Fall 1993

The Planet, 1993, Fall

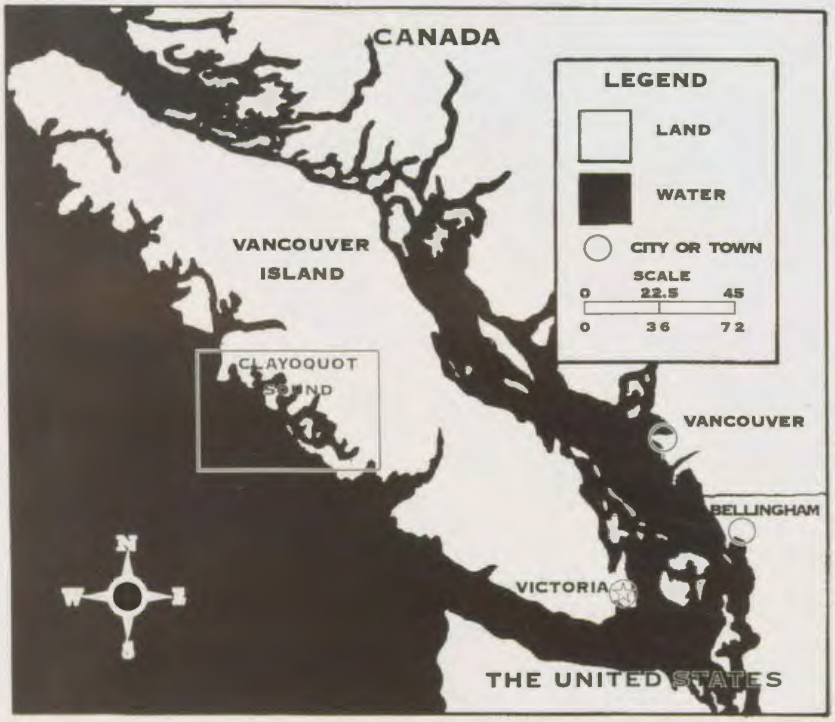
Derek Martin
Western Washington University

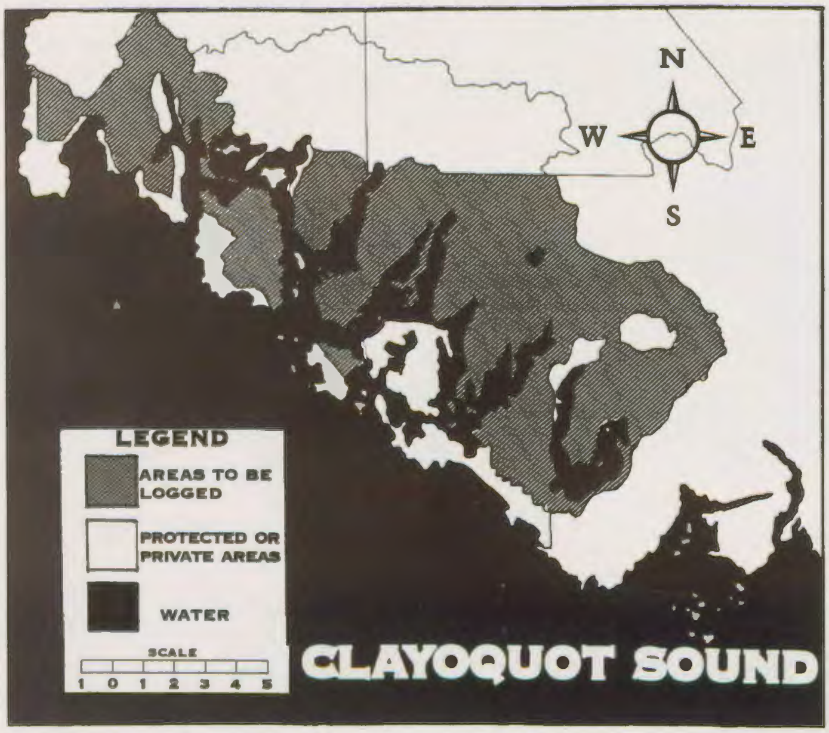
Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University

THE PLANET

FALL 1993

CLAYOQUOT COMPROMISED





PLANETEERS:

LAWRENCE BERGQUIST is majoring in graphic design. His cartoons have appeared in the *Fishwrapper* and the *Western Front.*

BARBARA BORST is majoring in Environmental Policy and Assessment at Huxley.

GREG HEFFRON recently completed a self-designed major at Fairhaven focused on creative writing, literature, and moral philosophy.

RICHARD LAW is a graduate student in creative writing and teaches English 101 at Western. He plans to complete a Ph.D. in writing and hopefully pursue life in his spare time. He is also fond of breathing, and hence, trees.

MARK LEHNERT is majoring in Enviromental Policy and Assesment at Huxley.

DARREN NIENABER is taking a double major: Environmental Policy and Assessment and Management. He intends to be an environmental consultant and a writer, and to ride his motorcycle around North America.

MICHAEL D. RAYTON is a Huxley student majoring in Environmental Science He spends most of his free time hiking in the Pasayten and North Cascades or in the darkroom.

BRIAN DAVIS REEVES is a Creative Writing major who tries to "sieze the day" whenever his schedule permits.

ANTHONY J. SCOTTI is a biology student majoring in Terrestrial Ecology and minoring in both Chemistry and Geology. He plans to study Biophysics in graduate school at the University of Washington.

MICHAEL WEWER is taking a self-designed major in Environmental History and Photojournalism. Through writing and photography he hopes to stir people's awareness of nature.

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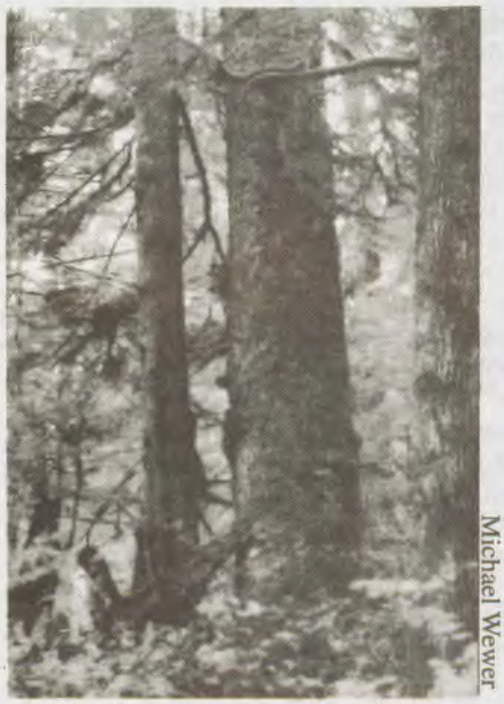
EDITOR:
Derek Martin

PHOTO EDITOR:
Michael Wewer

ILLUSTRATOR:
Lawrence Bergquist

ADVISOR:
Michael Frome



Michael Wewer

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Michael Rayton

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DEREK MARTIN

SWEATERS, SUITS, AND A MEDIA WAR

The first time I went to Clayoquot I was a kid, camping in the natural hollow beneath a canopy of windswept spruce, spending days scrambling up, down, and across, gray-white sand beaches, and through tangled brush and roots of cedar swamps. I spent days looking among piles of driftwood logs for Japanese glass floats and other artifacts from across the Pacific. The land and the trees leaned peculiarly back from gentle waves; the rocks were scarred, and chiseled. My curiosity piqued; the weather was warm, the wind barely breezing, the waves hardly waving. But of course, it was July.

