

Councillor Cyr

19.

Whereas: Global deforestation is threatening all life on earth. Deforestation contributes as much CO2 into the atmosphere as all fossil fuels, resulting in global warming and irreversible climate changes, And

Whereas: Forest destruction kills entire living systems, not only trees, which is resulting in massive extinctions of our fellow inhabitants on earth. Where once lived complex systems millions of years in the making now stand the equivalent of warscapes unable to support any life. And

Whereas: Forests are essential to the health and life supporting ability of earth. Their destruction is the equivalent to a war on life. Saving the Forest is saving ourselves. And

Whereas: At Current rates there will be no more rain forests anywhere on earth in twenty years.

Therefore: Because of the urgency of this situation we the Members of the Cambridge City Council demand that there be no more cutting of old growth forests anywhere on the planet. We support the maintenance of the wildness in nature where ever it remains and we insist that a major effort be launched to restore damaged areas to some semblance of wildness and to protect forests in the process of regeneration (for example the forests in New England). And therefore be it

Ordered: That the City Manager develop a policy to insure that no city agency or department buy or acquire furniture or furnishings made from such hardwoods, And

Further That the Committee on the Environment investigate ways that we can discourage or ban the commercial exploitation of old growth forests by individuals or entities doing business within our community. And

Further That a Copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President, The Secretary of the Interior, Members of the Massachusetts Legislative Delegation, The Governor, and appropriate State Officials.



64 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-7943

Dear Friends of Old Growth,

Thank you for collecting signatures for the petition to stop the cutting of Old Growth and to restore damaged areas. We will be collecting signatures at least through February 1990. Plans for these signatures are as follows:

We will send 1,000 (or more if possible) original signatures - not photocopies - to each of 30 corporations identified by Catalyst's corporate research to be involved either in the active cutting of Old Growth or in the process of exploitation that leads to its destruction. Examples of such corporations include companies such as Scott Paper Co., Kimberly Clark, International Paper, Champion, RJR Nabisco, Alcoa, etc. You get the idea.

We will also target some of the major forestry schools in the U.S. and Canada who will also receive copies of original signatures.

A cover letter will be included that will detail our understanding of the process of forest destruction, the company's role and our demands.

Media in each city where these corporate headquarters are located will be sent a press release notifying them of our petition and the corporate executive who received the signatures in order to facilitate publicity.

Each corporation or forestry school will be sent a list of all other corporations/schools who also received signatures.

This effort will be timed to be part of Earth Day 1990.

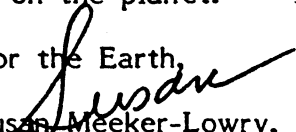
We have decided to send the originals because of the nature of the petitions. Many have come into our office from school children. These often include drawings, stains, etc. making them very personal and poignant. This will have so much more impact, we feel, than impersonal photocopies. Currently, Catalyst has enough signatures to send to 18 corporations. So keep them coming. Enclosed is an additional petition to photocopy and circulate. Also, it will be expensive to mail and print the materials necessary to make this campaign a success. Any financial contributions you can raise will be most appreciated.

I'm enclosing information on Catalyst's work and information on how to join us. Please consider becoming a member and spreading the word about our work through your own networks.

In conjunction with this petition drive and the book we are writing on forests, Catalyst is planning a large-scale "Grassroots Corporate Action Campaign" that will consist of an information packet listing many corporations' addresses, phone #'s and brand name products to encourage massive letter writing campaigns and direct action at corporate headquarters. If you would like to receive this packet when it is ready (sometime in the early spring 1990) please send us \$5.00 (this is a thick packet not available anywhere else!) to be added to our list. If you join Catalyst at the full member rate (\$50.00) you will automatically receive this packet.

Thank you for your efforts to save the last, oldest beings on the planet.

For the Earth,


Susan Meeker-Lowry, Director



Catalyst

Investing in Social Change

Vol. VI, NO. 3

Fall 1989



- Photo by SML

The world is our consciousness, and it surrounds us.

- Gary Snyder, "The Etiquette of Freedom, Sierra, Sept/Oct, 1989

Earlier this summer I spent almost three weeks in the northwest, much of it in old growth forests. I love these forests as much as I love my kids. I'm not embarrassed to admit it. Each time I visit, I fall more deeply in love. And each visit hurts because the clear-cutting process proceeds without mercy. The most painful aspect of this recent trip was spent on the Olympic Peninsula — perhaps one of the most magnificent places on Earth, and one of the most devastated. Here I was in this beautiful place with tears streaming down my cheeks. Whole mountaintops — steep, steep slopes — looked like some giant had shaved them. Up one side, around the top and down the other. Razed. Nothing left — nothing. This is what a clear-cut is. There is no replanting going on. Even if there was, how would the fragile tree roots hold on? The slopes are so steep, the first rain would wash them out. Red soils bleeding into streams and rivers, erosion, damage to salmon, livelihoods ruined. Earth raped.

While on the road next to Crescent Lake I watched logging trucks, loaded to the hilt with huge tree bodies (some so large only one log filled

Editor: Susan Meeker-Lowry

Contributors: Judith Hurley, Jamie Sayen

Special thanks to Paul Tibert and Adworks for donating the printing on this issue.



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the truck — all would be considered huge by New England standards) coming out of our so-called protected National Forest — one, two or even three in a row **every two or three minutes!** Constantly, the whole time I was driving on this road. It was unbelievable to me. Friends who live there tell me this happens every day. It is no exaggeration that these ancient forests will be gone in less than ten years.

