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Reagan's EPA - Protection for Who?

by David Goldsmith

The American public is finally getting their noses rubbed in something environmentalists have tried to alert them to since Reagan took office: the administration's aim has been to either eliminate or circumvent legislation protecting human health that impinges on corporate profits. As the March 2 edition of The Guardian perceptively stated: "We can thank the top officials of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for one thing: they have left no doubt as to the deadly meaning of Ronald Reagan's promise to get the government off the backs of big business."

In the past two years, under EPA Director Anne Gorsuch (now Anne Burford), budget cuts and deregulation have thoroughly diminished the agency's reason for existing. "Anne Gorsuch has done at least a decade's worth of damage to the Agency in just two years," a former Senate staffer involved in creating environmental legislation wrote in the Washington Post February 22. "The extraordinary thing is that so much has happened in full view..."

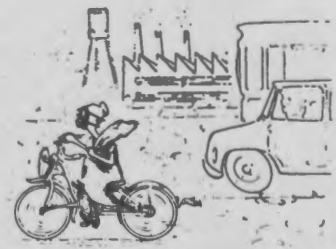
Indeed, EPA officials like Rita Lavelle have met regularly with chemical industry officials before reaching settlements affecting their firms. Moreover, the Agency has barred environmentalists and non-industry scientists from testifying in hearings. Anti-pollution standards have been allowed to lapse, and as The Guardian noted, "Companies have been given a wink and nod to ignore those that remain."

And now there's the "Superfund," the \$1.6 billion allocated by Congress in 1980 for cleaning up toxic waste dumps. Private citizens, genuinely concerned about the horror of lethal dumps in their own backyards, were hopeful that it would help eliminate the danger emanating from those sites. State and local governments were also

hopeful that this fund, financed primarily from taxes on the chemical industry, would help them absorb the cost of interminable legal challenges for cleanup and compensation.

It appears now, however, that these hopes have faded. Burford's EPA was finding it difficult spending the money for its intended purpose because that would have risked "alienating the primary constituents of this administration, the

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Sound Practices - For Puget's Sake

by Ric Conner

For the past five years the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been conducting research to determine the extent to which pollution has affected the Puget Sound marine environment. This major project is one of only two Marine Ecosystem Analysis (MESA) programs being undertaken by NOAA. The result of the MESA-Puget Sound project has been not only to identify environmental contaminants and contaminated areas but, by drawing upon the expertise of professionals like Bert Webber in ecology and Terrence Wahl in ornithology, to assess the marine communities which inhabit the Puget Sound waters as well.

This scope has provided substantial baseline information on marine mammals, flora, benthos, avians, fish, currents and foodwebs. Volumes of data have been generated and are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, and numerous commercial publications have been produced with the support of the NOAA and the University of Washington. These books detail the history, uses, and characteristics of Puget Sound, and are available at many local bookstores.

NOAA recently contracted the consulting agency URS Engineers to compile information on public issues related to their findings and to identify resulting resource-use conflicts. URS is conducting a series of workshops around Puget Sound and will produce a final report designed to include strategies for resolving identified resource-use conflicts. The first workshops are being held for local government officials, private interest groups, and individual use of Puget Sound.

A second set of workshops will be conducted with core groups of state and federal regulatory agencies. The community workshops are meant to identify issues, conflicts, and priorities, while the agency workshops are designed to outline alternative strategies for resolving issues raised at the community level. A draft report illustrating concerns and strategies will be circulated for public comment following the workshops, and a final report will be made available upon request.

The goal of the URS contract is to provide agencies and the public a basis for forming policy decisions concerning activities which may affect Puget Sound. According

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Ecopolitics in Olympia

A Preview of Bills before the Legislature

by Mary Vandenbosch

The Washington State legislature is once again convening in Olympia. Although balancing the budget is a top priority, several important pieces of environmental legislation have been introduced, a select group of which are highlighted below.

