod bending in the October wind.

That was no answer, of course, but it was the only one I had to give. We say nature is "satisfied" by the survival of species, that individual deaths do not matter, yet nature endures the extinction and creation of millions of species with no sign of satisfaction or dissatisfaction. But if individuals don't matter, why all these elaborate transformations from one form of matter/energy to another, why all these many skins to house nothing? Perhaps it is simply because we reflect the principal pattern of our universe. The cosmos grows at the speed of light, expanding in all directions within ever-new curved skin. Inside the membrane that shapes the universe, 99.999 percent is vacuum. Like the planets, stars, and cosmic dust that strain to fill the void, we give the emptiness structure.

For a long moment the class watched the patch of goldenrod tilt and spring back in a capricious breeze. The other larvae were safely chewing inside their spongy chambers, but we could hear the wind and snow hiss among the stems. A sunny May day would stir the larvae to complete their changes and gnaw out, spreading wet wings to dry on the dead galls. Perhaps before then someone would wander among them to spy a bit, slit open a gall to see if things were proceeding as scheduled. Deep in our own resilient layers, working our own changes, none of us knew what we would be then, when it was time to come back and look. ■

M. GARIBETT BAUMAN is a professor of English and the Coordinator of Human Ecology at Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York.



What I Do Not Own

CHRISTOPHER MERRILL

Indian summer. Coyotes start howling a little after daybreak, and all along the canyon—*El Cajón Grande*, four miles north of Santa Fe—dogs, goats, and burros respond in kind. By mid-morning my neighbor's macaw is squawking in its cage. Magpies glide through the apple orchard out front. The sky? Cerulean, as it is more than 300 days a year in New Mexico.

Beyond the gate behind our house is Santa Fe National Forest; up on the

mesa, a five-minute walk away, cinnamon bears are once again foraging too close to civilization. Three years ago more than 30 bears were caught in these hills and transported north to the woods near Chama. One morning my neighbor woke up my wife and me to show us the large sow that Fish and Game officers had trapped in his backyard. The odds of a female surviving transplantation that late in the season were small, and he tried in vain to break the lock on the barrel-shaped cage.



"Another day in paradise!" cries Hans-Mukh, the Sikh day laborer who takes care of a neighboring orchard. A transplant himself (from Pittsburgh), he is walking up the driveway, hauling horse manure to spread around the aging trees, his white turban bunched up over his ears so that he can fit a Walkman headset around the back of his head.

The orchard belongs to Percival King, a spry man in his 80s who helped build the atomic bomb in nearby Los Alamos. He is the *mayordomo*, or manager, of our *acequia*, our irrigation ditch, and I like to joke that ours is the best-regulated ditch in the state. Every spring Hans-Mukh and I spend an afternoon walking the *acequia*, clearing leaves and brush and broken branches,

then ushering in the water diverted for the growing season from Tesuque Creek. Unlike other neighbors who sometimes join us for part of the journey downstream, Hans-Mukh and I do not belong to the landed gentry, and so we do not treat our labor as a pleasant distraction. It is part of our job.

As the caretaker of the estate surrounding me, I live in a small adobe cottage that once housed chickens. As a writer struggling to make ends meet, I am grateful for the gift of free rent. What is more, I enjoy the work integral to maintaining this place—pruning shrubs and trees; gardening in a variety of flower, wildflower, vegetable, and perennial beds; planting bulbs in the fall, raking leaves, and splitting wood for the winter; cleaning chimneys; walking the ditch. This work is, indeed, a vital counter to my literary activities, my inner life, what the poet William Matthews calls "this quarantine, / reading and pacing and feeding the fireplace."

But there are other reasons for living among orchards and horses, piñons and junipers, saltbrush and sage. "I learn from everything I do not own," John Hay writes, and I am heartened by his counsel. My wife and I own nothing here—not these three acres that real-estate agents covet, nor the water rights in continuous litigation, nor the house we guard, nor the artwork adorning the walls, nor the swimming pool we watch over as if it were a sick child. We work for our housing; a simple trade.

The question of ownership extends to the natural world. Certainly the Tesuque Indians living a few miles to the west have a different understand-

ing of man's proper relation to nature than might exist among our neighbors. No one "owns" these cottonwoods turning gold and groaning in the earth, arcing over the *acequia* and our house. Nor the lawn I cut every five days until the first snow, grass native to worlds far from the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Nor the garter snake sunning on the flagstone path leading to the main house, a thick coil preparing to hibernate. Nothing is ours.

This is what my immersion here has taught me: Like the flash floods, which routinely carve the arroyo behind us and which once dumped more than a ton of mud in the swimming pool, everything flows away, even in the high desert. Our tenure anywhere is brief; as we attend to our surroundings, we must not fool ourselves into believing that we own anything beyond our capacity for love and awe.

What I treasure here in autumn are the magpies feeding in the orchard, the red-shafted flicker drumming on the *viga* above our door, the scat of the mountain lion I have yet to see, the bears that will escape this year's traps, the aspens blazing in the distance. At sunset on the mesa, when the coyotes howl again and the sky bleeds above the Jemez Mountains to the west and north, I can see the lights of Los Alamos as well as the first stars flickering overhead. A strange match. Yet this spectacle is what will send me to my study later in the evening, where I will write, praying for vision, compassion, and genuine acts of imagination, which belong to no one—and to us all. ■

CHRISTOPHER MERULLI'S poetry, fiction, and essays have appeared in many publications, including *The Paris Review* and *The Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*. He is the editor of *The Forgotten Language*, an anthology of contemporary poetry, and has just completed a book on soccer in America.

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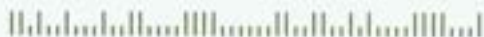


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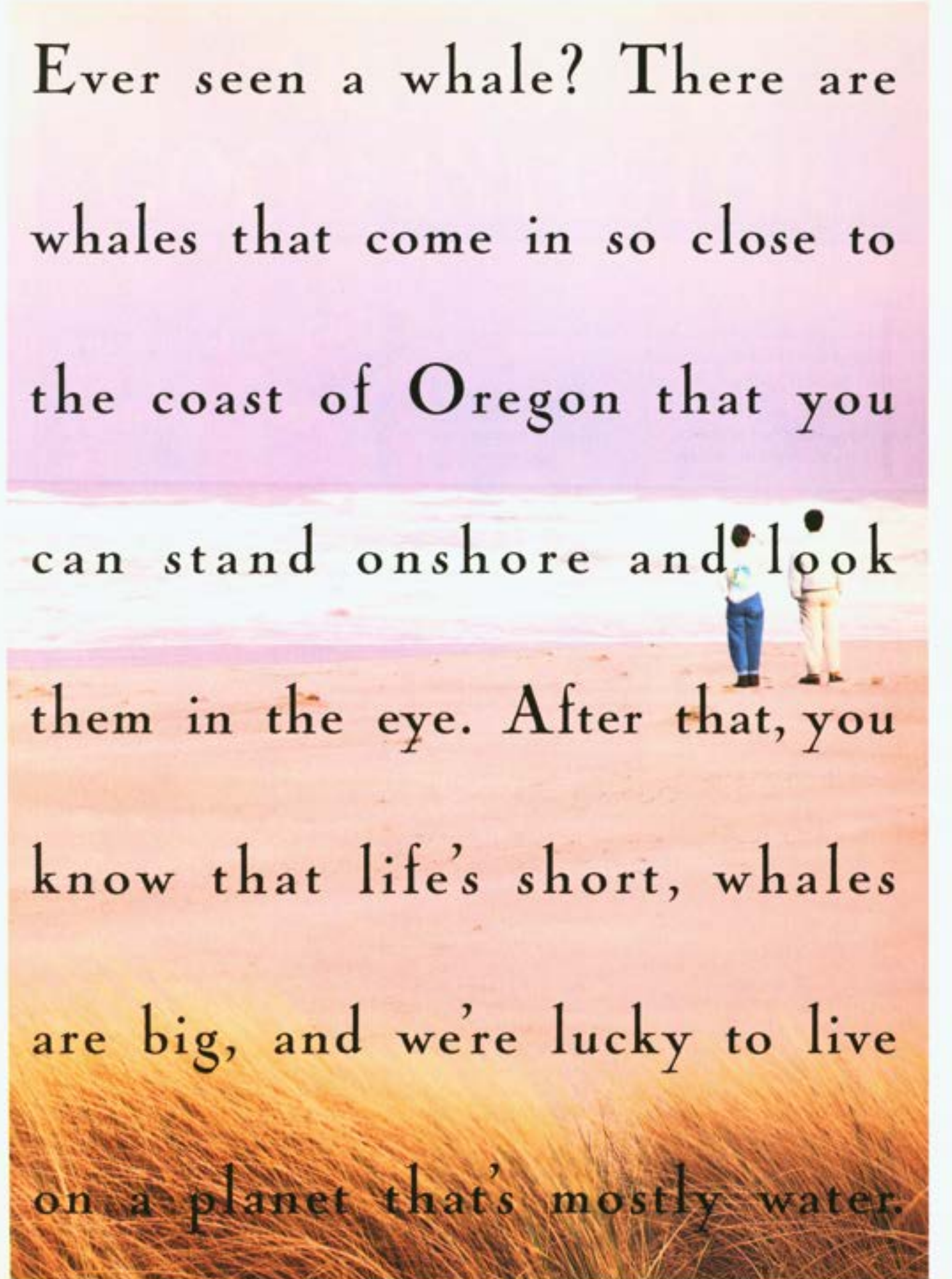


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know that life's short, whales are big, and we're lucky to live

on a planet that's mostly water.



Slick Maneuvers

If you had a billion dollars, would you rather save thousands of acres of glorious Alaskan coastal forest from clearcutting, or finance a perpetual bureaucracy?

The trustees for the billion bucks Exxon has to pony up for its March 24, 1989, oil spill are leaning toward the latter option. The *Exxon Valdez* settlement was okayed last year by a federal court, despite protestations by environmentalists that it was far too small. The state and federal bureaucrats in charge of the cleanup, however, were in a rush to settle: The restoration of Prince William Sound, they said, just couldn't wait.

A year later, the main beneficiaries of the money are the teeming schools of attorneys and consultants, while the restoration work is going nowhere. Actually, although oil remains under the surface of beaches in Prince William Sound, most scientists agree that further attempts to clean it up are impractical. Some of Exxon's attempts to do so, like blasting oiled beaches with boiling water, may have caused more harm than good. According to University of Alaska marine advisor Rick Steiner, "The most helpful thing that can be done to facilitate the recovery of the injured environment is to protect it as completely as possible from any further damage."

Oiling a beach is only one way to devastate an ecosystem. Another is clearcut-

ting, as is taking place on private lands throughout the oil-spill area. The destruction of upland forest habitat can deliver a one-two punch to many of the same species already hit hard by the spill, including wild salmon, bald eagles, harlequin ducks, and marbled murrelets.

With restrictions on the logging of old-growth timber going into effect in the Pacific Northwest, the pressure on south-central Alaska is increasing; last year, for the first time, lumber exports to the Lower 48 from the Prince William Sound area—exports that have traditionally gone to Asia—exceeded 1 million board feet. Non-Alaskans are often surprised to learn that many of the areas in the oil-spill zone most endangered by development lie inside state parks, national wildlife refuges, and even national parks. This is a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act



Still fighting the last disaster, Alaska is missing its chance to stop the next one.

■ ■ ■

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An attractive investment for you might be American Cyanamid. According to the EPA they released and transferred 202 million pounds of toxic waste in 1989.

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of 1971, which formed Alaska's indigenous people into "Native corporations," giving them title to 44 million acres of land to develop for the benefit of their "shareholders." Since these claims were given precedence over other state and federal claims, many Native lands now exist as "inholdings" within parks or wildlife refuges. Economic circumstances are now forcing many corporations to log or subdivide their land, leading to steady proliferation of vacation cabins, fishing camps, and clearcuts in the middle of otherwise protected areas.

For some of the Native people who have lived on this land for millennia, such development is extremely distasteful. "It broke my heart to see those first trees come down," says Pete Olsen, an Alutiq elder whose Native corporation is aggressively logging its extensive lands on Afognak Island, just north of Kodiak Island. (Both islands were heavily oiled by the Exxon Valdez slick.) A flight over the area reveals the familiar cookie-cutter devastation of clearcuts in its Sitka-spruce groves; cuts from ten years ago are as ugly and bare as those from last year. Thus far the logging has been largely confined to the southeastern portion of the island. Off the pristine western shore, orcas leap greedily among schools of salmon, the fruit of undisturbed streams.

Rather than chop down the rest of its patrimony, the Afognak Native Corporation is trying instead to shop it to the government. So far, the trustee council isn't buying—not from them or any of the other Native corporations attempting to sell their inholdings. The trustees are, after all, representatives of Alaska Governor Wally Hickel and George Bush, and thus congenitally hostile to the government acquisition of wild lands. Hickel's Attorney General, Charles Cole, argues that such purchases "would result in the unnecessary depletion of available funds to the detriment of the restoration effort."

While the trustee council quibbles

about what would constitute a valid restoration effort (proposals range from interpretive programs for cruise-ship passengers to the renovation of the sewer system in Valdez), the Exxon millions continue to sieve away. State and federal governments initially pocketed \$142 million as reimbursement for their early cleanup and damage-assessment efforts, and Exxon paid itself \$50 million for the final mop-up of its own spill. A further \$40 million went to attorneys' fees. In fact, a report from the House Interior Committee observes that, unless the trustees change their approach, "administrative costs, bureaucratic goldplating, and studies will swallow up an undue portion of the restoration funds, with little actual benefit to the Alaskan environment which was impacted by the oil spill."

Earlier this year, in an attempt to bypass the trustee logjam, state Representative Cliff Davidson (D-Kodiak) proposed a bill earmarking \$38 million for the purchase of threatened lands—including parts of Afognak—that he calls "nature's nurseries." With the support of environmentalists, Native groups, and commercial and sport-fishing organizations, the bill passed the legislature.

But despite having previously supported several of the proposed purchases, and contrary to the advice even of his own cabinet officers, Governor Hickel vetoed the bill. In its place he resurrected his legally questionable notion (already rejected by the legislature) that the Exxon money should be placed in a trust fund, with only the interest spent on restoration projects. Three and a half years after the spill, Hickel still claims that "we do not have sufficient data yet on how to best address the damage."

How much longer will it take? "This is a unique opportunity to turn the tragedy of the oil spill into permanent preservation of an entire ecosystem," says the Sierra Club's Associate Alaska Representative, Pam Brodie. "We'll never have a chance like this again." Unless, of course, another tipsy tanker captain should take the helm . . .

—Paul Rauber

Mercury Madness

Why you're better off if the big one gets away.

The Cree Indians of northern Quebec call it *nimass akiwin*, "fish disease": numbness in the extremities, unsteady gait, blurred vision, and slurred speech. In the Great Lakes states, fishing guides are said to be skipping the pan-fried walleyes after experiencing similar symptoms. Eagles, mink, otter, and loons in the same area are failing to reproduce; in the Everglades, wading birds are disappearing. When the last female panther in the Everglades died in the summer of 1991, her liver was riddled with mercury.

Mercury poisoning is a problem many scientists had hoped to consign to the past—to the last century, when British hat makers (who used mercury to process felt) suffered severe neurological damage and were thought to be insane (hence "mad as a hatter"); to the early 1960s, when thousands of people in Minamata, Japan, were killed or severely injured after eating fish contaminated by industrial dumping; and to the early '70s, when 459 people in northern Iraq were killed after eating flour on which mercury had been used as a fungicide, and large numbers of fish in the Great Lakes showed heavy concentrations of the metal. Scientists thought that stopping wholesale industrial discharges into waterways would solve the problem. It didn't.

The Swedes were the first to notice the extraordinarily high levels of mercury in fish taken from lakes far from any factory. Researchers in Canada and the Great Lakes states soon noted the same disturbing phenomenon. In Ontario, mercury has been found in 95 percent of the lakes tested; in the United States, all 26 states that examined their fish for mercury have issued advisories warning against too many

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fish fingers. Ocean fish are not immune: Sharks caught off the Florida coast, for example, are seriously contaminated. Mercury residues in fish are now increasing at a rate of 3 to 5 percent a year, and a quarter-million Americans are thought to exceed the safe intake limit set by the World Health Organization.

Rather than showing up only in fish downstream from factory dumpers, mercury is now common wherever frequent rains wash industrial pollutants from the air. Three-quarters of the 930 tons of mercury drifting in the atmosphere at any given moment is "anthropogenic," or human-caused, most of it coming from the combustion of coal and trash. Other sources are latex paint (allowed until last year to contain mercury to kill mildew) and landfills and composting facilities (where decaying plants release the mercury they absorbed from the air). Even crematoria contribute their share, volatilizing the mercury in tooth fillings.

"Mercury is an element," reminds EPA researcher Gary Glass. "When you burn it, it doesn't decompose, it just gets shoved around." When coal is burned in power plants, the trace amounts of mercury it contains enter the atmosphere in gaseous elemental form, where they can circulate for two years before being carried back to earth by rain. The fastest-growing source of mercury contamination today, however, is garbage burning. The residues created by incineration are water-soluble, and can precipitate out immediately, often into the surrounding neighborhood—bad news for the birds and panthers of south Florida, where four garbage incinerators pump 6,500 pounds of mercury a year into the atmosphere. As a result, according to the Florida Game Commission, "We will not be able to eat the fish in the Everglades in our lifetime."

When either form of mercury is washed down to lakes or marshlands, bacteria convert it to methyl mercury, the fat-soluble poison that lodges in the bodies of animals. Like DDT or PCBs it

"biomagnifies," or concentrates, as it moves up the food chain. While fish seem relatively immune to it, mercury is a powerful neurotoxin in mammals—especially primates. Even quantities below the FDA's one-part-per-million "action level" can have disastrous effects on developing fetuses—which is why nursing mothers, pregnant women, and even women considering pregnancy are advised against eating any fish at all from many lakes in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

(Methylating bacteria thrive in bodies of water with low pH, so acid lakes often have severe mercury problems as well. Both conditions can stem from the same source: Coal-fired power plants create the acid rain and the mercury.)

The EPA has not been in a hurry to do anything about a complicated problem whose solution could cost a variety of powerful industries a lot of money to clean up. Emission standards for garbage incinerators were supposed to have been issued last year, but have yet to appear. When the EPA did try to require pre-incineration separation of lead-acid car batteries, the regulation was strangled by Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness. While battery manufacturers have removed much of the mercury from household products, batteries remain the single largest source of mercury in the waste stream. Medical, industrial, and military batteries still contain large amounts of the poison; the Defense Department has so much mercury, in fact, that it peddles 76-pound flasks of the stuff on the international market in Rotterdam.

With proper filters, incinerators and coal plants can keep up to 90 percent of their mercury out of the air. (The resultant ash or sludge, of course, will then need to be disposed of.) In Sweden, strict incineration regulations have reduced the amount of mercury escaping into the air from 7,700 pounds in 1982 to 770 pounds this year.

The easiest way to keep mercury out of the atmosphere, of course, is not to burn it in the first place. Energy conservation is a ready alternative to the

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60-percent increase in coal-burning foreseen by the Bush energy policy over the next 20 years; the Sierra Club supports a moratorium on garbage incinerators as well. Given what we know about mercury poisoning, there is no excuse for not addressing the problem quickly. "If you knew Time as well as I do," Lewis Carroll's Mad Hatter tells Alice, "you wouldn't talk about wasting it."—*PR.*

►For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.

Much Ado About Lots

*Private versus public rights:
The decision that wasn't.*

"Private property wins," declared a *Phoenix Gazette* headline. "Property rights extremists should be sorely disappointed," countered the *Seattle Times*. Judging by the contradictory statements that followed the Supreme Court's June 29 ruling on developer David Lucas' case (see "Pigs in the Parlor," May/June), the court's opinion was more a political Rorschach test than a resolution of the clash between environmentalists and private-property absolutists.

The dispute hinged on Lucas' desire to build on the two lots he owns on a barrier island off the South Carolina coast. When the state toughened its beachfront-protection law in 1988, preventing any further construction in erodible areas, Lucas went to court demanding compensation.

A few weeks after the Supreme Court decision was issued, more complex (and accurate) interpretations emerged: "The decision offers some good news to all affected groups," wrote California planner Albert Herson in the *Los Angeles Times*. "Property owners now know they must be compensated when unexpected regulations wipe out all economic use of their land. Environmentalists should be as-

sured by the court's observation that such instances are 'relatively rare.' And for government planners and elected officials, the good news is that the murky rules on when regulations go too far have been clarified, at least to some degree."

Environmentalists were relieved. The conservative court had not hamstringed regulators as they had feared, nor used the case to elevate property rights to sacred status. Instead, it had only tinkered with property law while reaffirming government's responsibility to protect public health and safety.

Rather than say yea or nay to lot-owner Lucas, the justices instead sidestepped the issue, crafted a new general rule for deciding property-rights disputes, and sent the case back to the South Carolina Supreme Court for reconsideration. The rule will apply only in the most extreme cases: When a regulation strips 100 percent of the value from a property, the high court said, condemnation has occurred and the landowner deserves payment. The action put 100-percent regulatory takings on a par with physical takings (for highways, utility corridors, parks, and the like), which have always been compensated. It leaves open the more common question in property-rights disputes: When do landowners whose property values decline by a lesser amount deserve payment?

Tempering the decision was a critical exception to the new rule. Compensation is *not* owed, the court said, when the regulation rendering property worthless is consistent with traditional property and nuisance laws. The owner denied a permit to fill a lakebed, for example, would not be entitled to compensation if his action would flood his neighbors. Nor would anything be owed to the corporate owner asked to remove a nuclear generating plant from its land because the facility sits astride an earthquake fault. The exception was a reminder of the principle that individual rights must be weighed against those of the rest of society.

The Supreme Court's narrow opinion left the case's most pressing question shrouded in mystery: Does Lucas

get his money? The answer may be yes if he has indeed lost 100 percent of the value of his property, as a state court ruled earlier. But Justice John P. Stevens pointed out that Lucas can still use the land for fishing or camping, or sell it to a neighbor as a buffer. "Are you saying Mr. Lucas' land is completely worthless?" Justice Harry A. Blackmun asked in oral argument. "Would you give it to me?" To the amusement of many, Lucas' attorney said that he would.

Another key issue is whether South Carolina's Beachfront Management Act is in accord with traditional property and nuisance law. Lucas' attorneys will likely argue that the state's coastal law goes beyond preventing harm to conferring the benefit of beach protection. The state, on the other hand, will undoubtedly say that Lucas' houses would represent a clear threat to his neighbors. In 1989 Hurricane Hugo hit South Carolina's shores, and flying timbers and other debris from beachfront structures were the major cause of 29 deaths and \$6 billion in property damage.

If the opinion did little more than cast shadows over *Lucas*, it has shed some light on future cases. Already the property-rights debate has shifted its focus to the questions of what constitutes a 100-percent taking. Lawyers are also debating an even more basic question: 100 percent of what? What if someone sued over a regulation forbidding development on half an acre of swamp within a five-acre lot? "Most people presume that you would look at that property as a whole," says Tom Deming, counsel for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "But what if a landowner argues that you are taking 100 percent of the value from that half acre?"

Such questions signify that private-property rights have yet to trample the public's rights. "The best thing that can be said about the opinion," says Florida's Assistant Attorney General Louis Hubener, "is that it leaves nearly everything to be addressed in future cases."—*Joan Hamilton*

►For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.

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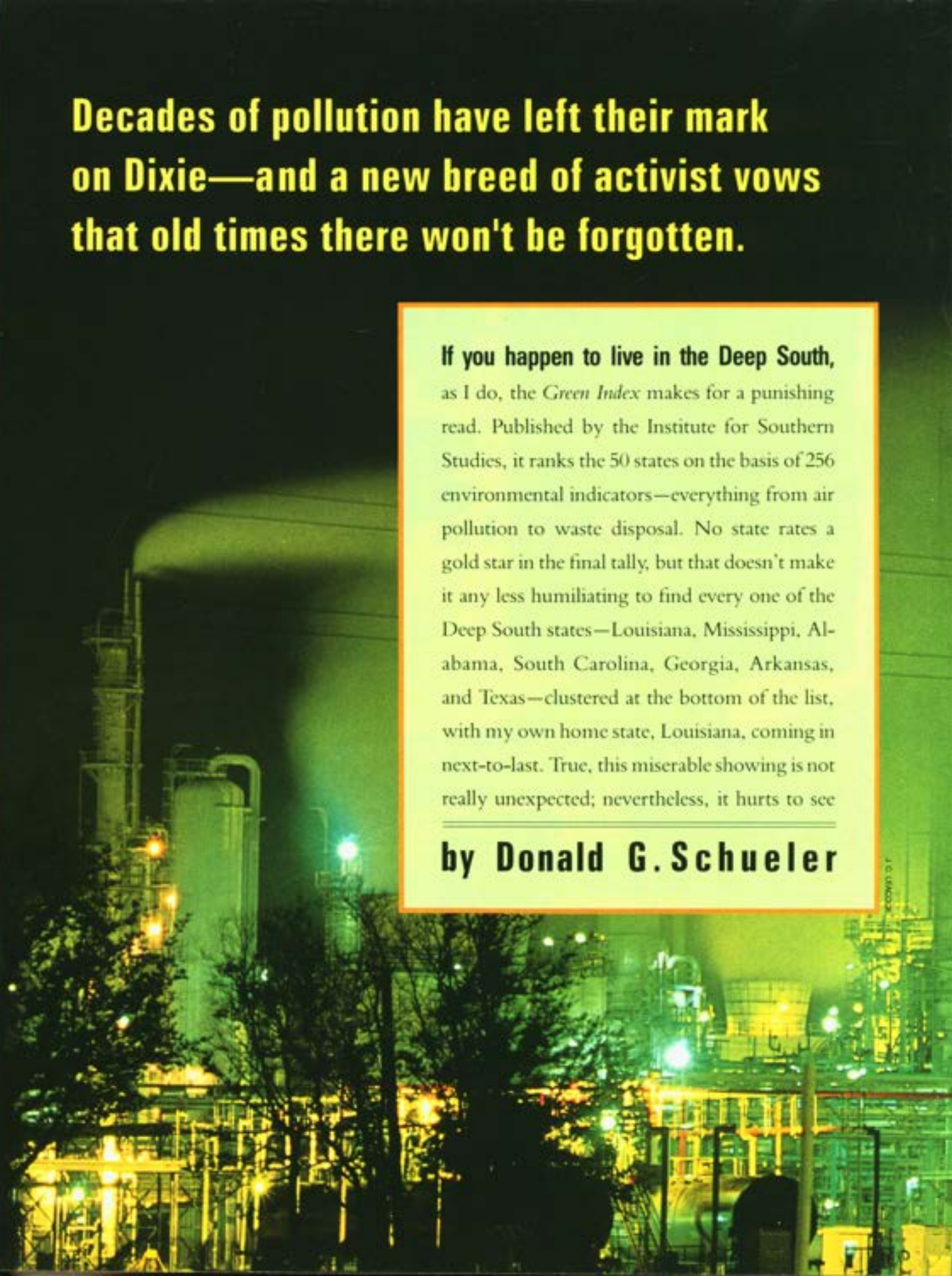
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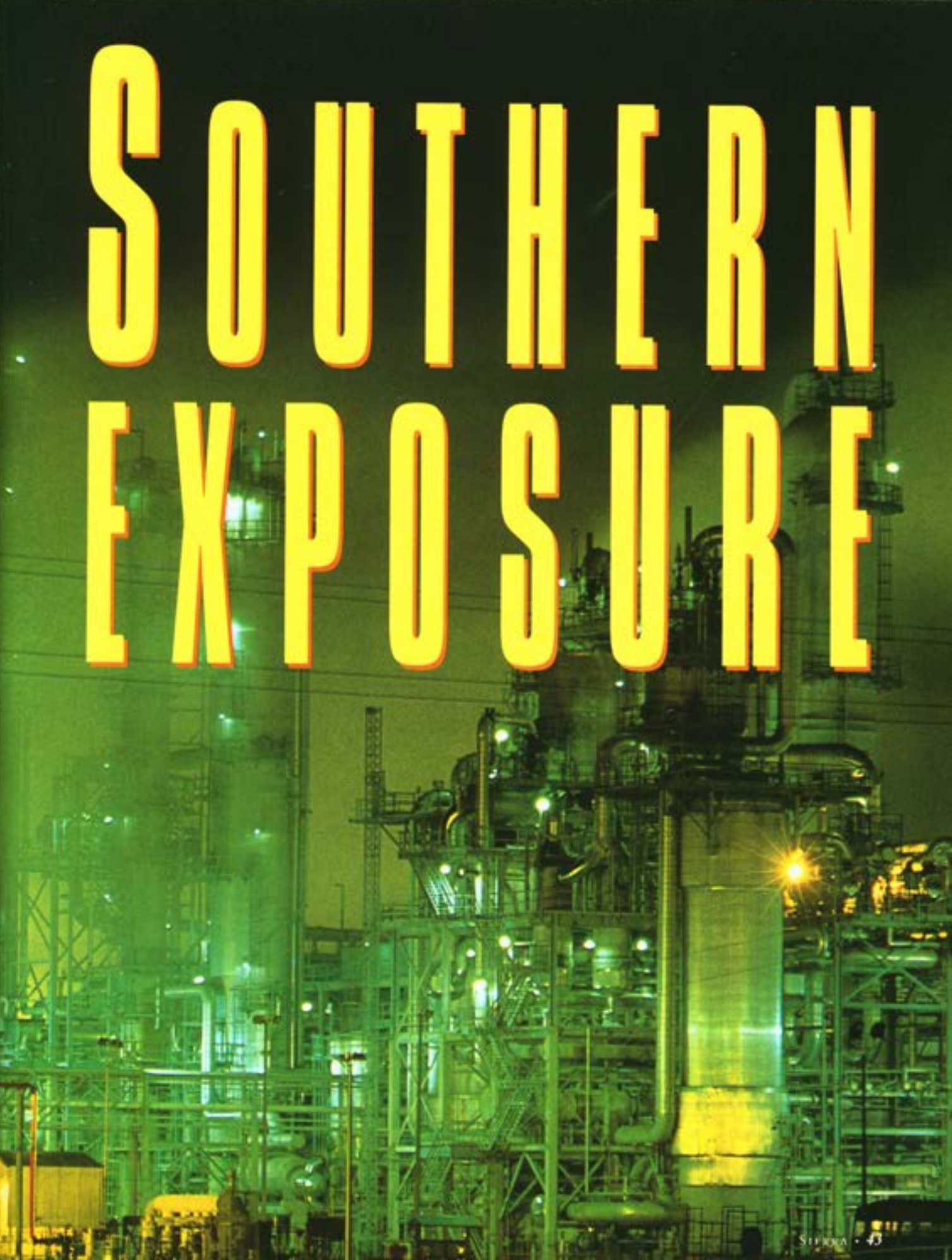


Decades of pollution have left their mark on Dixie—and a new breed of activist vows that old times there won't be forgotten.