The more gently sloped mountains are being treated like farms. There are the bare patches, the light green patches (maybe five years after planting), slightly darker and then very dark (there was very little dark green left). It is appalling to me that these fragile mountains are being treated like bean or corn fields. It is not possible to continue this kind of "farming" forever. The soils become depleted after one or two plantings, then the trees don't grow well and are useless for the economical reasons we are clear-cutting and mono-planting in the first place. There is no serious long-term planning, no basis in ecologically sound forest practices happening in the northwest forests.

- continued on Page 2 -

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The situation in British Columbia is even worse! A friend told me he drove for a whole day through just one clear-cut. A whole day! Imagine how much area this represents.

Even though I saw my first clear-cut in these mountains years ago, I am never prepared and my emotional reaction is totally involuntary. I cannot help it. I cry every time. To me, these forests are sacred. They should not be touched. The ancient trees, the old ones, speak to me. Unlike younger trees such as those here in New England, each individual old-growth tree is unique, has what I can only refer to as a personality that is tangible and real. Being in a grove of these ancient beings is unlike any other experience. I can only imagine what it would have been like to live in a time when these forests covered the land. Magic is here. The life of the forest, the scent of cedar, damp earth, moss, the way the light penetrates through the giant trees and glistens because of the ever-present moisture in the air. I am not separate from this. It all penetrates and moves through me. The chatter in my mind ceases (not a small feat, believe me!) and I know, without a doubt, why I am alive.

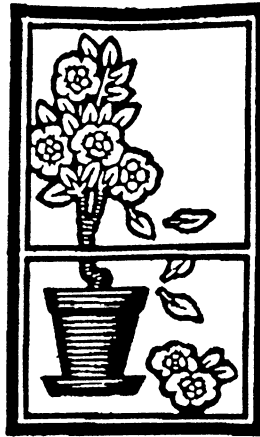
And we are destroying all this. We are destroying ourselves right along with it. I am grateful to the Earth First! warriors who build platforms high in these branches to defend these ancient being with their own lives. I am grateful every time I hear of friends sitting in front of bulldozers, getting arrested, halting, even for a day, the relentless road building, the constant cutting. I can hear the screaming of the trees as they fall. The pain is excruciating. It is part of me. I feel it in my body and my spirit aches.

Here in New England, where old growth is no more (except for a couple of tiny groves), our second and third growth forests are threatened. As this issue was going to press, our flight with Lighthawk pilot, Alex MacLean over the forests of Maine was completed. Although I wasn't able to go, Jamie Sayen, whose article on the fate of New England's northern forests in this issue's "Wealth of the Commons," was there. Even though he was aware that these lands, largely held by timber and paper companies, are being mismanaged (despite industry claims of the contrary), Jamie was unprepared for the miles of clear-cuts and virtual nonexistence of any replanting. "They are liquidating the forests," he told me after the flight. "We flew over places I've walked through, so I got to see the land from many perspectives. It's awful, just awful. I hope you have a strong stomach."

Forests are receiving much press lately, even New England's forests. (See *Sierra*, Sept/Oct, page 64). Threats are especially serious right now as the economics of timber/logging are causing companies to dump acres of land on the market. Land is gobbled up by greedy developers seeking to cash in on northern New England's relatively unsettled beauty. Acid rain and clear-cutting also threaten our lands. Everyone is concerned, yet people feel powerless to do anything since developers have money and conservationists and "just plain folks" don't.

What is the solution? Fundamentally, we need a new land ethic. We need to realize that the issue of landownership we are so fond of saying is the basic cause of rainforest destruction and exploitation of people in the Third World is the very same issue we have to face in the States. The road building we decry for the Amazon is just as bad, just as responsible for destruction here. Our focus on the financial bottom line, our attention only to short-term profits at the expense of the future must be transformed into truly valuing the Earth and the gifts we are given daily. There is very little time left for our forests! And, if we don't act now, the ancient ones will be gone even sooner!

- S.M.L.



CATALYST Notes

This expanded issue of **CATALYST** is the last in its familiar format. Beginning with the Winter issue, **CATALYST** will have undergone a face lift. We are fortunate to have talented graphic artists on our Board who have formed a team to create a "new" **CATALYST** that will be more visually appealing and easier to read. We are also designing a new logo and are even considering a paper change to enable us to use the recycled paper available to us here in Vermont. (We have been unable to obtain affordable, recycled gray paper, although we have tried.) As the founder and editor, I welcome these changes and sincerely hope you do, too.

CATALYST Needs Your Help

Enclosed in this issue of **CATALYST** is an order form for subscriptions, back issues, publications, posters and T-shirts (while they last). PLEASE use this form to renew your subscription, upgrade to member status or give gift subscriptions to friends, relatives or a local library. If each one of your gave one gift subscription we will have doubled our subscribers - not a small, or impossible, feat. If each one of you sends a \$10.00 tax deductible contribution to **CATALYST**, we will be able to hire a part-time researcher! If you send \$20.00, we can conduct a membership campaign. PLEASE HELP! We are counting on you!

Renewal Information: Please check your label. If the number between the * * is 0689 this is your last issue. RENEW NOW! If the number is 0989, the Winter issue will be your last. Renewing now saves **CATALYST** time and money - we won't have to send you any renewal notices.

