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Sally Toteff
Western Washington University

Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University

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Editor: Sally Toteff

Assistant Editor: Laurie Stephan

Artists: David Taylor

Staff: Ivan Farrell, Kurt Kocher, Jim Madison, Doug Price, Sue Spencer, Laurie Stephan, David Taylor and Sally Toteff

Advisor: Dr. Lynn Robbins

Special Thanks To: Diane, Karen and Ernie

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Ecobriefs

Polluters Pay Victims Back

Legislation Could Expand Superfund

Congress is currently considering expanding Superfund toxic waste cleanup legislation to include compensation for people exposed to toxic substances, and to establish standardized court procedures that would help victims file their suits. Some predict that victim compensation will be the primary environmental issue of this decade.

The Superfund was created in 1980 as a five-year, $1.6 billion fund to clean up those toxic waste sites determined to be the most dangerous in the nation. Revenues for Superfund are collected by taxing chemical companies.

Although many lawsuits have been filed against chemical companies for exposure to toxic substances, the process is unduly difficult. Victims must go through expensive and complicated processes to prove that they have been exposed. Court procedures vary from state to state and often take years to complete. Since many of the problems caused by exposure to toxic chemicals take years to appear, many discover their illnesses after the statute of limitations has expired. The case of Love Canal was thrown out of court for just that reason. The proposed legislation would attempt to alleviate these problems.

Those opposed to victim compensation are chemical industries and the Reagan administration. These interests say they need more evidence that such a program is really necessary. Many conservative members of Congress worry that victim compensation would become one more runaway government expenditure. President Reagan said that the proposals violate the free-market system. He has established a Cabinet-level task force to research the issue, but the group has not yet reached a conclusion.

Nevertheless, Rep. James J. Florio (D-N.J.), predicts that the President will sign the bill if it reaches his desk before the November election.■

Sue Spencer

Economy Ripe for Environmentalists?

At the beginning of the 1970s, a study was initiated by Odom Fanning relating the number of environmental management practicioners in 1970 to the number estimated to be needed in 1980. This study was included in a book, Opportunities in Environmental Careers and was the subject of an article, "The Environment Boom" in Saturday Review magazine; both were written by Fanning.

He compiled the following table, to which have been added the actual 1980 employment figures based on Occupational Outlook Handbook figures. Fanning estimated that jobs available in the five areas of environmental management that he outlined—ecology, earth sciences, resources and recreation, environmental design, and environmental protection--would double in one decade.

Contrary to Fanning's projections, occupations such as oceanography, range management, soil conservation, and parks and recreation have all experienced either minimal growth or actual declines. This may reflect that most of the jobs available in these areas are in the public sector or in federal programs which have been subject to budget cuts. That environmental management jobs have increased in the private sector may indicate that market forces are responding to policies resulting from legislation such as the National Environmental Policy Act.

Fanning built his conclusion on "assumptions about the economy and about the environment; on the few projections available; on educated hunches that the democratic processes are ideally suited to respond to a youthful fervor for revolutionary though peaceful social change; and on the belief that the young people of America are not going to drop the environmental cause."

Now, over a decade later, it is time to ask ourselves if these assumptions, especially the latter two, are still true, and if they will be in the future. ■

Rob Van Orsow

Job Figures Tell Story

Discipline	Number Employed in 1970	Fannings Est. for 1980	Actual 1980 figures
Ecology	4,300	12,000	N/A
Earth Sciences			
Geology	22,800	33,400	34,000
Geophysics	6,800	10,400	12,000
Meteorology	4,000	12,000	4,000
Oceanography	5,800	40,000	2,800
Resources and Recreation			
Forestry	25,000	37,000	15,000
Forestry Aids	13,000	23,000	14,500
Range Management	6,000	8,000	4,000
Soil Conservation	26,000	30,000	5,000
Wildlife Conservation	15,500	20,000	NA
Fisheries Conservation	4,500	7,500	NA
Recreation and Parks	215,790	220,000	135,000
Environmental Design			
Architecture	34,000	61,600	79,500
Engineering	40,000	70,000	400,000
Landscape Architecture	8,500	14,500	15,000
Urban Planning	7,000	16,600	23,000
Environmental Protection	217,500	565,000	NA
TOTALS.....	665,990	1,181,800	NA

Wanted: New National Symbol Must Thrive on Urban Wastelands

David Taylor

Before long, we may have to pick a new national symbol. Our present one, the bald eagle, is in danger of extinction in 43 states and is rapidly disappearing in five others, including Washington. Only Alaska and Florida have stable bald eagle populations.