Hazardous Wastes SB 3017, HB 64

This legislation increases the maximum fine for violation of state hazardous waste regulations from \$1000 to \$10,000 per day. The Senate version also includes a clause which makes individuals strictly liable for any damages resulting from violations. The Washington Environmental Council supports this legislation and suggests that it could be improved by including language specifying that the funds are to be placed in a revolving fund for cleanup of damage caused by hazardous wastes.

Clean Air SB 3193

This legislation increases the fines levied for violations of the Washington Clean Air Act as follows: for a misdemeanor from \$250 to \$1000 per day; gross misdemeanor from \$100 to \$250 per day; and civil penalties from \$250 to \$1000 per day.

Recycling HB 252

This bill declares the collection and recycling of used oil to be a state policy. Provisions of the bill designed to encourage oil recycling include: a requirement that sellers of more than 500 gallons of motor oil per year must post oil recycling information signs which explain the importance of oil recycling and give locations of oil recycling centers, establishment of oil recycling information centers, establishment of a statewide toll-free telephone number to give recycle center locations, and instructions to the director of the state Department of Ecology to encourage the establishment of voluntary oil recycling programs.

Civil Defense HJ Memorial No. 5

This memorial requests the President and United States congress to "end all funding of civil defense programs designed to evacuate civilian populations in preparation for a nuclear attack" and transfer the funds as needed to peacetime emergency preparedness efforts. The memorial states that effective protection from nuclear war is impossible and that development of a civil defense program may actually increase the likelihood of nuclear war.

Nuclear Freeze

House Joint Memorial No. 3 and Senate Joint Memorial No. 106 call for a nuclear weapons freeze.

Radioactive Waste

Several bills deal with radioactive waste, an area of major concern for citizens of Washington.

SB 3025/ Establishes a state task force on high-level radioactive waste management.

SB 3031/ Establishes the composition of the high-level radioactive waste task force which is to include six members of the legislature—three from each house—and seven members of the public, "appointed in a geographically dispersed manner."

SB 3026/ Allows the state patrol to prohibit transport of high-level nuclear waste during adverse weather conditions.

SB 3027/ Requires an environmental impact statement to be prepared for the low-level radioactive waste site at Hanford by January 1, 1984.

SB 3029/ Requires statewide public hearings and legislative approval of a high-level radioactive waste storage site.

SB 3032/ Declares that "the storage of low-level radioactive waste within the state shall not exceed one-third of the total low-level radioactive waste generated nationally."

Endrin

A bill banning endrin from use in this state is to be introduced in the House by Rep. Donn Charnley. Endrin is a highly toxic pesticide — up to 200 times as toxic as DDT in some animals — which is widely used to control rodents in the apple orchards of eastern Washington.

State Environmental Policy Act SB 3006

This bill is based on the recommendations of the SEPA commission. For a more in depth analysis of this bill, see Mason Hewitt's article on page 6.

For more information about these bills or other environmental legislation contact the Olympia office of the Washington Environmental Council or the National Audobon Society: P.O. Box 462, Olympia, WA. 98507

Above all, let your opinions be known! Don't hang around bemoaning the sad state of environmental affairs without lifting a finger to write or call your legislators. Your thoughts do count and are essential if your representatives are to truly represent you.

To obtain information on the status of bills, or if you want to leave a message for your legislator call 1-800-562-6000, or write:

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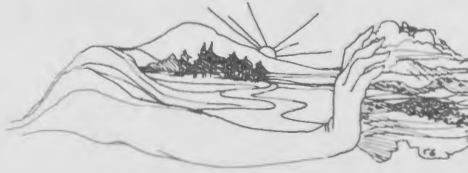
Shattered Glass or a Picture Window?

by Bill Taylor

The environmental problem is simply that human activity is disrupting the integrity of natural systems of which humans are an inseparable part. The problem originates largely from the fragmented, subdivided, and segmented mechanistic paradigm of the world historically ingrained in Western culture by both the Judeo-Christian and scientific traditions. By thinking in these terms we have failed to see the interconnected holistic nature of the organic processes on earth; thus we have considered ourselves insulated from the ecological consequences of our actions. A first step toward solving the environmental problem, therefore, is to understand the profound humility of the human role on earth. It is important to recognize that Judeo-Christian and scientific thought can help solve this problem since they do not necessarily preclude a holistic, unified understanding of the world.