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Each day the Friends sent up to a hundred of us with raingear, garbage bags, a logger-sized lunch, and a plan: Get from point A to point B and clean, clean, clean. The fun came in the evenings. We would all come back to Tofino and go to the Common Loaf Bakery with the locals — fishermen, First Nation's People, foresters, naturalists, and all people in-between who were brought together by a common cause. The oil was attacking their home, and they wanted to fight back. The oil unified them; it was a common, visible enemy.

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The streets were the front lines between two distinct groups — loggers drove around with yellow ribbons on their windows, yelling as they drove by the wool-clad, bearded people sitting outside the bakery, who yelled back. Visitors like us watched in amazement, but we were not pulled in. Both sides acknowledged our presence with lowered voices and looks in other directions. We began by seeking out the field headquarters — The Friends, The Clayoquot Biosphere Project, MacMillan Bloedel (the logging company with most of the logging rights to the sound).

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Logging companies have gone one step further by instigating logging preservation groups such as Share B.C. and the Forest Alliance of B.C., and each of these groups has their own fashions and agendas. Thus the state of the day is alienation — all factors seem to lead to polarization. Or do they? We went to a protest on a logging road where sixty-five business people showed up in business wear. The hundreds of people protesting

Courtesy of the Greater Ecosystem Alliance

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Even though I am obviously biased, it isn't to say that this magazine is so. Our plan is to expose the issue, its left and right, its interior and exterior. We are not against logging per se, the recycled pulp in this magazine is from a tree, as is my desk, my walls, bed, firewood, toilet paper, cabin, graduation certificate . . ., yet we do have the bias of wanting to understand our biosphere and our roles in it so we can attempt to sustain life as well as lifestyles. To accomplish both, I suspect, we need also to sustain the last of our great forests.

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Michael Wewer

GREG HEFFRON

A CLAYOQUOT PRIMER:
Introducing the Issue

I'd heard of Clayoquot Sound only once before I began my research for this article. On a picnic last June, a Canadian friend told me stories which I half-absorbed. The government allowed logging in the remaining old-growth forests; hundreds of protesters had been arrested; this was the last big section of ancient forest on Vancouver Island.

I listened in the way you listen to terrible stories that seem far away. My mouth hung open — a mute receptacle for this confusing stream of people, places, and corporate acronyms. Periodically, I felt the need to speak, but I knew nothing and could only mutter, "You're kidding me," or "That's terrible," or "Everything's so messed up."

Luckily, you don't have to be as inarticulate as I was, this article is meant as a primer to the issue. The Klutz's guide to Clayoquot. It will hopefully give you a basic knowledge of the conflict, and the vocabulary to ask further questions.

Clayoquot Sound (pronounced Klack-wat) is located on the West coast of Vancouver Island, where Highway Four ends in the small fishing/tourist community of Tofino. The steep hillsides, inlets, and many islands of the sound contain the largest continuous section of old-growth rainforest in North America: approximately

CLAYOQUOT TIMELINE

1950's — Macmillan Bloedel gains tree farm rights for Clayoquot Sound from government. For a 100 year lease Mac-Blo paid aprox. $30,000 for the rights to 92% of the harvestable timber.

1985 — Tla-o-qui-aht Nation gains court injunction preventing logging on Meares Island until native lands claims can be resolved.

Late 1980's — Share B.C, a coalition of loggers, begins with grants from Macmillan-Bloedel. With its advocacy of continued logging, Share rapidly gains membership.

Fall 1989 — The Clayoquot Sound Sustainable Development Steering Committee (CSSDSC) forms with the goal of reaching consensus among the diverse interests in Clayoquot Sound.

Spring 1991 — two members of CSSDSC resign to protest the continued logging of disputed areas. Also worst year ever for B.C. logging companies, with net losses of $869 million. 6,000 jobs are cut.

Fall 1992 — Three years after its start, CSSDSC folds, having reached no consensus.

Feb, 1993 — B.C. Government buys 2.1 million shares in the Macmillan-Bloedel logging company at $19.63 each. Total cost: $41,223,000.

April 13 — Government finalizes Clayoquot decision: 66% of Clayoquot Sound will be open to logging.

April 22 — B.C. Land Commissioner Stephen Owen asks for government inquiry into possible conflict-of-interest.

June 2 — Government announces that the Commission on Resource and Environment (CORE) will not oversee logging practices in Clayoquot — but does get to help create the committee that will.

June 12 — B.C. Government spends $65,000 for European press to tour Clayoquot.

June 18 — B.C. Government mails 8-page newspaper explaining the Clayoquot Compromise to 1.1 million households.

July 1 — The Friends of Clayoquot Sound open their Peace Camp to house protesters and other visitors.

July 5 — The Friends of Clayoquot Sound hold their first Summer blockade at Kennedy Bridge.

July 15 — Midnight Oil plays for a crowd of 3000 at Friends of Clayoquot Peace Camp.

July 29 — Robert Kennedy Jr., environmental lawyer with the Natural Resources Defense Council, comes to Clayoquot to visit with native leaders.

Aug. 9 —Out of 1000 protesters, 272 are taken in mass arrest at a Friends of Clayoquot blockade. Also, the head of the government inquiry, B.C. Court of Appeals Judge Peter Seaton, rules that the B.C. government is not guilty of conflict-of-interest.

Aug. 15 — There are4,000 members of Share B.C. flock to the town of Ucluelet to rally in support of the logging industry.

Sept. 11 — Indigenous leaders from Nuu-chah-nulth, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Lummi Nations, as well as speakers from Western Canada Wilderness Committee and the Commission On Resource and Environment, gather at Fairhaven College to speak about the issues.

Sept. 23 — The arrests of protesters tops 700.

Oct. 14 — The first protesters, a group of 43, are sentenced to 45-day prison sentences and fines of $1500-$2500. One man — a physician from Tofino with a previous conviction for protesting — gets a 60-day sentence and $3000 in fines.

Oct. 17 — Friends of Clayoquot Sound dismantle Peace Camp for the Winter.

Nov. 5 — Environmental groups make public a letter from the B.C. Forests Ministry to Mac-Blo. This letter, sent in mid-August, chastized the logging company for its "low level of compliance" with fish-forestry guidelines.

Nov. 9 — B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt announces new forest practices code. In Clayoquot Sound, Greenpeace holds high-profile protest at Kennedy Bridge where four protesters cement their hands inside huge concrete blocks. Among those arrested are Greenpeace chairpersons from Austria, Germany, and the U.S.

Nov. 11 — Greenpeace inflates 40 foot mock chainsaw in downtown Vancouver, blocking all six lanes of Georgia street. In Germany, forty Clayoquot protesters chain themselves to the Canadian embassy.

Nov 14 — It is discovered that Mac-Blo mistakenly logged a preserved area of Clayoquot.

620,000 acres (larger than the state of Rhode Island). The only stand of old-growth larger than Clayoquot lies in the infamous rainforests of Brazil -- though British Columbia is gaining it's own infamy. Parallels in forestry practices have prompted the environmental media to label B.C., "Brazil of the North."

Small groups have tried to preserve Clayoquot Sound from logging since the 1970's. But the forest remained mostly untouched until the mid-1980's when Macmillan-Bloedel (Mac-Blo) — the corporation with the rights to 92 percent of the usable timber in Clayoquot — decided to move on their investment. Meares Island, traditional home of the 450-member Tla-o-qui-aht Tribe, was among the areas to be logged by Mac-Blo. In accordance with First Nation's people's land-rights legislation, the tribe gained a court injunction to halt logging on the island until their land claims could be considered.