The bald eagle is one of 200 plants and animals in North America that are presently in danger of extinction. Since the arrival of the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock in 1620, over 150 species of native fauna, and 350 species of native flora, have been lost forever. By comparison, during the 3,000 years of the last Ice Age, scientists estimate that only 50 species of mammals and 40 species of birds native to North America disappeared.

Extinction most often results from alteration or elimination of habitat, which is usually the outcome of human settlement. Extinction can be indirectly initiated by the introduction of new species of plants and animals or environmental pollution. Urbanization, agriculture, timbering, wetlands drainage, overgrazing by stock, highway construction and off-road vehicle use are among the most devastating of human activities. Pesticides and herbicides also pose major threats to birds such as the bald eagles. In 1967 the U.S. sprang into action and passed the Endangered Species Preservation Act, dedicated to protect those species that are nearly extinct. New legislation was passed in 1973, called simply the Endangered Species Act. This Act directs the government to prevent further extinctions by requiring government purchase of endangered species habitats, conserve and protect federally managed lands, and encourage individual states to enact their own endangered species legislation. The current law now protects 756 species—288 of them domestic, the remainder foreign.

Bogged down by a maze of red tape, officials are finding it harder and more expensive to expand the "endangered" list. In 1979, some 65 species were added to the list, but the number dropped to 15 in 1980, and since President Reagan has taken over no new species have been added that weren't already proposed under the Carter administration.

Some biologists maintain that as many as three species of biota are being lost daily throughout the world. University of Washington botonist Peter Raven says, "many of us believe that something like a million species, amounting to a quarter of the diveristy of life on earth, will become extinct during the next 30 to 50 years."

The magnitude of such potential loss is now becoming obvious in many parts of the world. Some 70 nations are now cooperating under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna to regulate the import and export of imperiled plants and animals. Many countries in the Third World and elsewhere are moving to preserve their threatened wildlife resources. We can only hope that these beginnings will blossom into a new era of conservation of the life that still exists on this planet. In the meantime, we can begin our search for a new symbol of America, perhaps some creature that thrives on urban areas and black-top wastelands, whose population is too numerous to ever be completely annihilated. ■

My photographs are a mechanism for me to share the environment with others and to stimulate awareness and concern.

By framing things closely, nature is broken down into its simplest components. This creates a calming effect for the viewer and allows s/he to appreciate the role we play in unison with all living things.

-Linda Versage

Photo Winners

We are proud to feature the top three winners of the Environmental Center's "environmental awareness" photo contest in this issue of the Monthly Planet. Congratulations to Linda Versage whose first place photo highlights our cover. Congratulations also to Brian Lind for his second place entry which is found on page 8 and again to Ms. Versage for her third place photo shown on page 4.

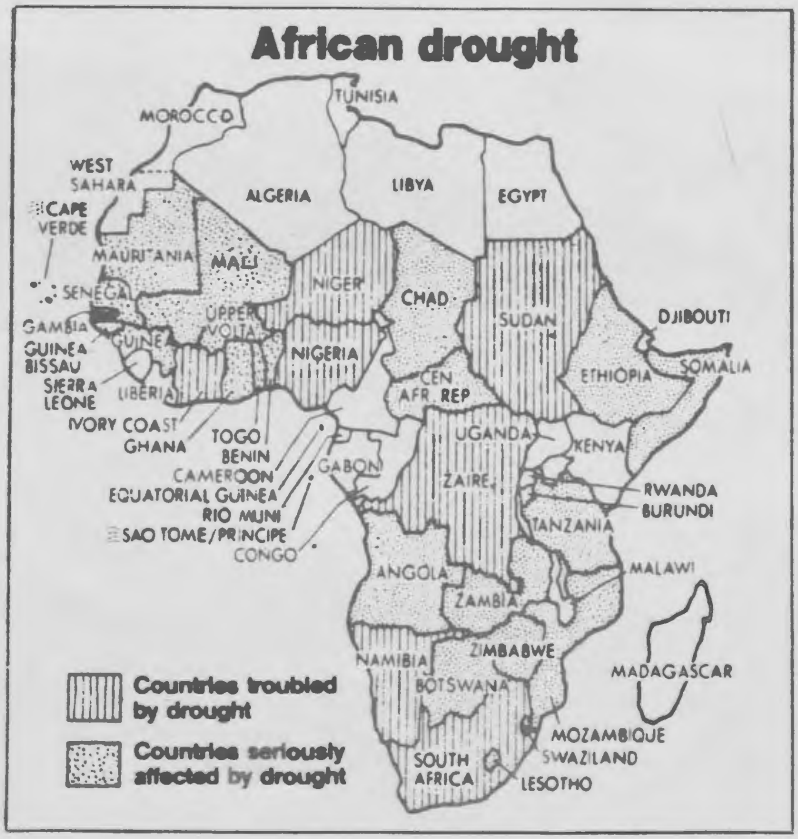
Worst Drought This Century Leaves Starvation and Dispair