The Judeo-Christian belief that humans are separate from nature has been a primary historical force behind fragmented thinking in the West. This religious mindset insists on demonstrating, by means of the conceptually simple human/nature dichotomy, that humans are uniquely religious beings. This dichotomy then rejects animism so our exploitation of nature takes on a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects and processes.

In response to the environmental problem, many people are advocating the Christian concept of stewardship, which begins to acknowledge if not the equality of all things in the eyes of God, at least that humans ought to have consideration for the health of all things on earth. But stewardship implies that "humans ought to take care" and is therefore to a large extent dualistic and anthropocentric, thus further separating humanity from nature. The idea of stewardship in Judeo-Christian thought, however, reflects a potential to affirm that all things are divine and thus due equal respect. An understanding of ecological equality is the first step toward understanding the holistic interdependence of all things.



Judeo-Christian history provides other examples of a unified worldview. Lynn White, Jr. points out, for example, that St. Francis of Assisi held strongly the virtue of humility not only for the individual but for humans as a species. St. Francis' view of nature and humanity "rested on a sort of panpsychism of all things animate and inanimate, designed for the glorification of their transcendent Creator."

Science, on the other hand, has come to be a new-found weapon with which humans can express their presumed dominance over nature. By measurement and reduction humans have gained greater access to the points of connection between processes in the world, and have exploited this new power to its fullest. Science has given us a greater ability to interpose ourselves between processes, thus leading us to believe the world operated with separately working mechanical parts.

Today science is helping us to understand that the processes of the world are not simply mechanical but are interlocking, complex and variable interactions. Ecology, for instance, is the scientific study of the processes of natural systems, but maintains that they are ultimately irreducible and inseparable; that their conceptual delineations melt away and become intimately interwoven into the holistic complexity we experience as part of them.

Physics, as well, is coming to view the world as irreducible and unified. In the *Tao of Physics*, Fritjof Capra explains this by comparing the emerging world view from physics to the world view of Eastern mysticism. Capra observes that in the West the influence of science and technology has led to an understanding of objects and events in our environment based on rationality. This understanding belongs to the realm of the intellect, whose function it is to discriminate, divide, compare, measure, and categorize. In contrast, the intuitive or religious understanding of the world which is predominant in Eastern mysticism, is a direct experience of reality which transcends not only intellectual thinking but also sensory perception. Capra explains that the basic elements in the Eastern world view also form the understanding of the world emerging from modern physics: the unity and interrelatedness of all phenomena and the intrinsically dynamic nature of the universe. "Physics has come to see the world as a system of inseparable, interacting and evermoving components with humans as an integral part of this system."

If we are to solve the environmental problem we must begin at the origin of the problem: our fundamental misunderstanding of the intricate, organized complexity of natural systems and the ultimate inseparability of humans from these systems. Indeed, we are one and part of these systems. When we perceive the world holistically and the human role in it, we will realize that "we are the universe aware of itself." This is the crucial first step in solving the environmental problem.

"Relative to the context, the lizard's metaphysical system seems as complete as Einstein's."

- Edward Abbey

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Northwest Power Planning Council: Avoiding Future Shocks