Please note the special price for a complete set of available back issues (3 issues are out of print). For \$50.00 you will receive 24 issues of **CATALYST**. Since the newsletter has continuously been on the leading edge of change in areas concerning economics and the environment, the information is not out of date. Most of the projects included in **CATALYST** are still going strong! Order your set today before more issues become unavailable! (A great addition to Christmas gift subscriptions!)

What happened to the "Letters" section? Although we have received many letters since the last issue was mailed, most were supporting what we do, or asking for information. I see no reason to take up **CATALYST**'s limited space with letters saying "keep up the good work" (although we love to get these letters and we fully intend to "keep it up"). Unfortunately, this issue went to press so soon after the last issue was sent, not enough time elapsed for the "give and take" of subscriber correspondence. "Letters" will be back in the Winter issue, so send them in. I'm especially interested in your reaction to the environmental funds now available to investors and to any feedback on our Tribal Lands Conference from those of you who attended.

In ecology we speak of "wild systems." When an ecological system is intact, all the members are present at the assembly. To speak of wilderness is to speak of wholeness. Human beings came out of that wholeness, and to consider the possibility of reactivating membership in the Assembly of All Beings is in no way regressive.

- Gary Snyder, "The Etiquette of Freedom, *Sierra*, Sept/Oct, 1989

EARTH ISLAND

Journal

"Local News from Around the World"

Volume 5, Number 1

GREEN ENERGY

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Cover: Sea turtles come ashore during an arribada on the coast of Mexico.

EARTH ISLAND JOURNAL

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ebb & flow

Fishing for Forests

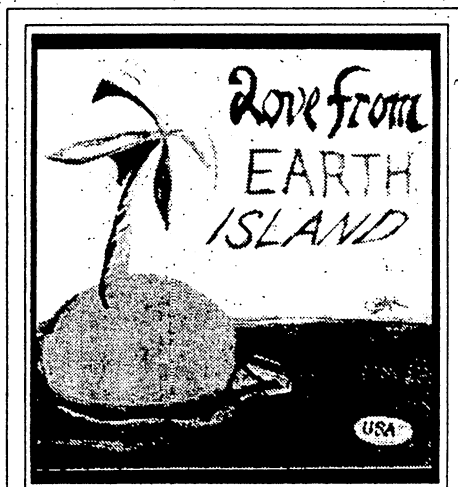
BRAZIL — In 1983, 180,000 hectares of Amazon rainforest were buried beneath the rising waters of the Tucuri dam. Now, *South* magazine reports, an enterprising former gold prospector named Juarez Gomez has found a way to harvest the 2.5 million cubic meters of timber that disappeared in the flooded valleys. Gomez is the inventor of the underwater chainsaw, a device capable of cutting trees at depths of 50 meters. Underwater logging should be cheaper since trees will rise instead of falling down and can be floated out instead of trucked. Cut at a cost of \$5.50 per cubic meter, the underwater mahogany is expected to bring \$900 per cubic meter on the West German market.

Going Dutch

THE NETHERLANDS — After Queen Beatrix recently declared: "The Earth is slowly dying, and the inconceivable — the end of life itself — is actually becoming conceivable," the Dutch government decided to spend an additional \$3.5 billion to combat acid rain, to solve the problem of waste disposal, and decrease pollution from cars and factories. The livestock population, which produces 20 million tons of manure and ozone-eating methane, will be reduced, "clean" vehicles introduced and energy-efficiency boosted.

Villages Suffer in Drug War

PERU — On June 20, 1989, in the coca-rich Upper Huallaga Valley, several villages were destroyed by aerial bombardment by Peru's Green-Beret-trained Special Operations Division forces. On July 6, the entire village of La Morada was reportedly destroyed in a similar assault. While US "War on Drugs" funds helped finance the attacks, the assaults were actually carried out by Soviet-supplied MI-25 "flying tank" helicopters. Meanwhile, back in the US, the House passed two bills on November 14. One required the president to impose sanctions on any nation that uses chemical or biological weapons. The second bill authorized \$125 million in "Drug War" funds for Bolivia, Colombia and Peru to be used, among other things, for chemical weapons to destroy coca crops.



This "Peace Tile" will soon become part of a Peace Wall in Moscow, part of an international effort by California artist Carolyn Marks. Earth Island is pleased to be a part of this project.

Asleep at the Switch

USA — A US Navy report uncovered by the *Victoria Times-Colonist* discloses that virtually every non-nuclear air and sea-launched missile in the US arsenal is unreliable and dangerous, thanks to a faulty \$16 firing control switch. The report claims this "potential serious hazard" is the fault of Asher Engineering Corp. of California which failed to properly test the switch during seven years of development. The *Times-Colonist* also elicited a stunning quote from a Canadian defense forces official who explained that Canada's refusal to require US ships to announce the presence of nuclear weapons on board during visits was designed not to thwart the Soviets as much as "overly zealous social concern groups."

Fir Wars

CHINA — The *China Daily* reports that ferocious battles raging between rival farming communities have caused tens of thousands of casualties. Over the past decade, 800 battles have erupted between the residents of Zhaotan and Boyang over the rights to cut the fir trees in a disputed forest. In the words of Vice Minister of Civil Affairs Zhang Dejiang: "Whoever gets [a piece of forest] can get rich. Whoever doesn't may continue in poverty."