Sue Spencer

At this moment over 150 million people are starving or malnourished because of the worst drought in Africa in 100 years of record-keeping. El Nino, the Pacific Ocean current that brought balmy weather to western Washington last spring while causing storms in California, has left much of Africa without rain for the last two years. Other parts of the continent have experienced rainfall 60 to 80 percent below normal.

The drought conditions first began in 1973, but this is the worst year ever for 24 African nations—about half the continent. The nations of the Sub-Saharan belt, the Ethiopian Highlands, and southern Africa are all affected, with the south hit the hardest. Three to four million people are expected to starve to death this year as a result of the hostile weather. The United Nations Children's Fund estimates that 100,000 children will starve, while 200,000 will be irreversiby damaged from malnutrition. Malnutrition deforms children, aids the spread of malaria and hepatitis in adults and can cause paralysis and blindness. Staples of the drought-stricken African diet include baked grass, rats, and next season's seeds. Some villagers are so desperate that they set fires in their fields to smoke out rats; these fires often spread and kill the few crops that have managed to survive. Most cattle have died, either from the drought or from the frequent outbreaks of rinderpest, an infectious cattle disease.

Much of the problem is institutional. Many Africans use primitive agricultural techniques which barely allow subsistence in normal conditions; droughts spell disaster to these farmers. Furthermore, many tribes have recently abandoned their nomadic lifestyles. In the past, they tilled one piece of land for a few years and then moved on to a new area while the old plot regained its fertility. Now farmers stay in one place, allowing the land to grow barren, resulting in increasing scarcity of arable land. Compounding the problem, the African continent as a whole has a population growth rate of 3.5 percent per year.



The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization studied 18 dry African nations and determined that 4.2 million metric tons of grain and $76 million would be needed to avoid mass starvation. The United States has pledged over $50 million in aid so far. Although the United States, Canada, Western Europe, the U.S.S.R. and Japan have delivered thousands of tons of food aid and millions of dollars of economic aid, little of it has reached those in need. Relief aid is sent through international bureaucracies which waste resources and cause delays. Some African officials steal aid funds or use the food for their animals. These dry countries, most of them poor under the best conditions, do not have the facilities for widespread food distribution. Road networks are poorly constructed and few trucks are available. To help

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

NEWS LETTER

GREETINGS! MAY 1984

It's hard to believe that my year as Environmental Center coordinator officially will end with the publication of this last Monthly Planet and Environmental Center newsletter. At times I thought perhaps we'd NEVER reach the end of the year-- our endless planning of events; "coordinating" people, making reservations and muddling through the Associated Students' considerable paperwork, making and then posting posters, attending meetings, and attending our own functions seemed to engulf every aspect of my life. But now that the Environmental Staff for the 1984-1985 season already is busy planning next year's events, I'd like to indulge myself and take one last opportunity to briefly reflect upon the past year at EC, to thank a few special people, and to take a brief look at plans for next year.

We, the collective Environmental Center Staff, set our goals early last fall: to educate the community about pressing environmental issues and to become active facilitators and contributors to the solution of these. We tried to do this by offering a series of small-scaled events instead of concentrating on a few large, in-depth conferences. We realized that by stretching our resources out in this way that we'd have to address issues perhaps more superficially than we'd like. We hoped that we'd compensate by reaching a greater segment of the campus community by our offering a wider variety of issues and events.