If you happen to live in the Deep South, as I do, the *Green Index* makes for a punishing read. Published by the Institute for Southern Studies, it ranks the 50 states on the basis of 256 environmental indicators—everything from air pollution to waste disposal. No state rates a gold star in the final tally, but that doesn't make it any less humiliating to find every one of the Deep South states—Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas, and Texas—clustered at the bottom of the list, with my own home state, Louisiana, coming in next-to-last. True, this miserable showing is not really unexpected; nevertheless, it hurts to see

by Donald G. Schueler

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE



the bad news laid out like that when I didn't even know anyone was keeping score.

I'm not surprised by the survey results, because during my adult years I have watched the environmental pillaging of the Deep South from a front-row seat. Thirty years ago I was a very-wet-behind-the-ears environmental activist—there was no other kind down here back then—and I still remember what it felt like, coming away from one hearing after another conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or this or that congressional committee, knowing that my comrades and I had been outgunned again—that one more river or bottomland forest was doomed, and that another carpetbagger industry had won every extortionate concession it demanded from state officials. I saw it all happen—and yet the scale of the destruction still seems unreal, as though I had read it in a novel. Sometimes I feel the same profound sadness Augustus McCrac felt in Larry

McMurtry's *Lonesome Dove*, when he stared at empty, bone-littered prairies where, just a little while back, he had watched millions of grazing buffalo.

Not so long ago—the late 1950s, early '60s—most of the Deep South was still a backwater, impoverished, insular, racially divided. But it was also a region of hauntingly beautiful natural landscapes. The air and water were clean and clear. Although the Big Woods of Faulkner's stories were coming down, there was still available to everyone a seemingly limitless domain of piney forests, languid creeks and bayous, teeming marshes, and fertile bottomlands—places where, no matter how dirt-poor or oppressed you were, it was possible to feel free and happy for hours or days on end.

Yet most of all that has been destroyed. Not just abused and overexploited, mind you, but *erased*. In order to reap the benefits of government agricultural subsidies, farmers

Catfish and a lazy day reward anglers in Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin (below), where some of the South's last wildlands remain. But as Texan Patsy Ruth Oliver (opposite) knows well, large sections of the region have become unfit to live in.



cleared and drained the second-largest forested wetlands in the world and converted them into an immense soybean field. The Corps of Engineers entombed the region's rivers. At the behest of giant paper mills, loggers transformed millions of acres of upland forests into biologically sterile pine plantations. Most dismaying of all, because the straitjacketed Mississippi River no longer delivers the rich sediments it once spread across a vast delta and coastal plain, the nation's richest coastal wetlands were, and still are, sinking into the Gulf of Mexico at rates as high as 50 square miles a year.

Adding injustice to these indignities are the poisons. Toxics have left the South's air and water the most industry-befouled in the entire country. According to the *Green Index*, the region leads the nation in overall per-capita exposure to industrial poisons in the air and water, and it produces a disproportionate share of the most dangerous chemicals, those that cause cancer, birth defects, or nerve damage.

When it comes to the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes, the Deep South is right up there near the bottom.

Two of the nation's largest dumps for toxic and radioactive garbage (much of which is imported from other regions) are sited in impoverished, mostly black counties in South Carolina and Alabama, while a mostly white Louisiana parish harbors the country's largest (and most dangerous) incinerator of hazardous waste.

At first glance it might seem hard to understand how the South, during the very years when the environmental movement was coming of age, could suffer this ecological equivalent of Sherman's March to the Sea. Part of the explanation lies in the fact that the civil-rights movement was gaining significant national attention during the same period; Dixie, always regarded as benighted and backward, was now shunned and boycotted by public and private organizations, including environmental ones. This pariah status also made it easier for politicians to agree tacitly to make the Deep South a "sacrifice zone," a sump for the rest of the nation's toxic detritus.

"What you've got operating down here is a colonial attitude," says Jim Price, the Sierra Club's Southeast staff director, "a conscious decision by local government and big business to prey on folks who are politically and economically weak."

Of such vulnerable people the Deep South has always had more than its share. Southerners, white and black,



are even less well educated than the deplorable national average. They have lower incomes and a higher rate of infant mortality, and in their adult years they die earlier than Americans elsewhere. It is not a coincidence that they should also be exploited to an unusual degree—by their own government, and by corporations that poison their air and water, devastate their forests and wetlands, and bury hazardous wastes in their backyards.

Patsy Ruth Oliver, of Texarkana, Texas, can give you an earful about how that exploitation works out in human terms—and she will, if you give her half a chance. She can tell you about the succession of wood-treatment companies that dumped creosote wastes on what was later to become Carver Terrace, the subdivision in which she lives, lacing its soils and water with a staggering array of deadly chemicals. And about the real-estate developer who deemed the site "good enough for niggers to live in." But it is when she starts talking about Big Government, as represented by the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency, that she really gets worked up.

"There was this one time," she recalls, "when this little EPA white man was sitting behind his desk telling me I had to be patient about living with poisons, like he was saying 'Take two aspirin.' I don't know, it just went through me like an electric shock, him saying that. So I told him, 'Listen, the only people in Carver Terrace who are patient are the ones lying underground!' I just didn't know I had it in me to say that."

About 75 families live in Oliver's modest subdivision. "We had nice people moving in here," she says. "We thought we were getting out of the ghetto, moving into middle-class society, trying to teach our children what the American dream is all about. But what we got was a nightmare, a toxic prison." She points to her gray cat, crouched listlessly beside the door of her small brick home. "The vet can't do nothing for her. She's covered with tumors. I mean, it gets to be ridiculous. Your neighbors are sick, you're sick, your dogs



are sick, even the cat's sick! It's so awful, you almost have to laugh, even though *that's* sick, too."

According to Oliver's count, at least 25 people in Carver Terrace, including her own mother, have died of cancer during the last ten years: "We got the hearse coming in here more than the Yellow Cab." So far no statistical evidence has been gathered to support her claim that the cancer death rate is abnormally high, but there is no doubt that the subdivision deserves its present designation as a Superfund site. Tarry globs of creosote poke out of lawns, turn the soil pitch-black, stink up the neighborhood, and leave greasy, evil-smelling residues in sinks and toilets—a bad-enough situation made worse by the floods that regularly inundate the area. Oliver and many of her neighbors suffer from eye irritations, headaches, skin rashes, nausea, and respiratory problems, all of which can be caused by exposure to creosote's toxic ingredients.

As early as 1980, investigators for the EPA and the Texas Department of Water Resources unofficially warned residents that it might be dangerous for their children to play out of doors. But the EPA's official follow-up has not endeared the agency to Patsy Oliver. "They did test after test here," she fumes, "but they never studied us. They put a fence around the gravel pit next door and a sign saying it was contaminated, yet they'd tell us we didn't have a thing to worry about. Then they put in some grass sod to cover up the creosote, which lasted as long as a snowball in an oven, and they said everything was just fine!"

Oliver says that her experience with the EPA turned her from "one hysterical housewife" into a "true believer in the environmental movement." With the help of a local group, Friends United for a Safe Environment, she became a leader ("I guess I had the big mouth") in a successful effort to publicize her neighborhood's plight. Other groups joined the fight against an obdurate EPA, which still insisted, in spite of much evidence to the contrary, that the site posed "no immediate threat." Finally, in 1991, the rallies and marches paid off. Although it took an act of

Congress to accomplish it, the Army Corps of Engineers must now do what the EPA probably should have done five years ago—namely, buy out the residents of Carver Terrace so they can move to safer homes. About half the community has left, but Oliver and others are still waiting to receive settlements from the Corps. "I'm hoping God has finally put some truth into those people," says Oliver, frowning. "But I'll believe that when I'm out of here!"

Understandably, Patsy Ruth Oliver is not likely to feel all choked up with gratitude when she finally does escape the toxic prison of Carver Terrace. Yet in a way she is lucky. For countless others living in the Deep South, escape is not an option.

Ironically, the proliferation of environmental regulations elsewhere in the United States has played an important role in inducing many of the country's most pollution-prone industries to come to roost in Dixie. Bob Hall of the Institute for Southern Studies hardly exaggerates when he laments that "ev-

erything in the South is available for the taking." Nowhere else are regulatory agencies more reluctant to crack down on polluting industries, or governments more eager to grant them tax breaks. Georgia and Alabama, for example, allow influential pulp and paper companies to dump dioxin into state waters in quantities dozens of times greater than those recommended by the EPA. And in Louisiana, again just for example, 30 giant corporations, including many of the country's worst polluters, received \$2.5 billion in property-tax exemptions during the 1980s, though they created few permanent new jobs.

One explanation for these look-the-other-way environmental policies and giveaway tax breaks is that so many

communities in the Deep South are company towns, relying in an almost feudal way on the patronage of one or two major industries. In most of the Deep South's state capitals, the prevailing political attitude resembles that of a debt-ridden developing nation: Political bosses encourage outsiders to buy the region's human and natural re-

**Bashing of
upstart members
of the community
is common in
the South, where
industry chieftains
are used to
getting their way.**



sources at bargain prices. Inevitably, skeptics suggest that some of the politicians themselves are among the resources for sale.

Consider the relationship of Louisiana's current governor, Edwin Edwards, with businessman Jack Kent. In the last election, Kent spent hundreds of thousands of dollars helping his buddy Edwards regain the office he had held some years earlier. Kent could easily afford the expense: He is the sole stockholder of Marine Shale Processors, a company in southwest Louisiana that for more than a decade—most of it coinciding with Edward's previous tenure in office—has

successfully operated the nation's largest hazardous-waste incinerator, without a license and in flagrant violation of a swarm of EPA regulations. Not surprisingly, Kent resents meddlesome environmentalists, publicly advocating the use of "green-colored axe handles" on them. (His workers, taking the hint, once gave a Greenpeace demonstrator at his plant a good pummeling.) Yet Governor Edwards seems unruffled by his friend's excesses. He goes about his business nonchalantly, happily dismantling much of the environmental legislation enacted during the administration of his predecessor, Buddy Roemer.

If most politicians in the Deep South's state capitals are environmental Neanderthals, it must be said in fairness that those the South sends to Washington are proto-hominids. According to the League of Conservation Voters, the overall environmental voting records of the region's congressional delegations range rather narrowly from pretty sorry to downright shameful. Four southern senators—Trent Lott (R) of Mississippi, Jesse Helms (R) of North Carolina, Phil Gramm (R) of Texas, and Howell Heflin (D) of Alabama—have the distinction of possessing some of the worst environmental voting records in Congress.

No one better epitomizes the anti-ecological attitudes of southern politicians than my home state's senior senator, J. Bennett Johnston (D), whose recent machinations provide a sterling example of what can happen when an influential member of Congress and the executives of a powerful corporation start scratching each other's backs.

The citizens of Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, possess a good deal of insight into this symbiosis. An international consortium, Louisiana Energy Services (LES), has been



Hard-hit by toxic wastes, community groups led by African-Americans in Louisiana (above) and Choctaw Indians in Mississippi (opposite) take to the streets to demand environmental justice.

planning to build the nation's first private uranium-enrichment plant in Forest Grove, an impoverished rural black community just a few miles outside Homer, the parish seat. There LES would produce enriched uranium for nuclear-energy utilities. Unfortunately, the LES plant would also produce thousands of tons of radioactive waste that would be stored on-site for at least 30 years, or maybe forever.

No one is more eager to see LES settle in Claiborne Parish than Bennett Johnston; and since Johnston chairs the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the consortium could hardly have asked for a more valuable ally. He joined with LES in assuring Claiborne Parish residents that the proposed plant would be a bonanza for the whole area, citing economic benefits that, according to critics, were grossly exaggerated.

Johnston sponsored an amendment, inconspicuously attached to an unrelated Senate bill, that would have speeded up the licensing of privately owned uranium-enrichment plants, LES being the only available beneficiary. When the bill moved to the House, the senator made a rare appearance before the House Interior Subcommittee on Energy and Environment to push his amendment. He arrived brandishing a geiger counter and various props, most notably a uranium fuel pellet and a dinner plate he said one "can buy in a supermarket." Obliging, the fake pellet did not kill anyone or even burn a hole in the senator's hand. And, as intended, the plate set the geiger counter popping like mad—Johnston's point being, of course, that the uranium plant posed no more risk of radiation than a common, easily purchased household item. Only later would opponents of Johnston's amendment learn that the plate he had brandished was a piece of uranium-coated orange Fiesta-

ware, last manufactured in the 1940s.

Johnston's efforts on behalf of LES have set many citizens of Claiborne Parish on edge. They don't want a radioactive neighbor, and Ronnie Anderson, for one, is puzzled about why LES or anyone else would want to build a uranium-enrichment plant in the first place. Anderson, a devoted family man, oil-company technologist, and staunch member of Homer's First Baptist Church, questions the need for producing more of a substance that is already in abundant supply. But Anderson's main concern is what the company plans to do with all those tons of radioactive waste the plant will generate. Officials at LES insist that the material will be safely contained in a closed system and that, years hence, it will be disposed of somewhere else. The trouble is, "somewhere else" does not exist. At present, no dumpsite is available that could accommodate LES's "low-level" radioactive wastes.

Ronnie Anderson's common sense led him to become a vocal anti-LES activist, a fact that has not exactly endeared

**"This little
EPA white man
was telling me to
be patient about
living with
poisons, like he
was saying
'Take two aspirin.'"**

him to parish leaders. Some of his neighbors won't give him the time of day, and Chamber of Commerce types in Homer have gone so far as to take out an ad in the local paper denouncing "a small handful of people"—of whom Anderson is considered a ringleader—for spreading "innuendos, half truths, facts taken out of context, and misrepresentation," thereby "irresponsibly frightening many citizens."

Such bashing of upstart members of the community is common in the South, where industry chieftains are used to getting their way. When business moguls and their political allies are crossed, as happens with more and more frequency of late, they can be quite touchy. Take, for instance, the display put on for us not long ago by Jim Bob Moffett, CEO of Louisiana's huge Freeport McMoran Corporation, with petrochemical facilities located in the industrial corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans known as "Cancer Alley." Since the company had contributed to an endangered-species exhibit at the New Orleans zoo, Moffett

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SIGNS OF TROUBLE DOWN SOUTH

Some of the states that produce the largest volume of hazardous wastes spend the least to manage them. A state's spending to regulate solid and hazardous wastes to some extent indicates its commitment to tackling environmental problems.

HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATED IN STATE

(Pounds per capita / rank among all states *)
(* 1 = least waste generated; 50 = most waste generated)

DEEP SOUTH STATES

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Georgia: | 12,498 / 49 |
| Louisiana: | 6,097 / 46 |
| Texas: | 4,731 / 44 |
| Alabama: | 3,685 / 42 |
| South Carolina: | 3,180 / 41 |
| Mississippi: | 1,919 / 39 |
| Arkansas: | 49 / 14 |

OTHER STATES

(for comparison purposes)

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Tennessee: | 13,932 / 50 |
| West Virginia: | 12,476 / 48 |
| New Jersey: | 2,378 / 40 |
| New York: | 1,798 / 38 |
| California: | 733 / 32 |
| Ohio: | 556 / 30 |
| Maine: | 12 / 6 |
| South Dakota: | 3 / 1 |

STATE SPENDING ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

(\$ per ton of waste / rank among all states *)
(* 1 = most spending; 50 = least spending)

DEEP SOUTH STATES

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Georgia: | \$.08 / 50 |
| Louisiana: | .30 / 44 |
| Texas: | .16 / 49 |
| Alabama: | .18 / 48 |
| South Carolina: | .28 / 46 |
| Mississippi: | .26 / 47 |
| Arkansas: | .80 / 30 |

OTHER STATES

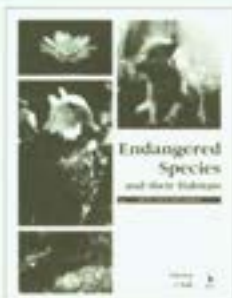
(for comparison purposes)

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Tennessee: | \$.32 / 40 |
| West Virginia: | .40 / 38 |
| New Jersey: | 1.57 / 22 |
| New York: | 1.65 / 21 |
| California: | 3.54 / 15 |
| Ohio: | 1.32 / 24 |
| Maine: | 10.70 / 1 |
| South Dakota: | .32 / 42 |

Source: The Institute for Southern Studies, 1991-1992 *Govest Index* (Island Press, 1991)

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was asked to give a polite little speech at the dedication ceremony. But evidently he was still brooding about the way Buddy Roemer, our maverick governor at the time, had refused his company permission to dump huge quantities of radioactive gypsum into the Mississippi. He chose the occasion to stun his distinguished, ecologically minded audience by telling them that, rather than put up with pestering environmentalists, Louisiana businesses would do well to "kick their butts and send them home."

Jim Bob's intemperate outburst can be justly construed as an expression of corporate arrogance. Yet behind the blustering words it is also possible to detect a note of self-pity. The fact is that Moffett and other industry bigwigs have been getting worried lately. In the last few years they have had to contend with a growing number of people from all walks of life who, like Oliver and Anderson, are becoming "true believers" in the environmental movement. Out of sheer desperation, these homegrown activists are learning how to kick too.

A case in point is J. Wesley Cooper of Natchez, Mississippi, an antiques dealer and authority on antebellum houses (he lives in one himself). Given his patrician ways, he might seem an unlikely candidate for the role of fiery-eyed environmental activist; yet that is what he has become. In the mid-1980s, Cooper suspected that there might be a connection between the hundreds of chemical-filled drums he knew to be rusting at a large Armstrong Tire and Rubber Company dump near his estate and the fact that he had just undergone a serious operation for cancer. When he demanded that the site be tested, the state Bureau of Pollution Control had Armstrong hire a firm to examine it. "At first," Cooper rumbles, "they said nothing was dumped there, which was a bare-faced lie. Then they said there were only drums on top of the ground, with nothing buried underneath, even though you could see the damn things sticking right out of the dirt."

Barred from the site, Cooper rented a backhoe and invited the news media and everybody else he could think of to convene at another Armstrong dump close by. Then, while the television cameras whirred, he uncovered drum after leaking drum, their oily contents spilling out as they were brought to light.



Pine-forest plantations feed one of the South's ubiquitous, chemical-dumping paper mills.

Most environmental protest in the South is aimed at industries whose practices directly threaten human health. But a growing number of people also dream of restoring habitat that has been lost.

Such a one is Michael Caire, who, in addition to practicing obstetrics and gynecology in West Monroe, Louisiana, has appointed himself a champion of the south-central subspecies of black bear, *Ursus americanus luteolus*. The bruin still survives, though just barely, in remnants of Louisiana's bottomlands, an area of wetlands forested with tupelo, gum, oak, bald cypress, and other hardwoods. Caire is quick to tell you that *luteolus* and its habitat are as inseparable as red beans and rice: "The bear is the indicator species. So restoring healthy populations of the critters means restoring viable parts of the ecosystem itself."

The ambitious young doctor envisions putting back together the Humpty Dumpty fragments of bottomland forests that still survive amid soybean fields. They can be linked, he argues, by using easements to expand riparian corridors and by allowing unproductive agricultural tracts to revert to woodlands. "The way I see it, restoration is going to be the rallying cry of the environmental movement in the future," says Caire. "If we can get this program started, it will be the ideal model for other restoration projects. But what's needed is a symbol, the Louisiana black bear, which is a lot more charismatic than, shall we say, the spotted owl. It's Faulkner's bear, it's Teddy Roosevelt's teddy bear."

Caire and others pestered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for years to add the bear to the endangered species list. But in doing so they found themselves bucking the

Continued on page 76

Up the

Yosemite. Sublimely uninhabited, the landscape of divine emptiness.

But before the Romantic painters there were

River of

gatherers of acorns, and before the tourists there was Chief Ten-ic-ya.

Mercy



NAMES WERE KEYS to the landscape where I grew up. With names, the patterns of that coastal California landscape emerged: milkmaids that bloomed first, brodia whose bulbs the Miwok ate, miner's lettuce and thimbleberries that I ate, buck-eyes that flowered at the same time as June's feral hedge roses and lost their leaves earliest in the fall. From a riot of green the natural world came into focus as a delicately balanced cycle of events I looked forward to, of dangers, uses, and niches. Place names didn't add much to this picture for decades, until I began reading western history and realized that the larger landscape too was a crazy quilt of names representing cultures, battles, heroes, victims, and real-estate developers.

When I unfurled a map for my first real trip to the Sierra Nevada last summer, the names began to tell their story: Donner Pass for the

by Rebecca Solnit





desperate emigrants of 1846; Truckee for one Paiute chief, and, up Interstate 80 a ways, Winnemucca for another. Carson City for Kit Carson, who defeated the Navajo nation and explored California with John Frémont; Walker Lake east of Lake Tahoe for the trapper Joseph Walker, who in 1833 was perhaps the first white man to look into Yosemite Valley. Mariposa (Spanish for butterfly), the Merced (Spanish for mercy), and Yosemite itself, whose Miwok name had the strangest story of all.

We came to the Sierra from the east, stopping in Lee Vining on the shores of Mono Lake to stretch and buy provisions. Next to the main grocery store in this one-street town is a small monument of rough stones, cement, and bronze. "The name of this community honors Leroy Vining," it reads. "In

"Tenaya Lake, Mt. Conness, Yosemite National Park, California," circa 1946. Photograph by Ansel Adams.

1852 Lieutenant Tredwell Moore and soldiers of the Second Infantry pursued Indians of Chief Tenaya's tribe from Yosemite across the Sierra via Bloody Canyon. They took back mineral samples and a prospecting party was organized. In this group were the Vinings, Lee and Dick...."

We continued west over Tioga Pass, along the paved route that supplanted Bloody Canyon. The heights were still covered with snow. The sun was already setting by the time we reached Lake Tenaya, so we continued our descent, though it was the lake that I'd come to see.

LIEUTENANT MOORE'S SECOND INFANTRY was better known as part of the Mariposa Battalion, after Mariposa County, where the group of about 200 men was organized. It was in pursuit of Indians that the Mariposa Battalion became the first party of whites to enter Yosemite Valley, on March 27, 1851. Most of what we know about the battalion's expedition comes from Lafayette Bunnell's *Discovery of the Yosemite and the Indian War of 1851 Which Led to That Event*, and it was Bunnell who gave most of the principal landmarks in the valley the names they still bear.

Bunnell's is a strange account, switching back and forth from the lushest romantic response to the land to cool, journalistic recounting of how the war was conducted. When I read the book, I was shocked to learn that Yosemite had been first explored in the course of a war, that a place always described in terms of its idyllic scenery could have such a



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANSEL ADAMS. COURTESY THE ARCHIVES OF THE ANSEL ADAMS PAPERWORK ARCHIVE, YERGEN, CALIFORNIA

brutal history, and shocked most of all by the way Bunnell could be lyrical and cold-blooded at the same time. The views moved him to tears, he wrote, and the rocks reaffirmed his faith in the deity. For me the inadvertent climax of the book is a scene at Lake Tenaya, after the old chief and his people have been captured, just before they are marched to a reservation in the flatlands of the San Joaquin Valley.

"When Ten-ic-ya reached the summit, he left his people and approached where the captain and a few of us were halting," Bunnell recounts. "I called him up to us, and told him that we had given his name to the lake and river. At first he seemed unable to comprehend our purpose, and pointing to the group of glistening peaks, near the head of the lake, said 'It already has a name; we call it Py-we-ack.' Upon my telling him that we had named it Ten-ic-ya, because it was upon the shores of the lake that we had found his people, who would never return to it to live, his countenance fell and he at once left our group and joined his family circle. His countenance indicated that he thought the naming of the lake no equivalent for his loss of territory."

Annihilating a culture and romanticizing it are not usually done at the same time, but Bunnell neatly compresses two stages of historical change into one interaction. Bunnell is saying, in effect, that there is no room for these people in the present; instead, they will provide a decorative past in another culture's future. *Pyweack* means "shining rocks"; like most of Yosemite's original place names, it describes the landscape rather than memorializing a passing human figure. *Tenaya* is a name given from outside, a name that sheds light on neither the lake nor the man unless one knows its pathetic origin.

I'd passed through the valley only once before, on my way to somewhere else, but for years I'd been working as a landscape historian, and the pictures and literature of Yosemite were familiar to me. Yosemite is a crucible of the American landscape, a catalyst for turning beliefs into tangible effects. It is, among other things, the subject of the first

In three years Yosemite went from homeland to vacationland, where visitors rarely thought of Indians as they sighed over waterfalls.

significant landscape photographs. The valley was the first piece of land recognized by the federal government as worthy of protection as a national park. It reigned supreme in John Muir's heart, and was central to the founding of the Sierra Club. It is the most famous park in the country, and the most photographed.

*Bark house,
Yosemite Valley.*



*Lucy and Bill, mother + father of Johnnie Brown
died in this ochum*

Those photographs of Yosemite portray, again and again, a sublimely empty wilderness; early authors compare the place to the Garden of Eden, emphasizing its tranquil purity. None of the material prepared me for the picture Bunnell presents, of an old man held captive by a rope around his waist being told by the U.S. Army that his culture was going to be obliterated. In art, Yosemite always looks like a virgin bride, not somebody else's mother.

If THIS HISTORY OF YOSEMITE begins anywhere, it begins with a contrary young adventurer named James D. Savage, who was born in Illinois in 1823, on what was then the white frontier. Named after his grandfather, who fought on both sides in the Revolutionary War, Savage would play a similarly equivocal role in the battles of his day. No solid account of him exists, only glimpses in dozens of memoirs of California at midcentury. Family legend has it that he was kidnapped by

Indians as a child or ran away to join them as an adolescent; when he was 23 he joined a wagon train heading west—the wagon train that included the Donner Party, though he didn't join them on their unfortunate shortcut. He appears next in California, as a soldier under Frémont, helping to seize the territory from Mexico, and as a freelance looter raiding



*Mono Lake
Paiute in
Yosemite Valley,
circa 1899.*

Some say he had five native wives, some seven, a few indicate that the number was near 30. "It is related of him," writes the imperturbable historian Hubert Howe Bancroft, "that he made it a point to marry a chief's daughter in every tribe; exchanged hardware and whisky by weight, ounce for ounce, with the Indians for gold dust, and bet his weight in gold on the turn of a card in a San Francisco gambling house." By some estimates Savage was extracting \$10,000 to \$20,000 a day during his brief reign in the Sierra foothills. He moved from the Tuolumne to the Merced watershed, about ten miles downstream from Yosemite Valley (whose existence was still unsuspected by the gold miners), and established two trading posts on the banks of the River of Mercy. You might call Savage the mountain man as diversified corporation.

The whites derisively referred to the California Indians as "Diggers," a name—still current in my elementary-school textbooks in the 1960s—supposedly descriptive of their root-gathering methods. Some of the Indians called the whites Gold Diggers, after their principal activity, as panning for gold quickly gave way to digging for it. In 1853 digging was abandoned for hydraulic mining, in which streams were diverted to hose entire hillsides away and wash the lighter materials from the gold. Afterward came chemical refinement of the ore with mercury, then chlorine gas and finally cyanide (which remains the method of choice in open-pit mines all over the West). By the 1860s rivers and streams had been dammed and diverted to mines, and whole hillsides of the Mother Lode and Nevada had been gouged into open sores.

The landscape the Forty-Niners thus transformed was fully inhabited. As anthropologist Theodora Kroeber wrote, "The conquerors wrested from its owners a land undespoiled; no tool heavier than a woman's wooden digging stick had broken the earth's protecting crust." The miners' incursions displaced many foothill tribes, and the logging, sullyng of streams, hunting, and grazing not only constituted the first wave of environmental damage, but

rancheros for the U.S. troops and for himself. He worked for John Sutter in the Sacramento Valley, rustled livestock, and was around when gold was discovered on the American River in 1848. Savage was one of the early miners who explored further, finding gold on the Tuolumne, the river that flows out of Hetch Hetchy Valley, and finding Indians to work his mines for him.

One pioneer ran into him at this time "under a brushwood tent . . . measuring and pouring gold dust into candle boxes by his side. Five hundred naked Indians . . . brought the dust to Savage, and in return for it received a bright piece of cloth or some beads." Another explorer remembered that "Jim Savage was the absolute and despotic ruler over thousands of Indians, extending all the way from the Cosumnes to the Tejon Pass, and was by them designated in their Spanish vernacular El Rey Guero—the blond king. He called himself the Tulare King."

Los Tulares was the Spanish name for what would later be called the San Joaquin Valley, and Savage achieved his sway over the tribes there through tricks—sleights of hand, electrical shocks—pretenses of supernatural power, and his gift for Indian languages: Contemporaries say he spoke several regional dialects, and he was often in demand as a translator.

None of the Yosemite literature prepared me
for the captive old man being told by the Army
that his culture was going to be obliterated.

devastated native food sources. During the Gold Rush, confrontations between Indians and whites were frequent and violent. Some whites believed extermination the only solution to the "Indian problem," and harbored few inhibitions about killing native people. (The indigenous population of California declined by two-thirds during the Gold Rush era.)

