


The Native Forest Council's

# Forest Voice

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Defending Nature, Saving Life since 1988

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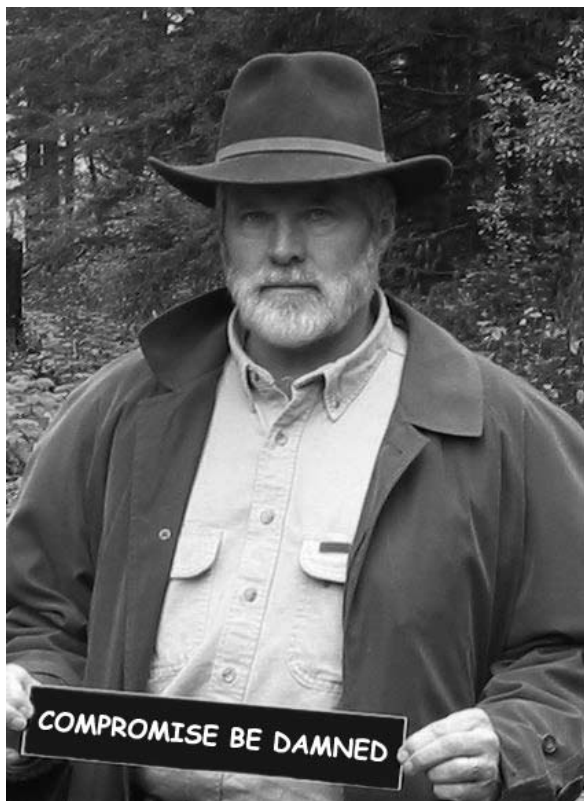
A person stands on a grassy hill, their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or awe. They are silhouetted against a vast, layered landscape of white, fluffy clouds that stretch to the horizon. In the background, dark, jagged mountain peaks rise against a clear blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of freedom, achievement, and connection with nature.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*- Margaret Mead*

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## Selling Out The Schools

The worst lies are the ones we tell our children. Whether it's a cartoon camel assuring a generation of kids that smoking is cool, or a teacher demonstrating how children can survive atomic attack by "ducking and covering;" the manipulation of impressionable minds can have deadly consequences that reverberate across generations.

As propagandists know: to command tomorrow they must shape the content of education today. While commercial advertising continues to be a powerful tool of instruction—one that operates virtually unnoticed in our homes—increasingly, corporations are infiltrating our schools.

Corporate PR firms established a beachhead with Channel 1, promoted as bringing educational television to the classroom. What it also brought was advertising which, by contractual agreement, children are obliged to watch. Likewise, the fast-food industry has agreements with school districts which peddle junk food to growing kids in return for funding.

Now the curriculum is being targeted. Oil companies have developed "science" curriculums designed to cast doubt on climate change while defending the continued use of fossil fuels. Logging companies distribute "learning" materials which promote the intensive logging of the last ancient forests on public lands. They encourage the use of herbicides and pesticides in the name of forest health, while ignoring the poisons leaching into our rivers endangering human health. And they gloss over the non-commercial benefits of forests so essential in a time of global warming. Against overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary, the message conveyed to children is: We can keep doing what we're doing without consequence. But most disturbing, this corporate propaganda is distributed with the blessing of the National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA).

It stands to reason that corporate "support" of education is not solely driven by a Socratic love of learning. Self-promotion and the justification of harmful business practices are inevitable when, for example, logging companies provide teaching modules on forest ecology. The result is a pre-emptive strike against discernment which is replaced with values and beliefs promotive of the corporation's agenda. And a large part of that agenda is directed at convincing children that global warming will be survivable without any meaningful or urgent action on our part.

Kids are being groomed to be obedient consumers and in the process, PR is substituted for science, and reality is manufactured to suit corporate interests. Thus, clearcuts visible from space represent sound forest management, and opening the Arctic to drilling is part of a comprehensive energy policy while increasing mileage standards is not.

We don't yet know the long-term effects of dumbing-down children, but we do know the impact on the NSTA. An organization which should stand uncompromisingly for the advancement of science education, has instead chosen to censor it. When offered 50,000 free copies of the scientifically acclaimed (and Academy Award winning) climate change documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, the NSTA refused citing an "unnecessary risk upon the capital campaign." By accepting money from industries whose financial interests depend on discrediting science, the NSTA chose self-censorship over honest education. When science conflicts with the



corporate curriculum, the strategy is clear: Don't upset the donors.

The Native Forest Council (NFC), an Oregon-based environmental organization, will bring its Children for an Honest Education campaign to the NSTA conference in St. Louis this March. It's purpose is to sound the alarm and provide a counter-weight to the crush of corporate exhibitors wishing to exert influence over education. It will not be welcome. The NFC was warned not to be critical of other exhibitors. Nonetheless, the NFC will speak. Irony begets tragedy when a teacher's association believes telling the truth is more costly than living with lies.

Joseph Goebbels, a master propagandist, said this: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

Given their power and influence, corporations have become borderless states, and the same reasoning applies. It is in the financial interest of certain corporations to be hostile to science and deny climate change until nature can no longer protect us from its consequences. By then, global warming will acquire its own irreversible momentum which, scientists warn, may produce a very different and hellish planet.

Before entrusting our children's education to corporations, consider the record. Without concern for the general welfare, corporations moved jobs overseas, falsified earnings, crushed unions, looted pensions, and cut health care benefits. They purchased control of governance, gutted environmental protections, and demanded regulatory exemption. Their appetite is voracious, and their ethics are often ghoulish.

Now they've come for our children.

Don't let them.

- Tim.



## Forest Voice

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**No Thanks**  
All those who feel it's OK to cut deals that leave us with less native forests, soil, air and clean water.

**Submission Guidelines**  
We welcome unsolicited submissions that address issues relevant to public lands protection and support the Native Forest Council's mission. If you would like us to return your work, please include a SASE or send an email to [Tim@forestcouncil.org](mailto:Tim@forestcouncil.org).

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## Native Forest Council

The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax-deductible organization founded by business and professional people alarmed by the wanton destruction of our national forests. We believe a sound economy and a sound environment must not be incompatible and that current public land management practices are probably catastrophic to both.

The mission of the Native Forest Council is to protect and preserve every acre of publicly owned land in the United States.

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# News and Views

## Bush Signs AETA Bill

On Nov 27, President Bush Signed the *Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act* (AETA) into law. The bill was passed by the Senate in September, and passed the House days before being sent to the President. In the house, just 6 members were present when the bill was voted on, with Dennis Kucinich being the only dissenting vote.

AETA amends the 1992 *Animal Enterprise Protection Act* which protects animal enterprises from illegal acts committed by animal activists.

The act essentially makes any action that disrupts the commercial activities of an "animal enterprise" a terrorist act.

Civil-rights groups say the bill's vague language could brand activists as terrorists for activities that are unlawful yet non-violent, such as blockades, property destruction, trespassing, and the freeing of captive animals.

[For more information on similar legislation at the state level, see Karen Pickett's article on ALEC on page 13]



## EPA Redefines English Language to Allow Polluting

The Bush administration's EPA recently declared that pesticides can be sprayed into and over waters without first obtaining special permits.

The EPA decision gave the pest control companies what they wanted. It also closely parsed the English language for what the all-important word "pollutant" means. EPA officials concluded that a pesticide, when it's deliberately applied, isn't a "pollutant" under the terms of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

## Pesticides May Have Drastic Effects

Louis Guillette, associate dean for research at the University of Florida, has stated that research provides enough evidence that pesticides put children, wildlife and the ecosystem at risk.