This "strategy" had its successes and failures. In retrospect, I suspect that we spread ourselves out a little too thin; that by trying to reach everyone, we reached fewer than we might have by narrowing our focus a bit. Although we only would have reached that part of the community who were truly interested in a couple of issues that we would have examined, perhaps we would have better utilized both our resources and time. We hoped to bring environmental issues alive to those we'd felt needed the knowledge the most--those who as yet have little understanding of the importance of environmental considerations. However, attracting non-Huxley students to our lecture/films was more difficult than I'd ever anticipated. Sometimes attracting Huxley students was equally as difficult.

In the process of trying to bring environmental issues "alive" for people, I have learned so much, professionally and personally. I learned, firstly, that Western students are busy folks! It takes a lot of advertising and poster-

making to grab their attention, but once we had it they proved to be fun, curious, concerned and enthusiastic. I learned that I could never learn all there was to know about environmental problems, although I tried, oh how I tried. I discovered the fine art of "delegating" responsiblity, and then to take responsibility for the actions of myself and my co-workers. I also learned how to make decisions...by asking the advice of everyone I knew on every move I made. I learned how to drive a lonngg AS van. I forgot the meaning of a "free weekend"; I intend to relearn this phrase soon. I discovered I have peripheral vision...by the end of the year my eyes have been trained to scan every poster board on campus in a furtive search for an EC poster. Also I took to recycling more than ever before--usually other group's posters that were plastered over ours before one of our events. I learned never to schedule a dance on a friday night of a holiday weekend. Never. I learned that one can't procrasinate planning events like one can one's homework. This was an early lesson.

All in all, it was and educational and fun, yes fun, year. Certainly I did not go through these "learning experiences" alone. Thank you Peggy (Morgan) for hanging in there for the whole year. Your consistent help and ideas were invaluable. You are a cook extraordinaire and have been my "right arm" throughout all of our ups and downs. Thanks especially for listening when I needed someone to talk to. Thank you Roy (Fore) for so easily picking up where Carla left off. You were an excellent program director, your calm reassurances were so welcomed, as was your help with Earth Week and Ernest Callenbach. Thank you Carla (Bartlett) for being our fall and winter program director. Kulshan Cabin certainly owes a debt to you, as I do for your work on the film series and your support and enthusiasm. Thank you Sally (Toteff) for the excellent publications of the Monthly Planet this year. In my unbiased opinion, these Planets were informative, appealing and entertaining. I'm amazed still at how hard you worked to make sure the Planet was always at its best: the marathon 3-day editing sessions, the endless searches for available word processors, the recruiting of ad sponsors, graphic artists and writers. Thank you most of all for your never-ending support and your friendship. Thank you Steve (Manthe) for your hard work as coordinator for the EC Library. Thank you for your work on the plans to move the library, for picking up your mail in the Viking Union and for your continued friendship.

Others I'd like to thank include our advisor Steve Walker, seminar instructors Lynn Robbins and John Miles, Greg Bawden, Paige Denslow, Doug Dobyns, David McFadden, Marc Ravaris, Laurie Stephan, David Wasson and Dawn Westall. A special thanks to Ken Enochs and Deke Jones at the OP for their continued advice and loaning of endless supplies.

Laurie Stephan is the new Environmental Center coordinator, a talented and capable woman with whom I know EC will thrive. Roger Taylor will be the program director, and he and Laurie will make quite a dynamic, creative and energetic team. Next year's very qualified editor, Dave Kuester, already is working on ways to improve and expand the Monthly Planet.

On the slateboard for next year's seminars are a conference planning seminar (fall), a second Canadian-American seminar (winter), and a Northwest Environmental Studies Students Conference (spring).

Lend your talents to the EC and the Planet nextyear! Join Dave by enrolling in Huxley's two-credit Planet seminar to help produce Western's only journal that promotes ecological sanity. And volunteer or get work study at EC... remeber: the environmental center can only give to the campus and students what you put into it. It can be whatever people make of it. Next year, make it ACTIVE!!

Karen McCrackin
EC coordinator 83-84

the domestic economy, much of the fertile land that remains is used to produce export commodities such as cocoa, rubber, and coffee instead of food for local consumption. Ironically, many of these nations are feeding us.