by Sally Toteff

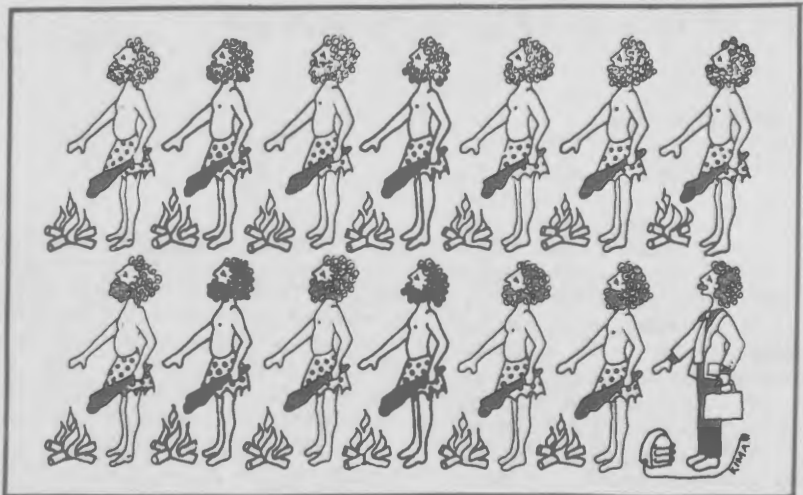
Recent turmoil over regional energy decisions has pointed to the need for new order — an independent organization to forecast how much energy the Northwest will need and to decide where the energy should come from. In short, what is needed is an "energy referee." In 1980, Congress created the referee—the Northwest Power Planning Council. The eight member council is chaired by former Governor Dan Evans and includes members from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

The congressional mandate required the panel to estimate how much electricity the Northwest would need in the year 2000. In addition, the council was given the job of proposing a plan to meet anticipated need, with priority given to conservation and renewable resources.

In January, after two years of work, the council released the draft of its energy plan. As mandated, the council put conservation at the top of its list of options to meet the region's power needs over the next twenty years.

According to the council, the plan is designed to meet a wide range of possible scenarios. For example, it includes enough potential resources to cover an economic boom that would outstrip even the region's most prosperous period by 70 percent. On the other end of the spectrum, however, the plan anticipates the availability of enough resources to cope with a demand less than what exists at present. Although this range does not single out the most likely growth rate, it attempts to lay down the plausible but unlikely bounds of the region's growth and energy needs. The plan also stresses flexibility, with the idea to keep options open, rather than making costly commitments to long-term projects which may not be needed.

The council won applause for the plan from the Northwest Conservation Act Coalition, an alliance that has pressed for a regional energy policy calling for more efficient uses of electricity. In this respect the council's plan represents a 180-degree reversal from the "Hydro-Thermal Power Plan" drafted by utilities in the early 1970's which foresaw the need to construct twenty nuclear plants and two coal plants in the Northwest in order to meet projected demands.



The planning council's plan emphasizes the need for conservation measures in the residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors. Should conservation efforts fail to offset the future demands, the plan offers additional resources. After conservation is hydropower, a resource familiar to this region. If demand outgrows the combination of conservation and new hydro, the region would add industrial co-generation (using industrial waste heat to heat homes) to meet additional requirements. If demand continues to rise, the region would add a series of small combustion turbines, gas-fired units which can be used for short periods to supply power for peak winter heating. Finally, if demand kept soaring (an unlikely scenario), some larger power plants would be needed, and here the options range from nuclear power to coal-fired power plants.

The energy draft plan is not final, and a lengthy period for public comment will precede final enactment in June. One of six public hearings will be held in Seattle on March 18. If you have specific comments, or if you would like to learn more about the Northwest Power Planning Council's conclusions, we urge you to attend. For more information or a free copy of the plan call 1-800-222-3355.

Citizens Lobby for Peace

A nation-wide grassroots rally and lobby for a nuclear weapons freeze took place in Washington D.C. March 7th and 8th. Representatives from all over the nation, including fourteen from the 2nd congressional district, joined together in the nation's capital to meet with legislators and held a rally for the freeze. Meanwhile, resolutions (HJR 2 and SJR 2) calling for a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze have been introduced in both houses of Congress. The House resolution is expected to arrive on the floor in mid-March.

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The Monthly Planet is a biquarterly publication that strives to inform, entertain, and stimulate thought on environmental issues. Reader participation is invited in all aspects of its publication. Submit any contributions to the Environmental Center, VU 113. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Associated Students or any of the advertisers.

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"All the world's a stage . . ."

Environment finds the Silver Screen

by Sarah Hamilton

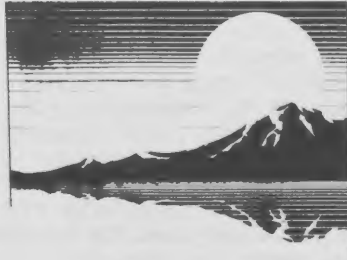
The growth of an "ecological consciousness" in the West has been a long and slow process. The roots have finally taken hold, however, growing stronger and spreading further every day. More and more people with diverse social, economic, and political backgrounds are becoming aware of the extreme environmental destruction occurring everywhere.