This court injunction (still pending) seems to mark the beginning of the current period of negotiation and conflict.

Through the late eighties, small protest blockades were held by the grassroots organization, Friends of Clayoquot Sound (previously known as Friends of Mears Island), in the attempt to block the construction of logging roads in the Sulfur Pass region. Located in the town of Tofino, this organization would later capture international media attention with their 1993 protests.

This period also brought about the organization of Share B.C., an organization of loggers and their families dedicated to preserving the existence of the forest industries, and thereby their way of life. In an industry that cut over 20,000 jobs in the last three years, and had its worst financial year ever in 1991, it's not surprising to find that this group gained 33,000 members in its first three years.

In the Fall of 1989, the government organized a commission to decide the land-use for the Clayoquot region. Entitled the Clayoquot Sound Sustainable Development Steering Committee, this commission was created at the urgings of the citizens of Tofino and included representatives from logging companies, local towns, Indian nations, and environmental organizations. However, trying to gain consensus among such diverse interests proved too formidable. In the Fall of 1992 — after three stormy years of deliberation, many different plans sketched out and examined, and after two environmental representatives resigned in protest of continued logging during the negotiations — the CSSDSC disbanded.

The Winter of 1993 was an unnerving time. Now that the CSSDSC had folded, how would the decision be made? One option would be to allow CORE (Commission On Resource and the Environment) — a new committee created by B.C.'s Premier, Mike Harcourt, to address environmental disputes in the province — to add Clayoquot to its agenda. Many environmental groups felt this to be a logical step.

The Harcourt government, however, decided that

throwing Clayoquot into another long deliberation process was a waste of time and money. In April, the government made its decision, the "Clayoquot Compromise," public: 33 percent of the area of Clayoquot would be off-limits to logging; clear-cutting would be allowed in approximately 45 percent; and the remainder would be open to alternative logging practices, such as selective logging that uses helicopters to carry out the felled timber. Macmillan-Bloedel accepted the decision, environmental groups did not.

Adding to the controversy was the B.C. government's investment in Macmillan-Bloedel. Just weeks before the April decision, the Harcourt government bought shares in Mac-Blo worth over $41,000,000 — thereby making the government the largest shareholder. Charges of conflict-of-interest were immediately raised once the decision had been made public.

On August 9, B.C. Court of Appeals judge Peter Seaton pronounced the government not guilty of conflict-of-interest. He concluded that the government department which made the investment was not aware of the pending decision regarding Clayoquot.

Large-scale protests began in July, when the Friends of Clayoquot Sound began its blockades of the logging road at Kennedy Bridge. Their Peace Camp, located in a nearby clearcut known as "The Black Hole," housed and fed anyone who came to see the sound, and offered a homebase for protesters.

International attention rose. Representatives of the European green parties toured the area, vowing to work for boycotts of Canadian paper products. On July 15, the popular Australian band Midnight Oil played a 6:00 am protest concert at the Peace Camp, which drew a crowd of over 3,000. And on July 29, Robert Kennedy Jr. — son of the late senator and presidential candidate, and himself an environmental lawyer for the Washington D.C. based Natural Resourse Defense Council — made his most recent visit to Clayoquot (he has been to Clayoquot several times over the years, once writing a special report for the Vancouver Sun) and met with the leaders of the Tla-o-qui-aht Indian Nation.

Share B.C. was active as well. On a day in mid-August, loggers from across B.C. traveled in huge caravans of logging trucks to the community of Ucluelet. They rallied in the town school yard to show their support of "The Clayoquot Compromise." The gathering was estimated to have over 4,000 participants.

Meanwhile, the government pursued various ways to repair its credibility. On June 12, the Harcourt government spent $65,000 on a tour of Clayoquot for European journalists. On June 18, an eight-page newspaper explaining the Clayoquot Compromise was sent to 1.1 million households in British Columbia.

The government also made its position clear in other ways. Arrests of protesters began with the very first blockade, accompanied every protest, and continues to the present. In early August, at a rally of over 1,000, two hundred and seventy-two protesters were arrested in one day.

But while arrests were an expected hazard of protesting, the seriousness of the charges came as a surprise. Felony charges of criminal contempt of court were levied against all arrested protesters and when the hearings finally took place in October, those convicted faced jail sentences of 45-60 days and fines of $1000-$2500, as well as a criminal record that prevents foreign travel (even to the U.S.), government employment, and other benefits that citizens often take for granted.

So what has changed through all of this? The weather has deteriorated and the Peace Camp is dismantled for the winter. Regular protests continued, albiet on a smaller scale -- smaller, until Greenpeace stepped in in mid-November with several high-profile protests in Clayoquot, Vancouver, and at Canadian embassies elsewhere in the world.

In late-October, the national elections left Jean Chretien as the new Canadian Prime Minister. Loggers, environmentalists, and businessmen looked to this man who had made promises during his campaign to make Clayoquot into a National Park. Soon after the elections, though, Chretien decided the government would not be able to give any funding to the project.

Meanwhile, the logging continues, unhindered except by the rain and wind which come with the season. Trucks, ferrying great stacks of ancient cedar, roll down the mountain-sides. Chainsaws buzz, cough, whine. Trees fall.

But though the situation in Clayoquot Sound seems unchanged, I have seen some difference, if only in myself. I am no longer totally ignorant of these struggles on the other side of our Northern border. And though I might need to look at a map to study foreign geography, every new snippet of information shows me that such hot spots as Brazil, Indonesia, Thailand, and British Columbia are not so far away as I might think.

ANTHONY J. SCOTTI

THE CLAYOQUOT ECOSYSTEM

Clayoquot Sound has everything. It is not just a collage of organic life divided into separate systems, but a complete ecosystem where organisms depend on other organisms. Life on every level — insects, Black Bears, Basking Sharks, and Marbled Murrelets — all interact and contribute to one of the last great wild areas of North America.

The study of this ecosystem is the forte of a non-profit, community-based organization called the Clayoquot Biosphere Project (CBP). They are located in Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The group's primary goal is to understand and document Clayoquot Sound's temperate rain forest ecosystem by compiling scientistific data, and to protect Clayoquot Sound from industrial degradation by, as CBP biologist Jim Darlin puts it, "creating a vision for the future of Clayoquot Sound based on ecosystem conservation". The CBP's ultimate goal is for the region to be internationally recognized with United Nations Biosphere Reserve status.

Neville Winchester, a University of Victoria entomologist, designed a project that compares insects in five Sitka Spruce trees with insects found in neighboring clearcuts. He is working with the CBP and his findings show that the region is home to insects that are unique only to old-growth temperate rainforests, of which there are few left.

Winchester explained, "Since we really have no understanding of the full range of insect species that inhabit the rainforest, and since we have absolutely no idea how the ancient temperate rainforest ecosystem works, the last thing we should be doing is liquidating our last large intact watersheds. If we log the last remaining ancient temperate rainforests, we will make extinct hundreds of species of lifeforms that are unique to that old-growth environment, many of which we haven't yet identified."