Scott Free!

INDONESIA — Faced with international criticism, the US-based Scott Paper Company has abandoned plans for a \$660 million wood-chip and pulp plant in the forests of Irian Jaya. The project would have destroyed two million acres of rainforest and disrupted the lives of 15,000 Auwyu, Marind and Mandobo tribal people. "Indonesia has one of the worst human rights records in the world when it comes to tribal peoples," declared Survival International's Mary G. Hardman, "Now at least one threat has faded." The announcement came shortly after Survival International was awarded the 1989 Right Livelihood Award — the "alternative Nobel Prize."

Barging into the Amazon

ARGENTINA — The International Development Bank is considering plans to fund creation of an unprecedented 3400-kilometer water highway that would run from Buenos Aires through Paraguay and into Brazil's Amazon rainforest. The IDB reports that the Paraná-Paraguay Waterway is backed by officials in Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay and Argentina as a means to develop a "transportation backbone for the southern part of the continent." An IDB report claims the megaproject "will make possible regular barge traffic, with works such as dredging, removal of rock obstructions, protection of embankments, and improvements in port facilities, particularly in the upper portions of the rivers."

Grid Your Lines

ALASKA — R. Buckminster Fuller once argued that an international energy grid — substituting kilowatt-hours for gold and paper currencies — would mean "no problems anymore, no international problems." The concept may soon be put to the test. Plans are afoot to link England and France with a 2000-megawatt undersea cable and the Soviet Academy of Sciences is backing a plan to build an ultra-high voltage cable linking Siberia to Alaska. As Mark Skok of Global Energy Network International notes: "The Bering Strait is seen as the next logical step in connecting the two superpowers." [Thanks to *Journal* correspondent Larry Edwards in Sitka, Alaska.]

Innus Say No to NATO

CANADA — During the winter of 1988, four Innu Natives occupied a NATO base in Goose Bay, Labrador to protest low-level flights that had scattered the wildlife on which the Innu hunters rely for food. The occupation caused the halt of a NATO bombing practice and all four Natives were arrested. Now a Canadian judge has challenged not only the arrests but the whole concept that the British Crown "acquired magically, by its own declaration" title to the sovereign territories of the indigenous peoples. The four protesters have since been released from jail and the Innu are trying to obtain an injunction banning low-level flights.

Debt-Swap Diddly-Squat

BOLIVIA — What has happened in Bolivia since Conservation International arranged a much-heralded debt-for-nature swap intended to protect a 2.6 million-acre buffer around the Beni Biosphere Reserve? According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, as of July 1989, "not a single tree has been planted under the required reforestation program, but thousands of mahogany trees have been hacked down by Bolivian lumber companies." Meanwhile, the 25,000 indigenous dwellers of the Chimanes forest fear the new logging roads will open the forests to the same colonial pressures that are destroying the Amazon. The main market for Bolivia's 175 lumber companies? The USA.

Lumber Maquiladores

USA — Louisiana-Pacific, the nation's second-largest lumber company, with 14,000 employees, 1.5 million acres of forest holdings and \$1.8 billion in 1988 profits, has a plan to trim costs by moving its redwood processing operations to a Mexican fishing village where the average pay is \$3.50 a day. "They want our trees," complained California Assemblyman Dan Hauser, "but they don't want to pay the price to preserve jobs in northern California." LP says no jobs will be lost and that the redwood will simply be dried in sunny Mexico, turned into planter boxes, deck and lawn furniture and sold in southern California. LP's President, Harry Merlo, recently earned his place in history by saying he saw no need for conserving trees and adding: "We want it all — now!"

Auto-destruct for Lynx?

USA — In the winter of 1988, 18 Canadian lynx were transported from the Yukon for

release in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. The restoration effort is now on the ropes. One lynx was shot by a New Hampshire farmer 250 miles from its release site, another died of "unknown causes" and four others have been run down by speeding cars. "It looks like the automobile is going to be the lynx's major predator," a member of the restoration project told the *New York Times*. "It has the potential to threaten the project's success."

Conserving Gators

BOLIVIA — A government report warns that 10,000 square miles of forests and 70 percent of Bolivia's jungle species are in danger of extinction. West German Green Party deputy Jochen Breuer faults the "insatiable consumerism of Europe and the profits from contraband pelts" as largely responsible for the disappearance of Bolivia's jaguars, wolves and ocelots. In 1987, a 2000-strong population of the rare Bolivian black alligator was discovered on a private farm. By August 1989 only 250 remained. The landowners have offered to donate the survivors to a relocation program that plans to airlift the tranquilized reptiles in a helicopter convoy to the Beni Biological Reserve. This airborne gator brigade is to be sponsored by a German conservation group called *Aktionsgemeinschaft Artenschutz*.

Legal Fallout on Sellafield

GREAT BRITAIN — A legal precedent could be set in Britain where families, farmers and homeowners living near the Sellafield and Dounreay nuclear reprocessing sites are suing the government-owned facilities for financial and health damages. A tenfold increase of leukemias has been recorded around the Sellafield plant and a sixfold increase around Dounreay. While 25 Sellafield workers have won judgments for cancers contracted from working inside the plant, no one living near a UK nuclear facility has yet received compensation. Lawyer Martin Day, representing a number of West Cumbrian families' children stricken with leukemia, believes "we have a pretty reasonable chance of succeeding."

Where Was George?