Up until about five years ago the literary world was the primary means through which environmental concern was expressed. However, as awareness spreads, other mediums of communication are being used for environmental purposes, and one with potential for helping to further develop an ecological consciousness is film.

Unlike many other forms of communication, film has the unique ability to combine and express emotions and problems while re-enacting environmental incidents and concerns. Its effectiveness lies in its ability to force the viewer to visually experience, through another's eyes, the frustrations, anger, sadness, and fears which relate to ecological degradation and disregard for nature.

It is encouraging to see small film companies use their knowledge and technical skills in order to increase environmental awareness. The larger film corporations in the U.S. have yet to make use of their power in this way, largely because of their preoccupation with competition and profits. But as films from smaller companies gain public support, the larger conglomerates will perhaps recognize the value of environmental film.

During the last year or two, toxic waste, nuclear power, and alternative technology have been the more popular themes among environmentally concerned film makers. The following is a brief description of some environmental films made in the last few years. Most of the information was taken from an article written by Francesca Lyman in the January issue of Environmental Action. For financial and undoubtedly political reasons these films are not easily found—in fact, you may have to really dig deep to find them showing in a public place. However, groups can often order many of these films through a film distributor at discount rates. A community meeting is an ideal forum



for showing these films because discussion and debate can follow afterward. So get some people together and show a film!

DISARMAMENT AND NUCLEAR POWER

Molly Rush: Turning Swords into Plowshares, 28 min. Distributed by Green Mountain Post Films; Turner Falls, Mass.

A portrait of peace activist Molly Rush, mother of six, who as a member of the Plowshare 8 (an anti-war group) was involved in a protest in which she and others entered a nuclear weapons facility and damaged two nuclear warhead "nosecones" in 1980. She was arrested and sentenced to prison.

Dark Circle, 90 min.

This film looks primarily at the lives of families and workers near Rocky Flats, Colorado where Rockwell International manufactures plutonium for nuclear weapons. Since its beginning in the mid-1950's, three major accidents at the plant have occurred releasing highly toxic amounts of plutonium. There are interviews with workers and residents directly effected by the plutonium plant, as well as with individuals who have actively sought to shut it down. One interview involves a building contractor from Rocky Flats who recalls that his daughter was playing outside the day a large fire broke out at the plant in 1969, releasing lethal amounts of plutonium. Two years later her leg was amputated and soon thereafter she died of leukemia. The film was long in the making, and what emerges from the maker's patience and dedication is a remarkable and very disturbing piece of work.

Ecocide, 23 min. Distributed by Green Mountain Post Films.

This film was shot by biologists who traveled throughout the tiny country of Vietnam, documenting the destruction caused by the war—"everything from the ugly craters left on the countryside by B-52 bombers to the effects of chemical warfare on the vegetation and human life."

The Atomic Cafe, 87 min. Distributed by Archives Project, New York.

The history of the atomic age through early television, radio, cartoons, and propaganda of the day. (This film will be shown at Western on April 17).

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

In Our Water, 58 min. Distributed by New Day Films, New York.

This film focuses on one family's attempt to stop improper waste dumping by landfill operators. As Lyman explains; "It is a film that inspires outrage at a society that appears to place money above people's health."

Hazardous Waste: Who Bears the Cost?, 28 min. Produced by Umbrella Films, Brookline, Mass.

A film that looks at Woburn, Massachusetts, one of the oldest waste disposal sites in the country. Although short, it looks at the similarities between Love Canal, New York and this small community outside of Boston.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

The Power to Change, 28 min. Distributed by Third Eye Films, Cambridge, Mass.

A film which documents a trip made throughout America, examining

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Streamlining SEPA: Commerce, Conflict, and Compromise

by Mason Hewitt

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different forms of appropriate technology in action. It looks at vegetable gardens in the South Bronx to solar power and orchards in suburban subdivisions.