A few foothill tribes took to rustling livestock as a solution to their food problems, and attacked some of the

settlements in their territory. One such raid took place at Savage's Merced River trading post in the spring of 1850, and in December of that year another post was destroyed, its three employees killed. Savage's kingdom was falling apart. The chief of the Chowchillas had turned against him; his wives had begun to go back to their people; and several tribes were trying to kill him. Savage reported that an all-out war against the whites in the region was brewing. His Indian sources told him that the attacks on his posts had been launched by a fierce people they called the Yosemite; the Mariposa Battalion was organized largely to exterminate or relocate them. It was Savage's war, and the troops elected him head of the expedition: Major Savage.

Tenaya came out to meet the battalion near what is now El Portal, at the head of Yosemite Valley. Savage told him that if he did not bring his people out and sign a treaty, they would be utterly destroyed. A snowstorm came, and perhaps because of it Tenaya's people did not, so the battalion set off for the valley. Halfway between the main Merced River and its south fork they met Tenaya with 72 people—those, the chief said, who were willing to be relocated. Savage and part of the battalion pressed on into Yosemite Valley to get the rest. They got as far as El Capitan and, at

dusk, made camp at the foot of Bridalveil Fall.

I spent quite a bit of time gazing at Bridalveil myself during my own exploration of Yosemite. We climbed up a vast boulder, and forgot the noisy children and the video cameras and even our impossible cookstove, rather as Bunnell was able to forget his military purpose when he saw Yosemite's marvels.

Bridalveil is one of the most surprising of Yosemite's waterfalls, shooting over an almost-smooth cliff rather than falling in a water-carved trench or a crevice. The rock face to either side of the falls is stained dark and glistens, and on those well-watered ledges grow ferns and other verdure. The spray swayed and billowed in the wind as though it were smoke or powder. Further down it became water again, cascading over the rocks and throbbing distantly, while the stream it fell into bubbled gently below our boulder. Here the Mariposa Battalion had camped, John Muir had rhapsodized, and Carleton Watkins and Ansel Adams had set up their cameras. In spite of all that has happened here, Bridalveil looks today much as it does in the old photographs.

*"Pompomason,
Three Brothers,"
Yosemite, 1861.
Photograph by
Carleton E.
Watkins.*



CARLETON E. WATKINS. COURTESY FRANKEL GALLERY, SAN FRANCISCO

THINKING ABOUT NATURAL HISTORY and human history is like looking at one of those trick drawings where a skull becomes a seated woman, a wineglass a pair of kissing profiles—it's hard to keep both images in focus at the same time. One doesn't usually write, "Washington crossed the Delaware, a south-flowing river whose animal populations include . . ." Yosemite has been defined in terms of geological time and natural wonders, making it easy to believe that the valley has no significant human history. But the

After a while, tourism seems like the only natural response. And a tourist is a person who does not belong, a stranger in Paradise.

Miwok themselves burned the meadows of Yosemite to keep the brush and pines down, gathered its largesse and otherwise transformed the land, so there never was a wholly "natural" landscape there, unless you go back 3,500 or more years to before the valley's first human inhabitants—or unless you consider people part of nature.

The emptiness of the West—the uninhabitedness of what we call wilderness—was largely an illusion. The West wasn't empty, it was emptied—literally by expeditions like the Mariposa Battalion, and figuratively by the sublime images of a virgin paradise created by so many painters, poets, and photographers. This not only means a crucial portion of our history has been obscured, but that our larger understanding of landscape has been skewed.

When people talk about environmental problems, they often resort to the terms "nature" and "culture," as if describing two truly separate realms. Many people believe in something untouched called nature, and that only the untouched is natural. Yosemite is often presented as a nature preserve in which culture does not belong.

There's a deep misanthropy contained in our nature/culture split—it suggests that only undisturbed nature is worth looking at, that every touch pollutes, as though huckleberrying and hydraulic mining were indistinguishable. When we look at wilderness and see it only as uninhabited, we forget the landscapes we depend on, where our food and water come from; we forget that we ourselves still live off the land. When the only scenes that are celebrated are framed as vacant of people, viewing becomes the sole permissible activity. After a while tourism seems like the natural response; the only landscapes that seem natural are those in which one does nothing but look. And a tourist is by definition a person who does not belong, a stranger in Paradise.

Ursula K. LeGuin, Theodora Kroeber's daughter, wrote of California, "What the Whites perceived as a wilderness to be 'tamed' was in fact better known to human beings than it

has ever been since: known and named. Every hill, every valley, creek, canyon, gulch, gully, draw, point, bluff, beach, bend, good-sized boulder, and tree of any character had its name, its place in the order of things."

Bridalveil Fall, under whose spray the Mariposa Battalion camped, had been called *Pohono* by the Miwok, meaning "a potent wind." At Bridalveil Fall that cold March night in 1851, the 50 or so men built a campfire and sat around it arguing about what to name the valley they had just marched into. Romantic and biblical names were brought forth; Paradise Valley was proposed by a man who cursed the Indians and their names. (The place was often compared to Paradise, and to Eden: A companion of the painter Albert Bierstadt wrote in 1863, "If report was true, we were

going to the original site of the Garden of Eden." Bunnell himself idly remarked one day that the valley must have been a "veritable Indian paradise," and reports that Savage responded, "I remember well enough that Satan entered paradise and did all the mischief he could, but I intend to be a bigger devil in this Indian paradise than old Satan ever was;



Mary, a Southern Miwok, Yosemite Valley, circa 1910.

and when I *Early tourists*
leave, I don't *at Mirror Lake.*
intend to crawl

out, either.") Bunnell insisted that the valley have an Indian name, "that we give the valley the name of Yo-sem-i-ty, as it was suggestive, euphonious, and certainly *American*; that by so doing, the name of the tribe of Indians which we met leaving their homes in this valley, perhaps never to return, would be perpetuated."

"Yo-sem-i-ty" won by a voice vote; then Bunnell went to ask Savage what the word meant. Savage, who spoke many neighboring dialects, said it meant "grizzly bear" and that the name was given to Tenaya's band "because of their lawless and predatory character." Savage's translation is still almost universally accepted; it is the version on all the park signage. But Craig Bates, the Park Service's chief ethnologist in Yosemite, talked to the old Miwok speakers in the region and came to a very different conclusion. It is true that *uzionati* is the Miwok word for grizzly bear, but Yosemite seems to be a version of another Miwok word, *yuhemitch*, which means "some among them are killers." Some-Among-Them-Are-Killers National Park, a place named by those who knew not what they did.

It would be tidy if the killers in question were the whites, if they had unwittingly named the area after their own sins. In fact the Miwok term referred to the valley's native inhabitants, who had intermarried with the Paiutes around Mono Lake; the Central Miwok generally feared and distrusted Paiutes, and the name reflects intertribal animosities. The people who lived there called the valley *Ahualmee*, meaning "big mouth"—a reference to its shape—and called themselves the *Ahualmechee*.

Yosemite's untidy history continued. The Mariposa Battalion destroyed the acorn granaries and villages it found. Bunnell's division caught three of Tenaya's sons near a triple rock formation later named Three Brothers in honor of the coincidence, and then shot one of the brothers as he tried to escape. Tenaya and some of his people took refuge with the Mono Lake Paiutes for a while after they fled the uninhabitable reservation they had been sent to, and Tenaya is said to

have been killed by some Paiutes in 1853 in a gambling dispute. The year before, Savage had been shot down by another white man in an argument over treatment of the Indians; Savage had taken the Indians' side.

IN 1855 THE FIRST TOURIST PARTY arrived in Yosemite. It had taken a little over three years for Yosemite to go from
Continued on page 78



GEORGE FERRY COLLECTION OF CALIFORNIA NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



FLAMMABLE SOLID

POISON

EXPLOSIVE A

CORROSIVE

MOTORCYCLE

LANE SMITH

Neither WISE Nor WELL

ON THE LAST MORNING OF THE WISE USE Leadership Conference, Chuck Cushman takes the microphone for an unscheduled speech. The founder and executive director of the National Inholders Association, a group representing private-

property interests in and around public lands, Cushman calls himself the "field commander" of the wise-use movement. He is burly, bearded, and charismatic; happiest in action, in theatrical confrontation, in squaring off against "radical environmentalists" and their governmental co-conspirators. Cushman is a park-stopper, a wild-and-scenic-river-arrester, proud to

ABUSERS OF THE COMMON TRUST

shout down the policies environmentalists love. ♦ But this morning Cushman squares himself almost reluctantly to the rostrum. In the Ponderosa Room of John Ascauga's Nugget—a 1,000-room casino/hotel in Reno, Nevada—150

OR DOWNTRODDEN POPULISTS?

conferees sip their coffee and balance muffins on their laps. Cushman begins by alluding to "certain events" at the conference. Strident voices have been raised from the fringe, he says; strong opinions have been ex-

AT THE EXPLOITERS' CONVENTION,

pressed. He is worried that the journalists present will make too much of these opinions. "It is not appropriate to label any of us as espousing all or even any of the views of any of the other people here,"

THE WISE-USE MOVEMENT

Cushman says. "I would hope the press would be responsible and fairly characterize this meeting." Having interviewed Cushman the day before, I could feel his eyes on me. ♦ Cushman's problem is real. The wise-use movement is hungry these days for the kind of press that might win it the ear of Middle

FRETS ABOUT ITS IMAGE.

America—particularly stories about "wise-use heroes," victims of environmentalism run amok. It is less anxious to spotlight the immoderate ravings of some of its members—their shrill insistence that

environmentalism

BY WILLIAM POOLE

is a communist plot

Illustrations by Lane Smith

against the economy

and the food supply, a deliberate conspiracy to create chaos and so pave the way for a one-world socialist government.

For me, the issue had come to a head the evening before at a session on "Debunking the Environmental Myths." Among the phenomena examined: the Myth of Global Warming, the Myth of Ozone Depletion, and the Myth of Biodiversity. (I never did grasp the implausibility of biodiversity, but the arguments against global warming and ozone depletion seemed plain enough—to wit, that there is no acceptable evidence for either, and that scientists who say otherwise are either desperately deluded or engaged in some ideological quest.)

The meeting was supposed to have been under the leadership of R. J. Smith of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank. Earlier in the conference, the professorial Smith, once an advisor to President Reagan's Council on Environmental Quality, had raised thoughtful questions about the Endangered Species Act's effect on private property. But Smith was late for the mythbuster meeting, so it fell under the more colorful influence of one Walter "Bud" Houston, a retired purveyor of lawn chemicals.

Houston's conversation kept circling back to mosquitoes. He saw the banning of DDT and other pesticides as an environmentalist scheme to reduce world population by ruining food supplies and encouraging mosquito-borne disease. "The only way for them to reduce the population is through starvation and disease," Houston said. "Wars don't work—they kill the wrong breeding partner. The Audubon Society made a lot of money banning DDT. That's the rich elite that are members there. The Sierra Club is the same way."

Of the perhaps 25 people on hand, Houston and two or three others did most of the talking. Someone decried the "planned disintegration of the U.S. economy." When Houston began to preach that environmentalists attack religion because religion is the backbone of the country, several conventioners shifted uncomfortably in their seats.

At about this time, Chuck Cushman lumbered into the room and took a seat at one of the tables. He noted my dutiful jotting of notes, and his brow wrinkled above his snowy beard. By now Houston was talking about how EPA Administrator William Reilly was President Bush's worst appointment, and how Reilly is a friend of Britain's Prince Charles, who, according to Houston, once said that when he died he would like to come back to earth as a virus to reduce the world's population.

Cushman had heard enough. "Where's R. J. Smith?" he asked. Then he turned to the group. "How do people feel about what they've been hearing?" One woman ventured

that she hadn't liked the religious talk much. Another man suggested that "We have too many fights to fight to get down on everyone else."

"Liberties were taken here," Cushman said. "If you're not comfortable with what people say, you've got to speak up." When Smith arrived a few minutes later, Cushman gratefully turned the meeting over to him. Then he tapped Houston on the shoulder and led him out of the room.

This morning, standing before the convention, Cushman wants to be sure his message is understood. The convention is open to all, he says, and not everyone agrees on every issue. Cushman polls the audience: "How many agree with everything I say? How many agree with everything the John Birch Society says?" (This granddaddy of right-wing ideologue groups has set up a booth at the rear of the hall.) The conventioners seem a little perplexed, but of course they are not the primary target of his questions. "Members of the press have been sent here by the folks in the preservation movement to try to cast us in a bad light," Cushman announces. I glance over at the camera crew from CBS News, but I've already guessed he's not talking about them.

THE TERM WISE USE, as applied to land and resources, begs the question of exactly whose standard of wisdom is to be applied. The term emerged from the Multiple Use Strategy Conference held in 1988 at this very same Reno hotel. That gathering, like the one I'm attending, was convened by the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise, a conservative educational foundation based in Bellevue, Washington. *The Wise Use Agenda*, a sort of movement handbook that emerged from that meeting, suggests what "wise" might mean. It delineates 25 goals, including the immediate development of oil resources in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the opening of all national parks and wilderness areas to mining, and the systematic harvest of "decaying" (read "old-growth") trees on national-forest lands.

The wise-use dictionary is thick with such slippery terminology, perfectly suited to the sound-bite journalism that has abetted the movement's rise. The word *movement* itself, for example, must be understood in its absolutely broadest sense. Leaders now claim an exotic miscellany of more than 500

casually affiliated groups, although this number includes groups that eschew wise-use rhetoric and prefer to say they are working toward "multiple-use" goals. And because the movement spreads wide its arms to the energetic and angry, some of the groups are decidedly peripheral to land and resource debates. (At this year's conference, the Best New

***"THIS IS NOT A DOILY-
TOSSING CONTEST,
FOLKS," CUSHMAN SAYS.
"EITHER GET IN OR
GET OUT. WE'VE GOT
TO HAVE PEOPLE WE
CAN COUNT ON."***

Wise Use Activist award went to Kathleen Marquardt of Putting People First!, an organization that works against the animal-rights agenda.)

Gathered under the wise-use banner are snowmobile and off-road-vehicle clubs seeking greater—in some cases unlimited—access to public lands. There are groups representing loggers and fishermen worried about the effects of environmental regulations on their jobs and communities. Others speak for western ranchers seeking continued grazing subsidies on public lands. Most significantly for the movement's financial health, some member groups represent wallet-heavy industries—big timber, big logging, big mining, and big development—that stand to profit handsomely by linking their goals with what they hope to define as a grassroots populist movement.

Even the names of wise-use groups can be deceptive. People for the West!, for example, has professional organizers in five western states supported largely by mining corporations. The Environmental Conservation Organization was founded by the Land Improvement Contractors of America, and the National Wetlands Coalition is a development-industry front seeking to weaken federal wetlands laws. In similar newspeak, an alliance of foxes might be called the American Henhouse Association.

Environmentalism is another term of art in the wise-use lexicon. Members of the wise-use movement—or WUMs, as I will call them—would claim the word for themselves, and with it the reasonable middle ground in the resource-use debate. Today's environmental groups have slipped from the hands of true conservationists, WUM leaders suggest. For this reason, the noun *environmentalist* always carries the adjective *radical* when applied to anyone except another wise-use advocate. Alternately, the word *preservationist* is particularly handy because, as a word packed with sibilants, it can easily be spit out in disgust. These terms often carry modifiers like *intellectual* or *pointy-headed*, and it is understood that preservationists are part of the *cultural elite*, a favorite phrase of at least one prominent wise-use ally. Such language taps into the tradition of American anti-intellectualism—to “common sense,” if you will, as opposed to “book-learnin’.” In this framework, those who work with resources—loggers, ranchers, miners, farmers—know the land better than professional resource managers ever could.

In its broadest sense, *private property* is understood to in-

clude not simply land or buildings, but private “rights” to such things as grazing on public lands. The term is also applied to land value: Some WUMs believe that a decrease in land value due to environmental regulation or zoning constitutes a legal “taking” of private property under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, for which taking the

landowner should be reimbursed. Many of the most skilled and powerful WUMs (and seemingly all of the movement's lawyers) are interested in the private-property issue, including the Mountain States Legal Foundation, founded by former Interior Secretary James Watt.

The word *science* can also be troublesome. Certain WUMs espouse a kind of alternative science that holds that humankind, in its infinite ingenuity, will constantly discover new resources, if only the mighty capitalist engine is allowed to fuel itself on the resources we have. In this

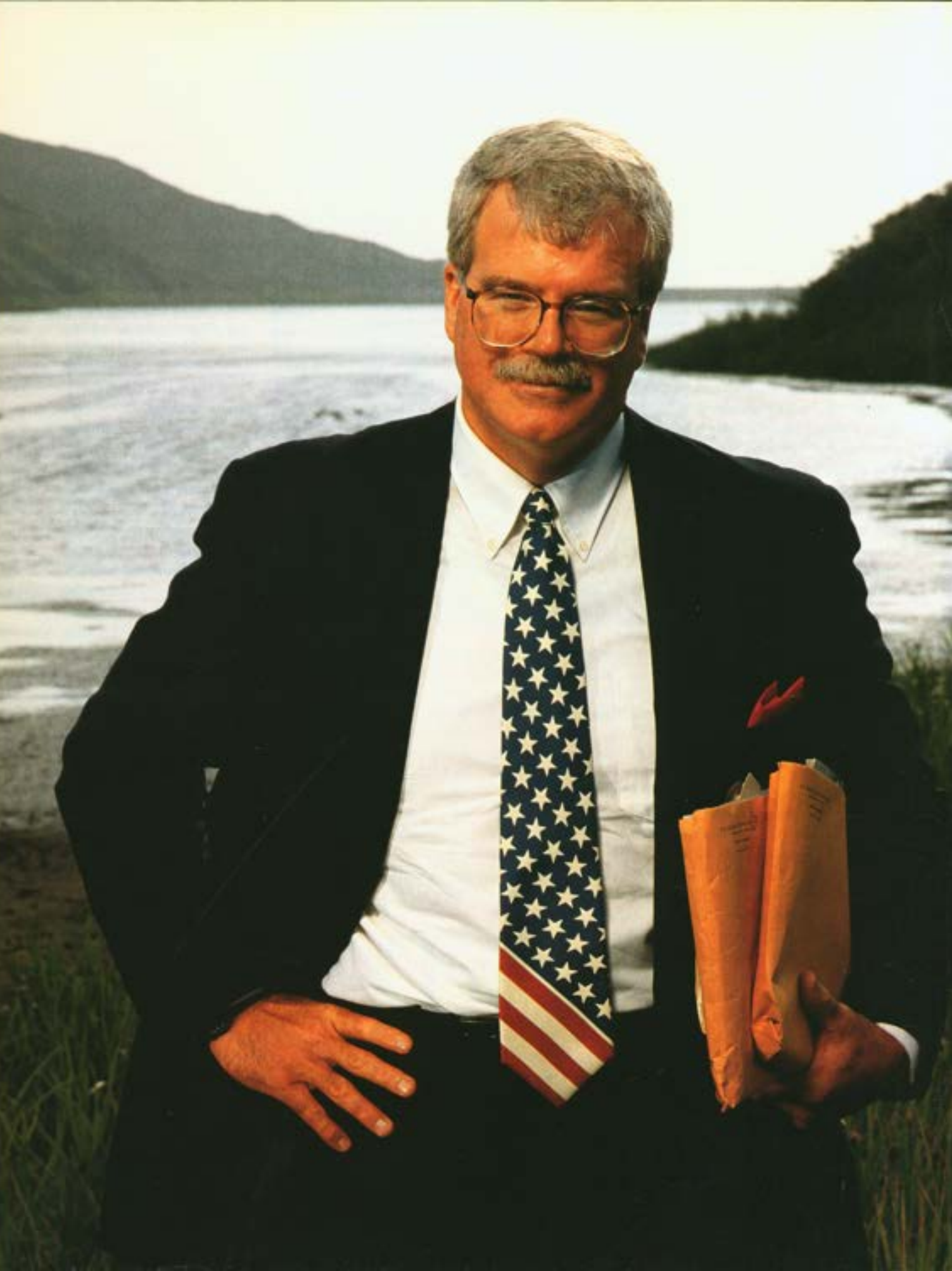
sense it is a science of optimism, and so relates to *religion*.

Wise-users choose as their religious base the Judeo-Christian tradition, and specifically the red-white-and-blue strain that locates Christ in the free marketplace. As its primary scripture, the movement points to Genesis 1, in which God awards man dominion over Earth's resources and creatures. So understood, the wise use of land and resources is that which keeps human beings and their needs at the center of the cosmos. Beyond that, God will provide, in this world and the next. “Preservationists get uptight because they don't believe in the hereafter,” Representative William Danner (R-Calif.) told the conference. “Because that means that what's here is all there is.”

THE DIRECTION OF THE Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise is determined by two men, Alan Gottlieb and Ron Arnold. This is not their first association: Both formerly held leadership positions with the American Freedom Coalition of Washington state. (On the national level the AFC has been heavily funded by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon.) Arnold, who confesses to a brief history as a Sierra Club activist, has been described as the movement's “philosopher.” Gottlieb, on the other hand, is the money man, claiming to send out more than 50 million pieces of mail each year. “It's working,” Gottlieb announced to the conference. “The media is beginning to see two sides.”

Continued on page 88







FOR THOSE WHO THINK THE COLD WAR IS OVER, we take you now to a meeting of the House Interior Committee in Washington, D.C., where it has never ended. Midway through an argument over mining policy, a Republican committee member compares Chairman George Miller to a communist, and the burly Northern California Democrat begins to laugh. ★ "I know my chairman is giggling, but listen to my words," says Representative Don Young of Alaska, after quoting Marx and Engels. "This committee has become a committee that socializes our national resources! It's a committee that takes away private property!" ★ On a dreary afternoon, the panel is bickering over the 120-year-old law that regulates mining on public lands. For genera-

CHAIRMAN George

tions, miners and other business interests have claimed title to western lands for as little as \$2.50 an acre, thereby gaining the right to extract valuable minerals from them. Miller wants the miners to pay more—

a lot more, and suddenly he's no longer amused. ★ Glaring at Young, he fires back with a sarcasm that has become his trademark during 17 years in Congress. "Mr. Young insists that we're taking away the right to private property," he says. "But these are *public* lands. They exist at the behest of the *public*. That's who owns them." ★ The Republicans grumble some more, but a bill mandating higher royalty payments by miners—the first such legislation ever to make it out of the Interior Committee—is quickly passed and sent on to the House for a vote. The gavel slams down. It's Miller Time. ★ Ever since he took over as chair of the powerful Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, George Miller III has cracked the whip and begun to write a brash new chapter in U.S. environmental law. At 47, he's the youngest member of Congress to head a House committee, and one of its most impatient powerbrokers. ★ The panel

**Environmentalists
have one tough
congressman
on their side**

BY JOSH GETLIN

Photography by Tom Zimberoff

was less rancorous under long-time chair Morris Udall (D-Ariz.), who retired last year.

Where Udall was a folksy and flexible environmentalist, Miller is tough and uncompromising—a stern presence who sometimes badgers uncooperative witnesses and shrewdly uses the media to embarrass his opponents. Already some veteran Capitol Hill lobbyists are pining for the good old days. Udall went for the punchline to break up the tension, they say, but Miller goes for the jugular.

In the process, the tall, broad-shouldered Californian has transformed the committee that oversees much of the nation's vast network of public lands, as well as U.S. irrigation, mining, and energy-development projects. Led by Miller, the House Interior Committee is now more aggressively pro-environment than ever—which makes for hot debates, long sessions, and an agenda that has business interests screaming foul.

"I didn't come here to lose," Miller says, conceding that his rough style has alienated some people. "Look, the name of the game here is hardball. Why can't the environmental movement fight its battles as hard as anyone else?"

MILLER IS BEST KNOWN for his decade-long crusade against farmers in California's Central Valley and the federal Bureau of Reclamation. For years agribusiness has received water at cheap, federally supported rates, benefiting from an estimated \$460 million in annual subsidies. Angered that farmers use 85 percent of the state's water to produce only 10 percent of its income, Miller has authored controversial legislation that, by forcing growers to pay market prices, would leave more water for consumers, fish, and wildlife. "Farmers get subsidized water for subsidized crops, and when they're done with the land they leave toxic-waste sites behind."

Miller is also pressing for a law that would protect ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest, drawing fire from logging companies. He's clashed with miners and ORV groups over his

support of legislation to protect the California Desert. He helped lead the fight to ban offshore oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas, played a key role in the investigation of the Exxon Valdez disaster, and opposes oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"He has a brand-new set of priorities," says Jim Blomquist, a Sierra Club lobbyist in Washington, D.C. "And it shows how times have changed. Mo Udall represented the priorities of an older generation, focusing on issues like protecting wilderness. But George is part of a new generation, and he has different concerns, such as global warming and protecting ecosystems that lie outside wilderness boundaries. These are controversial issues, and they'll frame the debates of the '90s."

Controversy and debate are par for the course in Washington. But in a town better known for backslapping collegiality and quiet cloakroom deals, Miller's hardnosed tactics stand out. Once, at an Interior Committee hearing, Republicans walked out in protest when they felt Miller was rushing a bill through with no regard for their dissent. As they left the room, one critic groused that Miller obviously wanted to replace the recalcitrant GOP members with Sierra Club members. "That's for damn sure," the chairman snapped.

More recently, Miller took on Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, the consortium that runs the trans-Alaskan oil pipeline. He charged it with covering up a series of disasters on the state's environmentally sensitive North Slope, and with harassing critics who exposed the mistakes. The story wound up on CBS television's *60 Minutes*, and included allegations—heatily denied by Alyeska but later substantiated by the Interior Committee—that a security firm hired by the oil companies tried to smear Miller himself. (See "The Man Who Knew Too Much," March/April

Continued on page 65



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1992.) "Welcome to the brave new world of the Interior Committee," joked one environmental lobbyist on the day Miller's charges were aired in a stormy panel hearing. "This guy is on the warpath."

Miller has brought the same in-your-face approach to other issues. He was a strident critic of U.S. military aid to El Salvador and a leading opponent of funding for the Nicaraguan Contras. He's one of the nation's most outspoken advocates for childcare funding and has led several congressional fights to strip money from military programs and use it for urban anti-drug initiatives.

To his friends, the California legislator is someone who delivers on issues that matter. It's critical, they say, that the environmental community has a tough guy on its side, a skillful negotiator who isn't afraid to get down and dirty.

"With all respect to Mo Udall, I think it's a cause for celebration among environmentalists that George Miller has taken over this committee," says Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), one of the chairman's longtime allies. "Because of his age, he's in a position to serve on the committee for a generation. And his decisions could affect the environment for 100 years."

To his enemies, the notion of Miller as a legislative fixture is frightening. California agribusiness lobbyists view him as a rude, condescending politician who doesn't care about their industry. But it's a testimony to Miller's growing clout that no one wants to slam him on the record.

"It wouldn't be smart for us to criticize him now, because he could get even with us," says William I. DuBois, a water-industry lobbyist for 20 years and now a consultant to the California Farm Bureau. "It's like battling with a skunk. Either way you come out smelling the same, so it doesn't pay."

"The man could hurt us," adds Jason Peltier, manager of California's Central Valley Project Water Association. "There's a real fear of retribution."

Other critics predict Miller's style will eventually backfire. Representa-

tative Young, who leads the Republican minority on the Interior Committee, says the chairman has "a lack of maturity," and predicts that most of Miller's bills will die for lack of GOP support. Politics is the art of the doable, not the desirable, Young says, and Miller hasn't learned that lesson.

RELAXING IN HIS cluttered congressional office, Miller waves these criticisms off like irritating bugs. Yes, he can be impatient with questioners who waste his time. Perhaps he's a little abrupt, especially in heated committee debates. But no, he doesn't care what people say about him. Rising on the political ladder is not his goal, Miller insists.

"I don't much give a damn about higher office," he told the San Francisco *Examiner* just before becoming committee chair. "I consider this a whole new opportunity. People sent me to Congress to kick ass and take names, and I'm not gonna roll over."

A year later, his attitude hasn't changed. "If you're gonna fight with me on an issue, you better bring your lunch," he says. "People can say all these things about me, like I'm too gruff, or I don't comb my hair or my suits are rumpled. I just don't give a damn."

It's a winning pose in a year when anti-political sentiment is on the rise. But Miller didn't acquire his style after sampling grassroots heat or taking monthly opinion polls. He's the product of three California mentors whose legacy continues to influence the way he does his job: his father, George Miller II; former San Francisco mayor George Moscone; and former U.S. Representative Phil Burton.

As a boy growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area town of Richmond, Miller first learned about politics from his father, who was chair of the finance committee in the California State Senate. His parents set high academic standards for him, and Miller was immersed in competition at an early age, starting in high-school swimming and football. He got a taste of the real world after graduation.

Continued on page 85

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W O M E N ' S

FOR THOSE OF US WHO GREW UP ON JOHN MUIR AND ANSEL ADAMS, IT MIGHT SEEM THAT THE PULSE OF THE NATURAL WORLD HAS BEEN MEASURED PRIMARILY BY THE PENS AND CAMERAS HELD BY MEN. BUT WOMEN, TOO, HAVE EXPLORED AND DOCUMENTED THE MOST REMOTE—AND MOST FAMILIAR—REACHES OF THE PLANET. A NEW SIERRA CLUB BOOK ILLUMINATES THE WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THEIR JOURNEYS.

Photographs and text excerpted from *Mother Earth: Through the Eyes of Women Photographers and Writers*, edited by Judith Boice (Sierra Club Books, 1992).