Political unrest has augmented the distribution problem. Many of the drought-affected countries are experiencing civil wars. In Mozambique and Ethiopia, anti-government guerillas attack farmers, ruin seed and fertilizer distribution centers and block supply convoys from reaching the hardest-hit areas.

If the present dilemma continues, experts have predicted a "major global catastrope" by the year 2000. The wealthy nations of the world ought to be doing more to help. These nations will help determine Africa's future by the type and extent of assistance they provide. Any American--rich or poor--can receive "surplus" food from the government by simply signing a statement of low income. Yet for Africa's starving millions there is no such hope.

For many Africans it is already "the day after." ■

Third World Struggles for Survival

Doug Price

Most third world nations are on the brink of disaster. They face malnutrition, disease, unemployment, and overcrowding. The countries that need the most help often have the least amount of capital and natural resources to help them gain self-sufficiency. The widening gap in income distribution between developed nations and underdeveloped nations is causing political unrest and financial chaos. Third World nations face huge depts to American banks and can't begin to pay the interest.

There are many reasons explaining the extreme poverty of the Third World. Population is the biggest problem. Many Third World nations have populations growing faster than their economies. With the likelihood of much slower economic growth, nations with rapid population growth may face declines in already low living standards. Rapid growth has set off a whole chain of problems. The tropical and subtropical climate of most Third World nations is best suited to support human population at low densities. Because of an average annual temperature of 20 degrees Celsius, the humus in the soil breaks down quickly, resulting in a soil that is low in nutrients. The mediocre soil is commonly subjected to slash and burn agriculture where a plot of land is cultivated and then is left fallow for several seasons, 12 to 13 years. During these fallow years the soil regains the nutrients that were lost: the longer the fields lay fallow the better of the soil will be.

However, with population in tropical areas expanding, demand for land increases. Thus fallow times are reduced and consequently the land is becoming less fertile. Rain also contributes to the problem. In many Third World regions the rain is unpredictable and when it rains, it is often torrential. For example, rains of more than 200 millimeters per hour regularly ocur in Ghana, while the monthly average in London is 50 millimeters. These rains can be followed by months of drought. If the land laying fallow does not have sufficient protective vegetation, erosion takes place and further strips the soil of nutrients. As the land produces less, small farmers need to borrow more money and often eventually end up selling their land to wealthy land owners to pay off their debt. Aside from difficulties which nature imposes on the Third World it also has been hard hit by Western civilization. Since the times of colonialism the Third World has been exploited by European and American interests. Europeans have traditionally gone to Third World nations destroying native cultures, taking the riches of the region, and leaving disease, poverty, and despair. In some ways this still goes on today. Multinational corporations and wealthy land owners often exploit cheap labor, natural resources and take advantage of the tax havens created by the governments they support and control.

The elite classes control the government in most poor nations creating additional stress between the rich and poor. Many of the recent revolutions have been caused by this split between the rich and the poor. The unequal distribution of wealth between nations and among individuals within these nations must be narrowed if we are to see solutions to world problems. Land everywhere will have to be used much more carefully and intensively. Population control and equitable distribution of wealth are prerequisite for global survival. ■

Civil Disobedience: It's the Principle

Nancy Uding

So what did you do this for anyway?"

Sherry and I sat in the back seat of the patrol car, holding hands to reassure each other. Too frightened to answer, we just looked at each other. We were scared, we thought they might be taking us to jail. The cop turned away and muttered to himself, "I guess it's the principle, huh?" I looked behind us and saw the rest of my friends loaded into patrol cars.

We thirteen had been part of a demonstration and blockade at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, held on March 31, 1984 to protest U.S. military escalation in Central America. Earlier that afternoon, we had walked hand in hand up to the entrance of the base, stretched out across it, and sat down. There were onlookers: about 100 picketers (also part of the demonstration), cops in riot gear, soldiers in combat uniforms with guns and clubs, and people in cars that could no longer pass through the gate. We were asked to leave by the cops. When we said "No" we were arrested dragged to waiting patrol cars.