To Kilowatts from Cows.

This film deals with the use of methane power, focusing on projects that use animal manure and human waste to run electric generators, cars, and agricultural tools.

Two slideshows that should be noted are; Fuel and the Future, put out by the Resource Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, which looks at who actually controls energy in the United States, and Golden Thread, a look at the history of solar power from ancient Greece to China and Italy.

I have listed a small portion of the many films dealing with environmental problems, and more are released daily. This explosion is a clear indication of the strong "ecological consciousness" emerging throughout the country. Film has a strong potential to play an important role in the environmental movement; it is heartening to finally see it being realized.



The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is before the Washington legislature once again. Following a stormy 1981 session in which SEPA was nearly gutted by the legislature, Governor John Spellman established a commission composed of legislators, developers, environmentalists and local government officials to propose changes to the law.

The commission finished its work in January and the recommendations were codified into Senate Bill 3006. There arose an immediate outcry on the part of environmental groups such as the Washington Environmental Council and the Audobon Society who feared the bill was another attempt to gut SEPA. Among the more pressing concerns are court costs, the appeals process and the potential for exemptions.

S.B. 3006 originally contained a clause that would impose unlimited court costs on the loser in any battle involving SEPA. Concerned over the chilling effect this would have on grassroots challenges of environmental impact statements, environmentalists helped forge a compromise in the Senate Parks and Ecology Committee which limits court costs to \$1000 and only in the event that a suit is found by the court to be "frivolous."

Another compromise hammered out in committee deals with the EIS appeals process. S.B. 3006 provided for a bewildering system of deadlines in which to appeal. Because of the potential for citizens to become confused over the actual time available to appeal, the revised bill sets a minimum of 30 days—longer if the lead agency so designates.

However, an area not open to compromise lies in forest practices. S.B. 3006 exempts all forest practices, except Class IV (logging, spraying, roadbuilding) from meeting EIS requirements. The Department of Natural Resources is designated as the lead agency for Class IV practices and as such determines the need for an EIS on a case by case basis.

This is an emerging point of contention among environmentalists who point to the DNR's past record of blanket exemptions for forest practices as proof of its domination by the timber industry. Environmental groups are now considering potential revisions in the Forest Practices Act as the means to plug this loophole.

On the positive side, revised S.B. 3006 strengthens the social impact assessment required by SEPA. The revised bill removes the exclusion of "socio-economic" factors and divides the SEPA list of elements into "natural" and "built" environment. The built environment consists of public services, utilities, transportation, health, land use, and, for the first time, such considerations as racial equality, maintenance of community character, and fair taxation.

S.B. 3006 as originally proposed was clearly an attempt to dilute SEPA by the business-dominated commission appointed by Spellman. The revised bill, however, worked out in senate committee, is a more balanced instrument, although it clearly represents a compromise. The Washington Environmental Council has endorsed the revised bill and it has been voted out of committee for floor debate.

The coast is not clear, however, for easy passage. The anti-SEPA interests may not be happy with the revised version and may attempt to introduce amendments during debate. Attorney Judy Runstad, a member of the governor's commission, made it very clear she thought the original bill was adequate when she said; "If we can't get these reasonable reforms through, maybe we (developers) will have no alternative but to try to get rid of the whole thing (SEPA) next time."

This undaunting sentiment may, once again, provide stormy going for SEPA in the legislature. However, it is not too late to help influence the final outcome of this bill. To help ensure the future effectiveness of SEPA, call or write your senator and express your support for this important legislation.

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Ending Cetacean Captivity

"Wild Should Wild Remain"

by John Kohl

The inmate had an unfortunate existence. Sometime between the seventh and tenth year of his life he was taken by force from his family and imprisoned for fourteen years. There were no crimes committed. The was only greed and injustice.

From time to time, other were imprisoned with him, but they soon perished and the prisoner endured the the terrible loneliness by showing off his once wild beauty to those that came to watch. Strangers all. Many did not understand his misfortune, nor did they care. Others did, and cried with grief.