THE NETHERLANDS — President Bush not only got cold feet on the matter of global warming, but the White House has also refused to sign The Hague Declaration calling for a dramatic strengthening of world law to deal with the global problem of air

pollution. The Hague Declaration, proposed on March 11, 1989, begins with the statement: "The right to live is the right from which all other rights stem. Guaranteeing this right is the paramount duty of those in charge of all States throughout the world." The original signatories include: the leaders of West Germany, Côte d'Ivoire, Australia, Egypt, Brazil, Spain, Canada, France, Hungary, Kenya, India, Malta, Indonesia, Norway, Italy, New Zealand, Japan, The Netherlands, Jordan, Senegal, Sweden, Venezuela, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. [The entire Declaration is posted on EcoNet. Topic 25 on the *worldfed.com* conference.]

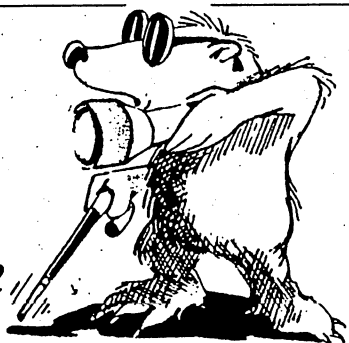
Nepal-ing Fashions

NEPAL — Pressure continues to build on the Nepal government to crack down on merchants selling the coats of endangered snow leopards to foreign tourists [Summer 1989 EIJ]. Several five-star tourist hotels have been directly involved in sanctioning this illegal trade, reports *Journal* investigator Larry Barnes. They are: Hotel de l'Annapurna, the Yak and Yeti, Hotel Everest Sheraton, Hotel Soaltee Oberoi and the Hotel Himalaya. Send letters to His Highness Prince Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah, The Royal Palace, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Green Team to Save Monarchs?

MEXICO — Two years ago, Mexican schoolchildren marched on the Presidential Palace to demand protection for the 100 million monarch butterflies that migrate 3700 miles from Canada and the USA to reproduce in the woodlands 60 miles from the Mexican capital. While the government pledged \$200,000 toward protection of the 20 monarch groves west of Mexico City, the threat of logging and fire continues. "We have laws that should protect the sanctuaries," environmentalist Homero Aridjis informed *Latin America Press* journalist Emil Zubryn, but "what the Ministry of Ecology protects, the Ministry of Agriculture destroys." The Mexican environmental organization, "Group of 100," has accused timber and paper companies such as *Resistol*, *Celulosa de Chihuahua* and *Protimbos* with indiscriminate logging. Meanwhile, forest fires set, in part, by peasants burning trees to produce charcoal, destroyed 300 acres of monarch habitat in 1989. The Group of 100 has called for the creation of an international environmental security force of scientists and ecologists to act with "zeal and efficiency [to guarantee]... the integrity of forest sanctuaries." — GS

The Eco Mole



Looking Back on 1989

Faux Green Follies. Green party victories were celebrated across Europe this fall but when Spain's "Los Verdes Ecologistas" won a seat in the European Parliament, Jürgen Maier, international secretary of *Die Grünen*, the German Green Party, cried foul. In a press release, Maier complained that Spain's officially-recognized Green party — the *Lista Verde* — had fallen victim "to the shameless deception of the electorate by the internationally operating psycho-sect of the 'Humanist Movement'." Humanist Party internal documents uncovered in Berlin revealed how the Humanists, created in Argentina by a shadowy figure named "Silo," decided in 1984 to expand recruiting operations abroad. "In many countries, they tried to infiltrate the Green movement and to set up organizations using the name 'Green'," *Die Grünen* charged. Internal documents labeled "Missione Berlino" revealed Berlin's Humanist Party organization was actually set up and directed by the Humanist Party in Italy. [*Die Grünen*, Colmanstraße 36, Postfach 1422, D-5300 Bonn, West Germany.]

More Eco Groups that Aren't. Michigan's CACC *Clearinghouse Newsletter* and the alternative paper *Agenda* have sounded an alert about the Southeastern Michigan Environmental Resource Association (SMERA) in Ann Arbor. SMERA, which had a habit of attacking its enemies as "self-proclaimed defenders of the environment," has some interesting affiliations. Two SMERA spokespersons were revealed to be employees of Gelman Sciences, Inc., the firm responsible for the state's worst contaminated clean-up site. SMERA's press officer turned out to be a retired Dow chemist and the group's address just happened to be identical to that of Gelman's lawyers.

The Mole's "Filthy Lucre Award" goes to the self-styled "Freedom Environmental Fund" (FEF) [1 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108] whose mission on Earth is described as: "Combining Socially Responsible Investing With a Dominant Growth Opportunity for the 1990s." In short, there's big

bucks to be made cleaning up the mess made by folks who already piled up big bucks by mucking up the environment. FEF speaks of the "restoration and renewal of the Earth's environment and ecology," and notes "the coming environmental mobilization could create the greatest growth industry the world has seen since the ascendancy of the US military-industrial complex...." In order to "save the planet and ensure the quality of life *as we know it*" [italics added], FEF hopes to promote a "new industrial revolution" that will "produce, deliver and implement these new methods and technologies." Minimum investment fee is \$1000. FEF is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Runner-up Award to former Environmental Protection Agency head William Ruckelshaus (now chief of Browning-Ferris Industries) whose 15-year-old environmental law firm, Beveridge & Diamond, has just opened an office in San Francisco. The firm's major clients so far: the Port of Oakland, Dow Chemical, Louisiana-Pacific and Simpson Paper, all of whom are involved in "clean-water litigation." *The Nation* reports that Ruckelshaus earns \$1 million a year at Browning Ferris and has stock options on as many as one million shares.