So what did we do this for anyway? Earlier that week, the first troops to participate in the Grenadero I exercises were sent from an engineering batallion at Fort Lewis to Honduras. They will be building assault airstrips. These exercises will move thousands of U.S. troops into Honduras, which borders on both El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Grenadero I is part of accelerating U.S. military build up in Central America. A build up that Salvadorans and Nicaraguans believe will result in an invasion of U.S. troops into their countries and direct U.S. military involvement in their affairs. We acted because we believe in these nations' right to sovereignty. The people of El Salvador and Nicaragua should create the governments that they want for themselves. Our own Declaration of Independance states "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends (Life, Liberty, the Pursuit of Happiness), it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

We were asked to leave by the cops. When we said, "No," we were arrested and dragged to waiting patrol cars.

The people of El Salvador and Nicaragua have the right to form governments whose primary intentions are to serve the interests of its people, not the interests of the United States. We did this action because we are angry that our government is using our tax money to help pay the brutal government of El Salvador to exterminate its own people, and is using our tax money to undermine the new government of Nicaragua, and is using our tax money to intimidate and control the people of Central America.

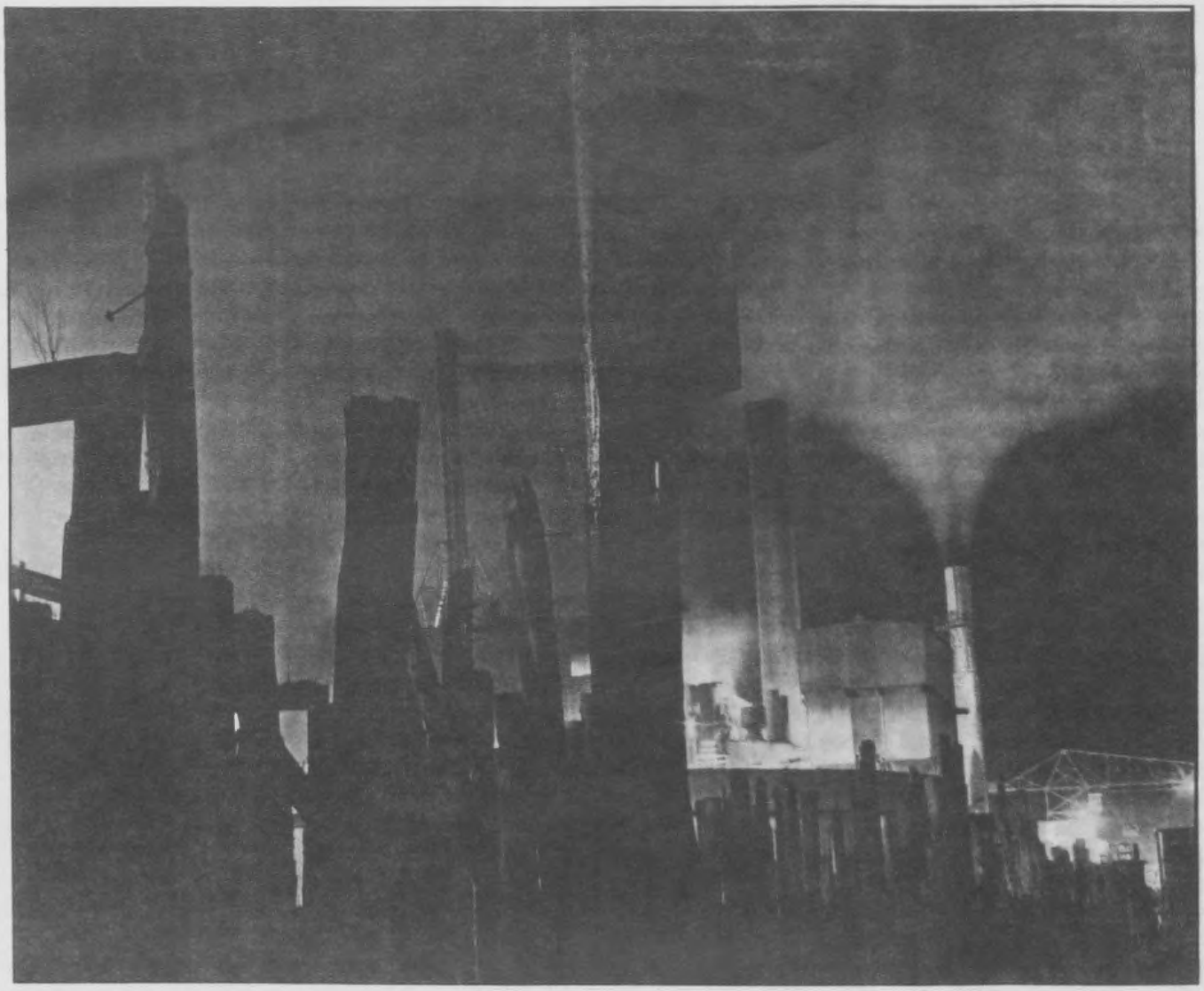
Why did we choose civil disobedience? Why be willing to break laws and take on the consequences handed out by the legal system? We were charged with failure to obey a police officer. We did it because civil disobedience challenges the system. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when writing about civil disobedience actions in the Civil Rights Movement, said that direct actions in which laws are broken, creates tension, a tension that forces negotiations.