One day, during a period of illness, the inmate died, and very soon after, the prison had to close. The wardens had no prisoner with which to make their profit, yet they still had greed and injustice.



On October 3, 1982, Haida, the killer whale became the fifth inmate to die at Sealand of the Pacific in Victoria, B.C. Between 1972 and 1981, four female orca had been captured and detained until they died from a variety of ailments.

In 1972, an albino orca named Chimo died after two and a half years in captivity from Chediak-Higashi Syndrome, a disease which affects the albino immune system. In 1974, Nootka II died of a ruptured aorta after nine months, and in 1976, Nootka III died from a "post pyloric ulcer," also after nine months in captivity.

In 1981 a young calf named Miracle died after getting entangled in a net at Sealand. In 1977 she had been found alone and dying from a bullet wound, and Sealand personnel nursed her back to health. Though she did live another four years, the circumstances of her death are still open to question.

Theoretically, orca can live up to and beyond fifty years in the wild, and it has been conjectured that some females live well past that age. Haida was about 23 years old when he died, while Chimo, Nootka II, Nootka III, and Miracle were all younger.

Very recently, Sealand was granted a new permit to capture cetaceans by the Canadian Ministry of Fisheries. The permit lasts one year, giving Sealand the liberty to capture whales from any of 13 pods inhabiting the Canadian portion of the Northwest inland waterway.

Orca are deeply social beings, and each individual plays an important role in the family unit. It is obvious that captivity is not conducive to longevity, happiness, and social interaction, but is instead responsible for creating disharmony, stress, and an overall breakdown in health among whales in captivity.

Our Canadian neighbors have made an immoral decision at the expense of the natural world. How many of us would allow our friends to be forced from their homes and imprisoned for no viable reason? As Peter Singer writes in his book Animal Liberation: "Animals can feel pain...there can be no moral justification for regarding the pain (or pleasure) that animals feel as less important than the same amount of pain (or pleasure) felt by humans."

Let's help alleviate the pain. Write or call you representative and demand that they exert political pressure on Canadian officials to end these unjustified and senseless acts.

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business community," as the now infamous Rita Lavelle has declared. The EPA was more than a year late in releasing the National Contingency Plan (NCP), which is intended to establish the procedures and standards for spill and site clean-up. But, as the February edition of Environmental Action explains, when it finally appeared, the NCP was a disappointment. "It failed to designate specific standards for thoroughly cleaning up sites; and it only provided minimal guidance regarding state, local, and private responsibilities." Rep. James Florio (D-N.J.), one of the authors of Superfund, called the NCP a "blueprint for further inaction and delay."

"We continue to make remarkable progress in the Superfund program," claimed Burford in a recent press release. But out of \$265 million in Superfund monies available to the agency for both fiscal years 1981 and 1982, only \$147 million had been spent or earmarked by August of 1982. And according to Environmental Action, only \$69 million

was used for remedial action or emergency response to chemical hazards. "There is currently no national inventory of all the existing uncontrolled, abandoned or inactive hazardous waste sites--nor is EPA compiling one. Congress had authorized \$20 million for such a survey, but the administration hasn't yet requested the funding."

As of Monthly Planet press time, three Republican members of Congress, including the ranking minority member of one of the House subcommittees investigating the EPA, called for Reagan to dismiss Burford as head of the agency. In a letter sent to Reagan, the New York Times reported that Senator Rudy Boschwitz and Representative Vin Weber, both Minnesota Republicans, asked Reagan to replace Burford with a "politically independent person of nationally recognized scientific qualifications." They said "serious doubts remain" as to Burford's commitment to vigorous enforcement of environmental laws.

Environmental groups, members of Congress, and the press are now calling for an environmental protection body that is independent of the Reagan administration's pro-business bias. With thousands of abandoned hazardous waste dumps scattered across America this seems like a suggestion worth serious consideration. For the Reagan administration has made it painfully clear that corporate profits will never be made subordinate to public interest under capitalism.