He found abnormalities in sex organs, dramatic differences in egg-hatching rates and hormone levels. Penis size of the animals from the polluted lake was smaller than animals from the less-polluted lake.

# The Native Forest Council Needs Your Help

For the past 19 years, the Native Forest Council has been striving to do everything necessary to inform the American public about what's really going on in our national forests and public lands, rivers and streams. We have redefined the debate on our public forests from "How much should we cut?" to "To cut or not to cut!" As the originators of Zero Cut, we have directly influenced the direction of the national conservation movement.

A few years ago, Native Forest Council created our groundbreaking aerial photography project, "Exposing the Truth, which opened the eyes of tens of thousands of citizens, activists, media and decision makers to the devastation wrought by a century of clearcutting. Last year we took these images to the next level with our Google Earth DVD, using the computer program Google Earth to get a bird's eye view of our decimated public forests. Right now we are in the final stages of working with photographer Brett Cole to produce an innovative feature film combining aerial and satellite photography and computer graphics to reveal the plight of America's public forests in stark, incredible detail.

Native Forest Council is at an exciting stage in our Honest Education Campaign, which consists of accurate environmental science curriculum for public schools to combat the misinformation of corporate curriculum currently flooding our schools. We have also been busy attending and presenting at dozens of conferences, schools and other public events around the nation; conducting hard-lined, uncompromising political grassroots organizing and lobbying, speaking truth to power while pulling no punches; building regional and national coalitions to help

## 17th Annual Heartwood Forest Council Localism:

## Answering Globalism

May 25-28, 2007

Camp Taum Sauk, Lesterville, Missouri



This weekend-long program, held this year in the beautiful Missouri Ozarks, will bring together activists, farmers, grassroots organizers, and other concerned individuals in an atmosphere of rejuvenation and collaboration. We will address threats to regional ecology and to human and community health, and explore the necessary steps we can all take toward a shared vision of a healthy, just, and sustainable society.

For more information on the program, including a complete list of presenters and workshops, registration information, directions, and more, please visit [www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org) or contact Jim Scheff, Missouri Forest Alliance, at (314) 991-4190 or [shagbark12@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shagbark12@sbcglobal.net)

shore up our allies; generating mainstream and alternative media campaigns and print, radio and television advertising to broadcast our message loud and clear to the American people; carrying out massive public outreach and education; as well as planning future litigation and reintroduction of our Forever Wild bill into legislation.

Native Forest Council has been publishing the Forest Voice, giving you the real scoop on issues affecting your public forests and watersheds, for the past 19 years. We do a printing of between 15 and 40 thousand every issue and send copies to our members and supporters, including bulk shipments to businesses, organizations and volunteer distributors across the nation.

While many of you reading this current issue are active members who have made a contribution in the past year, some of your memberships may have lapsed, or perhaps you haven't yet become a member of Native Forest Council. As education and inspiration of the American public is the reason we exist, we expect to keep distributing the Forest Voice free of charge to those who value it, no matter the costs.

However, for those supporters who have been reading the Forest Voice and appreciate our "voice in the wilderness," reporting on topics few other sources would dare to publish, we would like to ask you whether you'd consider making a donation this year. Any contributions will ensure we keep the quality of the magazine at our current high standard, and allow us to continue publishing the Forest Voice for the next 19 years.

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## A Tribute to David Brower

by Ralph Nader  
Boulder Daily Camera  
December 2000

David R. Brower was the greatest environmentalist and conservationist of the 20th century. He was also an indefatigable champion of every worthwhile effort to protect the environment over the last seven decades. David Brower, who was 88 years old, died of complications related to cancer on Nov. 5 at his home in Berkeley, Calif.

David Brower once said, "We're not blindly opposed to progress, we're opposed to blind progress." He was masterful at bringing the appropriate framework to any environmental controversy and showing that the short-term economic gains are insignificant when measured against the long-term economic and broader societal benefits of proper environmental stewardship.

**David Brower once said, "We're not blindly opposed to progress, we're opposed to blind progress."**

The monuments to his work dot the landscape of the nation's environmental movement. He founded the Earth Island Institute, the League of Conservation Voters, the John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies, the Global Conservation, Preservation, and Restoration (CPR) Service and the U.S.-based Friends of the Earth. He also initiated the founding of Friends of the Earth organizations worldwide. Many of the leaders of the environmental movement outside the United States were personally recruited by David Brower and they were often financially supported by him.

David Brower also helped establish the worker/environmental organization The Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment. And as executive director of the Sierra Club (1952-69), he increased the organization's membership from 2,000 to 77,000 and transformed the organization from a mild-mannered conservation organization into a powerful environmental advocacy organization.

His ability to clear away the underbrush of polite discourse and focus on core problems was well illustrated by his views on the corrosive impact of special-interest money on our political process. He said, "We don't have democracy in this country. What we have is legal bribery, where politicians must raise so much money to get elected that by

the time they do, they're bought and paid for by the companies and wealthy individuals who financed their campaigns."

His courage and dedication must be given credit in keeping dams out of Dinosaur National Monument, the Yukon and the Grand Canyon and in establishing the National Wilderness Preservation System. The list of his accomplishments fill chapters in the history of the world's environmental movements. Future generations will be the major beneficiaries of his willingness to take up the tough battles for the preservation of the earth.

He was nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize, and received numerous awards throughout his life, including 1998 Blue Planet Award. He was, however, more proud of his mountain climbing accomplishments than his many awards and honorary degrees. In 1939, David Brower successfully scaled Shiprock, a 1,500-foot spire in northern New Mexico. In addition he had over 70 "first-ascents" of mountains and peaks worldwide.

David Brower brought as much passion to his climbing of the Sierra's peaks as he did to fighting reckless development. One of his greatest accomplishments directing the fight to pass the Wilderness Act of 1964. This law was designed to protect millions of acres of public lands and to help keep these lands in pristine condition. David Brower was devoted to protecting our planet's natural habitats and Brower was in the forefront in helping to develop national parks and seashores in King Canyon, the North Cascades, the Redwoods, Great Basin, Alaska, Cape Cod, Fire Island and Point Reyes.

**David Brower had little interest in quick compromise. He advised, "We are to hold fast to what we believe is right, fight for it, and find allies"**

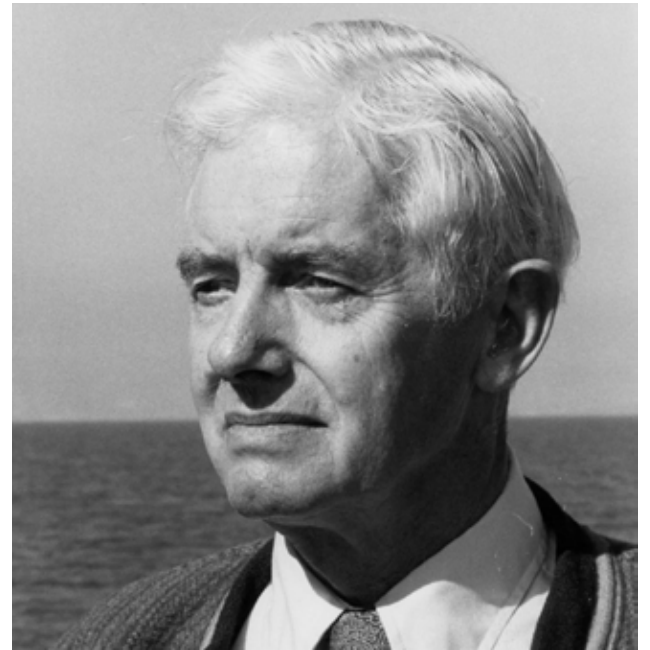
He led the way in protecting primeval forest in Olympic National Park and wilderness on San Geronio. David Brower was also one of the first environmental leaders to oppose nuclear power — something he believes led to him being fired by the Sierra Club in 1969 after working as the group's executive director for 17 years.