We believe that civil disobedience can shock other people into confronting issues first within themselves, then on a community and nationwide level, and eventually force our nation's leaders into confronting the issue. We protested at Fort Lewis because the severity of the problem calls for severity of action. Unless we want war, unless we want G.I.'s from Fort Lewis and elsewhere to die in Central America, unless we want thousands more Central Americans to die, unless we want death squads to continue murdering Salvadorans, unless we want to continue mining the harbors of Nicaragua, we must resist, we must say no, NOW, before it is too late.

Thoreau said that " Action from principle, the perception and performance of right, changes things and relations." The cop was right when he spoke under his breath. It was the principle. ■

If the injustice is part of the necessary friction of the machine of government, let it go, let it go: perchance it will wear smooth — certainly the machine will wear out. If the injustice has a spring, or a pulley, or a rope, or a crank, exclusively for itself, then perhaps you may consider whether the remedy will not be worse than the evil: but if it is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say break the law. Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine.

— Henry David Thoreau —



Shooting night shots of Georgia Pacific is a sort of special project of mine. This particular shot was taken on the floating warf below the fish store on the northwest corner of GP.

The picture represents several elements of photography and environmental concerns. The old rotting piers in the foreground combined with the ominous verticals of the smoke stacks of GP combine for an interesting effect. It combines the old with the new and neither one is too pretty - except at night.

-Brian Lind

Speak Out

Stash Your Trash

The earth is rapidly approaching its carrying capacity for human life. Every time we cast recycleable material away we come one step closer to the day when humans will be an endangered species.

I am talking about solid waste and resource depletion. These are two closely related problems that ought to concern us for several reasons. We depend on many natural resources to keep our standard of living at its present level. But due to our growth oriented surplus economy and a rising population, both renewable and non-renewable resources are being exploited at increasing rates. What will happen to our way of living when these resources are gone? What will happen to our rape and pillage economy? The answers may lie in the way we deal with solid waste.

Every Thursday I take my garbage out to the alley and that used to be the end of it as far as I was concerned. I never stopped to think where my garbage went. Although individual contribution to a Whatcom County landfill or an incinerator is small, the accumulative contribution of the whole county is large. 900 tons of solid waste are collected in Whatcom County each week. Seattle collects 1,300 tons per day. In New York City, where there are no landfill sites, the garbage is taken by barge out into the harbor and dumped into the water. How lovely.

Solid waste and resource depletion are serious problems. In 1978 the Department of Agriculture reported that the United States spent over 4 billion dollars on solid waste disposal. Cities' expenditures for solid waste fell second to those of education. Getting rid of solid waste costs almost as much as education. In 1980, 65 billion tons of tin cans were thrown away. The United States does not have any source for tin except through importing or recycling. Each Sunday edition of the New York Times requires the clearcutting of 800 acres of forest.

The State Department of Ecology reported that 10 percent of Washington's waste was recycled in 1981. This resulted in a savings of 36.5 million dollars in disposal costs.

According to the first law of thermodynamics, matter can not be created or destroyed. This means that garbage must be stored in one form or another. It doesn't just disappear once the garbage is left on the curb. The waste must be taken to landfills or other sites, suitable or not, for disposal. Whatcom County's landfills are rapidly filling up and there are no new places to take the waste. Existing landfills will now be kept open even though they are running out of room.