When I was in Tofino recently, I met Kumar Biswas, a biologist working with the CBP. Kumar has a B.Sc. Degree from the University of Dalhousie, Halifax, and his thesis was on the study of Black Bear habitat in Labrador. He is currently studying the evolutionary process of Black Bears within Clayoquot Sound. Kumar has also initiated other programs to collect data on roles animals such as the cougar, marten, and mink provide in this temperate rainforest ecosystem. This information will assist to build up the CBP's information base. Kumar stated, "Before (the CBP), there was no way current disturbances or ecological events could be documented within the area. We act as a huge data base for educational, political, and conservation programs,"

Courtesy of the Greater Ecosysten Alliance

Vancouver Island's Black Bear population is approximately 18,000. The large population makes it easy to observe and is easily compared and contrasted to other research. Another reason behind his study of Black Bears is that the gene pool - the number of individuals in a population - is relatively large, thus maintaining a healthy population. If the Black Bear population was smaller and more isolated because of natural disasters or human intervention, then it would unlikely be representative of the original population's genetic makeup - a situation known as the bottleneck effect. In essence his study can be better achieved by leaving the bear its natural habitat.

BY CLEARCUTTING CLAYOQUOT SOUND'S TEMPERATE RAINFOREST, WE ARE DESTROYING A NATURAL SYSTEM THAT WE DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND

The Basking Shark, along with another endangered animal, the Marbled Murrelet, are not as fortunate as the

Black Bear. The Basking Shark (Cetorhinus maximus) is rather sluggish and obtained its name from its habit of lying tranquily on the surface with its dorsal fin exposed. Their vertebrae are partly calcified, unlike other sharks with cartilaginous skeletons, keeping them more buoyant for surface feeding. Jim Darling, a marine biologist, studying the Basking Shark started photo-identifying this fish, which grows to lengths of 30 to 45 feet. Dr. Darling began his studies in 1992 and had photo-identified twenty-six individual sharks last year, yet this summer he was less successful. The difference in shark sightings is not known, but he thinks it might be due to unprecedented warm water in the area. One reason that Basking Sharks are hard to observe is because they're plankton feeders and travel to the area of greatest plankton density, and plankton migrates from the lower depths by day to the water surface by night. This could also account for the Basking Shark's routine appearance at dusk and dawn.

Dr. Darling believes that the individuals he is studying are a remnant population from Barkley Sound, a nearby area. In the 1940s and 50s the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans declared the Basking Shark a hazard to the salmon industry because they easily became entangled in fishing nets. The Basking Shark was then systematically eradicated by ramming them with giant steel knives attached to the bow of fishing boats. Although the oil obtained from its large liver was used for oil lamps back in the 1800s, these sharks do not occur regularly enough for commercial importance. Now, the Basking Shark, which once flourished throughout the Pacific Rim's coastline, resides only in isolated pockets around the world, and although they are not still being rammed, they are still unprotected.

An even more endangered animal is the Marbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus), a hawk-sized seabird. This species is found throughout the North Pacific ranging from Kamchatka in northeastern Russia to Japan, from the Aleutian Islands to as far as Southern California. The Marbled Murrelet does not nest in colonies, but in small groups, usually on steep slopes in tundra and alpine habitats. The birds often feed on both freshwater and saltwater fishes, and then nest in old growth forests such as Clayoquot Sound. Only about eight nest sites have been found; two in Siberia, four in the United States, and two in Clayoquot Sound (Megin River area) by the CBP found in the summer of 1993.

John Kelson, working for Conservation International Canada, surveyed the Clayoquot Sound region for the Marbled Murrelet and counted 2,880 individuals, approximately half the 4,500 birds counted in 1982. This rapid forty percent reduction could be from numerous reasons such as oil spills, fishing nets, and unfavorable weather. However, the most logical reason for the decrease in the murrelet population is the decline in natural habitat. Roughly 23 percent of Clayoquot Sound has been clearcut since June of this year.

The Black Bear, the Basking Shark, and the Marbled Murrelet are but three species in Clayoquot Sound's diverse ecosystem. A recent statistic shows that approximately 1,400 species might be lost in temperate rainforests due to rapid clearcutting, and scientists predict that over 2,000 additional species of insects could be discovered, yet their habitat is decreasing rapidly, and is being replaced by stagnant clearcuts and domesticated tree farms. This ecosystem cannot possibly cope with increasing pressures from outside agencies to harvest one of the last great frontiers. By clearcutting Clayoquot Sound's temperate rainforest, we are destroying a natural system that we do not fully understand. However, we do know that some life won't be able to adapt or sustain themselves in man-made environments.

The value of this rainforest goes far beyond the economic and monetary sums of paper, wood, and pulp. There is still much we can learn from this ecosystem to inspire, inform, and possibly even cure the sick of our society. Our stand for preserving the last few, isolated temperate rainforests can still be accomplished... ***if*** we start now.

Michael Wewer

Fishboats in Tofino.

MICHAEL WEWER

DUTCH

Dutch suddenly cut the motor, leaned back, and pulled out a package of Drum. Even while the skiff shifted back and forth in the water, he calmly rolled and sealed the cigarette, lit it up, and took a puff, followed by a raspy cough. With his black fisherman's cap, sweater as rugged as his beard, and gold hoop earrings, he was a photographer's dream. I couldn't let the opportunity go.

I had come to Clayoquot Sound to shoot pictures of Meares Island, to capture the mood and magic of the giant cedars in the primeval forest. I first thought of Dutch only as a means to get to Meares, but during the day we spent together I realized that he was as much a part of the sound as the old-growth forests.

We traveled in his skiff, *Salty*. She was about twelve feet long, a little small for the eight *Planet* staff members balanced on her three benches, but she felt seaworthy enough. Out from Tofino we skimmed among whirlpools. Dutch concentrated on the running tide. He leaned over and asked me why I wanted to go to Meares and when I explained he yelled over the motor, "That's great! We need people from the States to see what's at stake here – what we have to gain and lose."

In the beginning I really didn't know where he stood on the controversy. But there was no mistaking his sense of belonging and caring. He leaned toward me and yelled, smiling, "Last week I took over twenty people to the island." I could tell that this was more than business; he wanted people to see and feel the spirit of this particular place, and bring it home with them.

I shot my rolls of film on Meares, and when he returned I asked him if I could take a picture of him and *Salty*. He smiled and said, "Okay." We headed back to Tofino and he agreed to join me for a coffee at the Common Loaf Bakery (a favorite hangout I highly recommend). I asked for his viewpoint on logging the sound. Dutch perched like a crow on the bench across from me, took a drag from his cigarette, and spoke in his thick brogue:

"Last summer the logging community drove trucks filled with trees through our community. I was the first to stand in the road and block the trucks. I would not budge, and soon others joined me.

"A lot of fishermen and loggers are good friends here, but they're split over the issue. Neighbors and friends have become estranged. Some in the community see the logging as a benefit, but for me it's only in the short term. We have three main industries – logging, fishing, and tourism – but logging will definitly affect the other two and our lifestyle. There are few places left like this," he sweeps his cigarette to signify the sound all around us, "that are this beautiful. We can't afford to have it destroyed."

I sipped my coffee, listening. Suddenly two small boys ran up shouting, "Dutch, Dutch." Dutch pulled them onto his lap and went on speaking. "I want these two to enjoy the sound as much as I have."

Michael Wewer

Michael Wewer

MICHAEL D. RAYTON

KENNEDY RIVER CROSSING. FIRST QUARTER MOON. OCTOBER 22, 1993

Michael Rayton

All you can see of Pacific Rim National Park is darkness. A lone van, the first vehicle in hours, passes in the other direction.