He successfully developed the "exhibit format" books, which showcased nature photography and brought a sense of appreciation of wilderness areas to those who may never have visited the wild. These books helped raise environmental awareness among millions of readers and helped inspire many people to join in fights to preserve wild areas.

David Brower had little interest in quick compromise. He advised, "We are to hold fast to what we believe is right, fight for it, and find allies and adduce all possible arguments for our cause. If we cannot find enough vigor in us or them to win, then let someone else produce the compromise. We thereupon work hard to coax it our way. We become a nucleus around which the strongest force can build and function."

This philosophy should be the foundation upon which today and tomorrow's environmental leaders build. The environmental movement has lost a world champion and society has lost a man who placed enduring principle ahead of expedient deal-making.

*Ralph Nader, a former Green Party presidential candidate, is a consumer advocate with the Congressional Accountability Project.*



### In His Own Words

"Environmentalists make terrible neighbors but great ancestors."

"Let man heal the hurt places and reverse whatever is still miraculously pristine."

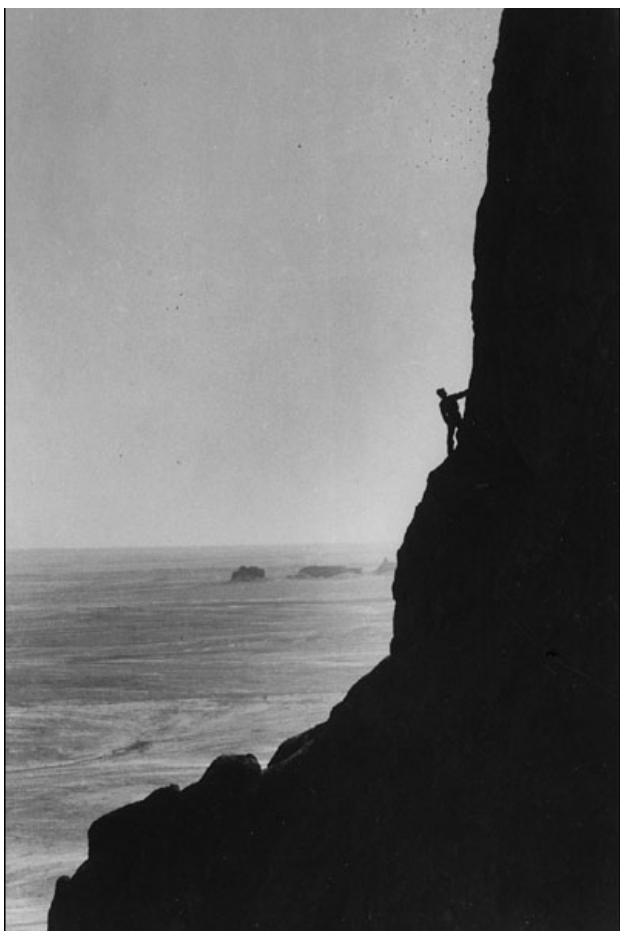
"The practice of clearcutting is an ecologically illiterate exercise in economic opportunism, a form of slow-motion terrorism committed against those who need forest beauty now and forest products in the future."

"The Glacier Peak Wilderness is probably the most beautiful piece of country we've got. Mining copper there would be like hitting a pretty girl in the face with a shovel."

"Conservation is humanity caring for the future."

"Loggers losing their jobs because of Spotted Owl legislation is, in my eyes, no different than people being out of work after the furnaces of Dachau shut down."

"If we squeeze time ... and compress the earth's four billion years into the six days of creation, the earth began on last Sunday at midnight, life arrived Tuesday noon, to grow, spread, diversify, and become ever more beautiful. Neanderthal man came 11 seconds before Saturday midnight, agriculture only 1 1/2 seconds before midnight. The industrial Revolution began its attack on the earth 1/40th of a second ago. It is midnight now, and high time to slow the attack. So far almost all nations have been asking for more speed, believing that some kind of technological magic will stretch the earth. There is no such magic. We ought soon to learn to ask, before starting a vast new project, what will we gain if we don't build it? What will it cost the earth? "



# Profiles in Courage

## Elouise Cobell

Elouise Cobell Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation Ms. Cobell is the Executive Director of the Native American Community Development Corporation a non profits affiliate of Native American Bank. She also served as Chairperson for the Blackfeet National Bank, the first national bank located on an Indian reservation and owned by a Native American tribe. Ms. Cobell was one of its lead organizers of the bank and was instrumental in the formation of the Blackfeet Reservation Development Fund, Inc. Her work on the Individual Indian Monies Trust Correction and Recovery Project has won admiration by many. This is a project to reform the U.S. Government on the management of Individual Indian Trust Assets. Ms. Cobell is a recipient of the 1997 "Genius Grant" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Fellowship Program.

Ms. Cobell's professional, civic experience and

expertise includes serving as a Board Member for the Tides Foundation, the Northwest Area Foundation, First Interstate Bank, the Montana Community Foundation, a Trustee of the National Museum of the American Indian, as well as a member of other boards. Ms. Cobell served for thirteen years as the Treasurer for the Blackfeet Indian Nation in Montana.

In addition to operating a working ranch with her husband, which produces cattle and crops, she is active in local agriculture and environmental issues, founding the first Land Trust in Indian Country and serves as a Trustee for the Nature Conservancy of Montana.

Elouise Cobell is a graduate of Great Falls Business College and attended Montana State University where she recently received an Honorary Doctorate Degree; her professional background is in accounting and community development. Ms. Cobell



received the 2002 International Women's Forum award for "Women Who Make a Difference" in Mexico City. She is a member of the Blackfeet Indian Tribe of Montana.

## Ending A National Disgrace

by Elouise Cobell

When the federal government faces a problem in Indian country, its usual tactic is to try to divide and conquer the Indians. That does not seem to be working these days.

**Billions of dollars that were supposed to have been placed in the trust accounts of individual Indians never got there**

On June 20, I went to Washington to announce a set of principles that could settle the class action lawsuit I filed nine years ago over the government's well-documented mishandling of thousands of Individual Indian Money accounts. As our news conference dramatically illustrated, the leaders of the nation's largest Indian organizations were united. All joined me in supporting congressional action that could resolve our lawsuit.

Too many Indians have died since the lawsuit was filed in 1996, and too many will die before the courts can resolve all the issues in the case. These are among the poorest people in America, and they need help now. That's why I agreed to this proposal.

It is a good, commonsense bargain for the government and Indian people. It responds to repeated calls by Congress to settle this case promptly. It gives Congress a bold opportunity to reach out to the nation's first citizens and end a national disgrace that dates to 1887.

That's when Congress decided that Indians were not smart enough to handle their own money and directed that the federal government manage all their lands. We know now all too well that the federal government, which had total control of our lands and money, was not a good manager, either.