But, hold on to your garbage, there is a solution to our problems. The answer could be recycling. Recycling diverts goods such as tin, glass, paper, plastic, aluminum, and organic materials from the waste stream back into productive use. People often say, "I'm only person. What difference can I make?" This is a reasonable response. But recycling can be effective in controlling solid waste and resource depletion if it is practiced by many. To get people to incorporate recycling into their lifestyle there must be a change in attitude; a change away from the view that technology will solve our problems. We are all in a position to do something about the problem. You don't need a college degree to recycle. All that is needed is a little space and some organization. You can make a difference if we all work together. For further information, you may contact A.S. Recycling at 676-3088 or use the Recycle Hotline at 1-800-RECYCLE.■

Jim Madison

VISION IN THE FOREST

Forest peace, quiet sunshafts,
Squirrel call, yielding moss bed
gently soothe aches away.
Embracing trees, mother's arms,
Healing stream, sweet voice
gently ease aches away.
Gently ease away.

White, she comes.
She is white, this is instinctive.
"Come" she points across the air,
across the moss, to where
the stream flows.
"Come"
I must follow.
Over wet grass; over dark earth;
It is not far, still she must lead
to the flowing stream.
Silently, she tells me "Look"

The stream is clear.
No vision, no secret there.
No fiery prophet meets my eye.
"Look" she sighs.
I look, and then,
a glistened snow lily floats by.
Delicate, white, achingly
beautiful; bright, pure,
hard dimensions.
It swirls, passes. Another
floats by.
And another.

I look up at her whiteness.
She simply nods.
A thought comes,
"The lilies but days my child,
the waters thyself"
I look back into those waters and
suddenly, joyfully,
I begin cry.
To cry, and she is still nodding,
smiling.

Jacaranda Tears

On the last day in April
I sat alone under
the largest jacaranda tree
in Uruapan.
One soft flower
fell into the left
breast pocket of
my shirt...

The jacaranda tree
cries purple tears
for a drying land.

Ernesto Padilla Bay

The Dogs of Morelia

Waking between midnight and dawn
I hear the dogs nearby
Barking, calling, answering
Other dogs across the city.
Distant barks, answered by closer barks,
Continue until daylight
Until the rise in daytime sounds
covers them...
Then the dogs sleep.

Ernesto Padilla Bay

Happy Trails . . .

The end nears and a new beginning is waiting. This is the last issue of the Monthly Planet for the year. And, oh, what a year it's been! We, as a staff, were commited to provoke, enlighten, anger, entertain and inspire our readers. I hope that the presence of the Planet on campus and in the community has provided pertinent information, raised relevant questions and offered fresh insights about the earth and the folks who live on it.

None of this would have been possible, however, without the efforts of dedicated staff members and the other motivated individuals whose contributions greatly enhanced the Planet. Though the list is long, I would like to single out and say "thanks" to the following people:

Chris Banko (fall staff) for enthusiastic participation, a ready smile and for fun facts to know and tell about dirty green snowball-like chunks.

Doug Dobyns (fall, winter staff) for up-to-the-minute knowledge about everything and for telling us about "cruising" and "greening" in Canada.

Ivan Farrell (spring staff) for going to meetings when they were cancelled.

Roy Fore (winter staff) for his amazing ability to meet every deadline, for writing as clear as he thinks and for being there in a pinch.

Mark Gunlogson (winter staff) for offering a new "trend" in the book and film review departments.

Huxley College for sponsoring the Planet seminar, for allowing us free access to their word processor and especially to Diane Merrill, Karen Foisy and Sally Elmore for their tolerance, cooperation and flexibility.

Randy Jackson (fall staff) for listening to his mother and "energetically" tackling a feature on Hawaii.

Kurt Kocher (spring staff) for running errands at the last minute and for his other spawn-taneous contributions.

Jim Madison (spring staff) for his eagerness to help in any way, for liking onions on his pizza and for recycling all our paper.

Steve Manthe (fall staff, winter editor) for unselfishly giving his time, for his expertise in editing, for returning all my calls, for coffee at Casa and beer at Buck's, for his friendship, and for waiting until spring for "rainy" days.

Karen McCrackin (my boss) for listening to me complain, for her editing advice, for 100% support, for the Seattle paper pick up and especially for her friendship.

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