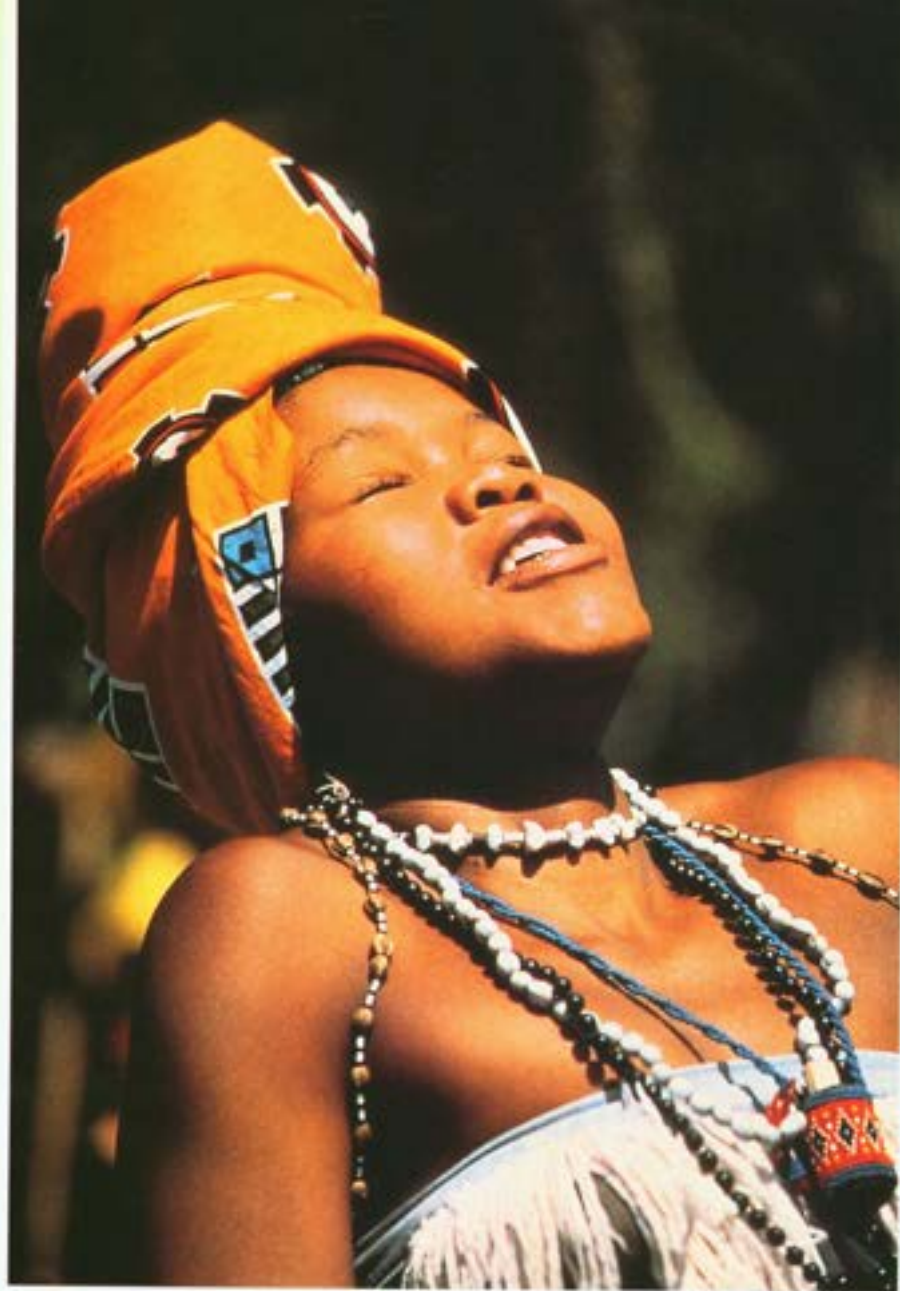
WORKS



*W*ork is the country of hands, and they want to live there in the dailiness of it, the repetition that is time's language of prayer, a common tongue. —Linda Hogan

Photograph by Pam Roberson
FISHERMAN AT DUSK, BALI

From "Waking Up the Rake," in *Parabola: The Magazine of Myth and Tradition*, vol. XII, no. 3. Reprinted by permission of Linda Hogan.



Rita Summers

DANCER IN TRADITIONAL DRESS.
CROWN MINE, NEAR JOHANNESBURG,
SOUTH AFRICA.

Lara Hartley

FOLK-CRAFT ARTIST AT HIDA FOLKLORE
MUSEUM AND OLD HOUSE RESERVATION,
TAKAYAMA, JAPAN.





Sharon Chester

KUNA WOMAN WITH PIPE AND PARAKEET,
ACUATUPU ISLAND, PANAMA.

I am not like you," the old woman said slowly. "I do not tell stories; I see visions. I see that life is not a line but a circle. Why do men imagine for themselves the illusory freedom of a soaring mind, so that the body of nature becomes a cage? 'Tis not true. To be human is to be circled in the cycles of nature, rooted in the processes that nurture us in life, breathing in and breathing out human life just as plants breathe in and out their photosynthesis. . . ."

—Elizabeth Dodson Gray

From "Turning to Another Way," in *Green Paradise Lost*. Copyright © 1979 by Elizabeth Dodson Gray. Reprinted by permission of Roundtable Press.



Wendy Sbattil

SANDHILL CRANES IN SUNRISE FOG
NEAR MONTE VISTA, COLORADO.

I, the fiery life of divine essence, am aflame
beyond the beauty of the meadows, I gleam in
the waters, and I burn in the sun, moon, and stars. . . .
I awaken everything to life. —Hildegard of Bingen

Reprinted from *Meditations with Hildegard of Bingen*, edited by Gabriel Uhlir.
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Jenny Hager
PYTHON, BOULDER,
COLORADO.



Heather Angel
MACAQUE MOTHER AND CHILD,
SHIGA HEIGHTS, JAPAN.



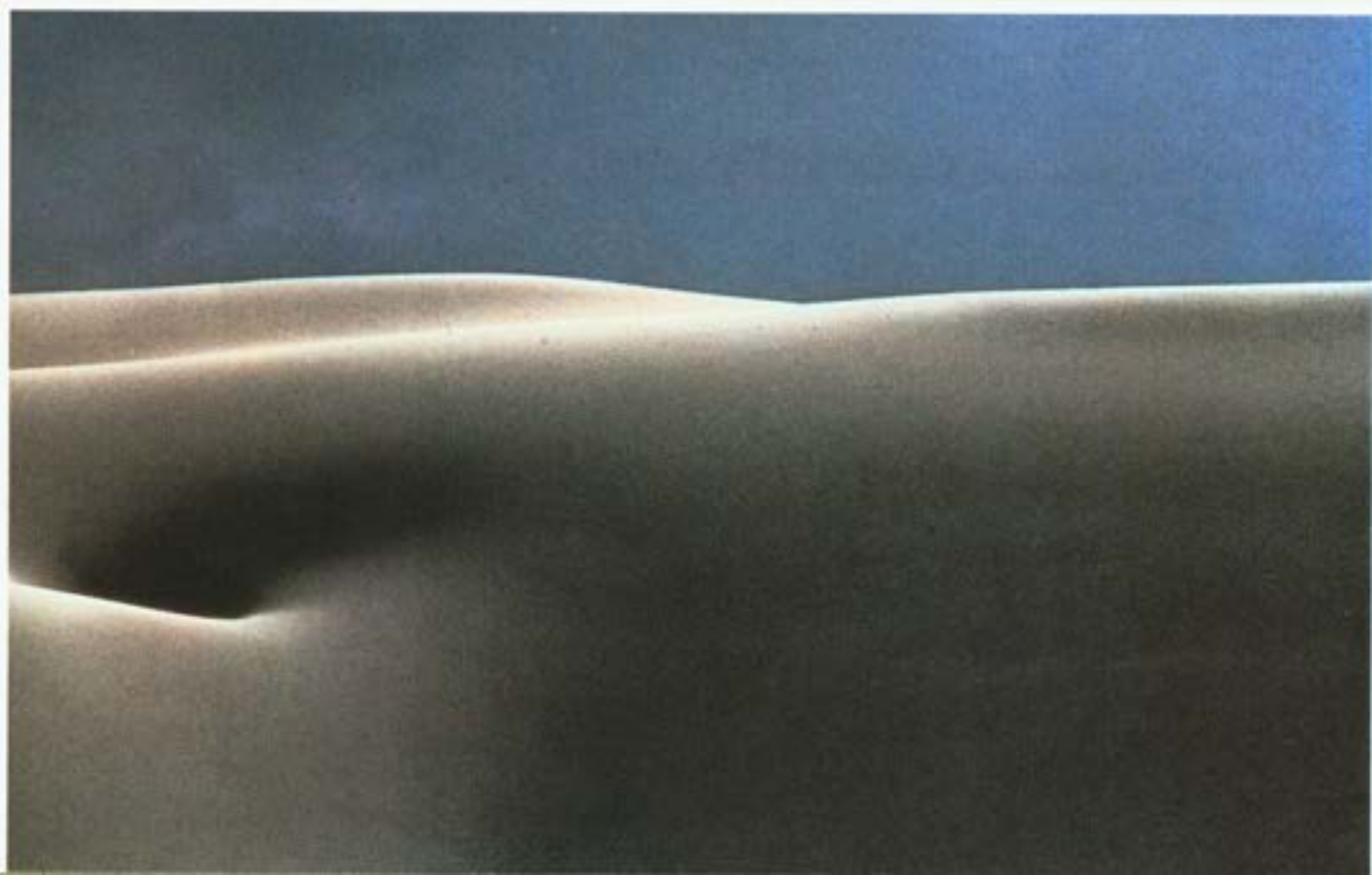


Heather Angel

SNOWFALL ON PAINTED
DESERT, ARIZONA

Pam Roberson

DUNESCAPE, GREAT SAND DUNES
NATIONAL PARK, COLORADO





Annie Tiberio

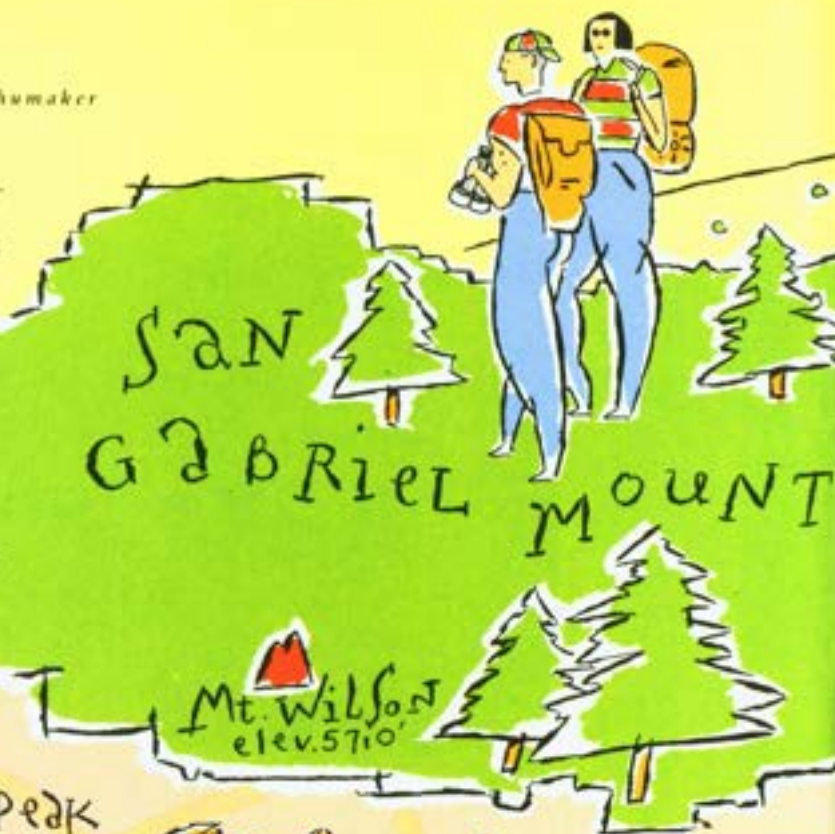
ROWBOAT REFLECTED IN RUDD POND,
BECKET, MASSACHUSETTS.

*T*he secret of seeing is, then, the pearl of great price. If I thought he could teach me to find it and keep it forever I would stagger barefoot across a hundred deserts after any lunatic at all. But although the pearl may be found, it may not be sought. The literature of illumination reveals this above all: although it comes to those who wait for it, it is always, even to the more practiced and adept, a gift and a total surprise. —Annie Dillard

PLACE SETTING

Text by Reed McManus • Illustration by Ward Schumaker

The Los Angeles metropolitan area is not simply the smoggiest, most car-choked region in the United States, an endless grid of boulevards interrupted by elevated freeways and lined with palms nourished by imported water. It's also surrounded by a phalanx of rugged mountain ranges that include peaks leaping from near sea level to more than 11,000 feet in what seems like a single bound. While freeways have snaked through mountain passes to spread suburbia into every buildable basin, the steep mountains have provided 14 million Angelenos with sanctuaries close at hand. But the mountains are a mixed blessing: They keep out the sweltering heat of the Mojave Desert, but also lock in the fumes from automobiles, refineries, and factories. Besides putting on good walking shoes and filling their water bottles, hiking Angelenos must check the daily newspaper for air-quality predictions before heading out. When the ozone concentration in the atmosphere reaches 12 parts per million (as it does 80 days a year in some foothill communities), the air is unhealthy to breathe, particularly for anyone laboring up a canyon trail.



The only mountain range in the United States that bisects a major city, the **Santa Monica Mountains** extend 50 miles from the Hollywood Hills west to the Pacific, and are within an hour's drive of 6 million people. The Santa Monicas have suffered from decades of development: Entire hilltops have been scraped and bulldozed into terraces to accommodate homes, and residential roads course through the range to houses perched on slopes as steep as 45 degrees. This unbridled building and paving gave birth to a fervent preservation movement, starting with a 1971 "Save the Santa Monicas" march down Mulholland Drive led by Sierra Club members. Today some 155,000 acres of the range are part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Much of the "park" is actually still in private hands; it's up to the National Park Service and groups like the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to piece together parcels of open space while keeping one step ahead of the ever-present subdividers. The Santa Monicas' chaparral-covered parkland would look familiar to many Americans: The range has long provided conveniently rugged settings for Hollywood westerns and Tarzan movies as well as the television series *M*A*S*H*. Snatches of Hollywood history can be found in the names of ranches acquired for the national recreation area: Wilacre Park, the former estate of silent-movie cowboy Will Acres; Will Rogers State Park, once owned by the "cowboy philosopher;" Malibu Creek State Park is composed of ranches that used to belong to 20th-Century Fox, Paramount Studios, Bob Hope, and noted public-lands enthusiast Ronald Reagan.

VERTICAL L.A.

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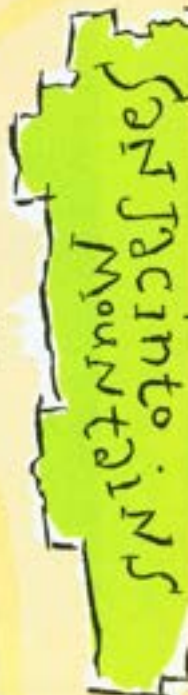


When John Muir visited the **San Gabriel Mountains** in the 1870s, he found chaparral so thick he had to explore on hands and knees. Today the roads that crisscross 693,000-acre Angeles National Forest in the heart of the San Gabriels create different problems: millions of visitors and a host of urban ills, including subdivisions being built up against forest borders. The Angeles, which offers 800 miles of hiking trails among peaks that reach heights of more than 10,000 feet, is the second most-visited national forest in the United States. Overuse has become such a concern that the Forest Service is considering severe restrictions on recreation in its two wilderness areas—one of which, the 36,000-acre San Gabriel, is only 18 miles from downtown L.A. ■ The lower reaches of the San Gabriels are an "urban-wildland interface," where split-levels and minivans meet bobcats, mountain lions, and coyotes. Communities there must also contend with nature's fury, as wildfires and mudslides regularly take their toll.



Where the San Gabriels meet Cajon Pass 50 miles east of L.A.'s City Hall, the **San Bernardino Mountains** begin. This range includes San Geronimo Mountain, at 11,490 feet the highest peak in Southern California. It was here that the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter, the Club's largest, cut its political teeth. Until the 1940s the chapter had been predominantly a social organization, sponsoring hikes and outings throughout the San Gabriels and San Bernardinos (and looked down upon by the Club's more political San Francisco Bay Area members). But in 1946 it began a successful struggle to establish the San Geronimo Wilderness, at more than 58,000 acres one of the largest wilderness preserves in Southern California. Instead of a ski resort, it's now home to free-roaming bighorn sheep and 2,000-year-old limber pines.

The southern border of the L.A. metropolitan area is framed by two formidable boundaries, one geographical and one military. The **Santa Ana Mountains**, most of which are within 420,000-acre Cleveland National Forest, arc 135 miles from Orange County almost to the Mexican border. Though lower than either the San Gabriels or San Bernardinos, the Santa Anas are much less accessible. Mountain lions, bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and bobcats still roam their wild corners. The national forest adjoins 125,000-acre Camp Pendleton Marine Base, which has become a major ecological preserve, home to the endangered California least tern (in addition to a host of toxic-waste sites). Together, the two jurisdictions keep the Los Angeles area's ceaselessly spreading suburbs from bumping up against those marching north from San Diego. ■



►For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

Continued from page 49

Deep South's timber industry, which does not want interference from an animal requiring even more protected forest acreage than the spotted owl. To forestall a federal listing, the state's timber companies suddenly developed a great interest in the bear's welfare, and sponsored a Black Bear Conservation Committee to work up

a management plan. Fish and Wildlife, which had postponed action on the bear for years, obligingly went along, suggesting that, after all, *luteolus* might not be a genuine subspecies requiring protection.

In response, Defenders of Wildlife, represented by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, filed suit against the foot-dragging federal agency, finally forcing it to list the bear as a threatened species. (Fewer than 100 individuals may survive.) Caire, meanwhile, is

pressing the Black Bear Committee to take its task seriously. He went so far as to become a committee member in hopes of voting in favor of the bears. "Whatever it takes to help them recover," says Caire, "that's what we're going to do."

Whatever it takes. That imperative, compounded of equal parts of frustration, defiance, and hope, sums up the attitude of thousands of do-it-yourself activists who are now taking a stand in this most environmentally oppressed of all the nation's regions. True, it often seems that only a miracle will let them succeed. The corporate and governmental policymakers who control the South from within and without remain as closely allied as ever. In these days of widespread economic hardship, the demand for jobs-at-any-price often seems more insistent than at any time in the last decade.

Considering the odds against them, southern grassroots activists are already accomplishing what could pass for small miracles. On their account, politicians lose votes, bureaucrats lose face, and industrialists lose their tempers and their nerve. In at least some southern states, toxics in the air and water are thinning out a little, and patches of wildlands are getting more protection.

True, the day when southerners can proudly point to favorable ratings in the *Green Index* is a long way off. But old-time environmental activists like myself can take heart knowing that the Olivers, Andersons, Coopers, and Caires of the region's counties and parishes persist in the fight. They—we—are determined to force change. After all, we may be poorer on average than other Americans, but given the facts about our situation, we are no more willing to be taken advantage of than anyone else. ■

DONALD G. SCHUELER is the author of *Incident at Eagle Ranch* (University of Arizona Press, 1980). He is working on a book about the Yucatan, *Temple of the Jaguars*, to be published in the spring of 1993 by Sierra Club Books.

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RIVER OF MERCY

Continued from page 57

indigenous homeland to military zone to vacationland, where visitors rarely thought of Indians as they gazed up at granite walls and sighed over waterfalls. The valley the early tourists saw was dominated by broad meadows and spreading oak trees, a landscape beautiful in romantic terms and conducive to deer-hunting and acorn-gathering, a landscape that had been maintained by the torches of its former inhabitants. Later in the 19th century overgrazing damaged the meadows; suppression of fires allowed incense cedars to encroach on the grassland and unusual amounts of flammable undergrowth to build up. (Fire suppression contributed to the intensity of some of the recent fires in the park.) Now the Park Service has returned to burning as an element of meadow maintenance. "With controlled fires," read the signs, "the National Park Service is reintroducing a

natural process," leaving nicely ambiguous what is meant by "natural."

"Soon after its discovery in 1851, Yosemite attracted artists, writers, photographers, and lovers of natural landscape," reads the wall-text at the park's Visitor Center. "Their interpretations of such scenic splendor helped awaken the public to its natural heritage. . . ." John Muir arrived in 1867 and ignored Yosemite's remaining Miwok villages; when the great landscape photographer Eadweard Muybridge came to the valley in the 1870s, he took a lot of huge photographs of the land and a handful of stereoscope pictures of its people. In the 20th century, Ansel Adams carefully cropped out evidence of habitation to make his majestic, uninhabited landscape images, and argued that "people, buildings, and evidence of occupation and use will simply have to go out of Yosemite if it is to function as a great natural shrine."

That first evening, when we'd been too late to stop at Lake Tenaya, we

drove down into the valley and fell asleep under a spectacularly starry sky. Half Dome loomed over me when I stirred in the predawn, and when I woke up again, so did hundreds of cars and people. We made coffee on the hood of the car, ate bread with my wild-blackberry preserves, and set out to see Mirror Lake, the pond fed by the creek that flows from Lake Tenaya.

The park was crowded. I found a plaque in front of the Curry Village Store that said the valley was first seen by Joseph Walker's party in 1833 and "next seen and described . . . by a group of volunteers—the Mariposa Battalion—who had been sent deep into the Sierra foothills to dissuade the native Indians from their violent attacks. . . ." Afterward, I went to the Indian Cultural Museum, whose story of a Native American homeland contradicts the Park Service's version of Yosemite's past, an alternate telling that has never been reconciled with the official history. The museum is a cluster of modest rooms full of baskets, ceremonially

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It seemed time to get out of the valley, and so I went to what I suspected would be the quietest part of the park, Hetch Hetchy. If the human body is 70 percent water, mine after a decade in San Francisco contains a considerable proportion of Hetch Hetchy. I'd wanted to see this drowned valley at the other end of my faucets for years.

The road to Hetch Hetchy goes north through a burnt forest, along the rough, rocky, western face of the park. Toward the end it turns east; far away and tiny, you can see two waterfalls and the face of the dam dividing a whole world in two. One side is almost level with the tranquil reservoir; on the other, hundreds of feet below, an angry jet of water spurts out sideways. Vehicles can only go as far as the edge of O'Shaughnessy Dam; thereafter Hetch Hetchy is accessible only on foot. In Yosemite, you walk on the valley floor; in Hetch Hetchy you walk on a broad path carved out of the valley's side. There was something as terrifying about the idea of an entire landscape drowned beneath the still, opaque blue waters of that lake as there had been in seeing a living woman on display in a museum: Both of them were evidence of something grievously lost.

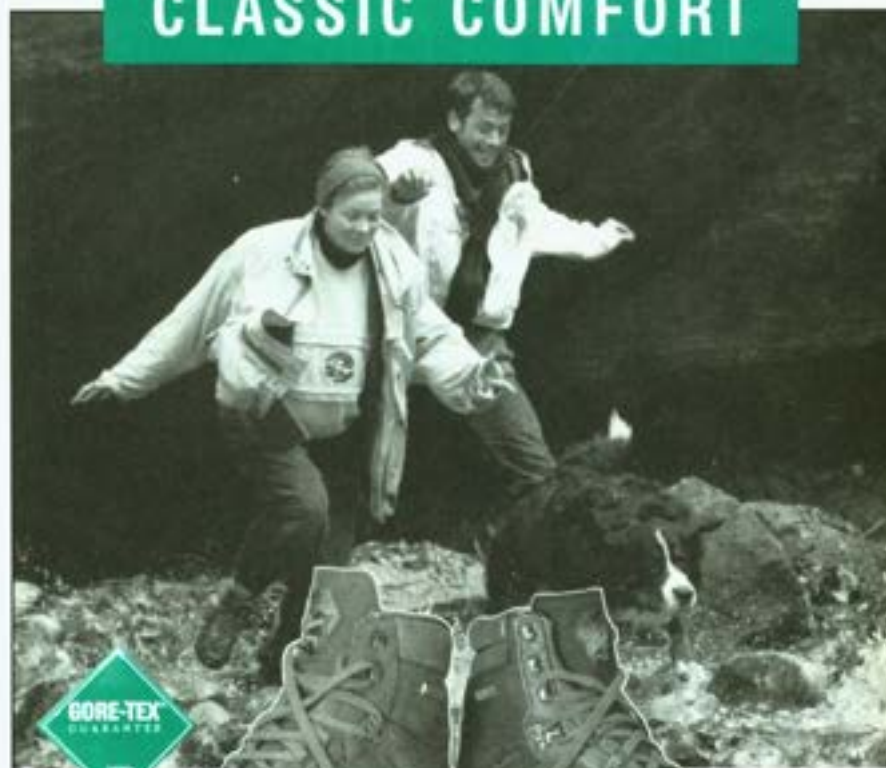
What remains of Hetch Hetchy is more richly carpeted in flowers than Yosemite Valley, and infinitely quieter. (Indeed, the San Francisco Water and Power Department argues that its dam saved Hetch Hetchy from excessive tourism.) John Muir considered it more beautiful than the other valley; he called them the Tuolumne Yosemite and the Merced Yosemite (*Tuolumne* is the name of a local tribe), and he died still fighting to save the Tuolumne

Yosemite from the dam.

Snowmelt was near its peak when I was there, and the waterfalls were glorious. The first was a slender, graceful plume that fell hundreds of feet and broke into rivulets that ran down a broad swathe of smooth stone, forming pools and watering a wild garden of mosses and flowers. I heard the second before I saw it. As I came around a bend in the trail, the air filled with a thunderous roar, and I turned to see a rainbow that leapt from a torrent of

whitewater to the lake below. A wooden footbridge led across the waterfall, but the spray was so thick that I walked through its gentler edges. The temperature dropped. Water streamed across the vibrating bridge, and the roiling water below was clearly dangerous. As I walked across the bridge, the spray soaked my clothes and obscured my vision completely: All I could see was the full-circle rainbow the cascade made in front of me, like a halo around a secret.

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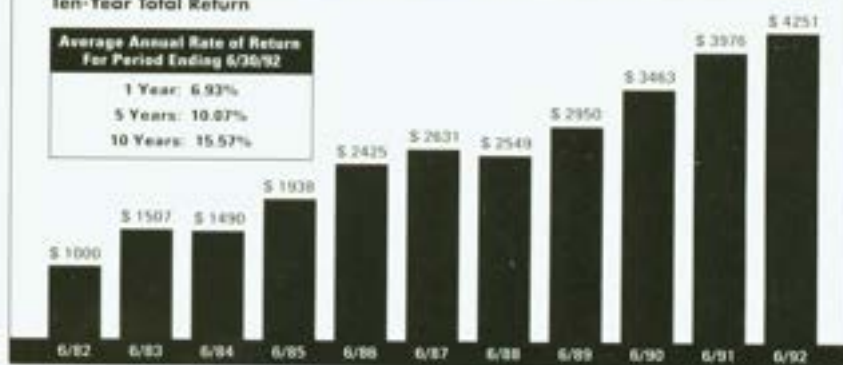
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After the Mariposa expedition, government men came and made a treaty with some tribes in the area, but Congress never ratified any treaties with California Indians, and the documents were lost or suppressed until the early 20th century. In the 1890s, a "Petition to Congress on Behalf of the Yosemite Indians" was written by a sympathizer with an elevated style:

"... when the long list of oppressions and outrages to which our fathers were forced to submit at the hands of the whites had long ended by the slaughter and dispersal of our tribes, no notice was taken of the few who remained, and who from then until now have continued to travel to and fro, poorly-clad paupers and unwelcome guests, silently the objects of curiosity or contemptuous pity to the throngs of strangers who yearly gather in this our own land and heritage. We are compelled to daily and hourly witness the further and continual encroachments of a few white men in this our valley. The gradual destruction of its trees, the occupancy of every foot of its territory by bands of grazing horses and cattle, the decimation of the fish in the river, the destruction of every means of support for ourselves and families by the rapacious acts of the whites, in the building of their hotels and stage lines, which must shortly result in the total exclusion of the remaining remnants of our tribes from this our beloved valley, which has been ours from time beyond our faintest traditions, and which we still claim."

The petition finally suggested that since the valley would never be re-

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turned to its original inhabitants, they would consider a million dollars as payment for their title. Nothing came of this proposal. In 1929 the U.S. government finally decided to pay for the land it had stolen, at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, minus all appropriations of goods made for all California Indians since 1848. The value of the land was set at \$17 million, the value of the appropriations at \$12 million, and a judgment of \$5 million was awarded. By 1950, disbursements of \$150 to each individual had been issued, and a few similar sums were handed out until the 1970s, when the government satisfied itself that it had bought California fair and square from its first peoples.

Until the 1960s, Ahwahnechees and other indigenous people lived on the margins of Yosemite, working for the hotels and the Park Service. Some of them performed for tourists, and the Park Service organized various entertainments out of native ceremonies and crafts. In 1929 the village most of these people had been living in was judged an eyesore and burned down, and some of the inhabitants who could prove their lineage were given new cabins to live in, at a site near where a gas station is now. By 1969 most of those people had died or left, and the second Indian village was burned for firefighting practice.

The eviction that began in 1851 is almost finished, and what the U.S. Army hadn't been able to accomplish, tourism and the Park Service have. Books and museums tend to place native peoples in the sealed-up past, right after geology and biology, so that they become a first people whose story is discontinued when other stories begin: The implication is that they simply disappeared. In Yosemite they were made invisible before they were exiled; the former made the latter go more smoothly.

I met one man who was born and raised in the valley, as were his father, grandmother, and—in the 1830s, 20 years before the whites came—his great-grandmother. The last original inhabitant of the valley, he had managed to stay on in Yosemite by becom-

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ing a Park Service employee there. "I still tell people this land is mine," he told me. "One thing they can't take away from me is my feelings." When he retires, he will have to move, and a continuous occupation of three or four thousand years will come to an end. A descendant of Tenaya's who returns every fall to pick acorns complained to me that when the Park Service considered the black oak's importance in the region, they thought of it only in terms of ecosystem, not in terms of culture. She told me that native women had been harrassed by the Park Service for gathering acorns—apparently burning the meadows had come to be considered a natural phenomenon, but there was no such acknowledgment of the relationship between burning and acorn-gathering. In this paradise there is no longer room for anyone but strangers.

I FINALLY GOT TO LAKE TENAYA on a warm day in August. The water was marvelously clear. Dead trees and fallen limbs were bleached to the same pale gray as the rocks. At the far end of the lake was a bulge of solid stone like a vast forehead, and much of the surrounding landscape was of the same curving, glacier-carved granite.