Billions of dollars that were supposed to have been placed in the trust accounts of individual Indians never got there. They were stolen, embezzled, misappropriated and diverted from helping the very people whose lands the government was leasing to oil, gas, timber and agricultural interests.

Our nine-year court fight has documented those wrongs. But the great tragedy of this issue has been that the government has known for decades that the accounts were not being handled properly. Study after study has confirmed that the Indians were short-changed and that the government simply kept the excess in Washington.

Now, 118 years later, we finally have a practical way to put back the word "trust" in the Indian trust account system. Equally important, we have an honorable way to remove the stain from the government's dealings with thousands of Indians who were denied access to the money that they should have had decades ago.

As the plaintiffs in this lawsuit, we have won a series of wonderful victories. The federal courts have confirmed our worst fears: that the government did indeed take advantage of some of the nation's first citizens.

Congress showed leadership and asked Indian leaders for a blueprint to resolve this question. We have given it 50 principles that could guide the writing of a lasting trust-reform program. I hope that our lawmakers realize that Indian country, with more than 500 federally recognized tribes, has never been more united on an issue.

We now call on Congress to listen to the united voice of Indians across the nation and give them justice. We are not seeking a handout, welfare or reparations. The Indian trust and this case are about land, resources and money stolen from the forefathers of more than 500,000 Indian beneficiaries.

As the courts have said repeatedly, **this is our money.**

## [A Difficult to Believe] Message from Former Interior Secretary Norton

For several years, the Department of the Interior has been involved in an accounting project of unprecedented proportions. Among other things, Interior has been ordered by the district court in Cobell v. Norton to document every dollar it has received and disbursed on behalf of individual Indians since 1887—a task that encompasses billions of dollars, hundreds of thousands of accounts, and tens of millions of account transactions. Under the district court's order, Interior must verify the accuracy of every transaction in its individual Indian account ledgers by reference to the supporting documents.

No other federal financial system—not the tax collection system, the Social Security system, or the Medicare system—has ever been tasked with an undertaking of this type and scope.

The resources necessary to accomplish this task are staggering—estimated at more than \$12 billion. Although the district court's order has been stayed pending appeal, Interior has nonetheless continued its accounting work, consistent with its own 2003 accounting plan and the funding provided by Congress, and has made substantial progress.

Interior's experience in conducting its accounting has revealed that a very high percentage of financial records are available—a quarter of a billion pages of Indian records have been collected and electronically indexed. Interior's accounting experts have uncovered no evidence of fraud or widespread systemic error in the U.S. government's handling of the individual Indian monies accounts, and the few errors that have been found are generally small in monetary value. This picture is significantly different from that offered by Interior's critics.

— Gale A. Norton

## Rosa Parks: The Woman Who Changed a Nation

By Kira Albin, interview conducted in 1996  
Photos courtesy of Monica Morgan Photography and ZondervanPublishingHouse

When Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man forty years ago on December 1, 1955, she was tired and weary from a long day of work.

At least that's how the event has been retold countless times and recorded in our history books. But, there's a misconception here that does not do justice to the woman whose act of courage began turning the wheels of the civil rights movement on that fateful day.

Rosa Parks was physically tired, but no more than you or I after a long day's work. In fact, under other circumstances, she would have probably given up her seat willingly to a child or elderly person. But this time Parks was tired of the treatment she and other African Americans received every day of their lives, what with the racism, segregation, and Jim Crow laws of the time.

**Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it**

"Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it," writes Parks in her recent book, *Quiet Strength*, (ZondervanPublishingHouse, 1994). "I kept thinking about my mother and my grandparents, and how strong they were. I knew there was a possibility of being mistreated, but an opportunity was being given to me to do what I had asked of others."

The rest of Parks' story is American history...her arrest and trial, a 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, and, finally, the Supreme Court's ruling in November 1956 that segregation on transportation is unconstitutional.

But Parks' personal history has been lost in the retelling. Prior to her arrest, Mrs. Parks had a firm and quiet strength to change things that were unjust. She served as secretary of the NAACP and later Adviser to the NAACP Youth Council, and tried to register to vote on several occasions when it was still nearly impossible to do so. She had run-ins with bus drivers and was evicted from buses. Parks recalls the humiliation: "I didn't want to pay my fare and then go around the back door, because many times, even if you did that, you might not get on the bus at all. They'd

probably shut the door, drive off, and leave you standing there."

Forty years later, despite some tremendous gains, Parks feels, "we still have a long way to go in improving the race relations in this country."

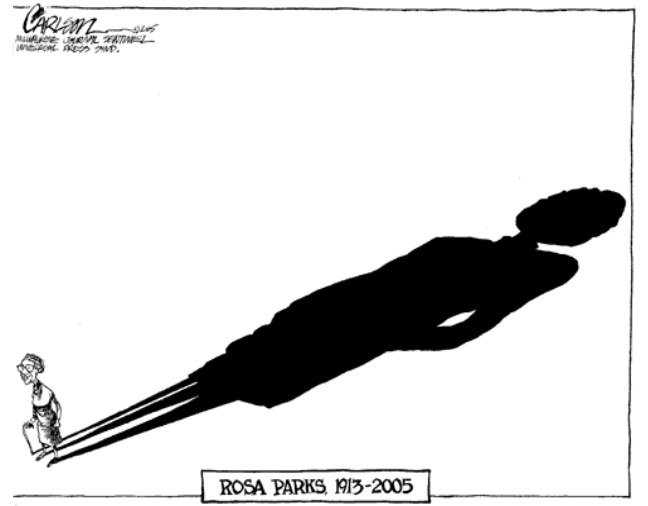
Rosa Parks spends most of her year in Detroit but winters in Los Angeles. Her day is filled with reading mail, "from students, politicians, and just regular people"-preparing meals, going to church, and visiting people in hospitals. She is still active in fighting racial injustices, now standing up for what she believes in and sharing her message with others. She and other members of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development have a special program called Pathways to Freedom, for young people age 11-18. Children in the program travel across the country tracing the Underground Railroad, visiting the scenes of critical events in the civil rights movement and learning aspects of America's history.

Says Elaine Steele, Parks' close friend and cofounder of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, "Mrs. Parks is a role model that these students look up to, and they feel very honored and privileged to be in her company. And she's very gracious to accompany the students to these activities."

February, Black History Month, seemed a relevant time to evaluate youth and their sense of history. But Parks thinks bigger and broader. "We don't have enough young people who are concerned and who are exposed to the civil rights movement, and I would like to see more exposure and get their interest," she says, pausing to reflect, "but I think it should just be history, period, and not thinking in terms of only Black History Month."

Parks is quiet, soft-spoken, and diplomatic. But she is firm in her belief that enough people will have the courage and dedication to make this country better than it is. "And this young man that's taking over the NAACP, Kweisi Mfume, I admire him a great deal," she adds. About Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Black Muslims, she says, "Well, I don't know him personally, but I think it was great that he spearheaded the million man march."

Parks has met many renowned leaders and has traveled throughout the world receiving honors and awards for her efforts toward racial harmony.



She is appreciative and honored by them but exhibits little emotion over whom she has met or what she has done. Her response to being called "the Mother of the Civil Rights Movement" is modest. "If people think of me in that way, I just accept the honor and appreciate it," she says. In *Quiet Strength*, however, Parks is careful to explain that she did not change things alone. "Four decades later I am still uncomfortable with the credit given to me for starting the bus boycott. I would like [people] to know I was not the only person involved. I was just one of many who fought for freedom."