Since taking office, Reagan has always sided with industry in professing the idea that economic decline is due largely to the fact that environmental regulation has "gone too far." But as The Guardian insightfully explains: "Given the lethal results of reversing that legislation, it should be possible to mobilize millions of potential victims to insist it has not gone nearly far enough."



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to Ed Long, Director of the MESA Puget Sound Project, NOAA is developing a stronger service oriented policy, in addition to their traditional research programs. NOAA will use the URS to make comments to state and federal agencies on ways to implement services and respond to needs regarding pollution related problems and alternative strategies. This integrated approach to solving pollution related problems was spawned by the MESA program in Seattle, and could well become a model for use in other areas. This approach, if properly developed, could be a constructive means of applying the results of research and public comments to help achieve a common level of understanding regarding human use of the environment.

It was obvious to me, while attending the first of the workshops at the Shannon Point Marine Lab, that resource-use conflicts could potentially be difficult to resolve. The format provided by URS at the workshop, however, allowed us the opportunity to discuss our concerns on marine pollution issues, describe resource-use conflicts, and to set priorities for resolving some of these issues and conflicts. In addition, a list of individual goals for Puget Sound were compiled, including enhancement of sport and commercial fishing, commercial and industrial development, aquaculture programs, recreational and instructional uses, navigation, maintenance and improvement of the Puget Sound ecosystem, removal of known contaminated substrate, high water quality and habitat protection.

As a group we compiled a list of eight pollution related issues including: coal and oil port development, resort and marina development, establishment of a major marine sanctuary, storm and wastewater management, maintenance of existing channels for dredging and disposal of toxic substances, upland forest practices (i.e., the contribution of chemical and silt runoff), fish farming, and bulkhead construction in relation to sediment transport.

Resource-use conflicts for these issues were listed next. Three issues held top priority for the group, with coal and oil ports topping the list of concerns, followed by marina/resort development and marine sanctuaries. The conflicting issues centering around the coal and oil industry are obvious; shoreline modification, removal of spawning grounds, loss of habitat, increased marine traffic,



and air and water pollution versus economic benefits. For marine/resort development the issues were similar, while concern surrounding the marine sanctuary development reflected perhaps the greatest difference of opinion. They included economic losses due to land use limitations which could preclude the development of coal and oil ports and heavy industry, as well as losses to some forms of recreation. But others considered different types of recreation, in addition to aquaculture, habitat enhancement and protection.

As can be seen by the responses tendered at this workshop, there are a number of possible conflicting uses in mind for our local marine resources. However, there was agreement on the need to work toward a solid plan for the use and protection of Puget Sound. If policy decisions can be based on information gathered through ecosystem analyses and used in conjunction with pollution research data, perhaps some workable solutions can be achieved—solutions that will allow for commercial use of Puget Sound while preserving and enhancing its dignity and integrity. Any suggestions for resolving use-conflict and pollution issues are not going to come easy, and there is much at stake both environmentally and economically. As the battle currently stands, with more known about the effects of pollution, and with the potential for cooperation between public, private, and governmental sectors within the Puget Sound region, there is at least a chance of developing environmentally sound marine management practices.

"What is the arms race and cold war but the continuation of male competitiveness and aggression into the inhuman sphere of computer-man institutions? If women are to cease producing common fodder for the final holocaust, they must rescue men from the perversities of their own polarization."

- Germaine Greer

Comatose American

Stacking and unstacking
Your piles of wood.
The thrill of the evening
Is the sound of your own voice.
Your nine-to-five
Assembly-line employment
Requests nothing but daydreams.
Your life slips by unexamined
As you stare at that electric
Simulated wood-grain box.
It tells and never asks --
Deactivating your mind.

Voices in your head
Remind you that everything
Is simple.
They drown out the silent knocks
At your back door.
Words swim in your head
Until you spit them on the floor.
No more.
No more.
The night hums in your ears,
Singing you to sleep.
Cold nights you don't remove
The socks on your feet.
Warm days you don't comb your hair.
You don't care.
You don't care.

There's something numbing you
From the inside out
Like a personal portable
Self-destruct system.
You futile little weed.

- Heidi M. Hawkins

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