I stood as far from traffic as I could get on a lake along a road, and looked. The light made skeins of golden lines slip over the lake floor, and rounded boulders rose out of the water or hovered just below its surface. The water was so shallow and the lake inclined so gradually that I would have to walk far from shore before the water became deep enough to swim in. In the gravelly shallows, eddies of fool's gold rose around me at every step. As the waves lapped at my legs, I tried to picture Tenaya and Bunnell standing there on a cold May morning 140 years before, and I wondered which shining rocks had moved the Ahwahneechee to name the lake *Py-ye-wick*. ■

REBECCA SOLNIT is a writer and art historian in San Francisco.

► For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.



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CHAIRMAN GEORGE

Continued from page 65

working on tugboats and in the merchant marine. After his father died in 1969, Miller made an unsuccessful run for his legislative seat. He then went to work for George Moscone, who was majority leader of the State Senate at the time.

After earning a law degree from the University of California at Davis, Miller won election to Congress in 1974. He was promptly named to the Interior Committee with the help of Phil Burton, the legendary environmental advocate who represented San Francisco in Congress.

Miller says these three men, all now deceased, had a profound impact on him. "I consider myself part of that lineage," he says. "They all taught me about principles, and that you don't give them away cheaply. Each of these guys was prepared to burn political capital for the things they believed in, and I check myself against them all the time. I ask myself, are you going too easy on this bill? Is this an easy way out as opposed to the right way?"

Burton, a gruff, cigar-smoking pol, used to explain his hell-raising style by saying: "The only way to deal with exploiters is to terrorize the bastards." Miller has given these words new life in the 1990s, and it was no coincidence that friends gave him Burton's old chair when he took over the committee.

"All three of these guys taught me that the voters are never going to love you, but maybe they'll respect you," he says. "That doesn't rule out political compromise, but you can't let everybody have their way on every issue. That makes for good friends, no respect, and lousy results."

Cutting deals with Miller can be exasperating. Bob Will, a utility lobbyist, praises the chairman's tenacity and intellectual depth. But he talks wistfully of the good old days, when politicians treated lobbyists like silk, and everything was settled in the back room.

"George is as quick to resolve an

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issue as Mo Udall was. He just doesn't make it as comfortable," Will says. "He hits you on the head and bats you around a few times, and you argue and debate. You work it out, and he actually has a pretty good sense of humor. But it's very cynical and sardonic."

After 17 years, Miller's brusque style has earned him a place on the list of congressmen Hill staff members would most like to see retire. Published by *The Washingtonian*, the tally indicated that 26 Republicans and 9 Democrats had chosen Miller, skewering him "for his overbearing ways." Anyone else might take a hint and apply to charm school, but Miller's friends say there's no chance of that. If George gets a little heavy-handed from time to time, they claim, it's because he cares about the issues.

"Does he come on too abrasive? So be it, it makes him more effective," says Representative Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.). "When you get to know him, George Miller is one of the nicest and most humane, decent members of

Congress." Spoken like a true roommate. For the last few years, Schumer and his colleagues Leon Panetta (D-Calif.) and Marty Russo (D-Ill.) have shared a townhouse with Miller in Washington. It's been a comfortable living situation for members who spend the week in the capital but commute home on most weekends.

Miller serves as the group's "father figure," says Schumer with a laugh, adding that his friend is easy to live with when he isn't hogging the TV. Other members of Congress refer to the scene as "Animal House," noting that it has become a popular meeting place for fellow pols.

"Former House speaker Tip O'Neill used to call George up at night and ask, 'What trouble are you guys cooking up now?'" recalls Schumer. "It's been a very comfortable environment." And stimulating as well, says Representative Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), another Miller ally. On Tuesday nights, a group of House members known as "The Miller Pack" gets together to

shoot the breeze and discuss legislative initiatives. On occasion the group has included Schumer, Russo, Boxer, John Lewis of Georgia, Tom Downey of New York, Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut, Don Edwards of California, Barney Frank of Massachusetts, and Les AuCoin of Oregon.

Miller works long hours, but his week ends Thursday night or Friday, when he hops a plane for California. Since the early 1980s his wife, Cynthia Caccavo, has lived at their home in Martinez. The couple decided against setting down roots in Washington so that their sons, George and Stephen Miller, could complete their education in the Bay Area. Miller says it's also important for him to get out of Washington. "After a while," he says, "you see the same people and have the same discussions. It's a company town, and I have to get away."

The congressman has eclectic tastes, and his office walls offer proof: posters on childcare, Central American politics, assorted causes from the '60s, and

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huge framed pictures of Bruce Springsteen and the Rolling Stones. "I'm a music freak," Miller says. "I mean, you name it—almost anything—I'll listen to it as much as I can. Especially rock and roll. It's a great thing, when the rest of your life gets a little too intense."

If Republicans win the presidential election, Miller will be listening to a lot more rock and roll in the years ahead. He believes the Bush administration is determined to turn back gains made by the environmental movement, and vows that he will not watch decades of progress go down the drain.

"George Bush went to the Earth Summit and said the United States has an environmental record second to none. But the reason we have that record is because of laws that were passed before he came into office, and they are laws he's trying to weaken now, like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act." As for California water issues, Miller says time is on his side. When he first began criticizing federal water subsidies, the farm lobby put up an effective fight, delaying reforms for years. But as Washington focuses more on the issue, the congressman says, the subsidy is becoming more difficult to support.

"At a time of big deficits, this project has become a burden on the Congress," he says. "If these people [farm interests] didn't give campaign contributions, it wouldn't last five minutes. I'm confident we'll prevail."

Looking to the future, the chairman hopes to address problems that go beyond the short-term. Instead of concentrating on individual species such as the spotted owl in the Pacific Northwest and the Delta smelt in California, for instance, he wants Congress to develop permanent protections for the ecosystems in which they live.

Almost every continent faces conflicts over water, Miller says. Some countries are making the same mistakes the United States did—building too many dams and destroying rivers. Americans should learn from those mistakes, and also share information with nations eager to handle water more intelligently.

Instead of scrambling to find money for Yosemite National Park each summer, Miller says, Congress needs to overhaul the entire park system: "We've gone through a decade in which people in power thought the parks were there to be exploited, not passed on to the next generation in better shape than we found them."

When it comes to forests, he says the issue is not merely timber. It involves the sustainability of the planet—more precisely, the role forests play in cleaning the air and protecting valuable watersheds. "I think Congress is coming to understand that we're at a critical juncture," Miller says. "We're down to the last 10 or 15 percent of old-growth forestlands in the United States, and the decision must be made now to protect them. I think we'll do it, even though powerful economic interests on the other side are saying the choice is jobs or trees. If we don't save the trees, we'll never be able to save the jobs. It's a classic case of short-term thinking versus long-term sustainability."

"All these things are important, but it's hard to talk about long-term goals when you're trying to put out a short-term fire," he adds, gathering up papers on his desk. "So many times, that's the problem. You can't think more than a few moves ahead. You never get your head above water." A bell sounds on his office clock, signaling a House vote, and Miller starts walking down a long hall toward the Capitol. He's moving quickly, with long, loping strides, when a colleague rushes up and tries to talk with him. He wants to explain why he can't support Miller on an upcoming bill, and begins to put his arm over the congressman's shoulder.

Miller shakes it off and keeps walking, even as the colleague asks him to come back. He calls again, and Miller rolls his eyes. Then he laughs out loud.

"I really don't have time for this kind of crap," he says, hurrying to the House floor. "I mean, I've got more important things to do." ■

JOSH GETLIN is a New York City-based reporter for the Los Angeles Times.

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Wise Use

Continued from page 61

His audience was not unlike that at a comparable gathering of environmentalists. A little older, perhaps, but with about the same half-and-half ratio of women to men; comparably attired, even, some in dress-up clothes, some in jeans. There were, on balance, more cowboy boots and fewer running shoes than at most environmental gatherings. There was more bourbon and less mineral water at the receptions; more bolo ties on the men, but about the same number of beards. And about the same number of nonwhite faces, meaning few to none.

Even the conference themes could have come from an environmental confab: "Science and Legislation," "Community Organizing—How to Do It," "How to Deal With the Media," "How to Influence Federal Agencies," and, most energetically, "Celebrating Victories, Facing the Next Challenges." In fact, the movement has had much to celebrate since the original Reno conference. Rising unemployment and attendant hardship have softened up the public for a central wise-use message: Frivolous environmentalism and needless regulation are weakening the economy and costing jobs.

Last year, vocal and well-organized demonstrations by wise-use groups helped to weaken the Yellowstone Vision process, under which federal agencies were to have coordinated planning on public lands surrounding Yellowstone National Park. Wise-users have also packed western congressional hearings to oppose reform of the 1872 Mining Law, under which miners and mining companies can acquire ("patent") federal lands for as little as \$2.50 an acre. In 1991 wise-use groups were instrumental in stopping a land-acquisition bond act in New York State; included in the measure was money to protect acreage in and around Adirondack State Park.

The Bush administration has also cuddled up to the WUMs. Since mid-1991 the administration has proposed

slashing protections for wetlands, exempting the northern spotted owl from endangered-species protection on some western timberland, and rewriting the Endangered Species Act itself to weigh "economic considerations" more heavily when deciding whether a species deserves protection. Proposed federal rules would make it harder for the public to challenge grazing, mining, oil drilling, and timber harvests on public land. All this has been aided by an extended federal moratorium on new environmental regulations.

But the movement seems proudest this year of realizing, for the first time, one of the legislative goals of the Wise Use Agenda. In December 1991, President Bush signed the National Recreational Trails Act allocating \$30 million a year for trail construction, to be paid for out of federal gas taxes. A minimum of 30 percent and possibly as much as 70 percent of that money will go for off-road-vehicle trails.

The act was passed largely through the intercession of Idaho Senator Steve Symms (R), patron legislator of the wise-use movement. Lobbying for the bill was the BlueRibbon Coalition, an Idaho-based group funded in part by motorcycle manufacturers. Using networking techniques appropriated from the "radical" environmentalist infidels, the coalition rallied the troops.

"This was the first time the preservationists had to accept legislation they opposed as vigorously as they opposed this bill," Clark Collins, the BlueRibbon Coalition's founder and director, told the conference. According to Collins, many supporters phoned their representatives simply because this was a wise-use issue. Here, then, is the movement's greatest hope for potency: the uncritical assumption across the disparate wise-use spectrum that any enemy of the environmentalists is a friend, and therefore worthy of support.

Collins was allowed precisely 15 minutes to detail his accomplishment. Don Parmeter, from the Northern Resources Alliance, also got 15 minutes to explain how his group was developing voluntary landowner protection along six rivers in Minnesota, keeping the

land in private hands and avoiding any "large-scale acquisitions component." Exactly 10 minutes went to Ron Schiller of the High Desert Coalition, who discussed the fight against a Mojave National Park in the California Desert. (Keeping to schedule was a goal of conference organizers: If any speaker trespassed on another's time, a giant clock was held up from the front row of the audience.) Schiller talked about how a local chemical company had paid to bus demonstrators to hearings on the California Desert Protection Act. "In addition, they provided lunches and ultimately a very nice dinner to anyone who would attend," Schiller said. "We like to use tactics that make us seem larger than we are."

No more or less than 15 minutes went to Kathleen Marquardt, a dark-haired young mother with an air of wholesomeness and an affection for ruffled garments. Marquardt has the kind of story the wise-use movement loves to tell, a story to be forever enshrined in *Wise Use Heroes*, a new book

that will grow from this conference much as *The Wise Use Agenda* grew from the first. Author William Perry Pendley, a lawyer at the Mountain States Legal Foundation, told the conference that the heroes book would cast the movement in its "best light"—something, he suggested, that the *Agenda* had not done.

Pendley's chapter on Marquardt, reprinted in the conference program, relates in poignant, sentimental prose how her young daughter, Montana, arrived home from her Washington, D.C., school one day to announce that her family was composed of murderers. That news had come from representatives of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, who had spent three days in Montana's classroom preaching the evils of hunting, fishing, and animal research.

Pendley continues: "For Kathleen Marquardt, who grew up in western Montana hunting and fishing, wearing leather and fur, eating beef and chicken and lamb, and believing that mankind

was both created in the image of God and blessed with dominion over the earth and all its creatures, such teachings were an abomination." He then relates how Marquardt founded Putting People First!, which now claims more than 40,000 members.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and other environmental groups are "anti-progress, anti-business, and anti-private property," Marquardt told the conference. "These are anti-human movements, and we can never forget that this is the bottom line. We're in a battle to save our way of life."

Many at the conference felt the same way: angry, offended, afraid for their livelihood or, more nebulously, their way of life. Like the sheep rancher from New Mexico who told me he was uneasy about some of what he had heard in the workshops ("I don't like the John Birchers or Lyndon LaRouchers," he said), but who remained convinced that the ultimate goal of environmentalists was to put him out of business by ending all grazing on public land.

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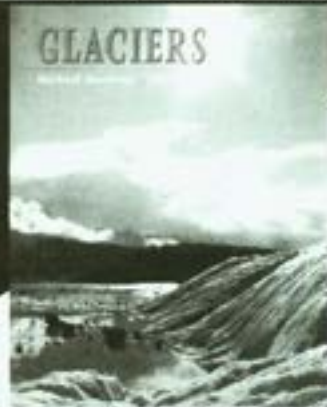
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"But what does this have to do with these other people here?" I asked him. Why throw in with the loggers and the miners who want to preserve their easy access to public land, or the doctrinaire free-market right-wingers? The summary answer: because no one else would listen. "For a long time the fishermen had no allies," he said. "Now other people are starting to feel the effects of runaway environmentalism. Some of them are coming to realize that there's a real threat here, and that if we don't do something collectively, we will be picked off one by one."

THE DAY-AND-A-HALF-LONG CONFERENCE unfolded as one part inspiration, one part education, and two parts exhortation. Leaders told their stories and shared tactics. Chuck Cushman told of arriving at a public-lands planning meeting with two truckloads of cattle and parking them on each side of the smallish meeting building, mother cows in one truck, their anxious calves in another—a technique Cushman referred to as "stereophonic cows." Before a group on "Competing With the Environmentalists," Cushman reflected on recent defections from wise-use ranks. "The press is attacking wise use," he said. "Some of our people who don't have a strong stomach for it are saying, 'I don't want to be labeled.' They're buying into the argument. This is not a doily-tossing contest, folks. Either get in or get out. We've got to have people we can count on."

Dixy Lee Ray, first head of the Atomic Energy Commission, former governor of Washington, and the movement's preeminent alternative scientist, showed up fresh from the United Nations Conference on Envi-

ronment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, which she attended as a critical observer. Ray's talk, "Report From the Flat Earth Summit in Rio to the Down-to-Earth Summit in Reno," earned her a standing ovation, and was most memorable for the line, "I do not support that damage to the earth is being done and that man is responsible."

At the conference's awards luncheon, the head table was crowded with important people and the assistants to important people. Tom LeClaire, an aide to Senator Symms, accepted a Lifetime Policy Achievement Award on behalf of the senator. David McIntosh, assistant to Vice-President Quayle and head of the Council on Competitiveness, bestowed the blessings of official Washington on the meeting. Steaks were served, and were duly commented upon by Barbara Keating-Edh, a congressional hopeful from California who served as the conference's emcee. "Isn't it great to have beef for a change?" she effused above the clatter

of conversation and crockery.

A Lifetime Industrial Achievement Award went to Harry A. Merlo, chairman of Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, for introducing slimmer saw blades (to cut more lumber from a single log), for devising a new flakeboard that can be compounded from smaller trees, and for building so-called "zero discharge" pulp mills. Understandably, no mention was made of another recent LP project: a Mexican sawmill to which it will export whole California logs and, with them, whole California jobs. Merlo touchingly recalled the roots of his arboreal achievements: "My mother taught me the more I gave back to the good earth, the greater my reward would be. My mother would have been very much at home in this wise-use movement."

The social pinnacle of the conference was attained at the Stewards of the Range Committee reception. The guests of honor were Wayne and Jean Hage, Nevada cattle ranchers who are suing the Forest Service for \$28 mil-

lion. The case has become a cause célèbre among westerners in the wise-use movement, with one group, the Free Enterprise Legal Defense Fund, selling Amway home-cleaning products to support the effort.

I bought a bourbon at the bar, scavenged a couple of egg rolls from the hors d'oeuvre table, and stood at the back of the reception hall. A new cast of characters had assembled: the Hages, of course, a pleasant-looking couple of late middle-age; Sam Elliot, a ponytailed actor from Hollywood who had been enlisted for the cause; and J. N. Swanson, a painter of western landscapes whose *Stewards of the Range: American Cattlemen* was the real reason for the reception. The painting, a romantic depiction of two cowboys pushing some Herefords from a wooded grove into a sagebrush pasture, had already been unveiled earlier in the spring, but was unveiled again for the appreciative crowd. The Stewards of the Range Committee is raffling the painting (\$25 per ticket) to earn money



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for the Hage lawsuit.

In 1989, Wayne Hage published *Storm Over Rangelands*, a 240-page argument for private-property rights on federal grazing allotments. Hage has testified before Congress against grazing-fee increases on public lands, and has organized the National Federal Lands Conference to work for his position. At the same time he has maintained a running battle over portions of the 240,000-acre allotment he leases in Toiyabe National Forest. Hage has been cited for unauthorized grazing for 8 of the last 13 years.

Finally, in 1991, the Forest Service seized 73 Hage cattle and sold them at auction to cover the costs of the roundup. Hage subsequently sold his remaining 2,000 head, claimed his business had been ruined, and sued the government. Hage maintains that a rancher's federal grazing leases and the use of water on federal lands are property rights, distinct from the public ownership of the land itself, and he would like to establish those rights in court. Federal land managers (some of them, anyway) join with environmentalists in maintaining that grazing is a privilege, not a right.

A victory for Hage would validate the concept of private-property rights on public lands. It would also secure a mighty war chest for future property-rights cases: Hage has promised most of any settlement to the cause. "There is a fundamental moral issue here," Mark Pollot, the Hages' lawyer, preached to the reception. "If someone takes a piece of property that does not belong to them and does not pay for it, that's theft, no matter how pure your motives are." There are those who would suggest, of course, that by that lofty standard it is Hage—not the government—who is the thief.

EVEN BEFORE THE START OF THE FORMAL program Sunday morning, it was clear something was up. Chuck Cushman was already huddled with a dozen conferees when I showed up for a breakfast discussion on "Influencing Federal Agencies," but he amputated this conversation quickly with a subtle nod in

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my direction, and I felt like a teacher interrupting a playground plot. Shortly Cushman would launch his formal caution at the press: Don't tar the many with the rhetoric of the few.

By the time the program ended four hours later, three other leaders would make the same point: We do not all have to agree with one another to be effective; the movement has room for everyone. Alan Gottlieb detailed the reasons people were attracted to the movement: ideology, fear, anger, and revenge; glamour, peer pressure, civic responsibility. He said the movement must offer "a cafeteria-style approach."

It is still unclear whether Arnold, Gottlieb, Cushman, and the wise-use crew can generate the sticking power for a real movement. At the moment, wise use seems more a liaison of convenience, a temporary agreement to agree. This is not to say that wise-use issues will go away. The debate over access to resources, over what constitutes use and abuse of public lands, is of such long standing that many combatants would undoubtedly be lonesome without it. The paranoids and commie-conspiracy theorists will always be with us, and the preachers of unfettered capitalism will continue to preach, despite the evidence that most Americans distrust unfettered systems at either end of the political spectrum.

"It is important for everyone to pull together for the movement to have the pull it needs," Arnold said in his closing address toward the end of the conference. "We do not need to go to bed with each other. We need to hold hands."

I ultimately took this to be the theme of the conference—and its organizers' greatest worry. This preoccupation with unity suggests incipient division. It is fine to say that groups need only hold hands, but some WUMs may soon notice the hands they're holding and decide that even that chaste contact is just a little too close. ■

WILLIAM POOLE is a freelance writer in San Francisco.

► For more information, see "Resources," p. 118.



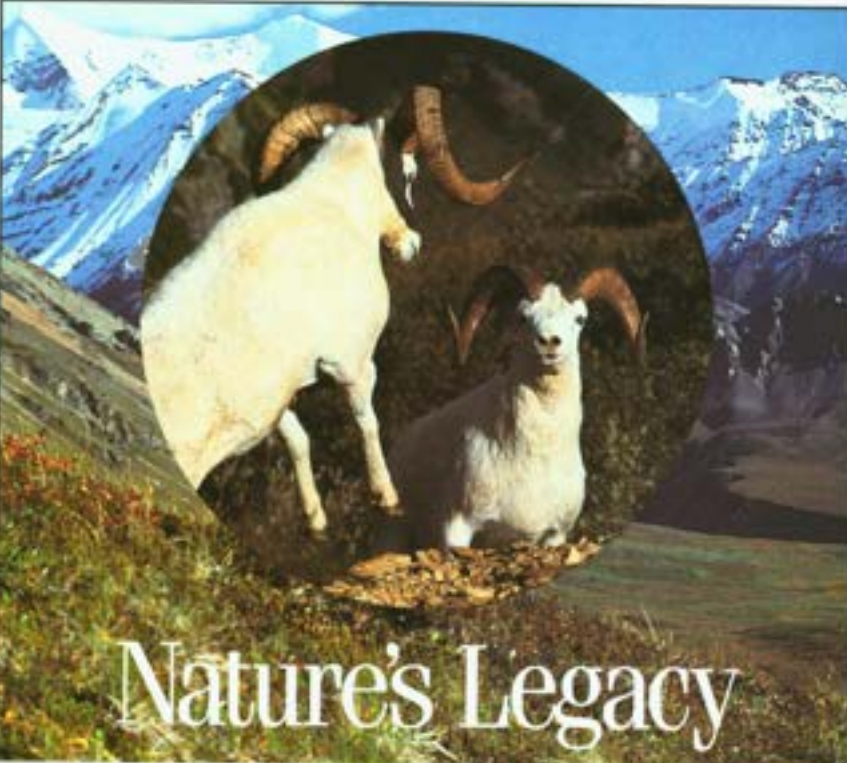
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Steve Kasper

Take Me to Your Leader

You're ready to head out for adventure—maybe a sea-kayak trip in Baja, or a hut-to-hut ski tour in the Alps. But when you think about making transportation arrangements, collecting the right equipment, buying and organizing two weeks' worth of food, and charting a course through unknown terrain, it may seem like no vacation at all.

Leaf through the ads in any outdoor magazine and you'll find dozens of adventure-travel outfitters who will be more than happy to accommodate your wanderlust and penchant for convenience. Unfortunately, there's no *Consumer Reports* to help you choose the right one; this is a multi-thousand-dollar investment you could end up making with precious few facts to go by. Unless you've got a rock-solid recommendation from a trustworthy friend or travel agent, the only in-depth research you'll be able to rely on will be your own.

First, though, interview yourself: How exotic a trip do your mind and body crave? How pampered do you want to be? How much are you willing to pay? Most important, what are your physical capabilities? You won't have a good time if you're continually struggling to keep up. Worse yet, you can endanger an entire group. The more remote the destination and the more arduous the trip, the more important this concern becomes.

A good outfitter tries to orchestrate a



successful trip by clearly spelling out itineraries, expectations, and requirements, and by asking all prospective clients to complete a pre-trip questionnaire scrutinizing their experience, skills, and medical histories. The more extensive the printed trip information, and the more intrusive the questionnaire, the better. A truly professional operator will be willing to exclude ill-prepared participants even though they've got credit cards in hand; the result will be a trip roster filled with people of roughly matched skills and interests. If you sense that an outfitter is willing to take all comers, look elsewhere.

Once you've determined what you want from a trip, a well-focused phone interview will help you fill any informational gaps. Ask for references or copies of trip and leader evaluations filled out by previous clients. (Just don't expect to be referred to clients who hated their trips.) Ask a guide company about its particular strengths: Some outfitters offering worldwide trips will freely admit that they have more experience in some locales than in

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as where you go.*





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others. Even if you're considering a general excursion, an inquisitive call may lead you to a guide with invaluable knowledge in your area of interest (such as botany or geology), gleaned from years on the trail.

This is also your chance to delve into topics that may have been glossed over in the glossy brochures: cancellation policy, payment rules (not all outfitters accept credit cards, for example), and guides' professional training. If an outfitter doesn't discuss the subject in its literature, ask what it does to promote environmentally responsible tourism.

Because trip catalogs usually provide sparse biographies of guides, don't hesitate to ask to talk directly to your prospective leader. If your outfitter is subcontracting with another travel operator (a common practice with foreign trips), ask for the name and telephone number of the subcontractor, and consider calling them. At a minimum, you may be able to find out how well their guides speak English. If your tour is subcontracted, make sure you have the name and phone number of the domestic outfitter's representative in the host country.

Find out the size of your tour. An ideal group has 8 to 15 members. If it is any smaller, one client's bad experience (or rotten personality) can cloud an entire group's. But tours with more than 15 people can be unwieldy and impersonal.

By the same token, the guide-to-client ratio is important. The more guides, the easier it is for a group to find its natural level, possibly splitting into faster and slower "teams" so that no one feels like a deadweight.

An outfitter should be willing to load you down with as much information as you need to make your decision. But don't expect an answer to every question. A lot of what makes a good travel-adventure company or an excellent guide is intangible, as hard to predict as the weather in the Andes during your two weeks in February. After all, it's called adventure travel for a reason. ■

STEVE KASPER leads trips for the Sierra Club and Recreational Equipment, Inc.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Grand Canyon. The sun is low in the sky, casting a warm, golden light on the layered rock formations. The canyon walls are steep and show distinct horizontal strata. In the lower part of the image, a river flows through the canyon, and several people are seen in inflatable rafts, navigating the water. The overall mood is one of natural grandeur and adventure.

SIERRA CLUB

1993 Spring Trips

RAFTING THE COLORADO RIVER, GRAND CANYON,
BY WES WALKER.

Spring Trips

You don't have to wait till summer to enjoy the recreational opportunities and natural bounty of the wilderness. This winter and spring, join our experienced volunteer leaders and your fellow Sierra Club members on an outdoor adventure. ♦ There are over 80 trips to choose from, offering everything from the marvel of desert wildflowers, to the delights of cross-country skiing, to glimpses of gracious southern plantations. Look over the brief descriptions that follow—you're sure to find something that will get your year off to a good start. ♦ Before you sign up for a trip, please take the time to read the detailed brochure for the trip you're inter-



ested in, and the Reservation/Cancellation policy. See page 110 for information on how to order trip brochures. The Reservation/Cancellation policy appears on pages 110 and 111. ♦ Please note that leader approval is required on all trips. ♦ A complete listing of our 1993 trips will appear in the January/February issue of *Sierra*.

Backpack

Backpack trips vary in length and difficulty. We have divided them into five categories: Light (L) trips cover up to 35 miles in four to five travel days, the remaining days being layovers. Moderate (M) trips may cover longer distances of up to 55 miles and involve more cross-country route-finding. Strenuous (S) trips cover as many as 60 to 70 miles with greater ups and downs and continuous high-elevation travel. Light-Moderate (L-M) and Moderate-Strenuous (M-S) are intermediate ratings. Individual trip brochures explain the ratings in more detail.

Clear Creek Winter Solstice, Grand Canyon Park, Arizona—December 17–22, 1992. Usher in the winter holidays and escape last-minute shopping

hassles by hiking into the Grand Canyon. We'll delight in sunshine-filled trails above beautiful Granite Gorge. Two layover days give us time to explore Clear Creek and Cheyava Falls. At our first and last camps we'll enjoy post-dinner libations at the Phantom Ranch dining room! (Rated S) *Leader: Bob Maibsen. Price: \$360; Dep: \$50. [92216]*

New Year in the Superstitions, Tonto Forest, Arizona—December 28, 1992–January 2, 1993. Celebrate the new year in the Sonoran Desert amidst the craggy peaks of the Superstition Wilderness. Come and learn the folklore of the famous Lost Dutchman Mine. We'll hike trails in the shadow of Weaver's Needle, see interesting archaeological sites, and have time for picture-taking, exploring, and relaxing. Expect brisk to cold nights and sunny

days. (Rated S) *Leader: Bob Cole. Price: \$300; Dep: \$50. [93420]*

Kofa Wildlife Refuge, Arizona—February 14–20. While most of the nation shivers, come bask in the warm desert sun of southwest Arizona. Our peregrination will take us past volcanic monoliths, over hills of brightly colored soils, and into lush canyons as we search for bighorn sheep and sources of water. For experienced off-trail backpackers only. (Rated M-S) *Leader: Sid Hirsch. Price: \$330; Dep: \$50. [93031]*

Florida Trail Odyssey, Ocala Forest—February 21–27. Warm your winter-weary bones on a trip to Ocala, the southernmost national forest in the continental U.S. We'll hike 38 miles of the Florida Trail in four days, enjoying a route that will take us to sel-

dom-seen parts of the forest. Two layover days will be spent canoeing at Juniper and Alexander Springs where alligators and wading birds abound. Well-prepared beginners are welcome. Two food caches will lighten our loads. (Rated L-M) *Leader: Carolyn Williams. Price: \$385; Dep: \$50. [93426]*

Superstition Wilderness, Arizona—February 21–27. Exploring Indian rock dwellings and abandoned prospector digs will add a historical flavor to our trek through the saguaro-clad Superstition Mountains of central Arizona. We'll enjoy mild temperatures and elevated vistas of the Sonoran Desert. Daily elevation gains and losses will be modest, with hiking distances ranging between five and eight miles. One layover day is planned. (Rated M) *Leader: Jack Thompson. Price: \$265; Dep: \$50. [93032]*

LEFT TO RIGHT: THE SUBWAY,
ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH;
SNOW PLANT, MUIR WILDERNESS,
CALIFORNIA; HOODOO FOR-
MATIONS, BRYCE CANYON
NATIONAL PARK, UTAH.