**Forty years later, despite some tremendous gains, Parks feels, "we still have a long way to go in improving the race relations in this country."**

In August 1994, Parks was attacked in her home by a young man who wanted money from her. Of the event, she writes, "I pray for this young man and the conditions in our country that have made him this way. Despite the violence and crime in our society, we should not let fear overwhelm us. We must remain strong."

Parks' belief in God and her religious convictions are at the core of everything she does. It is the overriding theme in her book and the message she hopes to impart: "I'd like for [readers] to know that I had a very spiritual background and that I believe in church and my faith and that has helped to give me the strength and courage to live as I did."

## Elizabeth Cady Stanton



(November 12, 1815 - October 26, 1902)  
When Elizabeth Cady married abolitionist Henry Brewster Stanton in 1840, she'd already observed enough about the legal relationships between men and women to insist that the word obey be dropped from the ceremony.

An active abolitionist herself, Stanton was out-

raged when the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London, also in 1840, denied official standing to women delegates, including Lucretia Mott. In 1848, she and Mott called for a women's rights convention to be held in Seneca Falls, New York. That convention, and the Declaration of Sentiments written by Stanton which was approved there, is credited with initiating the long struggle towards women's rights and woman suffrage.

After 1851, Stanton worked in close partnership with Susan B. Anthony. Stanton often served as the writer and Anthony as the strategist in this effective working relationship. After the Civil War, Stanton and Anthony were among those who were determined to focus on female suffrage when only voting rights of freed males were addressed in Reconstruction. They founded the National Woman Suffrage Association and Stanton served as president.

When the NWSA and the rival American Woman Suffrage Association finally merged in 1890, Stanton served as the president of the resulting National American Woman Suffrage Association.

In her later years she added to her speech- and article-writing a history of the suffrage movement, her autobiography *Eighty Years and More*, and a controversial critique of women's treatment by religion, *The Woman's Bible*.

While Stanton is best known for her long contribution to the woman suffrage struggle, she was also active and effective in winning property rights for married women, equal guardianship of children, and liberalized divorce laws so that women could leave marriages that were often abusive of the wife, the children, and the economic health of the family.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton died in New York on October 26, 1902, with nearly 20 years to go before the United States granted women the right to vote.

**"Truth is the only safe ground to stand upon."  
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

## Rachel Carson — Waking a Sleeping Nation

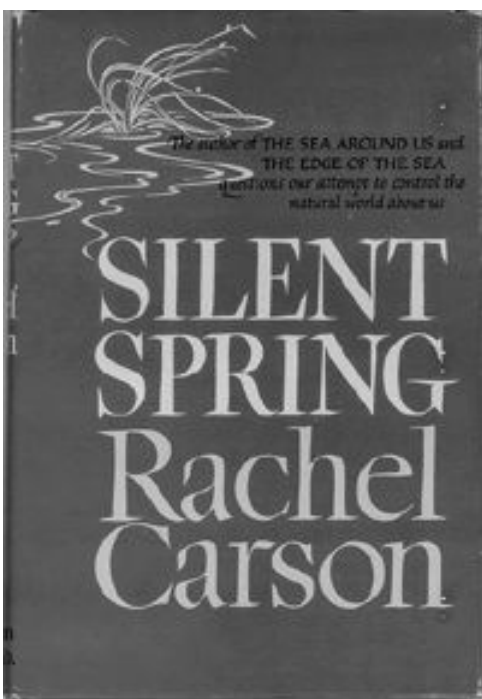
Rachel Carson was born in 1907 on a small family farm near Springdale, Pennsylvania. She originally went to school to study English and creative writing, but switched her major to marine biology. Her talent for writing would help her in her new field, as she resolved to “make animals in the woods or waters, where they live, as alive to others as they are to me”. She graduated from the Pennsylvania College for Women, today known as Chatham College, in 1929 with magna cum laude honors. Despite financial difficulties, she continued her studies in zoology and genetics at the Johns Hopkins University, earning a master's degree in zoology in 1932.

Carson taught zoology at Johns Hopkins and at the University of Maryland for several years. She continued to study towards her doctoral degree, particularly at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Her financial situation, never satisfactory, became worse in 1932 when her father died, leaving Carson to care for her aging mother; this burden made continued doctoral studies impossible. She then accepted a part-time position at the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries as a science writer working on radio scripts. In the process, she had to overcome resistance to the then-radical idea of having a woman sit for the Civil Service exam. In spite of the odds, she outscored all other applicants on the exam and in 1936 became only the second woman to be hired by the Bureau of Fisheries for a full-time, professional position, as a junior aquatic biologist.

**In their ugly campaign to reduce a brave scientist's protest to a matter of public relations, the chemical interests had only increased public awareness.**

At the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, Carson worked on everything from cookbooks to scientific journals and became known for her ruthless insistence on high standards of writing. Early in her career, the head of the Bureau's Division of Scientific Inquiry, who had been instrumental in finding a position for her in the first place, rejected one of Carson's radio scripts because it was “too literary”. He suggested that she submit it to the Atlantic Monthly. To Carson's astonishment and delight, it was accepted, and published as “Undersea” in 1937.

Carson rose within the Bureau (by then transformed into the Fish and Wildlife Service), becoming chief editor of publications in 1949. For some time she had been working on material for a second book: it was rejected by fifteen different magazines before *The Katie* serialized parts of it as *A Profile of the Sea* in 1951. Other parts soon appeared in *Nature*, and Oxford University Press published it in book form as *The Sea Around Us*. It remained on the New York Times bestseller list for 86 weeks, was abridged by *Reader's Digest*, won the



1952 National Book Award, and resulted in Carson being awarded two honorary doctorates. It was also made into a documentary film that was 61 minutes long and won an Oscar.

With success came financial security, and Carson was able to give up her job in 1952 to concentrate on writing full time. She completed the third volume of her sea trilogy, *The Edge of the Sea*, in 1955. Through 1956 and 1957, Carson worked on a number of projects and wrote articles for popular magazines.

### Silent Spring and the DDT ban

Starting in the mid-1940s, Carson became concerned about the use of newly invented pesticides, especially DDT. “The more I learned about the use of pesticides, the more appalled I became,” she wrote later, explaining her decision to start researching what would eventually become her most famous work, *Silent Spring*. “What I discovered was that everything which meant most to me as a naturalist was being threatened, and that nothing I could do would be more important.”

*Silent Spring* focused on the environment, and pesticides in particular. It was known as Carson's crusade, and she worked on this book till death. Carson explored the subject of environmental connectedness: although a pesticide is aimed at eliminating one organism, its effects are felt throughout the food chain, and what was intended to poison an insect ends up poisoning larger animals and humans.

The four-year task of writing *Silent Spring* began with a letter from a close friend of Carson's. It was from a New Englander, Olga Owens Huckins, who owned a bird sanctuary. According to the letter, the sanctuary had been sprayed unmercifully by the government. The letter asked Carson to immediately use her influence with government authorities to begin an investigation into pesticide use. Carson decided it would be more effective to raise the issue in a popular magazine; however, publishers were uninterested, and eventually the project became a book instead.