Okay, check the camera. Film loaded? Fresh batteries? Does the flash work? Dry chamois and extra film in your pocket? Stash the camera bag. Yo! Watch out for that hole in the road! More cars, including the lone van, suddenly come into view. The newly rebuilt Kennedy River bridge, now impervious to fire, silently spans the river in a heavy cloak of darkness.

The summer blockades at the Kennedy River crossing

LOGGERS, HURLING INSULTS FROM PASSING COMPANY VANS, SPREAD A NUMBING CHILL THROUGHOUT THE MUTED, RAIN SOAKED CROWD

have been intense. RCMPs arrested seven-hundred-fifty-plus. Something will happen soon; you feel the urgency.

People milling about futilely don ponchos, blankets, rubber boots, rain flies, sheets of plastic, garbage bags and umbrellas. You lend a Gore-Tex jacket. Headlights and flashlights illuminate accumulating puddles. A large, chartered tour bus arrives. Victoria business people, 70 strong, step into the road and join the

assembling crowd. The intensity grows; cars continue arriving.

Judicial monkeywrenchers identify themselves to the cheers of the surrounding circle while the Friends encourage nonviolence and restraint. A single drum marks the passing of time.

The darkness suddenly collapses; lights rush in from all sides. Bright lights, ruining night vision and illuminating faces for corporate video tape, eerily float about in the assembling melee. You flash your own camera; you cannot complain.

The authoritative posse leisurely arrives. RCMPs run point for brigades of bureaucrats, corporate executives and the chainsaws that will soon follow. A screeching loudspeaker, mounted on the hood of an orange 3/4-ton utility truck, broadcasts the court injunction. The now-soggy legal document, unprotected from the rain, wilts in the Mac-Blo lawyer's hands. Everyone quietly endures.

Woolywarm people crackle with energy and sing songs of strength and empowerment. The posse brandishes threats of criminal arrest, court appearances, fines and jail sentences to those who defy the injunction. Acquiescing, the crowd moves aside, exposing eleven defenders-of-wild-places standing stoically in the middle of the road. Encouraging cheers are indistinguishable from snarls of frustration and anger. Eleven warriors, placing their beliefs before logging trucks, are arrested one by one. Now nothing blocks the road.

Loggers, hurling insults from passing company vans, spread a numbing chill throughout the muted, rain soaked crowd. Giant logging trucks soon follow, rumbling slowly across the bridge. The blockade disperses. More trucks roll by.

The sky, tinged with a faint gray, hints of the coming day. Though midnight oil burns very brightly, the truck's heater is now the focus of attention.

Even an unseen sunrise brings sunshine, and this day is no exception. Hey, who's this? Smart, she's wearing Tevas; bet she's got dry boots stashed somewhere. Whoa, stop the truck, that's your jacket!

You say: Hey hows it going? Nice jacket, eh? You spent the whole summer going to these blockades? And this is the first time you've seen anger and frustration? Are you sure it wasn't the weather's fault? Ya, you're right; those were some mighty big fines and overly harsh jail sentences they handed down in criminal court last week. Why don't they try them in civil court? Do you think the Queen will pardon the rest?

Nice talking to you, too. Good luck in court. May eagles always watch over you.

Protesters defying court injunctions break the law. But who are the real criminals?

As you wonder at the fates of protesters, Henry David Thoreau's words from "On Civil Disobedience"come to mind, "Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison."

Michael Wewer

Michael Rayton

Michael Rayton

MARK LEHNERT

WHAT LAWS?

A small maroon salamander scurried among the swordfern and along an ancient cedar fallen decades ago. I lost sight of the amphibian, but my eyes led me to something in a little nook in the fallen log. It was an owl, its penetrating eyes curiously fixed on me. We stared at each other. Was this, I wondered, the famous Northern Spotted Owl? Was this the bird responsible for halting the harvest of the old-growth forests in the American Northwest?

I was so excited I wanted to get an autograph of this winged predator, but instead I settled for a few pictures. It was here I took a moment to look around. I thought about the forest and the old-growth ecosystem, rifling through my memory trying to associate my booklearned ecological knowledge with this feathered reality. History seemed frozen.

Mark Lehnert

Sawhet Owl on Meres Island.

My thoughts broadened, contemplating the extent of ancient forest preservation in Clayoquot Sound and the rest of B.C. Aware of the mistakes in my own state, I struggled to understand why such a unique and pristine area as Meares Island, viable and intact, would remain threatened in this age of ecological enlightenment.

The old growth controversy in British Columbia in many ways parallels ours in Washington. Both issues dominate local news and polarize communities and neighbors. All the elements of a powerful environmental issue – jobs, politics, science, and profits – are firmly entrenched. The rules of the two countries may differ, but the players are all the same: government, multinational corporations, forestry employees,politicians, citizen environmentalists, native groups, and an increasingly watching world.

At home in the U.S., the force of law has been instrumental in preserving our ancient forests, and public concern has long been a powerful influence. A lot of this is new to Canada – environmental legislation, particularly in B.C., lacks substance and enforceable mandates. When I questioned Canadian environmentalists about the effectiveness of their laws, they responded, "what laws?"

Various aspects of law were instrumental in the fight to save the old-growth forests in Washington State: the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires federal agencies to justify management decisions with public hearings and environmental reviews, the National Forest Management Act which reinforces the idea of multiple use, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Migratory Bird Act. Legal channels such as these do not exist in B.C..

Some Canadian laws like the federal Coastal Marine and Fisheries Act, the Fish and Wildlife Act, and the provincial Forestry Act do apply, yet the Sierra Legal Defence Fund of Canada states, "none of these laws provide the effectiveness of your American counterparts." Canada virtually has no ESA, yet combined with the Spotted Owl it proved the strongest defense against logging in the American Northwest. Most legal provisions in B.C. are simply logging rules and guidelines, no mandates for protection. And logging companies are left to police themselves.

The primary tool available to Canadian environmentalists is the support of public opinion. Their battles have been fought at a grass-roots level by promoting attention through the media and peaceful acts of civil disobedience. Canadian grass-roots organizations have an

advantage through their alliance with the local First Nation's People, the Nuu-chah-nulth.

The Sierra Club of Western Canada and other groups are working closely with the First Nation's in an effort to open up new legal channels. The debate in Clayoquot Sound originated with the Nuu-chah-nulth in a reaction to a proposal to log Meares Island, an area that they claim as tribal lands. Logging is temporarily halted on Meares with a court injunction while the land claims go through Provincial Court. Yet the Nuu-Chah-Nulth may want the rights to log the forests themselves in the future. Unemployment on many B.C. reserves approaches 70 percent, but the Nuu-chah-nulth are fortunate to enjoy moderately successful fishing harvests, although these are steadily decreasing.

First Nation's groups in Washington State have not been major players in the old-growth issue because most land claims have been settled, but Northwest tribes can exercise certain treaty rights that have protected salmon and other resources on public lands. Yet the fate of Clayoquot Sound, however, does not necessarily lie with environmental and First Nation's groups, nor does it lie in the hands of the millions of British Columbians who can not tell the difference between a hemlock and a cedar. The fate of the sound lies in the hands of government.

The provincial government has close ties with the logging industry. Like in Washington State, money generated from the sale of timber is allocated specifically for certain infrastructures and services, such as schools. The provincial government obtains roughly 40% of its revenue directly from the sale of timber. This revenue is considered indispensable to a government grappling to halt an increasing deficit.