Those Little White House Lies. In May, 1989, the White House confirmed that it had censored the Congressional testimony of climatologist Dr. James T. Hansen to downplay his fears about global warming. In October, the *San Francisco Chronicle* revealed that federal scientists had been ordered to conceal findings on the environmental risks of off-shore oil drilling. In September, President Bush proclaimed before the United Nations his commitment to "halt and reverse" the production of chemical weapons. In October it was revealed that Bush had ordered the Defense Department to proceed with the manufacture of poison gas weapons. One reason the reversal caught so many (even the president's advisers) by surprise was that the poison gas decision was, in the words of the *Washington Post*, "developed outside normal channels."

Nuclear Shake and Bake? Following the October 17 earthquake in California, the nuclear power watchdogs with Ralph Nader's Public Citizen organization [215 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20003] began baying about how quakes could trigger meltdowns by cracking cool-

ing water pipes. Should any of California's six commercial reactors explode following a severe quake, evacuation routes along broken highways and freeways would be of little use. Meanwhile, the growing burden of used fuel rods stored "temporarily" in ponds outside nuclear plants have been packed into such tight proximity that a seismic rearrangement of their racking could trigger a fission reaction and explosion. In a conversation with The Eco-Mole, one Public Citizen researcher recalled a little-known Nuclear Regulatory Commission study (NUREG CR-49-82) that warned that the loss of water from a quake-ruptured storage pond could produce a spontaneous fire and radiation release comparable to the Chernobyl reactor explosion.

FEMA Foul-ups: Hurricane Hugo and the California earthquake were public relations disasters for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). One of FEMA's most embarrassing moments came when its Emergency Broadcasting System (EBS) failed during the quake. Fortunately, northern California radio and television stations got back on the air using back-up generators and succeeded in providing essential information from scores of roving reporters scattered over the region.

Perhaps the failure of the EBS was a blessing. Down in El Salvador, the EBS system was successfully activated after the start of the rebel offensive. The result? "Many people knew little of what was going on around them," wire services reported, because "the government ordered radio stations into a national network and took news programs off the air."

Mole Nips to: • President George Bush, who planted a tree from the White House lawn in Bismarck, the capital of North Dakota, thereby introducing the destructive Gypsy moth infestation into the state. • Miss America 1989 Debbye Turner, who aspires to be a veterinarian, defends vivisection and collects "surgical souvenirs" as a hobby. Turner's collection includes a glass paperweight containing two puppy fetuses. • Philip Morris Inc., maker of alcoholic drinks (Miller Brewing) and cigarettes for linking its products (in full-page ads) to the Bill of Rights, Human Rights Day, Thomas Jefferson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. • To IBM, the world's biggest user of ozone-eating CFC solvents, and the American Electronics Association, for publicly praising the international treaty to ban CFCs while privately lobbying against ozone-restricting Senate Bill 491.

Bulldozing Hawai'ian Rainforests to Fuel Development

by W. S. Merwin

HAWAII—The last tropical lowland rainforest in the United States is currently in danger of disappearing even more rapidly than the forests of South America and Southeast Asia. Lying on the flank of the sacred Kilauea river on the Big Island of Hawai'i, it is being smashed open and ground under by earth-moving machinery as you read these words.

The name of the forest is the Wao Kele O Puna. It begins a few miles above the old one-street town of Pahoa. When the bulldozers moved in on it in the autumn of 1989, it was no longer very large — some 27,000 acres. But it is the largest intact bit of lowland rainforest remaining in the Hawai'ian islands and it is unique. Aside from a few imported species that have established themselves around the edges the flora — much of it still unexplored — is composed entirely of native species that evolved on the Hawai'ian islands. The Wao Kele O Puna is the only place on the islands where native birds, wiped out everywhere else in the lowlands, have managed to survive and to develop immunity to the avian malaria epidemic that arrived with Europeans and the mosquito.

The Wao Kele O Puna, part of the "ceded lands" and legally dedicated to the use of the Hawai'ian people, was recently "swapped" by the State of Hawai'i for an adjoining parcel of disturbed land. [Nearly half of the 27,000 acres swap was covered by lava. Only 3200 acres were still forested.] The move was made without asking the consent of native Hawai'ians and was undertaken specifically to allow the invasion that will destroy the forest. The Wao Kele O Puna has supplied traditional practitioners of the Hawai'ian healing arts with medicinal plants since long before European contact and it has been important to native Hawai'ians culturally in a variety of other ways. If the land swap now being disputed in the courts is finally declared legal, the Hawai'ians will no longer have access to the forest for any purpose. But that will not matter, for the forest itself will soon cease to exist.

We have become familiar with the schemes, the gross rapacity, that continues to turn the rainforests of South America, Indonesia and Southeast Asia into smoking wastes. In Hawai'i the corresponding

Hawai'i resident W. S. Merwin is a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and translator.