### Carson was violently assailed by threats of lawsuits and derision

Now, as a renowned author, she was able to ask for (and receive) the aid of prominent biologists, chemists, pathologists, and entomologists. She used *Silent Spring* to create a mental association in the public's mind between wildlife mortality and over-use of pesticides like dieldrin, toxaphene, and heptachlor. Her cautions regarding the previously little-remarked practices of introducing an enormous variety of industrial products and wastes into wilderness, waterways, and human habitats with little concern for possible toxicity struck the general public as common sense, as much as good science; “We are subjecting whole populations to exposure to chemicals which animal experiments have proved to be extremely poisonous and in many cases cumulative in their effects. These exposures now begin at or before birth and - unless we change our methods - will continue through the lifetime of those now living.”

Even before *Silent Spring* was published by Houghton Mifflin in 1962, there was strong opposition to it. As *Time Magazine* recounted in 1999:

*Carson was violently assailed by threats of lawsuits and derision, including suggestions that this meticulous scientist was a “hysterical woman” unqualified to write such a book. A huge counterattack was organized and led by Monsanto, Velsicol, American Cyanamid - indeed, the whole chemical industry - duly supported by the Agriculture Department as well*



*as the more cautious in the media.*

Scientists such as Robert White-Stevens (who wrote “If man were to follow the teachings of Miss Carson, we would return to the Dark Ages, and the insects and diseases and vermin would once again inherit the earth,” and chemical companies and other critics, attacked the data and interpretation in the book, and some went further to attack Carson's scientific credentials because her speciality was in marine biology and zoology, not in the field of biochemistry. Some went as far as characterizing her as a mere birdwatcher with more spare time than scientific background, calling her unprofessional, and a fringe of her critics accused her of being a communist.

Houghton Mifflin was pressured to suppress the book, but did not succumb. *Silent Spring* was positively reviewed by many outside of the agricultural and chemical science fields, and it became a runaway best seller both in the USA and overseas. Again, *Time Magazine* claim that, within a year or so of publication, “all but the most self-serving of Carson's attackers were backing rapidly toward safer ground. In their ugly campaign to reduce a brave scientist's protest to a matter of public relations, the chemical interests had only increased public awareness.”

Pesticide use became a major public issue, helped by Carson's April 1963 appearance on a CBS TV special in debate with a chemical company spokesman.

Despite the acceptance of Carson's claims in the 60's, criticism of Carson's work and its effects has grown as developing nations struggle to battle infectious diseases nearly eradicated by DDT.

Carson received hundreds of speaking invitations, but was unable to accept the great majority of them. Her health had been steadily declining since she had been diagnosed with breast cancer halfway through the writing of *Silent Spring*. In one of her last public appearances, Carson testified before President Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee, which issued a report on May 15 1963 largely backing Carson's scientific claims (<http://www.nwhp.org/tlp/biographies/carson/carsonbio.html>). However, she never did live to see the banning of DDT in U.S. She died on 14 April 1964, at the age of 56. In 1980, she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the USA.

*Silent Spring* remains a founding text for the contemporary environmental movement in the West and is seen as an important work to this day.

— [We are in] an era dominated by industry, in which the right to make money, at whatever cost to others, is seldom challenged. —  
~Rachel Carson



Photo by Joel Davis

# Stumped

## About U.S. Forest Policy?

### You're Not Alone.

Two years ago, lobbyists from Big Timber pressured Congress to add a logging rider to a disaster relief bill. The Salvage Logging Rider ostensibly allowed logging companies to remove burned and dying trees from our National Forests. That, however, was only its public relations intent. The rider was written so broadly that perfectly healthy old-growth trees were included in the definition of what could be cut. Knowing such deception would be legally challenged, the rider's sponsors also included provisions that made it immune from legal challenge and exempt from environmental laws.

Tens-of-thousands of acres of old-growth native forest were cut under the rider; heritage trees that belong to all Americans. Adding injury to insult, American taxpayers lost billions of tax dollars subsidizing the destruction of their own forests.

Now, there's another bill before the Senate that threatens to give control over three of our National Forests to the timber industry. It would double or

triple the logging on this public land. The Quincy Bill (S1028) is just one of several schemes under way that give timber companies free rein to ravage our National Forests. The only surefire way to stop the devastation is to prevent timber companies from having access to public lands. Too much has already been destroyed. Americans have lost over 95 percent of their native forests, and paid billions of dollars in subsidies to convert the benefits of living forests and healthy watersheds, for all Americans, to short-term profits for a few wealthy corporations.

It's time to call for an immediate end to all logging in our National Forests. Call your Senators, Representative, Clinton and Gore today and demand that no more trees be cut from our public lands. We can act now, or we can sit by and watch while Congress gives away the last of our great forests and watersheds to the greedy timber companies.

**Native Forest Council**

## Tell Washington To Stop Destroying Our National Forests.

You can reach the Congressional Switchboard at 202-225-3121 or the White House at 202-456-1414 for more info or to donate to the Native Forest Council at 800-454-8888 Web: <http://www.nativeforestcouncil.org> Email: [info@nativeforestcouncil.org](mailto:info@nativeforestcouncil.org)

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### Join the Native Forest Council

Yes! I want to be a part of the winning team that's defending America's heritage forests.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$35 Standard Membership  \$60 International Membership

\$50 Supporter  \$250 Sponsor

\$100 Contributor  \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Check  Money Order  Visa  Master Card

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Native Forest Council PO Box 2190, Eugene OR, 97402



THOSE WHO FIRST WALKED THIS GREAT LAND  
HAD NO WORD FOR WILDERNESS...

THEY DIDN'T NEED ONE

Humans were part of the land. Forests, grasslands and mountains stretched shore to shore and clear rivers teemed with fish. We took what we needed from the earth and little else.

But today we have destroyed all but 5% of our country's once great native forests through logging, mining, grazing and drilling. Logging cost us our clean drinking water and fertile

topsoil, increased global warming and the risk of fire, and devastated fish and wildlife.

The little remaining unlogged native forest continues to be threatened by dishonest and destructive corporations in the extraction industry.

As nature is trashed and lost, so too are the chances of human survival.

It's time to end the slaughter.



ZERO CUT ON PUBLIC LANDS

[www.forestcouncil.org](http://www.forestcouncil.org)

# Who Will Hold Science Teachers Association Accountable?

By John Borowski

Originally published in *truthout*

The world's largest science teachers association has rejected "An Inconvenient Truth." Who will hold them accountable at their annual national conference?

Occasionally, a simple story engages people, inspires them to believe that participation in an act of concern can make a difference. I am watching that story unfold - from the inside. A piece published by *Truthout* on November 28th, 2006, was the initial salvo. Now it has grown into a three-part story with the first two acts completed. We await Act Three, a culminating curtain call: a trip to St. Louis to the March 2007 conference of the National Science Teachers Association to speak on behalf of hundreds of angered parents, teachers and citizens.

The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the world's largest organization of science teachers, is not stepping up for children, and they will not "just say no" to corporate curriculum.

**Industry sees the 55 million children in schools today as future consumers, numb and mindless participants in business as usual.**

Actually, Act Three is playing out now as I write. This story began simply enough, on the pages of the *truthout* web site. Light shone brightly on the NSTA's refusal to distribute 50,000 free "An Inconvenient Truth" DVDs. That part of the story was easy: I was aided by Laurie David, Hollywood celebrity and climate-change activist who contacted me to gather information on the invasion of public schools by the likes of the American Petroleum Institute, Exxon Mobil, Monsanto and Weyerhaeuser.

The ten-year battle to bring this story to the forefront was far from easy, though. Having watched my steamer trunk of dishonest curriculum from corporate profiteers fill to the brim and spill over, I often wondered why I couldn't crack a national audience. The high visibility of Ms. David, and her subsequent writing of an opinion piece in the *Washington Post*, created leverage for me to pen Act One.