Sonoran Spring, Saguaro and Organ Pipe Monuments, Arizona—April 3–9. After exploring the giant saguaro “forests” and blooming desert of southern Arizona, we will visit nearby Organ Pipe with its unique landforms, sacred Baboquivari Peak, rare desert bighorn sheep, and the aptly named organ pipe cactus itself. Much of this semi-exploratory trip will be cross-country and we will have to carry water, but solitude and discovery will be our rewards. (Rated M-S) *Leader: Rob Jacobs. Price: \$455; Dep: \$50. [93033]*

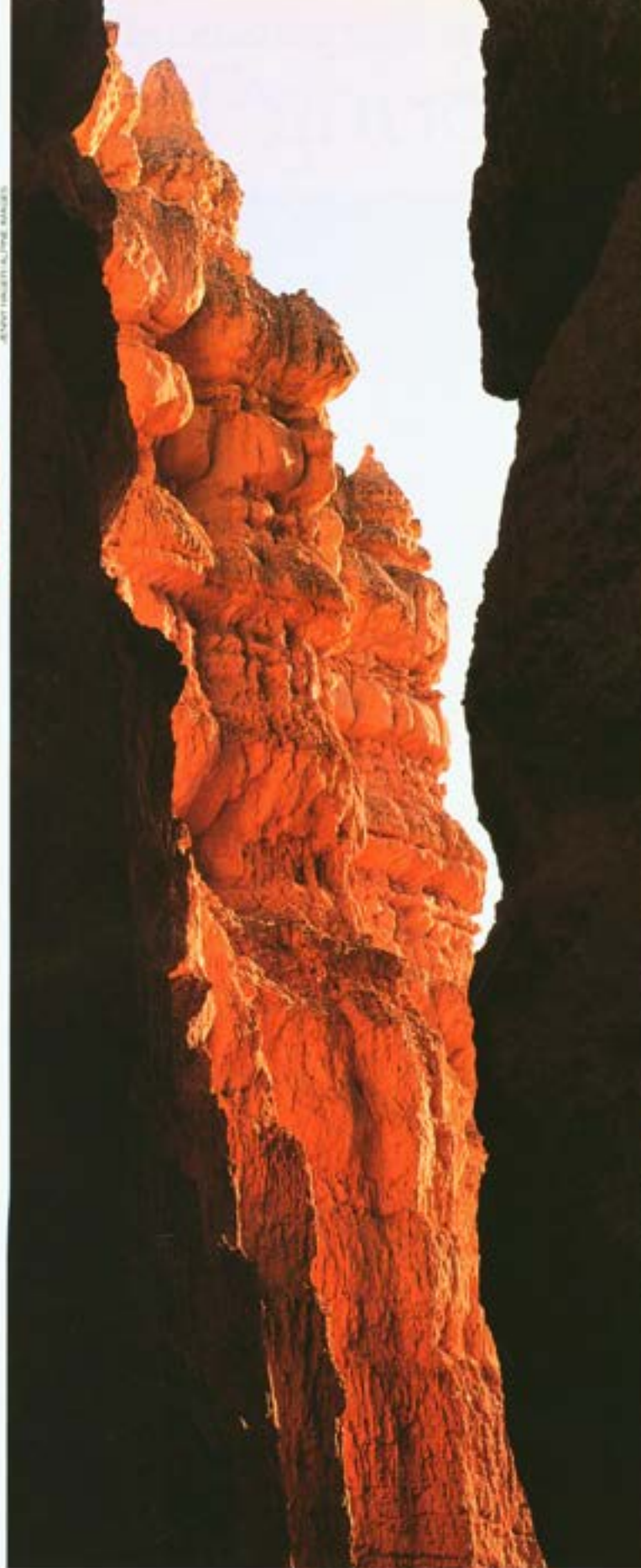
Dirty Devil Sojourn, Southern Utah—April 3–10. With acclaimed backcountry author Steve Allen, our small group of experienced canyoneers will visit many of the rarely explored side canyons off the Dirty Devil River. We will hike down at Burr Point and leave at the Angel Trail. Expect to wade across the Dirty Devil River twice. (Rated M) *Leader: Bert Fingerhut. Price: \$545; Dep: \$100. [93034]*

Arizona Trail, Superstition Wilderness and Four Peaks Wilderness, Arizona—April 4–10. Follow the trails of prehistoric Indians, Spanish explorers, and 19th-century miners and ranchers. Our route takes us 40 miles along the new Arizona Trail, which will eventually extend 750 miles from

Mexico to Utah. Four- to nine-mile daily hikes and frequent altitude changes require good physical condition. Beginners in good shape welcome. (Rated M) *Leader: Lee A. Kintzel. Price: \$445; Dep: \$50. [93035]*

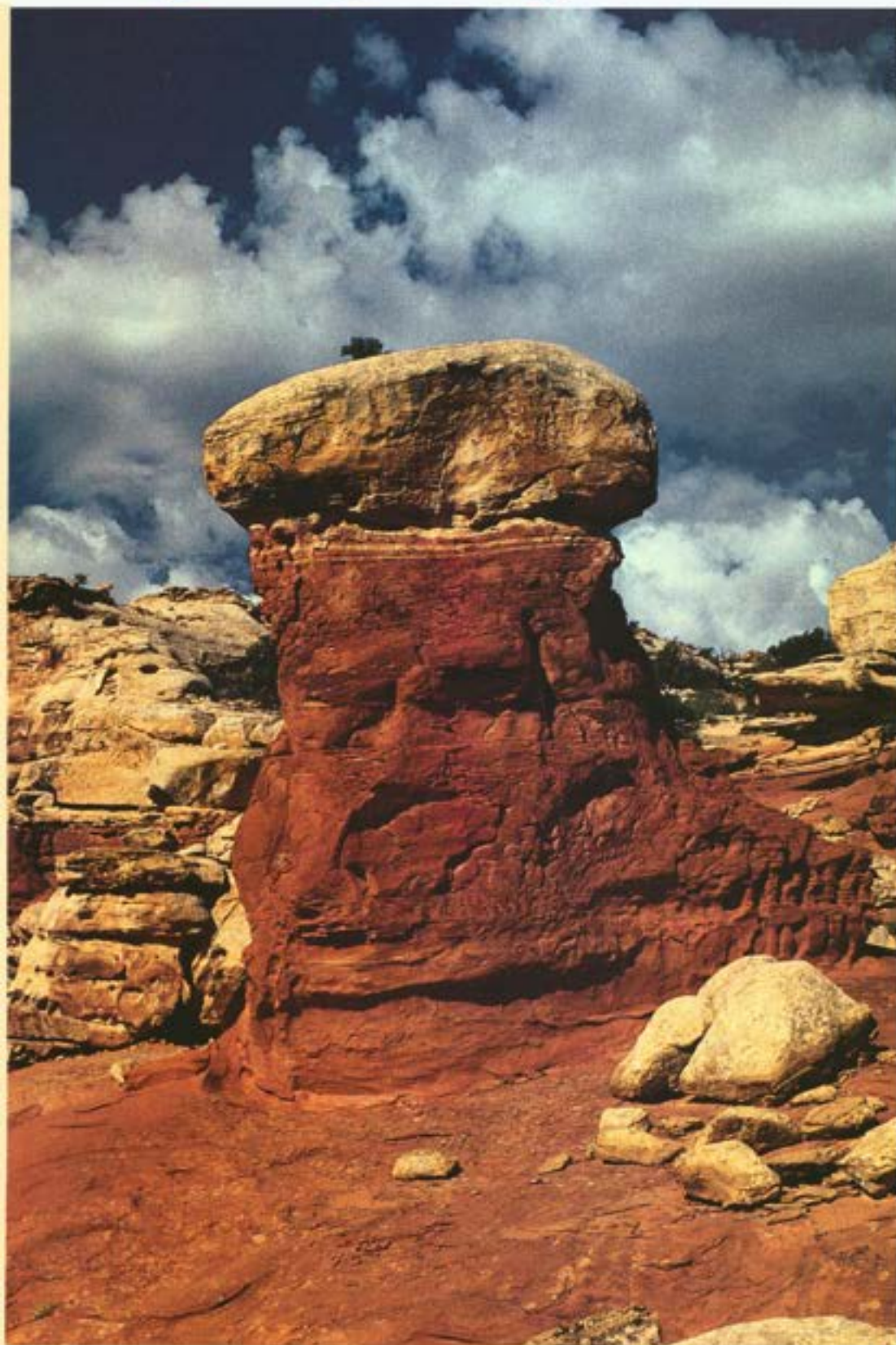
Great West Canyon, Zion Park, Utah—April 4–10. Experience the rugged wilderness of Zion’s sandstone high country on this trek over high domes, across potholed slick-rock, and through narrow and magical canyons. This remote and seldom-visited backcountry of Zion has much to offer for the seasoned backpacker. Weather conditions permitting, we’ll traverse the spectacular “Subway” as the grand finale. (Rated S) *Leader: David Wilson. Price: \$385; Dep: \$50. [93036]*

Sespe Secrets, Los Padres Forest, California—April 10–17. The newly established Sespe Wilderness remains undiscovered despite its proximity to urban southern California. Those who learn its secrets know of a lonely land of pine-covered mountains, deep canyons, singing streams, swimming holes, and a wild hot spring. Our moderately paced journey will give us time to fully discover Sespe’s little-known treasures. (Rated M) *Leader: Ricky Tate. Price: \$275; Dep: \$50. [93037]*



Spring Trips

LEFT TO RIGHT: CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK, UTAH; FAIRYLAND POINT, BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK, UTAH; MAKING DINNER, BUFFALO RIVER, ARKANSAS.



Escalante Canyon, Glen Canyon Recreation Area, Utah—April 11–17. We'll descend through beautiful Harris Wash to the Escalante, with plenty of time for photos and side canyon exploration in this remote red-rock wilderness. There will be frequent stream crossings, warm days, cool nights. Our exit route via Twenty-Five Mile Canyon tops off an exciting week in the wilderness. (Rated M) *Leader: Gary Millsap. Price: \$385; Dep: \$50. [93038]*

Exploring the Waterpocket, Capitol Reef Park, Utah—April 11–17. Hoodoos, "goblins," arches, and temples of stone amid canyons and cascading streams await your exploration in this historical gem of the southwest. Views of distant, snow-capped peaks, and the long, sunny days and crisp, starry nights of spring provide the ideal backpacking environment. Join the leader in exploring this unique and seldom-visited wilderness. (Rated M-S) *Leader: Don McIver. Price: \$455; Dep: \$50. [93039]*

Waterpocket Fold, Capitol Reef Park, Utah—April 11–17. Explore the remote wilderness of the Waterpocket Fold, where slickrock doubles back on itself to produce deep, clear pools and weeping rock walls, and where cracks in the fold become spectacular narrows. We'll explore remote canyons and venture up and along the crest of the Waterpocket, discovering some of its many secrets. This area is the leader's favorite in Utah. (Rated S) *Leader: Alix Foster. Price: \$455; Dep: \$50. [93040]*

The Chute of Muddy Creek, San Rafael Swell, Utah—April 11–18. Join our seasoned group of canyoneers as we explore remote areas of the San Rafael Swell. Our route will take us through the Chute of Muddy Creek and along the Southern Reef, where we will explore several seldom-trod slot can-

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1. All reservations are subject to the reservation/cancellation policy of the Outing Committee; leader approval is required for all outings. Cancellation fees apply unless you are waitlisted at time of cancellation.
2. A signed liability release is required for all international trip participants.
3. All participants age 12 and over must be Sierra Club members to attend an outing.
4. Your address may be released to other trip participants for purposes of ride-sharing or other trip-related purposes.
5. Not all trips can accommodate special dietary needs or preferences. Contact the leader for this information before applying.
6. Applications for trip space will be accepted in the order they are received at the following address:

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7. Please do not send Express Mail to this address. Doing so will delay your application.

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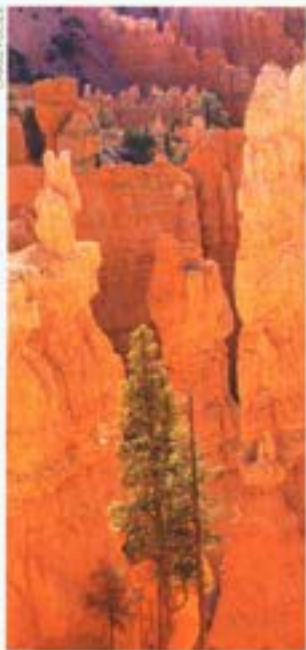
yons. The trip ends in Chimney Canyon, one of the most beautiful canyons in the area. (Rated S) *Leaders: Tina Welton and Steve Allen. Price: \$460; Dep: \$50. [93041]*

Escalante Slots and Slick-rock, Glen Canyon Recreation Area, Utah—April 17–25. If corkscrew canyons, sculpted slabs of sandstone, and photography are your thing, join us for an exciting exploration into the heart of the Colorado Plateau. Experienced cross-country adventurers will hike to and cross the Escalante River, then approach the Waterpocket Fold on a loop through some of southeastern Utah's most remote backcountry. (Rated S) *Leader: Howard Newmark. Price: \$445; Dep: \$50. [93042]*

Escalante Canyon, Glen Canyon Recreation Area, Utah—April 18–24. Recently called one of the Bureau of Land Management's forgotten places, the Escalante is known for its rugged and varied network of canyons, plateaus, waterpockets and meandering streams. We will take our time wandering along early historical routes, searching for remnants of Anasazi culture and marveling at amazing geological features. Expect frequent stream crossings, warm days, and cool, crisp nights. (Rated M-S) *Leader: Larry Odoski. Price: \$430; Dep: \$50. [93043]*

Exploring the Kolob, Zion Park, Utah—April 18–24. In the remote northern section of Zion we hike through narrow canyons of Navajo sandstone and along inviting streams with sand beach campsites. Our week in this seldom visited wilderness will include an opportunity to see gigantic Kolob Arch. Join us for a journey into challenging Bear Trap Canyon, one of the famous "narrows." Our menu will be vegetarian. (Rated M) *Leader: Mark Taylor. Price: \$380; Dep: \$50. [93045]*

Rainbow Bridge and Navajo Mountain, Arizona—April 18–24. Overlooking the San Juan River, the dome of Navajo Mountain rises 10,388 feet on northern Arizona's Navajo Reservation. We travel around the base through a wonderland of winding sandstone canyons, sparkling streams and pools, natural bridges, arches, and spring wildflowers. There will be ample time for photography, enjoying deep pools, and exploration. (Rated M) *Leader: Nancy Wahl. Price: \$350; Dep: \$50. [93046]*



Rustler Canyon, Canyonlands Basin, Utah—April 18–24. From the Needles Overlook near Moab, a maze of redrock pinnacles and twisting canyons stretches below. The area, recently proposed for Wilderness status, contains archaeological sites and supports a thriving wildlife habitat. We will explore dramatic canyons, some with walls up to 1,500 feet high. Several layover days provide opportunity to explore Anasazi ruins and search for rock art. (Rated M) *Leader: Ted Doll. Price: \$385; Dep: \$50. [93047]*



Thunder River and Deer Creek Falls, Grand Canyon Park, Arizona—April 18–24. The remote and less traveled North Rim offers the adventure hiker the best of the Grand Canyon. After descending into the Canyon at Indian Hollow, we cross the Esplanade to Deer Creek Falls. We'll also explore Surprise Valley and Thunder River. Two layover days are planned. For experienced hikers only. (Rated S) *Leader: Bob Cole. Price: \$330; Dep: \$50. [93048]*

Kanab Canyon and Thunder River, Grand Canyon Park, Arizona—May 1–8. This spring trip begins with a steep but rewarding nine-mile descent to Thunder River, followed by explorations of the Canyon's treasures—120-foot Deer Creek Falls, hidden canyons with beckoning pools, the narrows of Jumpup, and a spectacular panorama as we ascend Kwagunt Hollow to Sowats Point. Experienced hikers only; no layover days. (Rated S) *Leader: Gene Glenn. Price: \$355; Dep: \$50. [93049]*

Anasazi Ruins and an Arch, Southeast Utah—May 2–8. Hiking less than six miles a day through juniper and along small streams and pools, we'll pass Neville's Arch, and camp in groves of whispering cottonwood. On our three layover days, we'll explore ancient

Anasazi ruins perched high above Owl and Fish creeks. Steep canyon entry and exit make this trip suitable for experienced backpackers. (Rated L-M) *Leader: Neil Stufflebeam. Price: \$420; Dep: \$50. [93050]*

The Needles, Canyonlands Park, Utah—May 2–8. Diversity and solitude characterize Canyonlands' Needles—naked rock pinnacles banded in orange and white that dominate the landscape. With rock spires, arches, fins, box canyons, grabens, and Anasazi artifacts, this spiderweb of canyons offers limitless shapes and colors. Join us as we discover the hidden scenic and archaeological treasures of the backcountry. (Rated M) *Leader: Blaine LeCheminant. Price: \$465; Dep: \$50. [93051]*

Flora, Fauna, and Rock Faces, Big South Fork River and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee—May 8–15. Springtime in this area of the Cumberland Plateau bursts with mountain laurel and rhododendron. Barred owls will sing you to sleep and pileated woodpeckers waken you! We will cover a distance of 45 miles against the backdrop of rare rock formations for which the area is noted. One layover day is scheduled. (Rated L-M) *Leaders: Peg and Lyle Back. Price: \$345; Dep: \$50. [93052]*

Spring Trips

Arch Canyon, Southeast Utah
—May 9–15. Cliff dwellings in high alcoves, side canyons simply made for exploring, and magnificent arches await us in this archaeologically significant area. We start up on a ridge overlooking an escarpment, then drop down into the canyon, hiking five to six miles a day. Three nights in one place will allow for leisurely exploration. (Rated L-M) *Leader: Belva Christensen. Price: \$385; Dep: \$50. [93053]*

Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas, New Mexico
—May 9–15. As we cross America's oldest wilderness areas, we travel from canyons with rattlesnakes, yucca, and lush streams to elk, aspen, and vistas of snowy peaks. Slip into steamy hot springs, roam expansive stands of ponderosa

pine, discover Mogollon Indian ruins, or relax in a wildflower meadow. 50 miles; river wading. (Rated M-S) *Leader: David Morrison. Price: \$350; Dep: \$50. [93054]*

Natural Splendor in Dark Canyon, Utah—May 9–15. Aquamarine plunge pools, waterfalls, and lush green foliage are only some of the natural wonders to be found at the bottom of narrow and colorful Dark Canyon. Two layover days are scheduled for photography, swimming, or relaxing among the splendors of this tranquil place. Backpacking experience required. (Rated M) *Leader: Gary Millsap. Price: \$405; Dep: \$50. [93055]*

North Rim Sampler, Grand Canyon Park, Arizona—May 16–23. A classic introduction

to the Grand Canyon's remote North Rim. Backpacking, day-hiking, and car-camping, we'll sample the North Rim's treasures: magnificent views, lush forests, sculpted canyons, wildflowers, fossils, hanging fern gardens, wildlife, and crystal desert springs. (Rated M) *Leader: John Sherman. Price: \$425; Dep: \$50. [93056]*

Dark Canyon Wilderness, Utah—May 23–29. Remote and infrequently traveled, this splendid canyon starts with aspen and pine at 8,000 feet and descends into desert as it empties into Lake Powell (3,700 feet). As time and weather allow, participants will be free to explore side canyons, enjoy the plentiful plunge pools and waterfalls, or ponder towering sandstone walls. This trip is a sure delight for wildflower and pho-

tography enthusiasts. (Rated M) *Leader: Barry Mowen. Price: \$410; Dep: \$50. [93057]*

Note: For more backpack trips, see International outings #93711 and #93820.



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: RAINBOW, WIND RIVER MOUNTAINS, BRIDGER WILDERNESS, WYOMING; CAMPFIRE, FISH CREEK CANYON, UTAH; OAK LEAVES, ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH; HIKING IN SELKIRK MOUNTAINS, IDAHO.

Base Camp

America's Tropical Paradise, Virgin Islands Park, U.S. Virgin Islands—February 28–March 6. Virgin Islands National Park occupies most of the island of St. John, where we'll stay in rustic, beachfront cottages. On morning hikes we'll explore the island's forest and remote places. In the afternoons we'll drive to beautiful white sand beaches to swim or snorkel among tropical fish, sea turtles, and coral reefs. Meals are not included in the trip price. *Leader: Gary Skomro. Price: \$720; Dep: \$100. [93062]*

Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona, Arizona—April 18–24. Designed for those with limited physical ability who desire leisurely dayhikes from

a base setting. We will hike along canyon floors and stroll along creek banks, admiring desert wildflowers, redrock formations, and an Indian cliff dwelling. We will also visit the remains of ancient Indian villages. Lodgings will be in shared condominiums. Meals are not included in the trip price. *Leader: Joel Landis. Price: \$495; Dep: \$50. [93063]*

Havasupai Indian Reservation, Grand Canyon, Arizona—April 19–25. Visit this remote, beautiful reservation on the western end of the Grand Canyon. Horses will carry our duffel bags, food, and commissary equipment to a base camp located between two grand waterfalls—Havasu and Mooney. We'll spend our days swimming in the pools below



the falls, or hiking. Our last night will be at the Indian Lodge in Supai Village. *Leader: John Malarkey. Price: \$660; Dep: \$100. [93064]*

Naturalist's Puerto Rico—April 19–25. Explore the unspoiled island of Culebra, snorkeling and swimming its pristine beaches and assisting with Fish and Wildlife Service surveys of nesting sea turtles. Hike

the trails of El Yunque, the Forest Service's only tropical rainforest. Accommodations include a villa in Culebra and a historic hotel near El Yunque. Meals are not included in the trip price. *Leader: Marjorie Richman. Price: \$880; Dep: \$100. [93065]*

Dolly Sods Wilderness, West Virginia—May 16–22. Don't miss this trip to the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Part of the Monongahela National Forest, Dolly Sods offers a mind-boggling variety of wildflowers and burgeoning vegetation every spring. We'll sample 42 miles of hiking trails, and undertake several day-long trips—one to Seneca Rock and another along the Canaan Valley/Blackwater State Park trail. *Leader: Gina Flannery. Price: \$450; Dep: \$50. [93066]*

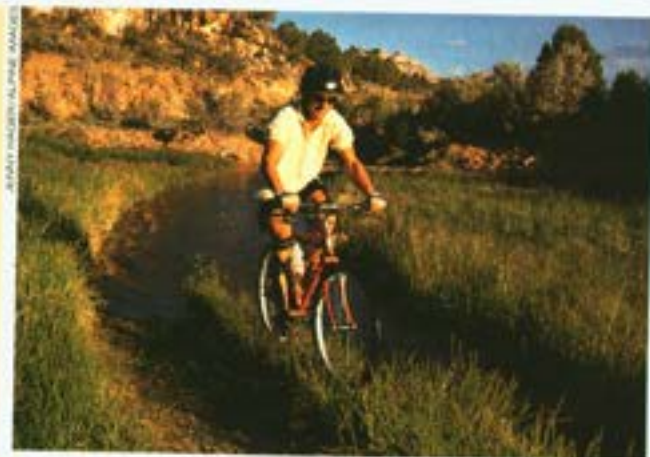
Hiking Virginia's Shenandoah Valley—May 16–22. Come and enjoy the Shenandoah region of the Appalachian Mountains. Daily hikes, planned for varying levels of difficulty, will include the Appalachian Trail and many of the 4,000-foot summits in Shenandoah National Park. We will see fantastic views of the Blue Ridge, cascading waterfalls, historic sites, spring wildflowers, and may encounter deer and black bears. *Leader: Mark Lidd. Price: \$330; Dep: \$50. [93067]*

Virginia's Rooftop, Mt. Rogers Recreation Area—May 23–29. Where Virginia meets North Carolina and Tennessee, the Blue Ridge Mountains reach their highest crests at over 5,500 feet. Staying at Beartree Campground and using car shuttles, we will hike the Appalachian Trail and other wilderness trails. Highlights of the week include wildflowers, azaleas, wild ponies, panoramic vistas from mountain balds, and hikes over Whitetop Mountain and Mt. Rogers. *Leader: Bill DeLoache. Price: \$340; Dep: \$50. [93068]*



Spring Trips

LEFT: MOUNTAIN BIKER IN BEEF BASIN, UTAH; BELOW: TENT ON PLATFORM IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, FLORIDA.



Bicycle

Southern Utah Backroad Tour—May 30–June 5. This moderately strenuous tour through the temples of Zion, the redrock canyons of Bryce, and the slot washes of the Paria Wilderness is for the adventurous cyclist. We are supported by a sag wagon on primitive roads and jeep trails. A layover day mid-tour is planned to allow us to explore Buckskin Gulch, the ultimate "slot" of the Colorado Plateau. *Leader: Bob Hartman. Price: \$450; Dep: \$50. [93070]*

Family

Everglades Park, Florida—December 29, 1992–January 3, 1993. Come enjoy the "River of Grass." We will be hiking through jungle trails, on raised boardwalks, and along the coastline. We'll canoe through dense mangroves, manmade canals, and muddy lakes. Whether hiking, canoeing, or relaxing, there will be plenty of wildlife to observe. For children six years and older. Canoe rental not included in trip price. *Leader: Martin Joyce. Price: adult \$305, child \$205; Dep: \$50. [93422]*

Arches Adventure for Preschoolers, Arches Park, Utah—May 16–22. Short, easy

hikes make this park ideal for families with budding hikers and parents with child-carry packs. Daily hikes allow us to explore The Windows, Fiery Furnace, Devil's Garden, Park Avenue, and Delicate Arch. Other highlights include evening ranger presentations and a layover day to explore Arches on your own or to visit nearby Canyonlands National Park. *Leaders: Frances and David Reineau. Price: adult \$390, child \$260; Dep: \$50. [93071]*

Note: For another family trip, see Hawaii outing #93073.

Hawaii

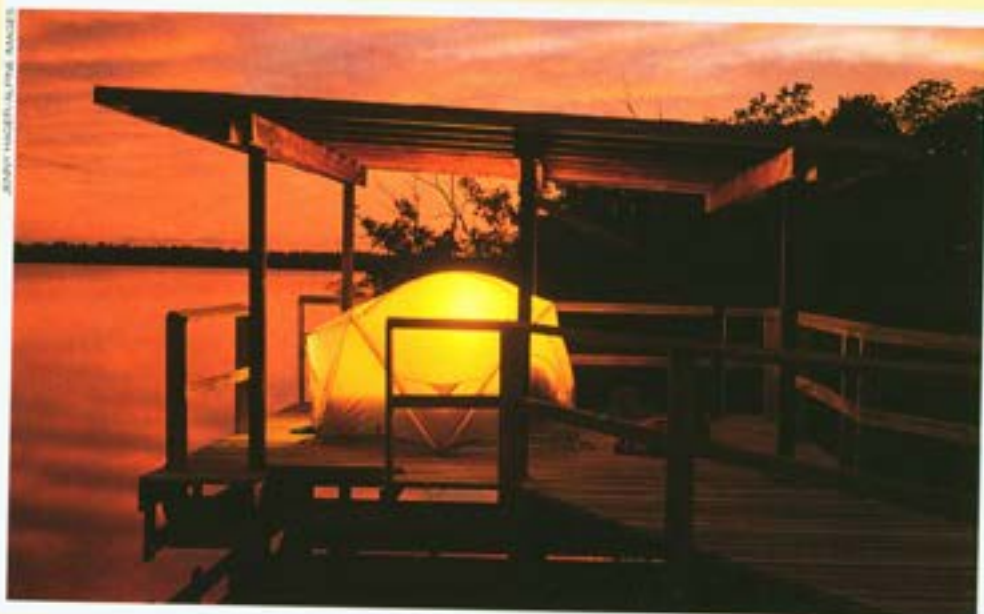
Humpback Whales in Hawaii—March 13–27. Each winter, the ocean off Maui shelters whales and their calves. We will study the impact of boat traffic on the whales, working to help these magnificent creatures survive and thrive. Our pace will be comfortable and there will be plenty of time to hike and explore the wonderful mountains and beaches of the island. *Leaders: Kent Erskine and Ray Simpson. Price: \$1145; Dep: \$200. [93072]*

Kauai Family Adventure—April 3–10. Kauai offers the visitor magnificent scenery and many outdoor activities. Sample the island's exciting and surprising contrasts: the beautiful Na Pali coast, rugged Waimea Canyon, mystical Alakai Swamp, lush Hanalei Valley, and picturesque beaches. Hiking, snorkeling, and sightseeing are just a few of the options available. We will stay in rustic lodging right on a beach. Children of all ages are welcome. *Leader: Irma and Wayne Martin. Price: adult \$785, child \$525; Dep: \$100. [93073]*

Highlight

Historic Landmarks in the Old South, Louisiana and Mississippi—March 7–13. History buffs will enjoy this bed-and-breakfast tour of plantations and gardens. We will begin in the French Quarter of New Orleans, go across Louisiana to Natchez, Mississippi, then north to the Civil War battleground of Vicksburg. Accommodations include antebellum mansions styled in the romantic tradition of the Deep South. Dinners are not included in the trip price. *Leader: Bill Carroll. Price: \$1,095; Dep: \$200. [93075]*

Van and Hiking Tour, Canyons of Southeast Utah—April 11–17. Dayhike in out-of-the-way canyons near Canyonlands and Lake Powell. We will enjoy sunny days, creeks and waterfalls that run only in spring, blooming desert flowers, and remote Anasazi ruins. The canyons are all rugged and scenic, but each is unique. Our moderately paced hikes will be long but not difficult. *Leader: TBA. Price: \$645; Dep: \$100. [93076]*



International

ASIA

Lamjung Holiday Trek, Nepal—December 21, 1992–January 3, 1993. Spend the holidays on this moderate trek through the charming Gurung villages on the eastern slopes of the Annapurna range. Our route in this seldom-visited region takes us very close to Annapurna IV, Annapurna II, and Lamjung peaks. This trip emphasizes interaction with local people and our Nepalese staff. Many of our evenings will offer opportunities to join in local singing and dancing. Maximum elevation will not exceed 13,000 feet. *Leader: Jerry Clegg. Price: \$1,490 (12–15) / \$1,680 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93700]*

Xishuangbanna and Hong Kong Too, China—December 22, 1992–January 3, 1993. With its heavily forested valleys and mountains inhabited by wild elephants, monkeys, leopards, and deer, Xishuangbanna is one of China's most exquisite natural areas. It is also home to 12 of China's ethnic minorities. Adding variety to our trip will be a visit to Kunming, the "City of Eternal Spring," and the nearby Stone Forest. We'll also travel to Lantau Island in the South China Sea, where we will enjoy staying in the picturesque village of Tai O and the Po Lin Monastery. With its festive lights, Christmas in Hong Kong will be an experience to remember always. *Leaders: Phil Gowing and Ruth Dyche. Price: \$2,060 (12–15) / \$2,305 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93703]*

Gorkha Chitwan Trek, Nepal—February 22–March 12, 1993. Starting in Gorkha, our route will take us through Gurung, Tamang, and Brahmin-Chhetri villages and up rhododendron-covered slopes in full bloom. We will come

close to the peaks of the Manaslu Himal in an area where Westerners seldom go. Our return is via the Tamang village of Serandanda, famous for its Buddhist *gomba*. After the trek we will visit Royal Chitwan National Park for three days of elephant safaris. *Leader: TBA. Price: \$1,860 (12–15) / \$2,085 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93720]*

Tilicho Lake—Annapurna Circuit Trek, Nepal—May 3–30, 1993. With its breathtaking views of the 26,000-foot peaks of the Annapurna massif and the treacherous Dhaulagiris, Tilicho Lake is one of the most spectacular and highest lakes in the world. Our trek will take us gradually from the subtropical villages thronging with diverse Nepali and Tibetan peoples to Tilicho Lake just below 17,771-foot Thorong La pass. On our return we'll descend through one of the deepest gorges in the Himalayas, back to the welcome sight and bustle of Nepali towns. *Leader: Frances Colgan. Price: \$2,430 (12–15) / \$2,675 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93740]*

EUROPE

Winter in Austria: Cross-Country Skiing—January 23–February 6, 1993. Repeating this popular trip, we'll stay in two small villages, each for a week, and take a midtrip holiday to Salzburg. Lodging is in comfortable family inns serving marvelous Austrian cuisine. Prepared tracks start almost at our door and lead over snow-covered hills to nearby villages and along forested trails to mountain chalets. Several excursions are planned to sample the ski trails at some of the country's most famous ski centers. Trip price includes ski rental and instruction, a sleigh ride, sledding and music. All levels of skiers welcome. *Leader: Carol Dienger. Price: \$2,575 (12–15) / \$2,850 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93705]*

TOP: MARKET IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL; BELOW: RAINFOREST HIKER, MONTEVERDE NATURE RESERVE, COSTA RICA.