This is not the Amazon. This devastation is taking place right now in the Hawai'ian rainforests.

plan is geothermal development. A small geothermal well was drilled outside Pahoa in the early '80s. The toxic gases and waste waters that were released destroyed all vegetation for some distance around, turning what had been forest into what looks like a chemical dump. Indeed, the fumes were so bad that the operation had to be closed down in 1989 and residents evacuated — even those who had managed to survive in the area until then.

That incident was a small preview of what was in store for Wao O Kele Puna. The current plan is to dig an initial series of about 20 geothermal wells inside the rainforest itself that will be several hundred times the size and output of the original experiment.

Relatively few people anywhere are aware that this destruction is going on

While there has been opposition to the wells within the islands, the developers at Pahoa moved ahead with the encouragement of US Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Gov. Waihee and other imposing figures. The official endorsers of geothermal development in Hawai'i maintain that it would be a major move toward rendering the state independent of imported fossil fuels, thus lowering the cost of electricity on the islands. Neither claim is true. The additional energy, if it were ever produced in dependable quantities, would unquestionably signal a further spate of building and tourist overdevelopment. Nor is it mere coincidence that another scheme, involving plans to stripmine the Pacific floor near Hawai'i for manganese

[Fall 88 EIJ], would require a considerable concentration of electricity if the ore were to be refined on the islands.

The electricity generated by well-head dynamos would be transported on a thousand nine-story-high towers. From the island of Hawai'i the power would be transmitted beneath the sea to Maui through oil-filled conduits at depths of up to 6000 feet; then on towers again across Maui and undersea to Waimanalo on Oahu. The oil-filled conduits have never been tested at such depths. Where the sea bottom shifts, an oil leak would rapidly become an oil spill from below.

Relatively few people anywhere are aware that this destruction is going on. The local papers have done little more than mention it. Other attempts to destroy the forests for short-term profits — logging tree ferns, turning trees into wood chips to burn as "alternate energy" to make electricity for Hawai'i and Japan — received grudging, limited coverage or none at all in the local press. The word had to be spread in other ways.

As of October, 1989, the first earth-moving machines began their initial gouge into the forest. They had a permit — of questionable legality — to bulldoze a few acres to begin a road. They proceeded to destroy considerably more than twice the area designated, razing a swath three miles long straight into the forest without any curves because of the length of the drilling rig they planned to bring in. When their trespass was brought to the notice of the authorities, the company was given a token fine. The great 'ohia trees were smashed, cut up and buried in crushed lava. The 'ie'ie vines that refuse to grow anywhere but in the forest withered and yellowed in the sun. The

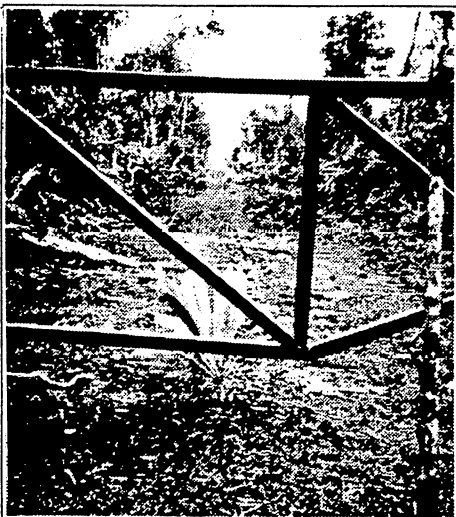
Green Energy

runoff rivulets were interrupted and filled with mud and weed seeds from the huge tires. Every mile or so a chemical toilet was installed beside the graphite-colored soil, and the forest began to smell accordingly. At the end of the road, an area the size of a parking lot was razed, crushed and dug out to make a basin that was then lined with black waterproof material — a vast, black, hollow unmade bed left to fill with water.

On October 7, a group of several hundred protesters from all the main islands, led by native Hawaiians of all ages carrying offerings, walked to the new iron gate. Police cars, hired guards: the Hawai'i Protective Association. A lawyer from a company named True Venture, operating out of Casper, Wyoming, told the Hawaiians that they would not be allowed to pass. They said the land was theirs. They were then told that they would not be prevented from proceeding, but would do so at their own risk. The ironies of the exchange seemed to pass unnoticed and the procession continued, past the guards, for three miles to the black-lined basin and the array of earth-moving machinery beyond it. One ancient 'ohia tree, on its own mound, had somehow been spared. Walking barefoot on the cinders, led by their chanters, the native Hawaiians climbed one by one past the machines and laid their offerings to the fire goddess, Pele, at the foot of this remnant, then turned and walked the three miles to the gate and out again.

The damage is already appalling, and much more is planned. The developers are currently trucking in water to fill the basin so that they can begin drilling before any injunction or legal control can delay them. They are counting on people not knowing what is going on until it is too late to stop it.

If you are coming to Hawai'i, consider



The gate intended to seal off Wao Kele O Puna

participating in demonstrations and vigils to call attention to what is happening. This is a rainforest that we can save if enough of us want to badly enough. But no amount of wanting by any number will be able to bring it back when it is gone. — WSM

The Need for Action is Urgent

The Pele Defense Fund believes this project must be stopped because the hydrogen sulfide that will be released by the several hundred proposed geothermal wells is 50 percent more poisonous than hydrogen cyanide, and will both destroy the biota and pose serious health risks for human beings. In addition, brine from the wells not only threatens to kill surface vegetation but could percolating down to contaminate the aquifer that is the island's lifeblood.