I bear witness each school year to field trips sponsored by the world's worst clear-cutters, an energy

curriculum mailed to schools that actually intends to deceive children about the reality of climate change, and a disheartening, dishonest "ecological curriculum" that is so brown that even the slickest Madison Avenue propaganda cannot paint it "green." I have traveled to NSTA conferences and collected big coal, big timber and big oil's deceitful and disingenuous "ecological curriculum."

Since the first piece appeared in *Truthout* on November 28, 2006, and another on December 13th, hundreds of emails have greeted me every morning and afternoon as I arrived home from school. In ten years of writing about the Trojan horse of corporate misinformation, I have never experienced such an avalanche of support and follow-up on a simple request: voice your outrage. Apparently, hundreds of emails have also been sent to Gerald Wheeler, the executive director of the NSTA, ranging from expressions of outright disgust to requests from NSTA members to drop their subscriptions. On the NSTA's own web site, there has been an open rebellion against the aiding and abetting of climate despoilers by the NSTA. At the conclusion of this piece, please read some of the emails I continue to receive today and emails sent to the NSTA.

Teachers are writing to me to request free DVDs (Laurie David provided me with 200 to distribute) and ideas on how to educate children on the science and solutions of this impending climate-change disaster. Unfortunately, the NSTA has still refused to distribute the DVDs. Laurie David is now making the DVD available for teachers. Trish, my wife, gave me some money right before Christmas to buy gifts for our two older daughters; I spent it on postage, sending free DVDs to teachers, concerned parents and students. My daughters understood perfectly.

Act Three of this story will only be completed if we attend the NSTA conference and bring the concerns of thousands of parents, and the best interests of millions of students, to St. Louis: we will not tolerate dishonest curriculum in our schools.

This past week, letters started to arrive. People who read about the issue in *Truthout* decided to help us. Close to \$1000 in donations showed up, accompanied by letters urging us to fight for kids and help their teachers. These letters call for us, the Native Forest Council, a small grassroots organization, to challenge the likes of Exxon Mobil and Weyerhaeuser at the NSTA conference. We don't have the deep pockets of the fossil fuel cartels, and some lament that their war chest can outspend, out-spin, and bury us. Monsanto and Shell know that they can try to buy the truth. Yet, if we can get to St. Louis in March, we can tell thousands of teachers the real facts and provide them with the insights to teach environmental science, and not industry propaganda.

We are hoping and praying we can achieve a miracle in the next three weeks: raise nearly \$12,000 to pay for a 10 by 10 booth in the "belly of the beast." Weyerhaeuser and other corporate entities have triple booths and materials brought in by the forklift-load every morning. We can't duplicate that effort, but, we can distribute DVDs on climate change and forests, give teachers the truth about "corporate education," and challenge the multinational companies to gain a conscience. Most importantly, we can expose the dishonest and deceitful manipulation of children by some of our nation's biggest Fortune 500 companies. We can keep the story alive, and to the chagrin of the likes of Exxon Mobil and the American



Petroleum Institute, we will expose their desire to debunk climate change.

Big environmental groups are missing in action at the NSTA convention. My requests for them to show up or to fund educators like me has fallen on deaf ears. I know that Exxon Mobil, Project Learning Tree and other corporate powers are hoping that we fail to raise the needed funds; they want to buy the truth and manufacture consent among teachers by filling their bags with their materials. Industry sees the 55 million children in schools today as future consumers, numb and mindless participants in business as usual. They fear an educated citizenry: educated people refuse to be lapdogs.

Early last week, I will confess, I felt very low. We live in a society where money is often needed for basic access to even begin a good fight. But, this story is far from over. A lack of resources is no excuse for us to capitulate to the power of corporate money. Climate change headlines are screaming for action daily in our newspapers. This generation of students needs to become the most ecologically fluent and ecologically civic-minded citizens ever.

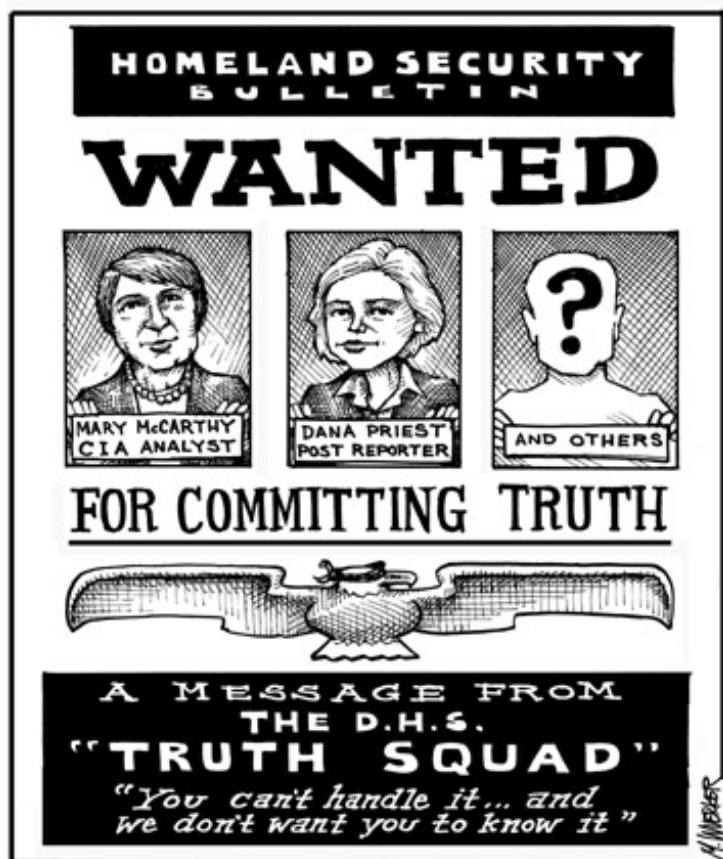
**Knowledge is power, and conveying to our children that they have the knowledge to implement climate change solutions is paramount.**

Cynics tell me that one person, especially in today's world of money politics means nothing. If that is so, then why did a senior in my marine biology class email me this week and tell me that he was going to write a letter to the editor after our climate change unit and that the unit had "a profound effect on his life?" Knowledge is power, and conveying to our children that they have the knowledge to implement climate change solutions is paramount.

We at the Native Forest Council owe our children the best possible fight against those who wish to teach lies to protect their bottom line: profit at any cost. I am blessed, and never, ever take for granted the responsibility of being a caring educator and elder. Please spread the word about corporate miseducation and the Native Forest Council's efforts to get to St. Louis this March.

What will Act Three bring? I can only ask caring citizens and parents to make that decision. We will represent your interests in St. Louis, fight for your children, and prove that the truth cannot be bought or sold. The American Petroleum Institute and Exxon Mobil are watching this very, very closely: they fear the curtain going up on a final act. They cannot pay for or buy a happy, corporate-spun ending.

*John F. Borowski is a teacher of 26 years and head of the Native Forest Council's Honest Education Program.*



# Selling Out The Schools

by Tim Hermach

The worst lies are the ones we tell our children. Whether it's a cartoon camel assuring a generation of kids that smoking is cool, or a teacher demonstrating how children can survive atomic attack by "ducking and covering;" the manipulation of impressionable minds can have deadly consequences that reverberate across generations.