Spring Trips

A Leisurely Tour of Picturesque Portugal—May 9–23, 1993. Departing Lisbon by van, we will explore scenic northern Portugal, a region not yet spoiled by tourism. Wending our way along the eastern border with Spain, we'll stop to walk and browse in the ancient walled cities of Montsaraz and Guarda, built by the Moors and Romans. Then, turning west toward the Atlantic Ocean, we'll spend several days in forested national parks and in valleys with exquisitely terraced vineyards—the source of famous Port wines. Along the coast we'll visit small fishing villages and tramp pristine beaches and dunes. Our return to Lisbon is via the beautiful Estoril coastline. *Leader: Ray Simpson. Price: \$2,795 (12–15) / \$3,075 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93745]*

Hiking and Island-Hopping in Greece—May 15–30, 1993. Zorba's free spirit will inspire us as we experience the many gifts of Greece. From comfortable hotels, family pensions, and a mountain refuge, we will dayhike, visit ancient ruins (including the Acropolis, Delphi, Corinth, and the cliff-top monasteries of Meteora), and explore picturesque islands in the Aegean Sea. We'll travel by van, train, hydrofoil, ferry, and on foot. *Leader: Carolyn Castleman. Price: \$3,070 (12–15) / \$3,345 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93750]*

England's Coast to Coast Walk: From the Irish Sea to the North Sea—May 23–June 5, 1993. Join us on a walk across the breadth of England through three of the country's most scenic national parks—the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, and the North York Moors. Our moderate daily hikes will take us to the towns of Grasmere, Keld, and Robin Hood's Bay—pastoral England at its finest! Our luggage will be transported each day by minibus to our over-



night accommodations in comfortable lodges and bed-and-breakfasts, where we'll meet fellow hikers from around the world. *Leader: Lou Wilkison. Price: \$2,605 (11–14) / \$2,910 (10 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93755]*

LATIN AMERICA

Holidays in Belize, Central America—December 20–28, 1992. Using a rustic lodge as our base, we'll explore Belize's lush interior, touring limestone caves and Mayan ruins, and rafting a gentle jungle river. A short plane flight to Flores, Guatemala, enables us to spend a full day at the magnificent Mayan ruins of Tikal. Then we'll move to the Caribbean coast and a palm-fringed island adjacent to a barrier reef. We'll stay at a simple guesthouse on the beach, snorkel in crystal-clear water, and feast on fresh seafood. *Leader: Mary O'Connor. Price: \$1,855 (12–15) / \$2,095 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [92678]*

A Holiday Adventure: Rio de Janeiro and the Rainforests of Brazil—December 20–31, 1992. Make these holidays an adventure you'll never forget by exploring the endangered rainforests of Brazil. From the beaches of Ilha Grande, a rustic island paradise set in a turquoise sea, to the high-altitude meadows of mountainous Itatiaia,

Brazil's oldest national park, skilled guides will introduce us to the treasures these forests hold and the perils that threaten their existence. We'll spend Christmas in Paraty, an exquisite Portuguese colonial town, and we'll celebrate New Year's Eve on exotic Copacabana beach. *Leader: Gail Solomon. Price: \$2,850 (12–15) / \$3,125 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [92680]*

Mexico's Copper Canyon Challenge—February 12–21, 1993. Travel from the Texas border to the heart of Mexico's canyon country, a rugged area several times the size of the Grand Canyon. We'll enjoy the subtropical vegetation, pass by the homes of the Tarahumara Indians, and visit remote mining villages. Along the way, we'll ride on the celebrated Chihuahua-Pacific Railroad that winds through the canyon country. Join us for this combination of backpacking and cross-cultural experiences. Previous backpacking experience is required. *Leaders: Roger Grisette and David Derrick. Price: \$1,225 (8–10) / \$1,415 (7 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93711]*

Paine Towers Trek, Patagonia, Chile—February 18–March 4, 1993. Imagine yourself amidst grandeur the equal

of Glacier, Yellowstone, and Yosemite parks. Forming the southernmost spine of the Andes, the snowcapped Paine Towers preside over immense calving glaciers, iceberg-studded lakes, grand cascades, and a rare diversity of landforms and wildlife. Join us on this moderate, packer-supported trek through wilderness solitude. Capping our low-elevation journey, we'll enjoy visits to the straits of Magellan, Punta Arenas, and the capital city of Santiago. *Leader: Bud Bollock. Price: \$2,480 (12–15) / \$2,755 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93715]*

Belize: Reef and Ruins, Central America—March 5–16, 1993. Using a working ranch as our base, we'll explore Belize's lush interior. Then we'll travel to neighboring Guatemala, where we'll visit the island city of Flores and have two full days to experience the magnificent Mayan ruins at Tikal. Returning to Belize's Caribbean coast, we'll spend the remainder of our trip on a palm-fringed island next to a barrier reef. Here we'll snorkel in crystal-clear water, learn about local conservation issues, and feast on fresh seafood. *Leader: Lola Nelson-Mills. Price: \$2,315 (10–12) / \$2,570 (9 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93725]*



LEFT TO RIGHT:
IDHRA, GREECE;
WHITE-FACED MONKEY
IN COSTA RICA; SAILBOAT
IN SILHOUETTE, BRITISH
VIRGIN ISLANDS.

River Rafting and Rainforest Adventure, Costa Rica—

April 12–21, 1993. A natural history paradise, Costa Rica possesses unmatched biological diversity. We'll view an active volcano at Poas National Park, then explore Corcovado National Park for three days—an unprecedented opportunity to view its unique wildlife.

We'll also visit an archaeological site in the premontane forest of the Guayabo River Canyon. But the highlight of our trip will be three days of rafting on two of the most beautiful rivers in the tropics—the Pacuare and Reventazon, where we'll relish waterfalls, rapids, and inviting pools.

Leader: R. Kurt Menning. Price: \$2,150 (12–15) / \$2,415 (11 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93730]

A Sailing Sojourn to the British Virgin Islands—

April 20–27, 1993. Come sail among the mountainous British Virgin Islands aboard a 50-foot yacht. We will hike through tropical forests, snorkel over coral reefs, and relax on white sand beaches. Our trip starts on the main island of Tortola. We will explore a different island each day and anchor in coves at night. No sailing experience is necessary.

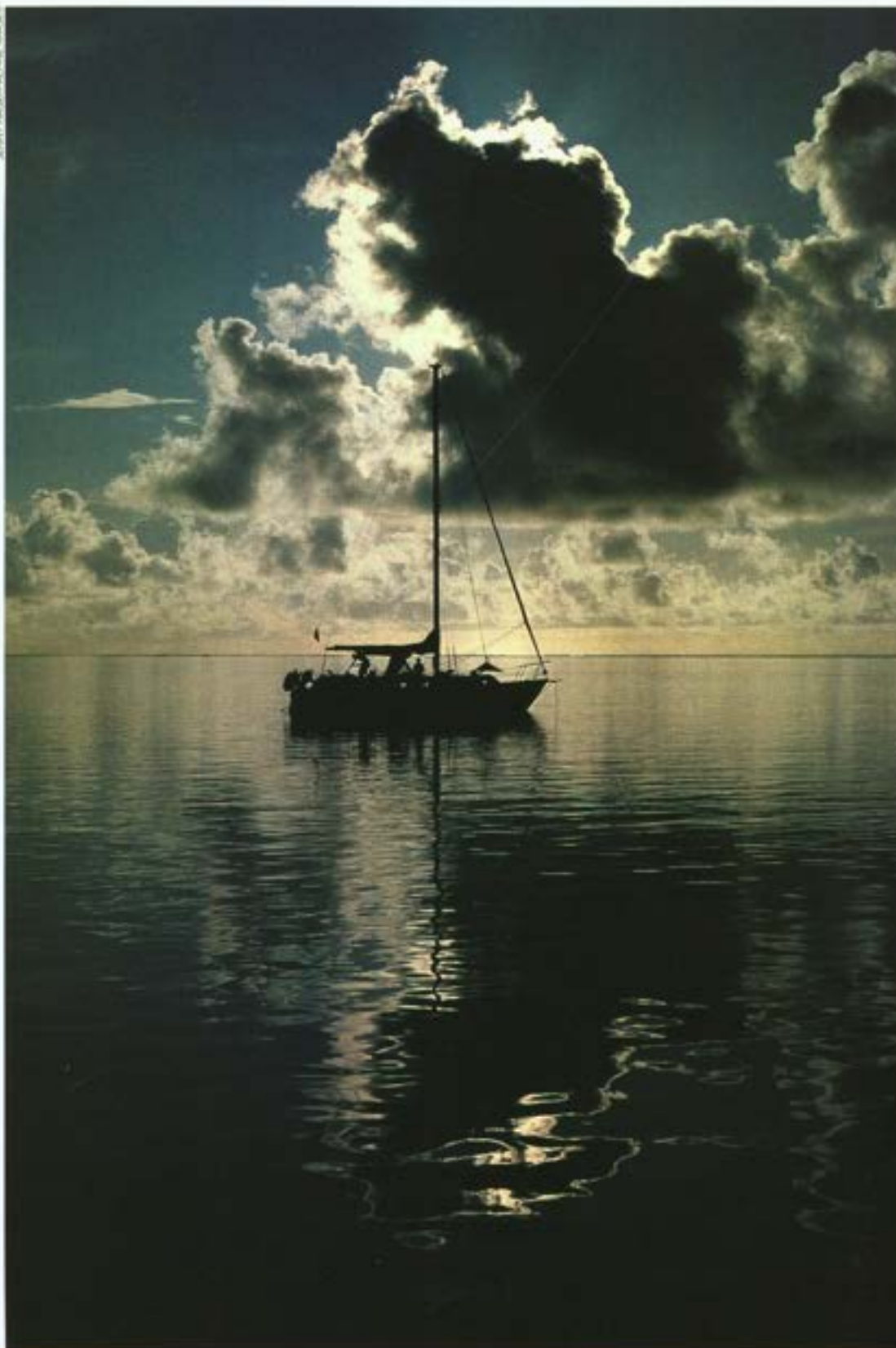
Leader: Chuck Blomin. Price: \$2,375 (6–8) / \$2,830 (5 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93735]

PACIFIC BASIN**Exploring New Zealand—**

February 7–27, 1993. Beginning in Auckland, we will explore the country's attractions by dayhiking and sightseeing our way to Christchurch. We will see steaming volcanoes, erupting geysers, bubbling hot mud pools, a Maori village, a glowworm cave, the Kauri forest, alpine valleys, Milford Sound, snowcapped mountains, and glistening glaciers that extend down into subtropical rain-

forest. *Leader: Wayne Martin. Price: \$2,965 (9–11) / \$3,250 (8 or fewer); Dep: \$200. [93710]*

REMY HANDEL/ALAMY



Spring Trips

Service

Empire Ranch Archaeology, Cienega Resource Conservation Area, Arizona—February 14–20. Come to this 52,000-acre, 19th-century ranch in the Sonoran Desert. We'll do restoration work, search for evidence of Paleo-Indian occupants, and still have time for side trips. *Leader: Jerry Meyer. Price: \$250; Dep: \$50. [93077]*

Alder Creek Trail Maintenance, Four Peaks Wilderness, Arizona—March 7–14. A neglected trail providing access to a beautiful and diverse desert setting needs our attention. You'll have every other day off to explore, relax, and enjoy the Arizona spring. *Leader: Vance Green. Price: \$160; Dep: \$50. [93078]*

Trail Construction, Buffalo River, Arkansas—March 21–27. From our base camp we will continue work on a new trail on the Upper Buffalo River. Expect spring flowers, fine scenery, cool nights, and mild days. No experience necessary. *Leader: Max Bonecutter. Price: \$215; Dep: \$50. [93079]*

Secret Canyon Trail, Sedona, Arizona—March 27–April 4. Work and dayhike amid red-rock canyons, forested mountains, spring desert bloom. We will help maintain, align, and construct a historic creek canyon trail, bringing it into environmental compliance. *Leaders: Jack Hershey and Judith Harper. Price: \$220; Dep: \$50. [93080]*

Trail Construction, Buffalo River, Arkansas—March 28–April 3. See description for trip #93079 above. *Leader: W. E. "Bill" Riecken, Jr. Price: \$215; Dep: \$50. [93081]*

Big Sur, Ventana Wilderness, California—April 2–10. We will work to clear dense chapar-

al from the Black Cone Trail. Our camp high above the Big Sur coast offers spectacular ridge-line views and many day-hike destinations. *Leader: Maura Eagan. Price: \$245; Dep: \$50. [93082]*

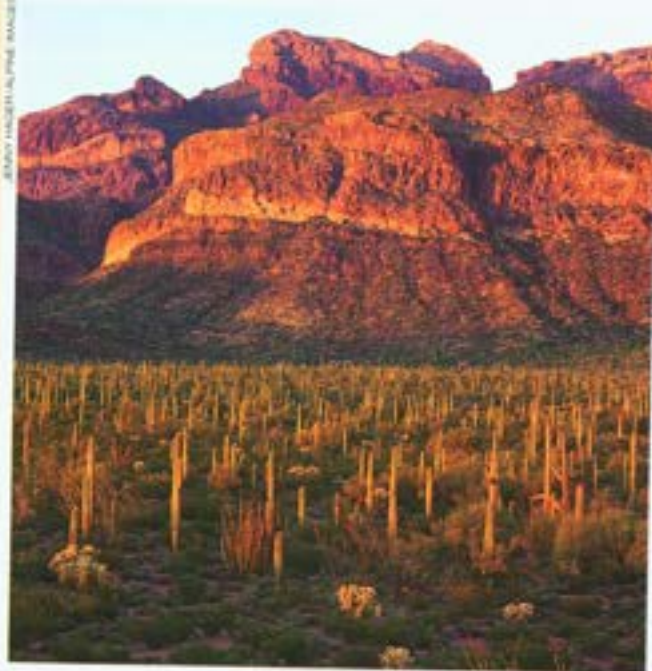
Arizona Trail, Saguaro Monument, Arizona—April 3–10. Join us for trail work and challenging hikes in the high desert mountains east of Tucson. Warm days, cool starry nights, and sleep to the howling of coyote. *Leader: Wil Patton. Price: \$175; Dep: \$50. [93083]*

Escalante Endeavor, Glen Canyon Recreation Area, Utah—April 4–10. Enjoy scenic Escalante Canyon while restoring areas damaged by recently removed grazing animals. Leisure time will be spent hiking between work sites. For experienced backpackers only. *Leader: Cathy Underwood. Price: \$285; Dep: \$50. [93084]*

Galiuro Wilderness, Galiuro Mountains, Arizona—April 24–May 1. Apache Indians, goldminers, and outlaws made the rugged and remote Galiuro Wilderness their home. From our base camp we will alternate trail work with relaxing dayhikes in this diverse area. *Leader: John Van Nes. Price: \$225; Dep: \$50. [93086]*

Snowbird, Slickrock, and Joyce Kilmer Trail Work, North Carolina—April 24–May 1. From base camp we'll improve trails at Joyce Kilmer and Slickrock. Backpack crews will build a walking bridge and develop trails at Snowbird. Expect wildflowers, huge trees, and panoramic views. *Leader: Vivian Spielbichler. Price: \$225; Dep: \$50. [93087]*

Abbey's Wall, Winter Camp, Arches Park, Utah—April 25–May 1. "Cattle out, indigenous species in" is our challenge. Stringing three-strand fence requires week-long endurance and a wicked sense of



humor. Packer support means hard work without hardship. *Leader: Susan Estes. Price: \$250; Dep: \$50. [93088]*

Arches Compleat, Arches Park, Utah—April 25–May 1. Unveiled from winter snow, this queen of the Colorado Plateau needs trails "calmed," fences repaired, and exotic vegetation removed. Our third

consecutive visit has rewards for all levels. *Leader: Jeff Scourers. Price: \$255; Dep: \$50. [93089]*

Doubleheader: Island in the Sky and Dead Horse, Canyonlands Park and Dead Horse State Park, Utah—May 2–8. Habitat for regal peregrines and bighorns, two mesa-top parks cradled be-

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS NEEDED TO SUPPORT SERVICE TRIPS

Service trips are one of the most important ways in which the Sierra Club cares for our cherished natural resources.

Dedicated, hard-working volunteers use their vacations to clean up rivers, rebuild trails, restore campsites, remove exotic plants, revegetate meadows, help restore archaeological sites, and take on many other projects that preserve and enhance our public lands.

Service trips are subsidized in part by donations from individuals. Although the trip fees themselves are not tax-deductible, donations to the Service Trips Account of The Sierra Club Foundation are.

The Club's need for financial support for this unique program becomes more critical each year as the demand for trips and the cost of running the program increase. If you can't join us in the wilderness, please join us by offering your financial support. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that fellow Club members are adding their time and energy to your donation to help protect and preserve our natural heritage.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to: **Service Trips Account, The Sierra Club Foundation, 220 Sansome St., Suite 1100, San Francisco, CA 94104.**



tween the Green and Colorado rivers need springtime trail-building efforts. High spirits, good attitude mandatory; experience welcome. *Leader: Susan Estes. Price: \$245; Dep: \$50. [93090]*

North Rim Trail Construction Part IV, North Kaibab Forest, Arizona—May 10–19. On this strenuous trip, we continue work on a new trail that overlooks Tapeats Amphitheater in the Grand Canyon. Afterward, we'll hike down to Sowats Canyon and Mountain Sheep Springs. *Leader: Tim Wernette. Price: \$325; Dep: \$50. [93091]*

Gila Wilderness, New Mexico—May 15–22. Do trail work in our oldest wilderness area. On leisure days, hike through scenic canyons to historic ruins. Expect warm days, flowers, and starry nights at our 6,000-foot camp. *Leader: Wil Pasow. Price: \$185; Dep: \$50. [93092]*

West Rim and Telephone Canyon, Zion Park, Utah—May 16–22. Join us as we relocate two sections of trail, put in water bars, and do fire rehabs. There will be time to explore this land of the Anasazi and Paiutes. *Leaders: Linda Takala and Paul Huerne. Price: \$225; Dep: \$50. [93093]*

Bryce Canyon Park, Utah—May 29–June 5. Enjoy the naturally sculpted beauty of hoodoos and wildlife-abundant redrock canyons. Alternate fence-building with scenic hikes as we protect the park from damage caused by free-roaming cattle. *Leader: John Van Ness. Price: \$250; Dep: \$50. [93094]*

Ski

High Sierra Skiing, Tahoe Forest, Sierra—January 31–February 5. Take Nordic ski lessons and tours at the Sierra Club's own Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Summit—a wonderful opportunity to develop or improve such skiing skills as diagonal stride, Telemarking, ski skating, and other techniques in an area of heavy snowfall. You'll also enjoy warm accommodations, good food, a hot tub, and other lodge amenities. Your trip coordinator is a certified ski instructor. *Trip Coordinator: Jeff Hartley. Price: \$340; Dep: \$50. [93423]*

Wilderness Cross-Country in Copper Harbor, Michigan—January 31–February 6. Ski the Midwest's finest—the hills and woodlands of the Keweenaw Peninsula on Lake Superior, where average annual snowfall is 250 inches. Listen to the quiet of nature as you glide through pristine wilderness in this remote winter wonderland. No need to drive to the ungroomed trails—they're right outside the doors of our rustic cabins. *Leader: Donna Small. Price: \$600; Dep: \$100. [93424]*

Superior Ski Trails, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota—February 8–12. Escape to the heart of the North Woods snow country on trails that wander quietly through pine and birch forests, between frozen lakes, then back to cozy cabins and home cooking. Ski in the gentle glow of lanterns, listen for distant wolf music, and relax in the sauna. Additional fun includes snowshoeing, ice-skating, and broomball. For intermediate-level skiers. *Leader: Faye Sitzman. Price: \$600; Dep: \$100. [93425]*

Spring Skiing in the Sierra—April 11–16. Cross-country skiing at its best. Corn

Snow, Telemarking, Nordic downhill, backcountry—you name it! It's all here at the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Pass, where the snowfall average is the highest in the Sierra Nevada. Daily lessons and tours to Castle Peak, Crow's Nest, German Ridge led by a certified instructor. Great vittles, warm accommodations, and hot tub. *Leader: Herb Holden. Price: \$340; Dep: \$50. [93095]*

Water

CANOE

CANOE TRIPS ARE GRADED AS FOLLOWS:

GRADE A: No canoeing experience required.

GRADE B: Some canoeing experience required.

GRADE C: Canoeing experience on moving water required.

GRADE D: Canoeing experience on whitewater required.



Everglades Park, Florida—February 21–26. We camp at the southern tip of the park, a threatened subtropical wilderness. Daily canoe explorations take us through mangrove and buttonwood, freshwater ponds, brackish water, open coastal prairies, and saltwater marshes

PLEASE READ THE RESERVATION AND CANCELLATION POLICY ON PAGES 110 and 111 BEFORE SENDING IN YOUR APPLICATION.

—home to rare plants, birds, and animals. This leisure trip is for competent canoeists who enjoy birding, animal-watching, and photography. Canoe rentals are not included in the trip price. (Grade B) *Leader: Otto Spielbichler. Price: \$290; Dep: \$50. [93096]*

Canoeing Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia—March 28–April 2. From base camps on the east and west edges of the swamp, we will canoe sections of the Okefenokee, exploring coastal prairies and cypress forests, habitat for birds, mammals, and reptiles. This trip is for canoeists of all ages who enjoy birding, animal-watching, and photography. Canoe rental is not included in the trip price. (Grade B) *Leader: Vivian Spielbichler. Price: \$310; Dep: \$50. [93097]*

Spring Fever, Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota-Ontario Border—May 23–29. Paddle and portage in the North Woods during peak fishing season. We won't see many people as we explore some of the Boundary Waters' most remote lakes. On layover days search for Indian pictographs, view dramatic waterfalls, or hook into northern pike and walleye. Enjoy the end of spring in the beautiful North Woods. (Grade B) *Leader: Joanne Brady. Price: \$535; Dep: \$100. [93098]*

RAFT

Rafting the Grand Canyon, Arizona—April 9–21. After several years' hiatus, we are pleased to reintroduce this premier whitewater rafting trip down 200 miles of the Colorado. In April the Canyon offers smaller crowds, unspoiled campgrounds, and only-in-spring waterfalls and wildlife. Be prepared for cooler weather, possible rain, Class IV and V rapids, and marvelous side canyon hikes. *Leader: Ruth Dyche. Price: \$2,295; Dep: \$200. [93099]*

Reservation & Cancellation

Eligibility: Our trips are open to Sierra Club members, applicants for membership, and members of organizations granting reciprocal privileges. You may include your membership application and fee with your reservation request.

Children must have their own memberships unless they are under 12 years of age. Unless otherwise specified, a person under 18 years of age may join an outing only if accompanied by a parent or responsible adult or with the consent of the leader.

Applications: One reservation form should be filled out for each trip by each person; spouses and families (parents and children under 21) may use a single form. Mail your reservation, together with the required deposit, to the address below. No reservations will be accepted by telephone.

Reservations are confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. However, since acceptance by the leader is required (based on applicant's experience, physical condition, etc.), the reservation is confirmed subject to the leader's approval, for which the member must apply promptly. When a trip is full, later applicants are put on a waitlist.

Give some thought to your real preferences. Some trips are moderate, some strenuous; a few are only for highly qualified participants. Be realistic about your physical condition and the degree of challenge you enjoy.

The Sierra Club reserves the right to conduct a lottery in order to determine priority for acceptance in the event that a trip is substantially oversubscribed shortly after publication.

Reservations are accepted subject to these general rules and to any specific conditions announced in the individual trip brochures.

Deposit: A deposit is required with every trip application. The amount of the deposit varies with the trip price, as follows:

| Trip price per person | Deposit per person |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Up to \$499 | \$50 per individual |
| \$500 to \$999 | \$100 per individual |
| \$1,000 and above | \$200 per individual |

The deposit is applied to the trip price when the reservation is confirmed. All deposits and payments should be in U.S. dollars.

Payments: Generally, adults and children pay the same price; some exceptions for family outings are noted. You will be billed upon receipt of your application. Full payment of trip fee is due 90 days prior to trip departure. Trips listed in the "International" section require additional payment of \$300 per person six months before departure. Please note that payments are due at the above times, regardless of your leader-approval status. If payment is not received on time, the reservation may be canceled and the deposit forfeited.

No payment (other than the required deposit) is necessary for those waitlisted. The applicant will be billed when placed on the trip.

The trip price does not include travel to and from the roadhead or specialized transportation on some trips (check trip brochure). Hawaii, Alaska, and International trip prices are all exclusive of airfare.

Transportation: Travel to and from the roadhead is your responsibility. To conserve resources, trip members are urged to form carpools on a shared-expense basis or to use public transportation. On North American trips the leader will try to match riders and

drivers. On some overseas trips you may be asked to make your travel arrangements through a particular agency.

Infrequently the Sierra Club finds it necessary to cancel trips. The Club's responsibility in such instances is limited in accordance with the Trip Cancellation Policy. Accordingly, the Sierra Club is not responsible for nonrefundable airline or other tickets or payments or any similar penalties that may be incurred as a result of any trip cancellation.

Confirmation: A reservation is held for a trip applicant, if there is space available, when the appropriate deposit has been received by the Outing Department. A written confirmation is sent to the applicant. The reservation is confirmed subject to the leader's approval. If there is no space available when the application is received, the applicant is placed on the waitlist and the deposit is held pending an opening. When a trip applicant is placed on the waitlist, the applicant should seek immediate leader approval so that in the event of a vacancy the reservation can be confirmed.

When a person with a confirmed reservation cancels, the person at the head of the waitlist will automatically be confirmed on the trip, subject to leader approval. The applicant will not be contacted prior to this automatic reservation-confirmation except in the three days before trip departure.

Refunds: You must notify the Outing Department directly during working hours (weekdays 9-5; ph. 415-923-5522) of cancellation from either the trip or the waitlist. The amount of the refund is determined by the date that the notice of cancellation by a trip applicant is received at the Outing De-

For More Details on Outings

Each outing is described in detail in individual trip brochures. We highly recommend reading a brochure before signing up for a trip. Trips vary in size, cost, and physical stamina and experience required. Don't sign up for the wrong one! Read the brochure, and save yourself the cost and inconvenience of changing or cancelling 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.

A complete listing of all of our 1993 International Outings will appear in the January/February issue of SIERRA, but it is available to you now for \$1.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send a 1992-1993 International Outings catalog. \$1 is enclosed.

Please send me the following trip brochures. (Order by trip number. The first three are free; extras cost 50 cents each.)

_____ # _____ # _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____ DO NOT MAIL CASH.

Make checks payable to Sierra Club. Clip coupon and mail to: **Sierra Club Outing Dept., 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109 #5**

Policy

TO ORDER TRIP BROCHURES
BY PHONE, CALL (415) 923-5630
(24-HOUR VOICE MAIL). FOR
GENERAL INFORMATION, CALL
(415) 923-5622 (BUSINESS
HOURS).

partment. The refund amount may be applied to an already-confirmed reservation on another trip.

The Cancellation Policy applies to all reservations, regardless of whether or not the leader has notified the applicant of approval.

The Outing Committee regrets that it cannot make exceptions to the Cancellation Policy for any reason, including personal emergencies. Cancellations for medical reasons are often covered by traveler's insurance, and trip applicants will receive a brochure describing this type of coverage.

You can also obtain information regarding other plans from your local travel or insurance agent. We encourage you to acquire such insurance. Trip leaders have no authority to grant or promise refunds.

Transfers: For transfers from a confirmed reservation made 14 or more days prior to the trip departure date, a transfer fee of \$50 is charged per application. Transfers made 1 to 13 days prior to the trip departure date will be treated as a cancellation, and the Cancellation Policy will apply. No transfer fee is charged if you transfer from a waitlist.