Jean Chretien, before he was elected Prime Minister of Canada, promised that upon election he would pressure the British Columbian government to add Clayoquot Sound to the adjacent Pacific Rim National Park. Yet after he was elected, Chritein reneged. Despite mounting pressure, the B.C. government led by Premier Mike Harcourt has been reluctant to reconsider its decision. Fifteen years ago in Washington State we had almost 30% of our ancient forests left, now we have around 10%, with the most productive lowland and watershed- associated old-growth gone. This has accelerated the decline of many species, particularly, the Marbled Murrelet and four species of salmon. Here we can no longer afford compromise for we have so little left to protect.

British Columbia is in a state similar to ours fifteen years ago; their forest policy is still maturing and taking shape. B.C. policy makers posses new science and hindsight that was unaccessible to us. Their policy makers possess hindsight and science that was inaccessible to us. They can look at Washington States degradation of the natural environment, how it encompasses the loss of true wilderness, the decline of whole ecosystems, and the species associated with them. All the elements of wilderness still exist in Clayoquot Sound, and much of the environmental legislation in B.C. clearly is inadequate to protect treasured natural resources.

Unfortunately, the easiest decision a politician can make is based on short-term economics and political feasibility. The disappearance of wilderness has the impact of degrading the human spirit as much as the natural environment. I hope the B.C. government reassesses its current decision regarding Clayoquot Sound and dedicates this magnificent area for the posterity of Canada and the whole world.

DARREN NIENABER

MERV'S ECOFORESTRY

"I'd like to see the big fellows out," Merv Wilkinson said.

"Who do you mean, Merv?"

"Multinational logging corporations"

"Why?"

"They ruin the fishing, tourism, and shellfish industries... desecrate the island and destroy the island's potential to have a future timber industry," he said.

So I'm talking to an environmentalist, right? No, Merv Wilkinson is a logger and proud of it -- with as much standing timber on his land as when he started fifty years ago.

In the spirit of fairness, I had intended to interview an average Northwest Coast logger. Merv proved anything but average by any standard. Merv is one of the most friendly, intelligent, energetic, funny, and conversational individuals I have ever met. I decided to revise my intention, because I feel that Merv is proposing a very reasonable solution to the logging conflict at Clayoquot Sound.

ABOUT HALF THE LOGGING JOBS LOST IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN LOST TO MACHINES, NOT TO ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS. ECOFORESTRY . . . USES TWO OR THREE TIMES MORE PEOPLE AND FEWER, CHEAPER, AND SMALLER MACHINES.

Wilkinson, 79, lives with his wife on Vancouver Island, forty miles north of Victoria. He's upset about the clearcutting big logging companies are doing on the island, and he lets the world know it. He was one of the eight hundred protesters arrested at Kennedy River Bridge in Clayoquot Sound. Yet his was a protest of logging methods, not of logging itself.

Wilkinson offers what he considers a moderate solution to the current conflict on Vancouver Island -- a return to the pre-World War II method of logging, now called "ecoforestry." Austria has been using ecoforestry methods for 240 years, Switzerland for 250 years. Their forests are healthy and growing. And Merve said that for over two centuries the forests have yielded a higher amount of sustainable wood than what current large Northwest logging companies will achieve over the decades with clearcutting methods.

Wilkinson's logging provided him with about $14,000 last year. At first this didn't sound like much until I found that he spends only one fourth of his working hours on logging and logging-related work on his property. He is a bit of a media figure, and that consumes time. And he spends much of his time as a busy forestry consultant, working with landowners in Western Canada and the Western United States.

While interviewing him on the phone, I asked him why he hadn't bought more land. "Hindsight is always better, eh?" he said. "If I was young again, I would borrow as much as I could to buy more land."

He estimated that six hundred acres can provide one person full-time work and an income of $40,000 (Canadian dollars) plus some extra work for a trucker and a band mill. I was surprised, having heard selective logging criticized as unprofitable and unfeasible. Perhaps what the critics meant is that it doesn't pay large enough dividends to corporate stockholders.

Wilkinson's ecoforesty means he may clear underbrush to let in light for young trees or thin stands that are densely packed. "But I only cut what the annual growth rate allows. In that way it is ecoforestry. It's different in that I play a more active role in the ecosystem – I assist nature."

Merv told me that logging companies justify clearcutting on the grounds that Douglas Fir doesn't reproduce in the shade. Not so, he says: In a multi-aged, multi-sized, multi-specied forest there are plenty of opportunities for younger Douglas Firs to reproduce and grow.

I was surprised to hear this. I, like most people interested in the field, believed that Douglas Fir doesn't grow in the shade. So I checked for myself. I walked down to a forest near my house, hiked among the ferns and trees that shade the floor bottom, and found quite a few young Douglas Fir growing in the

shade. Check it out for yourself.

Merv's trees may grow a little slower, but finding a 100-year-old tree growing next to a 60-year-old tree next to a 20-year-old tree next to a 3-year-old tree shows me it's possible to log without clearcutting. Successive generations of trees can grow in the same area.

Wilkinson generally cuts only the dying trees that are no longer adding growth. He lets the older and larger trees provide seeds for coming generations. "It's a bit like natural selection, eh?"

His prize tree is a phenomenal 1,800 years old, while many others are also old-timers. Merv's land is good for owls, as well as deer, chipmunks, and robins and a host of other species. Because he leaves most trees standing, there is little soil erosion to damage the land and almost no sedimentation to make it tough on fish in the streams.

Wilkinson's methods require more human labor and less machines. My research has shown me that about half the logging jobs lost in recent years have been lost to machines, not to environmental laws. Ecoforestry, on the other hand, uses two or three times more people and fewer, cheaper, and smaller machines. As Merv puts it: "You can't compare costs when money goes to machines instead of people."

He lists the different ways big companies mislead the public when they compare costs with alternate selective styles of logging:

"These expensive machines wear out. The companies don't account for depreciation in the media."

"The figures don't include the subtle things – the feeling of self sufficiency, job satisfaction. The guys I know and have met in Canada and the U.S. enjoy and take pride in their work and feel a responsibility for the land. They are physically fit and mentally healthy."

It makes sense, eh? (Sorry, it's catchy) I think most people would take a 5 percent pay cut to enjoy their job more, but something was troubling me: Why don't more loggers do this?

Merv said some smaller outfits and private land owners are embracing ecoforestry techniques. But, at the same time, MacMillan Bloedel has bought a number of smaller outfits. This makes it difficult to "get the land in the hands of those people who have an interest in maintaining it."

Big companies have bigger wallets to spend on the government and the media. The political clout of Mac-Blo and other larger companies is much greater than the clout of small logging companies and ecoforesters. "They spend a lot of money telling people that they are good fellows," Wilkinson adds.

One point that concerns me is the soil erosion that often comes with clearcutting. Less soil degrades the next generation of forests. The land is impoverished. That may not be important to companies logging the remaining public lands, but it makes a big difference in land health and land wealth. Over the long run, the public pays a much higher price for the degraded land than the short term income provided to companies, such as Mac-Blo.

Many experts, Wilkinson included, fear that consecutive clearcuts may lead to desertification, transforming the lush Vancouver Island into a Sahara on the Pacific. It could happen. It already has happened along parts of the Sahara and the Mediterranean.

Let's put this in perspective. In a company information pamphlet, I found that Mac-Blo logs on a 1,029,000 acre tree farm in the Alberni Valley, an area of Vancouver Island that is particulary focused on in the Clayoquot Sound controversy. I performed a little arithmetic on my calculator using the information Merv gave me. To save myself criticism I used very conservative figures. About two thousand extra jobs could be created using ecoforestry methods.