The proposed drilling site is on the side of an active volcano and there have been two major earthquakes in the last few years centered very near the proposed wells. The company's previous site, chosen because "there was minimal chance of geological disruption," was overrun by a lava eruption before drilling could begin.

On December 14 protest demonstrations were held on Honolulu and Maui. In the threatened Wao Kele O Puna forests, 39 activists were arrested following acts of civil disobedience. Released on bail, they returned to the forest where they were re-arrested and their bail quadrupled.

In a related demonstration, the Boulder Rainforest Action Group descended on the Casper, Wyoming offices of True Geothermal, the company behind the drilling, and hung a banner reading: "True, Get Out Of Hawai'i's Rainforest!" — GS

□ **What you can do:** Write to Hawai'ian newspapers, the Hawai'i County mayor, your congressional representative and the President to protest the destruction of the nation's last tropical lowland rainforest.

Star Bulletin, PO Box 3080, Honolulu, HI 96802; Honolulu Advertiser, PO Box 3110, Honolulu, HI 96802; Hawai'i Tribune Herald, PO Box 767, Hilo, HI 96721; West Hawai'i Today, Box 789 Kailua Kona, HI 9674; Major Bernard Akana, 25 Apuni St. Hilo, HI 95813; Sen. D. Inouye, Hilo Lagoon Center, 101 Apuni St., #205, Hilo, HI 96720; President Bush, DC, 20500.

Send donations to: Rainforest Action Group, C-PO Box AB, Kutistown, HI 96760. To join the non-violent blockade of the drill site, contact: Pele Defense Fund, PO Box 404, Volcano, HI 96785; (808) 935-1663.

Saving Power Can Save Forests

SAN FRANCISCO (*Rainforest Action Network*) — According to a recent report by Robert J. Mowris, a professional engineer and energy consultant with the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in Berkeley, California, improved energy efficiency in buildings, industry and transportation is the most cost-effective way for Hawai'i to reduce its dependence on oil imports. Energy efficiency can reduce electricity use in Hawai'i by almost 50 percent and reduce oil imports by 30 percent.

Hawai'i is now on the verge of mortgaging its future to a huge, risky, and very expensive geothermal project. The facility will cost about \$600-900 million to build and the accompanying undersea cable will likely add another \$500 million. Final costs are estimated between \$1-4 billion. The risk is significant since the geothermal resource will be depleted if anything larger than five megawatts (MW) of power is extracted.

At the world's largest geothermal power field — the Geysers, in northern California — steam pressures have already dropped 20 percent. When the site was opened it was assumed that the geothermal resources could support 3000 MW of power but now 400 MW of capacity is standing idle. In recent years, steam has been removed faster than it can be replaced.

At least 17 other states have adopted least-cost planning strategies. Eight more are currently evaluating similar guidelines. The New England Electric System will invest \$65 million per year to meet 35-57 percent of its total electricity needs for the next 20 years. It will accomplish this by using currently available efficiency improvements.

California's building and appliance efficiency standards have saved ratepayers billions of dollars and reduced per capita electricity use by 34 percent from 1978 to 1988. Per capita use in Hawai'i increased ten percent during this same period.

At 14-28 cents/kilowatt-hour (kWh) geothermal power is very expensive. Meanwhile a 400 MW solar plant being built for Southern California Edison by the Luz company, the world's leading developer of commercial solar thermal electric power plants, promises to produce power for less than nine cents/kWh.

The geothermal project and undersea cable do not make economic sense. A state-wide energy-efficiency program can cut Hawai'i's electricity use in half for much less than the cost of the proposed geothermal power project. — GS



City of Cambridge

19.

IN CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR CYR

February 12, 1990

- WHEREAS: Global deforestation is threatening all life on earth. Deforestation contributes as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as all fossil fuels, resulting in global warming and irreversible climate changes; and
- WHEREAS: Forest destruction kills entire living systems, not only trees, which is resulting in massive extinctions of our fellow inhabitants on earth. Where once lived complex systems millions of years in the making now stand the equivalent of warscapes unable to support any life; and
- WHEREAS: Forests are essential to the health and life supporting ability of earth. Their destruction is the equivalent to a war on life. Saving the forest is saving ourselves; and
- WHEREAS: At current rates there will be no more rain forests anywhere on earth in twenty years; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: Because of the urgency of this situation we the members of the Cambridge City Council demand that there be no more cutting of old growth forests anywhere on the planet. We support the maintenance of the wildness in nature where ever it remains and we insist that a major effort be launched to restore damaged areas to some semblance of wildness and to protect forests in the process of regeneration (for example the forests in New England); and therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager develop a policy to insure that no city agency or department buy or acquire furniture or furnishings made from such hardwoods; and be it further
- ORDERED: That the Committee on Environment investigate ways that we can discourage or ban the commercial exploitation of old growth forests by individuals or entities doing business within our community; and be it further
- ORDERED: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President, the Secretary of the Interior, members of the Massachusetts Legislative Delegation, the Governor, and appropriate State Officials.

In City Council February 12, 1990.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

Joseph E. Connarton

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.



City of Cambridge

19.

IN CITY COUNCIL

February 12, 1990

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City Council FEB. 12 1990

Adopted by the City Council by a vote of

8 members

Joseph E. Conant

Order # 19 5-119

Councillor Cyr re: global deforestation.

In City Council,

February 12, 1990

Order accepted
& referred to the
Environment Committee
Copy sent to Environment
Committee 2/14/90 (dc)