A complete transfer of funds from one confirmed reservation to another, already-held, confirmed reservation will be treated as a cancellation, and will be subject to cancellation fees.

Medical precautions: On a few trips a physician's statement of your physical fitness may be needed, and special inoculations may be required for international travel. Check with a physician regarding immunization against tetanus.

INTERNATIONAL TRIP TIER-PRICING

International outings are tier-priced. This means a trip's price is dependent on the number of participants. Two prices are listed for a trip, showing the signup levels associated with each.

Final billing is based on the signup level at 90 days prior to the trip departure date. If the signup level goes up sufficiently between the billing and departure dates, the lower tier price will apply, and refunds will be issued after the trip is over.

Cancellations from trips where the tier price has changed are subject to our reservation and cancellation policy. All regular cancellation fees will apply.

Emergency care: In case of accident, illness, or a missing trip member, the Sierra Club, through its leaders, will attempt to provide aid and arrange search and evacuation assistance when the leader determines it is necessary or desirable. Costs of specialized means of evacuation or search (helicopter, etc.) and of medical care beyond first aid are the financial responsibility of the ill or injured person. Since such costs are often great, medical and evacuation insurance is advised, as the Club does not provide this coverage for domestic trips. Participants on international outings are

covered by limited medical, accident, and repatriation insurance. Professional medical assistance is not ordinarily available on such trips. Be sure your insurance covers you in the countries involved.

The leader is in charge: At the leader's discretion, a member may be asked to leave the trip if the leader feels the person's further participation may be detrimental to the trip or to the individual.

Please don't bring these: Radios, sound equipment, firearms, and pets are not allowed on trips.

| Time or event of cancellation | Amount forfeited per person | Amount refunded per person |
|---|--|---|
| 1) Disapproval by leader (once leader-approval information has been received by the leader) | None | All amounts paid toward trip price |
| 2) Cancellation from waitlist, or the person has not been confirmed three days prior to trip departure | None | All amounts paid toward trip price |
| 3) Trip canceled by Sierra Club | None | All amounts paid toward trip price |
| 4) Cancellation from confirmed position or confirmed position subject to leader approval | | |
| a) 90 days or more prior to trip departure date | \$100 or amount of deposit, whichever is less | All amounts paid toward trip price exceeding forfeited amount |
| b) 60-89 days prior to trip departure | Amount of deposit | As above |
| c) 14-59 days prior to trip departure date | 20% of trip fee, but no less than the amount of deposit | As above |
| d) 4-13 days prior to trip departure date if replacement can be obtained from waitlist | 30% of trip fee, plus \$50 processing fee, but in no event more than 50% of total trip fee | As above |
| e) 4-13 days prior to trip departure date if replacement cannot be obtained from waitlist (or if there is no waitlist at the time of cancellation processing) | 40% of trip fee, plus \$50 processing fee, but in no event more than 50% of total trip fee | As above |
| f) 0-3 days prior to trip departure date | Trip fee | No refund |
| g) "No-show" at the roadhead, or if participant leaves during trip | Trip fee | No refund |

Mail checks and applications (excluding those sent by express mail) to:
Sierra Club Outing Department
Dept. #05618, San Francisco, CA 94139

Mail all other correspondence (including express-mail applications) to:
Sierra Club Outing Department
730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109



1993 International Open-Trip List

JOHN GOODMAN
 MT. CHOMOLHARI AT DAWN, BHUTAN.

In addition to the winter and spring trips described on pages 105–107, the following summer and fall 1993 trips are also available. Send in the coupon for trip brochures. International trips are tier-priced; prices do not include airfare. Look for a complete listing of 1993 international outings in the January/February issue of *Sierra*.

| Trip Number | Dates | Trip Fee (including deposit) | Deposit Per Person | Leader |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| AFRICA | | | | |
| 93770 | Tanzania Wildlife Safari | June 19–July 3 | 3880/4155 | 200 Ruth Dyche |
| 93805 | Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta, and Wildlife Parks of Zimbabwe and Botswana | July 24–Aug. 7 | 4550/4825 | 200 Mary O'Connor |
| ASIA | | | | |
| 93765 | A Hiking and Bus Tour of Central Asia, China and Russia | June 18–July 7 | 2235/2480 | 200 Jerry Clegg |
| 93780 | Mustang: The Forbidden Kingdom, Nepal | June 20–July 16 | 3075/3350 | 200 David Horsley |
| 93830 | Throne Room of the Thunder Dragon, Bhutan | Oct. 3–26 | 5090/5370 | 200 John & Jane Edgington |
| 93845 | Rolwaling Himal, Nepal | Nov. 22–Dec. 14 | 2110/2335 | 200 TBA |
| EUROPE | | | | |
| 93760 | Walking the Dingle Peninsula, Ireland | June 13–19 | 1465/1685 | 200 Lou Wilkinson |
| 93785 | Bike and Hike in Ireland | June 21–July 4 | 2600/2875 | 200 Patrick Colgan |
| 93795 | Wilderness Adventuring in Historic Poland | June 28–July 17 | 2660/2935 | 200 Bud Bollock |
| 93810 | Hungary: A New Experience | Aug. 3–14 | 2375/2650 | 200 Bert E. Gibbs |
| 93815 | Hut Hopping in Austria's Alps and Italy's Dolomites | Aug. 7–22 | 2355/2625 | 200 Wayne R. Woodruff |
| 93820 | Hiking in the Land of the Midnight Sun: Finland and Russia | Aug. 22–Sept. 4 | 2630/2935 | 200 Jim Halverson |
| 93825 | Paris, France: A Non-Tourist View | Sept. 20–29 | 2490/2765 | 200 Sandy Tepfer & Lynne Simpson |
| LATIN AMERICA | | | | |
| 93775 | Ecuador: Galápagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest | June 20–July 3 | 3550/3930 | 200 Carolyn Castleman |
| 93790 | Canoeing and Hiking in Brazil's Rainforests | June 22–28 | 1715/1945 | 200 J. Victor Monke |
| 93835 | River Rafting and Rainforest Adventure, Costa Rica | Oct. 19–28 | 2150/2415 | 200 Blaine LeCheminant |
| 93840 | Picturing Costa Rica | Nov. 7–16 | 2140/2405 | 200 Dolph Amster |
| 94500 | Ecuador: Galápagos Islands and the Amazon Rainforest | Dec. 19, 1993–Jan. 1, 1994 | 3550/3930 | 200 Mary O'Connor |
| 93850 | Holidays in Belize, Central America | Dec. 20–28 | 2055/2320 | 200 Sallee Lotz |
| 93855 | River Rafting and Rainforest Adventure, Costa Rica | Dec. 20–29 | 2150/2415 | 200 Harry A. Neal, III |

REVIEWS

KATHLEEN COURRIER

***Earth in the Balance:
Ecology and the Human Spirit***
by Senator Al Gore*Houghton Mifflin; \$22.95*

Months before the Democrats made Senator Al Gore their candidate for vice-president, *Earth in the Balance* was causing a stir. Among political insiders it rekindled activist hopes—and right-wing fears—that the environment would become a major factor in the upcoming elections. Once Gore got the nod from Bill Clinton, the book took off again.

Election-year concerns notwithstanding, this thoughtful, well-written book deserves attention. Gore's environmental agenda for the nation is staked mainly on two initiatives: a "global Marshall Plan" to channel funds and new technology to developing nations while stabilizing world population, and a crash program to phase out polluting and energy-guzzling technologies while developing and deploying cleaner industrial processes. These proposals reflect Gore's belief that industrial society is colliding violently with the global ecosystem, that "whether we realize it or not, we are now engaged in an epic battle to right the balance of our earth."

***The Threat at Home: Confronting
the Toxic Legacy of the U.S. Military***
by Seth Shulman*Beacon Press; \$23*

Each year the U.S. military disposes of some half-million tons of toxic chemicals at more than 10,000 scattered sites. To keep recipient states from suing for damages, the Defense Department invokes a "doctrine of sovereign immunity," which allows it to lock up or bury its stygian sludge in secret. Unfortunately, though they may not know it, millions of Americans live

in or around areas contaminated by the armed forces and the Department of Energy.

In this gripping, meticulously researched exposé, Seth Shulman reveals how extremely lax the DOD has been with safeguards and how cavalier with the deadly garbage it throws out. Sometimes its dealings have been deadly too, as at a Navy installation where escaping toxic liquids have leached into the aquifer serving southern New Jersey. At other times it has been downright devious, slipping barrels of toxic wastes into the odd lots of useful chemicals that it periodically auctions off to citizens. Shulman offers an even-handed, first-rate work of science journalism that leaves the military's image not merely tarnished, but black as a witch's cauldron.

Our Country, the Planet

by Shridath Ramphal

Island Press; \$15

Proposals that industrialized nations voluntarily shift wealth to where it will do humanity the most good—and nature the least harm—may sound politically naive. Yet Shridath Ramphal, who makes the case that wealthy nations ought to cut back on consumption while setting up international programs to fight poverty, is no innocent. As president of the World Conservation Union and former secretary-general of the British Commonwealth, he is the only person to have served on all five United Nations commissions charged with sizing up postwar development and underdevelopment. No doubt he has heard every argument for re-slicing the world's economic pie.

In his wealth-sharing proposals, Ramphal manages to express the views of developing countries without hyperbole or nationalistic fervor. At the

same time, he prods Third World nations to abandon the defensive postures they often assume when discussions turn to their own steadily growing consumption of natural resources.

***A Green History of the World:
The Environment and the
Collapse of Great Civilizations***

by Clive Ponting

St. Martin's Press; \$24.95

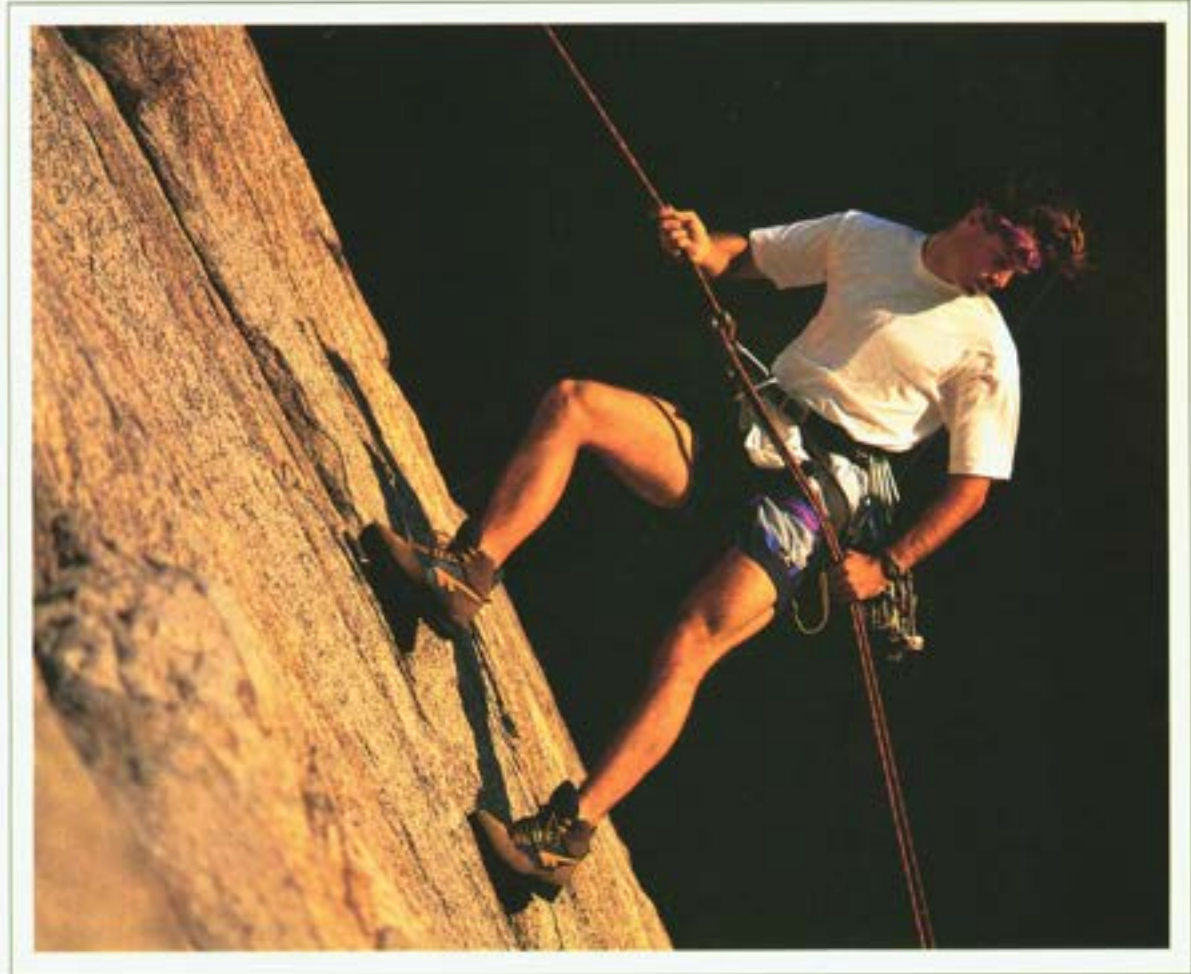
All has not gone well for our species since we turned from hunting and gathering to agriculture about 10,000 years ago. As British historian Clive Ponting points out, we have continually pushed our luck by expanding our numbers, thus pressing against the limits of the food supply. Yet we persist in producing still more offspring requiring more and more nourishment.

For Ponting, history turns largely on the supply and distribution of food. In great (at times excessive) detail he examines how food shortages have subverted many ancient civilizations; the collapse of Rome, he argues, came about partly because its large population and far-flung armies became too hard to feed. Later, European colonial powers siphoned natural resources from less-developed nations and pressed otherwise self-reliant farmers into servitude on plantations, usually to grow export crops. For conquered nations struggling to slake their colonial masters' desires, the results were often disastrous.

Ponting's work shows that no nation is permanently immune to cycles of feast and famine. When so many civilizations have collapsed, who's to say ours won't follow? The question is how far we can extend ourselves before, inevitably, we must contract.

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Native American Testimony: A Chronicle of Indian-White Relations from Prophecy to the Present, 1492-1992
edited by Peter Nabokov
Viking; \$25

From the arrival of Asiatic settlers who crossed the Bering Strait tens of thousands of years ago to the "discovery" of this continent by Columbus and the waves of European usurpers that followed, the history of North America's original inhabitants has been one of struggle and difficulty. Today the Native American legacy is one of forced resettlement, divided lands, and broken promises; the stories in *Native American Testimony* detail the greed and ruthlessness that prevailed when white conquered red.

This monumental work, bringing together writings and speeches from hundreds of sources, does more than simply hand the underdogs a moral victory. It deflates the romantic but patronizing notion that Native Americans somehow speak as one. Many voices ring out here: Chiefs spar with missionaries and bureaucrats; humorists write to the "Great White Father" in "injun" dialect; decorated veterans of World War II return to a country that doesn't allow them to vote; assimilated urban professionals urge other Native Americans onward and upward; an orphan boy leaves behind a suicide note. Poignant and un-

settling, these testimonies bid whites to re-examine both the havoc their forefathers wrought and their relationship with those who survived.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Winter is a fine time to begin planning spring outings, and this season there's no shortage of guidebooks to point you toward the perfect trail. *Montana Handbook* (\$13.95), *Idaho Handbook* (\$12.95), and *Washington Handbook* (\$13.95) are well-organized, engagingly written softcover guides from Moon Publications, chock full of information about localities, backcountry destinations, accommodations, and cultural and natural history. . . . *Humboldt Redwoods State Park* (Miles & Miles, PO. Box 6730, Eureka, CA 95502; \$15.95, paper) describes the park tucked away in the narrow canyons of California's North Coast, a site authors Jerry and Gisela Rohde call the Fort Knox of the plant world because of its colossal, ancient, and ecologically invaluable trees. As the book makes clear, there are many trails and a multitude of attractions in the park's 51,000-plus acres. . . . If by chance you feel the Colorado Rockies beckoning, two new books (and a revised classic) can help you reach the peak of your dreams. Should your yen be to seek only the state's highest points, *Colorado's Fourteeners: From Hikes to*

Climbs by Gerry Roach (Fulcrum; \$15.95, paper) can help you get to the top without losing your way. For a broader range of activities, try *Exploring Colorado's Wild Areas: A Guide for Hikers, Backpackers, Climbers, Cross-Country Skiers, and Paddlers* by Scott S. Warren (The Mountaineers; \$14.95, paper). The title pretty much sums up its contents. Meanwhile, the Colorado Mountain Club's *Guide to the Colorado Mountains* (9th edition, distributed by Cordillera Press, c/o Johnson Books, 1880 S. 57th Court, Boulder, CO 80301; \$15.95, paper) remains the most comprehensive and authoritative reference for hikers and climbers in the state, 40 years after its first publication. . . . The Appalachian Mountain Club has produced the 25th edition of its *AMC White Mountain Guide: A Guide to Trails in the Mountains of New Hampshire and Adjacent Parts of Maine* (AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108; \$16.95, paper). This updated version of a volume first issued in 1907 comes in palm-size format, measures an inch-and-a-half thick, and includes a pocket in the back flap that holds several topographic maps. With no space taken up by pictures, and with type as small and densely packed as readability allows, the book covers a whole lot of ground. What the guide lacks in flashiness, it easily makes up in thoroughness. . . . You won't have to wait for the snows to thaw at home be-

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fore venturing along the routes described in *Hawaii Trails: Walks, Strolls, and Treks on the Big Island* (Wilderness Press; \$12.95, paper). Author Kathy Morey's basic guide sketches out many routes that will take you away from tourist centers to less-frequented but nonetheless breathtaking natural areas. . . . *Walking the Blue Ridge: A Guide to the Trails of the Blue Ridge Parkway* by Leonard M. Adkins (University of North Carolina Press; \$11.95, paper) is primarily for first-timers to the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and North Carolina. The book aims at a broad audience, describing easy, five-minute "leg-stretchers" for those who like to stay near their cars, as well as multiday backpacking trips and challenging climbs. . . . *The Georgia Conservancy's Guide to the North Georgia Mountains*, edited by Fred Brown and Nell Jones (The Georgia Conservancy, 781 Marietta St., Atlanta, GA 30318; \$18.95, paper) is, as Jimmy Carter notes in the preface, the product of painstaking work by many volunteers. It describes trails in the Cumberland and Blue Ridge ranges, with many maps and illustrations.

—Mark Mardon

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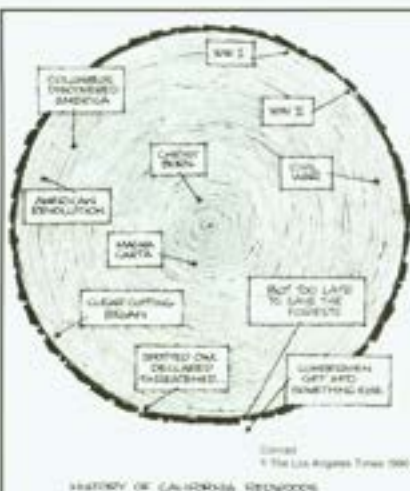
- *Baikal: Sacred Sea of Siberia* by Peter Matthiessen. Photographs by Boyd Norton; foreword by Yevgeny Yevtushenko; afterword by David Brower (\$25).
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To receive semimonthly updates on the Club's regional, national, and international conservation campaigns, subscribe to the *National News Report*. Request a free sample issue and subscription information from the Campaign Desk at the above address.

A FIELD

"Hearth & Home," page 20

The Oil Recycling and Safe Handling Act (H.R. 3956), sponsored by representatives Cardiss Collins (D-Ill.) and J. Dennis Hastert (D-Ill.), would label used oil as hazardous waste and ensure that lead and other toxics are refined out before reuse. For more information, contact Daniel Weiss or Heide Halik of the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Program at (202) 547-1141.

For more on tire architecture, send for the *Earthship Info Sheet*, c/o Solar Survival Architecture, Box 1041, Taos, NM 87471, or peruse *Earthship*, Vol. 1, a complete how-to manual (\$24.95 from the same address).

"Good Going," page 21

Adventuring in the Andes: The Sierra Club Travel Guide to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, the Amazon Basin, and the Galapagos Islands by Charles Frazier with Donald Secrest (Sierra Club Books, 1985).

Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands by Rob Rachowicki (Lonely Planet, 1992).

The Rainforest Action Network (301 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94133; phone 415-398-4404) works to prevent deforestation and to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

"Body Politics," page 24

Falck's study was published in *Archives of Environmental Health*, March/April 1992.

DEPARTMENTS

PRIORITIES

Mercury, page 36

A comprehensive report, *Mercury Warning: The Fish You Catch May Be Unsafe to Eat*, surveys the state of knowledge about mercury pollution. Copies are \$20 each for individuals or nonprofits, \$100 for industries or corporations, from the Clean Water Action Project, 1320 18th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036-1811.

Property Rights, page 40

For a detailed analysis of what the Supreme Court's decision on the Lucas case means for environmental activists, contact Assistant Litigation Coordinator Isabel Fernandez, Sierra Club, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109; phone (415) 923-5680.

PLACE SETTING

Los Angeles, page 74

Contact the people who know Southern California's mountains best: Sierra Club Los Angeles Chapter, 3345 Wilshire, Ste. 508, Los Angeles, CA 90010; (213) 387-4287.

FEATURES

The South, page 42

To participate in the Sierra Club's campaign against environmental injustice in the South, contact Jim Price or Scott Douglas at the Sierra Club Southeast Office, 1330 21st Way South, Suite 100, Birmingham, AL 35205; phone (205) 933-9111.

For a copy of the 1991-1992 *Green Index* by Bob Hall and Mary Lee Kerr (Island Press, 1991), send \$20 to the Institute of Southern Studies, Box 531, Durham, NC 27702. For more information about the study, phone the ISS at (919) 419-8311.

A conference on environmental justice will be held December 4-6 in New Orleans. The event is sponsored by the Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice and hosted by the Gulf Coast Tenant Organization. For information, contact the Southern Community/Labor Conference for Environmental Justice, P.O. Box 10518, Atlanta, GA 30310; phone (404) 622-4991 or (706) 498-4720.

The Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris (University of North Carolina Press, 1989; Anchor Books, 1991) includes sections on the environment and race. It emphasizes the colonial relationship between the South and multinational corporations.

The Truth About Where You Live by Benjamin A. Goldman (Random House, 1991) surveys counties nationwide that suffer disproportionate shares of environmental contamination and related deaths.

Yosemite, page 50

Help preserve Yosemite National Park from further development by contacting the Sierra Club Yosemite Committee, c/o Marc Francis, 141 Aspen Lane, Boulder Creek, CA 95006.

For information about ordering any of the following books, call the Sierra Club Store at (415) 923-5600:

It Will Live Forever: Traditional Yosemite Indian Acorn Preparation by Bev Ortiz (Heyday Books, 1991). About Julia Parker, a Native interpreter for the Park Service in Yosemite Valley.

Tradition and Innovation: A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area by Craig D. Bates and Martha J. Lee (Yosemite Association, 1992).

Nature and Culture: American Landscape and Painting 1825-1875 by Barbara Novak (Oxford University Press, 1980).

Discovery of the Yosemite by Lafayette Houghton Bunnell (Yosemite Association, 1991). Interestingly, the publishers left off the rest of the original title: *And the Indian War of 1851 That Led to That Event*.

Yosemite Indians by Elizabeth Godfrey (Yosemite Association, 1977).

Wise Use, page 58

To help counter the wise-use movement, join the Campaign to Save America's Wilds. Contact John Hopkins, Sierra Club Public Lands Committee, 409 Jardin Pl., Davis, CA 95616; phone (916) 756-6455.

Resource-exploiters lay their cards on the table in *The Wise Use Agenda*, edited by Alan M. Gottlieb (The Free Enterprise Press, 1989; available in paperback for \$9.95 plus \$1.50 postage and handling from Merril Press, P.O. Box 1682, Bellevue, WA 98009).

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Give poor old Mother Earth a break: Make overpopulation issue number one.

*Josephine Briggs
Arlington, Texas*

The most important issue is the quality of the air we breathe. Our air is sick, and so are we. Unless we protect this most basic element of life, we will all get sicker—and more violent out of frustration at our inability to stop the polluters.

*Virginia Nordin
Vista, California*

Habitat protection is of primary importance. If habitat is destroyed, of what use are efforts to preserve species?

*Nancy Scalfery
Manfordsville, Kentucky*

Proclaim a goal of "stop at two" children for all Americans.

*Peter Katt
Davis, California*

Right now we are selling timber rights in our national forests at a discount of as much as 90 cents on the dollar. This encourages overcutting. The next president should require that the Forest Service sell timber rights at market value.

*Andy Frazer
Sunnyvale, California*

Enforce existing legislation. The Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, and a host of other laws already on the books should provide substantial protection if they are aggressively enforced.

*Phil Obbard
Oakland, California*

Future President Clinton needs to concentrate on renewable energy and conservation. He needs to promote a bill raising auto fuel-efficiency standards to 45 miles per gallon. And he needs to encourage the use of natural gas while discouraging oil drilling, offshore or on.

*Karyn Zuba
Atlanta, Georgia*

Nowhere has the public trust been so abused as in the management of our national forests. America's wilderness is under attack from well-monied special interests, and the Forest Service is their accomplice. While we must abide by laws mandating the multiple use of forests, we can demand lower cut requirements and insist that the

WHICH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE SHOULD THE NEXT PRESIDENT TACKLE FIRST?

Forest Service eliminate below-cost timber sales by establishing minimum bidding levels that include market-based profit margins. By attacking this problem first, President Clinton will be giving protection to an important part of our natural heritage and setting the foundation for the reform of other government agencies.

*David D. Boltz
Kirkswood, Missouri*

This one's easy: Sign the biological treaty that George Bush refused to endorse in Rio. Then sign a CO₂ limitation treaty. All the rest flow from those.

*Herb Stein
Washingtonville, New York*

World population will more than double in the next ten years. In the United States, the current administration has cut back on sex education, eliminated federally funded abortions for the poor, and perpetuated a tax and welfare system whose benefits increase in proportion to the number of children in a family. The Democratic nominee has proposed increasing the tax breaks for having children and, despite pro-choice rhetoric, refuses to offer abortions to those who could not otherwise afford them. A true environmental president would work abroad to stop the explosion, and in the United States to minimize unwanted births and eliminate government incentives to overpopulate.

*Brian Feldman
San Francisco, California*

The next president should make federal dollars available to local communities for

the acquisition of open space. Many unique parcels of land all over the nation should remain undeveloped. Local and state governments could use federal help in preserving the quality of life.

*Paul Feiner
Greenburgh, New York*

The very first issues addressed should be population growth and excessive consumption. Tax policy should be neutral on family size instead of providing an incentive for larger families. Deep cuts in the capital gains tax would provide less incentive for consumption and more for saving and investment. A more radical reform might totally eliminate the taxation of income, replacing it with a tax on consumption. To make such a system fair, every taxpayer would be given a "consumption allowance," and consumption above that amount would be taxed at a substantial rate.

*Michael W. Mullen
Troy, Alabama*

Education. A lot of folks have heard of Earth Day but still don't realize the depth of our environmental problems or the urgent need to modify our daily behavior. Environmentalism is born from a true sense of cause and effect. An educated public will have the drive to limit its impact on the earth, and to demand the same of industry and government.

*Malcolm McMichael II
Northbrook, Illinois*

Superfund sites! Of an estimated 450,000 toxic-waste sites nationwide, only 1,200 or so have been put on the National Priorities List. Few of these have been cleaned up thoroughly. The EPA appears hesitant to name more. In most cases, the choice of remediation has been made without adequate input from the appropriate agencies, so that the health of nearby residents and the surrounding environment take a back seat to the EPA's desire to "get the job done."

*Anonymous
Pearland, Texas*

The first issue the next president should tackle (but won't) is out-of-control population growth. Denial keeps us from getting our own house in order, and moral righteousness prevents us from assisting other countries.

*Verna Crane
Overland Park, Kansas*

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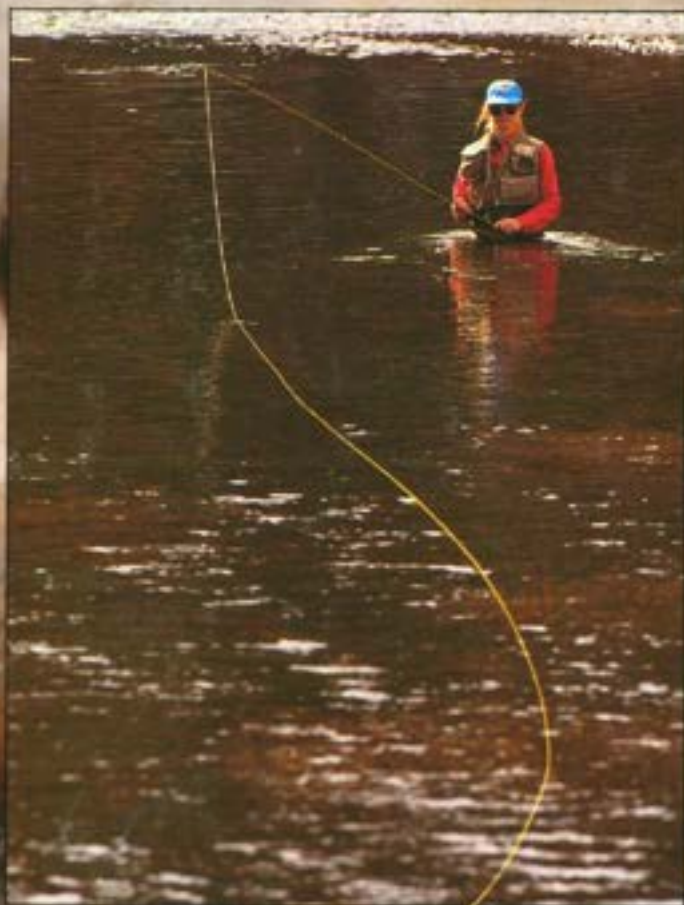
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