Merv and other ecoforesters would undoubtedly come up with a much higher figure. In a booklet produced by a Canadian union, the Pulp, Paper, and Woodworkers of Canada, forester Herb Hammond estimates that ecoforestry-style logging could furnish 320,000 jobs in B.C. alone. Using this figure and extrapolating for the rest of Canada and the U.S., this style of logging would not only replace all the jobs lost so far, but create many more.

Ecoforestry is environmentally friendly, free of almost all of the criticism of Mac-Blo in Clayoquot Sound. So does Wilkinson see ecoforestry in the future? "You can't tell until you get there, but if we're going to have a future timber industry, we will have to go this way."

Michael Wewer

A clearcut near Tofino

BARBARA A. BORST

A TRIANGLE OF CONTROVERSY

Tofino, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, is very small when compared to metropolitan standards. The town is home to about 800 permanent residents and there is not one traffic light to be found. As the social-political center of Clayoquot Sound, the town is split as to what the future holds for their forests. After all, the people of Tofino are the ones who must live with the Clayoquot Compromise.

I went to Tofino to listen and learn about the issue from the local people. I found three distinct groups, each firm on its own position on the value of the trees and their surroundings. These groups have clashed, attracting international attention and creating the most controversial British Columbian (B.C.) forestry issue ever. One group sees the trees as cathedrals, more useful standing than not: the environmentalists. Another has an almost spiritual connection with the forest, placing value to every aspect of it: the Natives. The third group sees the trees as a traditional way of making a living: the loggers.

Greg Heffron

The Friends' Office.

The Friends of Clayoquot Sound has made their office in a little blue house in the center of town, and the yard is strewn with old cars, plastic sheets, and an old bus. Inside I met Norleen Lillico, one of their directors, who told me about the group. As we talked at the front desk, people rushed in and out the door and Friends went back and forth between rooms doing assorted jobs, making it hard to concentrate.

The Friends, originally called "The Friends of Meares Island," pioneered the environmental cause in the region fifteen years ago. When an oil spill occurred in 1989, the Friends were at the forefront of the clean-up, organizing groups of volunteers to pitch in.

The work of the Friends reached a peak this past summer. They set up the "Peace Camp" on July 1 (Canada Day) to witness and protest the goings-on in the region. Beginning July 6, they organized regular blockades at Kennedy River Bridge, the main logging access road.

I asked Norleen about their latest plans. "Now is a crucial time," she said, "the Peace Camp is dismantled for the winter, and the tourist season is at a close." She said that the Friends intend to continue sporadic blockades and a smaller winter camp.

The Friends have a firm policy on protesting, the 'Peaceful Direct Action Code,' which is read aloud to everyone before protests. The code ensures that protesters act as a unified group, with respect toward all beings, respect to all property, and no drugs or violence. Friends work hard to keep protests orderly so they don't alienate concerned citizens.

While in the Friends office, I found pamphlets and posters from the Western Canada Wilderness Comittee (WCWC), another environmental group who's working to protect Clayoquot Sound. WCWC works to protect Canadian and international wilderness through research and education.

The group was successful in saving Carmanah Valley, a coastal watershed of old-growth forest south of Clayoquot with the largest sitka spruce tree in the world.

As in Carmanah, WCWC is building a sixteen-mile "witness trail" through the largest watershed in the region to allow people to see what is being cut. They are also helping the Tla-o-qui-aht of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council in Clayoquot Sound, to raise funds so that the group can boardwalk the Meares Island Big Cedar Trail.

The group is centered in Vancouver with a high-profile office and store in Gastown, a popular area for tourists and residents. The store's role is to both give out free literatue – to educate – and to sell items that support their activities.

One of WCWC's education techniques is 'Stumping Canada to Save Clayoquot Sound.' The group travels across Canada with a trailer carrying a very large stump from a recent clearcut, speaking to people about the affects of clearcutting the sound.

The stumps are closer to home to the First Nation's People, whose reservation I could see on Meares Island

across the sound from Tofino. Their houses lie close to the water, and the hillside behid them is uncut by fields or roads -- it's just forest. I didn't have time to go there so I decided to research them when I got home. The Natives are often the forgotten group in this triangle of controversy, and logging may affect them the most.

The Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Ucluelet, and Toquaht have lived in the Clayoquot region for over five thousand years, dependent on local resources such as cedar and salmon.

Current logging practices have already caused some degradation to surrounding streams and rivers. These water sources are major salmon producers, important to the livelihood

The Mac-Blo Visitor Centre

of the First Nations Peoples. The tribes comprise forty-three percent of the population in Clayoquot Sound, yet their reservation represents less than one percent of the total land base; they are still fighting land claims.

In one such land claim, the Ahousaht and Tla-o-qui-aht obtained an injunction in '85 which prevented MacMillan Bloedel (Mac-Blo) from clearcutting Meares Island. It is still protected while the court process proceeds. In an April 30 statement following the Clayoquot Decision, the First Nations stated that they will "do everything necessary to protect and manage their territories."

Alongside the many working to protect the forests of Clayoquot Sound, there are also those working to protect the forest industry. These logging interest groups are Mac-Blo, Share B.C., and the Forest Alliance of B.C.

ALONGSIDE THE MANY WORKING TO PROTECT THE FORESTS OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND, THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WORKING TO PROTECT THE FOREST INDUSTRY . . . THE B.C. GOVERNMENT IS THE LARGEST SINGLE SHAREHOLDER IN MAC-BLO.

Mac-Blo's office in Tofino is down by the water. It is a new-looking building on the waterfront with a large display on reforesting inside. A retired logger runs the office, talking to people that come in and giving out brochures.

I spoke to the man and took some brochures, but they spoke more about that area than about the company. Yet as I went through newspaper clippings and videos when I got home, I found a lot of information.

Mac-Blo is the largest logging company in B.C., as well as its largest employer. The company has rights to ninety-three percent of Clayoquot's timber harvest.

The company had a bad public image due to its logging practices in the late '80s, so Mac-Blo sought help from Ron Arnold, the founder of the Wise Use Movement that is working to protect resource-extracting industries in the United States. He suggested funding a citizen group of logging families, the ones that will be affected by the decision to save areas. This citizen groups was named 'Share B.C.'

A local logger explained that Share B.C. was formed in the late '80s because, "no one was asking us our opinion."

Dennis Fitzgerald of Mac-Blo says his company still supports Share with $100,000 a year.

Mac-Blo was also instrumental in starting the Forest Alliance of B.C., a group that encompasses a much larger population: the urban sector; in order to make the forest industry more popular, Mac-Blo needed urban voting support.

The idea was to create an image that the Alliance was on middle ground between the environment and the economy, striking a balance. The Alliance presented themselves as an environmental organization with the slogan, "British Columbians for Shared Environmental Responsibility."

The environmental consultant for the Alliance is Patrick Moore, one of the founders of Greenpeace. The Alliance recruited him to draft a code of forest practices for the companies to sign. When asked about the Alliance's close ties with Mac-Blo, Patrick Moore said, "It operates at arm's length from its founders. At arm's length is different than independent."

The Alliance has made documentaries explaining that they are going to change forestry practices. Moore explains, "It is in the logging companies' interest to be honest, to clean up their act. It's an issue of practice, of how they are doing their job."

To help resolve the conflict over Clayoquot Sound, the N.D.P. government declared the 'Clayoquot Compromise,' a 'compromise' aimed at pleasing these three groups involved.

Yet I wonder, has it? According to Joe Foy of WCWC., the decision was "absolutely not a compromise," that the "government gave industry (logging interests) exactly what they wanted. It was a complete cave-in to the timber lobbyists." The First Nation's People are still involved in court proceedings over Meares Island, settling their land claims, until then they are keeping quiet. As for Mac-Blo, Fitzgerald offers, "We're happy. Of course from a logging viewpoint it would have been better to have gotten all the sound, but no-one would have accepted that . . . but there was a real possibility that we could have gotten less."

BRIAN DAVIS REEVES

THE GHOSTS OF FORMER TREES

On the morning I set out to explore a section of Clayoquot Sound, it was foggy. To reach the rainforest required a hike up a logging road and through an old clearcut. It hadn't been replanted yet and I doubted it ever would. The shifting fog made the silver stumps look like weathered tombstones, soft granite graves, unmarked by names or dates in a forgotten cemetery. Nothing was growing. Dry gullies showed where topsoil had been flushed away by rainwater, leaving upturned stumps, slag, and dead, webbed roots fingering nothing but air. I stopped and ran my hand over the top of one stump, counted twenty-five of its several hundred growth rings — the outer, most-recent ones — and looked toward the forest. The clean line of demarcation between the forest and the clearcut had vanished, dissolved by my closer proximity. With an odd mixture of awe and despair, I crossed from one side of that ragged edge into the rainforest.

The first white settlers in the Pacific Northwest encountered trees of such immense girth and height that they defied cutting. The trees were uselessly large. My great grandfather, John Rogers James, was one of those settlers. When he was seventeen he became one of the first white men to settle in what would become Hoquiam, Washington. Because of his age, he had to squat on the land several years until he was old enough to legally file a claim to it. On part of his homestead a huge grove of trees had drowned in an ancient saltwater flood. The trees remained standing, bleached as white as driftwood. The First Nation's People shunned the entire area; they considered it haunted and the white man crazy for living there. Eventually, this property was sold to the man who built Hoquiam's first sawmill and the traditional logging industry flourished.

Trees, big trees, "two men reclining in a wood-cut" trees, old Darius Kinsey and Kinsey photographs of hard burly men with large cross-cut saws, mule teams, bunkhouses, flapjacks, the loneliness of life in the great north woods: this was "traditional" logging, an industry as extinct now as buffalo hunting. The argument that modern logging is a traditional industry is a weak one. Is fishing with miles and miles of nylon net still considered a "traditional" industry because fish are involved? Mechanization and corporate greed have destroyed traditional logging. The industrial forestry practice of clearcutting, like strip-mining, is just another "efficient" method of resource extraction designed to maximize profits. This is not "just" the removal of every tree; it is the obliteration of entire ecosystems to make way for tree farms. It is not sustainable, nor is it supposed to be.

I was deep into the silence of the rainforest, still thinking of that crazy white man living in the middle of a dead white forest, when I saw a lightning-blasted tree in a small clearing to my right. It was mostly silver with streaks of charcoal where it had burned. An eagle's nest occupied the space where the top of the tree had once been, and its bald tenant was sitting on a branch near it.

NOW THERE WAS ANOTHER NOISE, LIKE THE BEGINNING OF A RAIN SHOWER, A LIGHT BUT STEADILY INCREASING PATTER OF DROPS FALLING THROUGH THE CANOPY. ONLY IT WASN'T RAINING AND THE WIND WASN'T BLOWING.

Because the eagle was making a casual survey of everything except me, I spent a long time watching its white head rotate methodically. I kept wondering how difficult it would be for a displaced eagle to find another home.

While eagle watching I heard what I thought was an all too familiar sound and dismissed it. All morning I'd been listening to my breathing and my boots and my uninterrupted thoughts. Now there was another noise, like the beginning of a rain shower, a light but steadily increasing

patter of drops falling through the canopy. Only it wasn't raining and the wind wasn't blowing.

I paid attention to this noise because I have heard strange things in the woods before. Once while I was hiking in the Cascades, I kept hearing the sound of branches being slapped somewhere over my head and the sharp crack of wood breaking ahead of me. I never heard the gunshots, but I realized a bullet can travel much farther than the sound of it being shot, and hunting season is not a good time to go hiking. But this sound was different, subtle, like the change in tone of water flowing out of the bathroom faucet in the morning, as the cold water is pushed out of the pipe by hot water. I looked around for the source of the noise until I noticed the sunlight filtering through moss-bearded branches. The fog had partially burned off and a few dew-drying rays were reaching the forest floor. In those places steam was rising and my eyes caught the slight motion of branches and leaves getting lighter. What I thought was the sound of rain was actually something I'd never heard before: the sound of a simple reaction to sunlight. I have since been told that plants orienting themselves toward the sun isn't an uncommon occurrence, but *hearing* it on such a large scale left me amazed. I heard the sun come out in the rainforest and it sounded like fire or walking on dry leaves.

Michael Wewer

The "Black Hole," the clearcut in Clayoquot where the peace camp was located.

I've long known the hollow spot near the base of most western red-cedar trees. I used to crawl inside these hollows and wonder if the trees were rotting from the inside out or if some animals were living in there. After spending the day in a virgin part of the rainforest, I think I know what they are.

In an actual forest, several generations of trees exist together: trees growing, trees dying, trees rotting. A part of the human mind seems to consider it "wasteful" to let trees rot on the forest floor instead of "using" them for any other purpose. Because of this, large rotting trees are a definite indicator of a real forest. It doesn't require much imagination to sight down a line of three or four old-growth cedars of a similar size, and tell that they all grew up nursing on the same fallen tree. The supple roots of a sapling straddle the log, stretching down around it until they reach the rich humus of the forest floor. As a nursing log decays, the nutrients it gathered and stored over several centuries of life are gradually returned to the soil where they are recycled by the young trees growing out of its side. With the help of over 8,000 different species of insects and organisms, a nursing tree will completely disappear, leaving only its former shape cast into the living roots that thicken and compress over time but never seem to close the space beneath the tree.

These hollow places are the ghosts of former trees, legacies passed from generation to generation. It is both humbling and slightly unnerving to witness this process and you can only see the complete cycle of succession, in a real forest, in a place like Clayoquot Sound.

RICHARD LAW

BENEDICTIS

We are full up with cold, our slow hearts blow
rivers to storm in our veins, mark the generations
from seed to dust and back to seed in years and wild,
green dances on hurricane nights and petaled afternoons,
easing slow hours toward summer.

At the center of us all is the blood of the first
primordial spring, slow but always flowing,
swaying in long arms through the festivals of the turning
and renewal. Time is only marked for us
in vast ages of your appearances, no years change the sky
or make the great waters pause between passion
and stillness. To us, we have always been, and are,
and for all we know will always be,
despite your taking and taking.

We have felt you since the first cut, your soft,
swift hands raised to take your fuel and walls
from within our silent, anchored limbs,
yet you cannot feel us, the immensity
of all green things together, quilted of moss
and rain, the patience and endurance
we hold within the whispered hope
that we may yet live out long ages together
under the wide blue circle of heaven
we share our breath within.

Michael Wewer

Michael Wewer

Michael Wewer

Top Left: The last three people -- a Californian, a French Canadian, and a British Columbian -- at the Peace Camp relaxing before dismantling it for winter.
Top Right: A man being arrested at Kennedy River Bridge, October 22, 1993
Bottom: The Planeteers on Meares Island, minus Darren, Laurence, Michael (Rayton), and Richard.
Back Cover: Meares Island cedar. Michael Wewer