As propagandists know: to command tomorrow they must shape the content of education today. While commercial advertising continues to be a powerful tool of instruction—one that operates virtually unnoticed in our homes—increasingly, corporations are infiltrating our schools.

**Logging companies distribute "learning" materials which promote the intensive logging of the last ancient forests on public lands.**

Corporate PR firms established a beachhead with Channel 1, promoted as bringing educational television to the classroom. What it also brought was advertising which, by contractual agreement, children are obliged to watch. Likewise, the fast-food industry has agreements with school districts which peddle junk food to growing kids in return for funding.

Now the curriculum is being targeted. Oil companies have developed "science" curriculums designed to cast doubt on climate change while defending the continued use of fossil fuels. Logging companies distribute "learning" materials which promote the intensive logging of the last ancient forests on public lands. They encourage the use of herbicides and pesticides in the name of forest health, while ignoring the poisons leaching into our rivers endangering human health. And they gloss over the non-commercial benefits of forests so essential in a time of global warming. Against overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary, the message conveyed to children is: We can keep doing what we're doing without consequence. But most disturbing, this corporate propaganda is distributed with the blessing of the National Science Teachers' Association (NSTA).

It stands to reason that corporate "support" of education is not solely driven by a Socratic love of learning. Self-promotion and the justification of harmful business practices are inevitable when, for example, logging companies provide teaching modules on forest ecology. The result is a pre-emptive strike against discernment which is replaced

with values and beliefs promotive of the corporation's agenda. And a large part of that agenda is directed at convincing children that global warming will be survivable without any meaningful or urgent action on our part.

Kids are being groomed to be obedient consumers and in the process, PR is substituted for science, and reality is manufactured to suit corporate interests. Thus, clearcuts visible from space represent sound forest management, and opening the Arctic to drilling is part of a comprehensive energy policy while increasing mileage standards is not.

We don't yet know the long-term effects of dumbing-down children, but we do know the impact on the NSTA. An organization which should stand uncompromisingly for the advancement of science education, has instead chosen to censor it. When offered 50,000 free copies of the scientifically acclaimed (and Academy Award winning) climate change documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, the NSTA refused citing an "unnecessary risk upon the capital campaign." By accepting money from industries whose financial interests depend on discrediting science, the NSTA chose self-censorship over honest education. When science conflicts with the corporate curriculum, the strategy is clear: Don't upset the donors.

**It is in the financial interest of certain corporations to be hostile to science and deny climate change until nature can no longer protect us from its consequences.**

The Native Forest Council (NFC), an Oregon-based environmental organization, will bring its Children for an Honest Education campaign to the NSTA conference in St. Louis this March. Its purpose is to sound the alarm and provide a counter-weight to the crush of corporate exhibitors wishing to exert influence over education. It will not be welcome. The NFC was warned not to be critical of other exhibitors. Nonetheless, the NFC will speak. Irony begets tragedy when a teacher's association believes telling the truth is more costly than living with lies.

Joseph Goebbels, a master propagandist, said this: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the consequences of



the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

Given their power and influence, corporations have become borderless states, and the same reasoning applies. It is in the financial interest of certain corporations to be hostile to science and deny climate change until nature can no longer protect us from its consequences. By then, global warming will acquire its own irreversible momentum which, scientists warn, may produce a very different and hellish planet.

Before entrusting our children's education to corporations, consider the record. Without concern for the general welfare, corporations moved jobs overseas, falsified earnings, crushed unions, looted pensions, and cut health care benefits. They purchased control of governance, gutted environmental protections, and demanded regulatory exemption. Their appetite is voracious, and their ethics are often ghoulish.

Now they've come for our children.

Don't let them.

**"We say we love flowers,  
yet we pluck them. We say  
we love trees, yet we cut  
them down. And people  
still wonder why some are  
afraid when told they are  
loved."  
- Unknown**

## Letters and Emails from Parents and Educators

Letter sent to Gerald Wheeler:

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I am writing to express my dismay over your refusal to distribute DVD copies of the Al Gore film "An Inconvenient Truth" to the science teachers in your Association, as described by Mr. John Borowski. I can only presume you and your corporate "friends" in the American Petroleum Institute, big oil companies, corporate timber concerns, and other businesses whose profits are derived from exploitation of fossil fuels, old growth forests, and other similarly ecologically questionable pursuits, find his truth too inconvenient to teach to those whom we are grooming to lead our country and the world in the future.

I understand that you have gone so far as to attempt to censor his and the Native Forest Council's statements on matters of fact that put your corporate sponsors in a well-deserved bad light. One hopes you are aware that your actions in their support illuminate you in the same bad light. It is incomprehensible to me how someone entrusted with the support of science teachers could behave in such an unscientific manner. It would seem you were not educated as a scientist ...

perhaps you have an MBA.

Your slavish acquiescence to the needs of Big Business, at the expense of teaching our children real science, may pay handsome dividends at present but is, in the long run, prohibitively expensive. It is, in fact, civilizational suicide. As the executive director of an organization of science teachers I should not have to point out to you the need for budding scientists to be taught the truth and how to discern truth from lies. That you knowingly choose to promote dishonest teaching materials when excellent resources (such as Al Gore's film) are available says some very unflattering things about you and your values.

I sincerely trust you will move to rectify your errors in the immediate future.

Letter sent to John Borowski:

Dear John,

Excellent article in Truthout! I sent my email requesting that they reconsider. I wonder how they might respond to letters from science students nationwide reminding them of the NSTA's mission?

Letter sent to Gerald Wheeler:

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

Assuming the Truthout account is correct, I would recommend you reverse course promptly to avoid national ridicule. Your organization has lost some stature already. I expect a major uproar if you persist in hiding science.

Letter sent to John Borowski:

Dear John,

The DVDs arrived today - thank you, and I promise we will make good use of them in spreading the word about global warming.

Also, if you have a leaflet or info on Native Forest Council it might help me to try for some funds. Can you attach the info - sounds like a great group!

I will be sending you a little donation, John, though I don't have much - we are a not-for-profit group here in the Woodlands that operates on a shoestring budget!!

# Saving The Planet: Empty Gestures

Do you recycle - and then fly to New York for the weekend? It's the inconsistency of our attempts to save the planet that really bugs

by Nigel Pollitt  
The Independent  
25 January 2007

At Christmas I was given a copy of the book of the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, by the American politician Al Gore. It was from two people. One of them drives an SUV and both are frequent fliers. I was given the present at a gathering under recessed halogen spotlights, a popular system that, typically, doubles the electricity consumed by a room's lighting and greatly increases ceiling heat-loss. Few in the room were wearing anything that, by the standards of earlier ages, could have been considered winter clothing. Some of the food on the table - figs and blueberries - originated several thousand miles away. And, while tap-water in the area is quaffable, bottled mineral water from France accompanied our celebration.

The six adults and two children present were people who, if cornered, would probably say that *Something Should Be Done* about rising carbon emissions. As well as this, all the adults were cooks, and cooks are the people most likely to understand that doubling a very small but potent ingredient can have a very big effect on a result. Carbon dioxide is less than 1 per cent of the atmosphere. Yet doubling it, which is what we're heading towards, is sending the planet to the emergency room.

there may have to be "catastrophe that creates a groundswell of public pressure" for drastic action.

This month, the EU's environment commissioner, Stavros Dimas, called the struggle to halt climate change a "world war". The Tories are pitching for an 80 per cent cut in UK carbon emissions by 2050. Even the Confederation of British Industry has a task force on it.

But we, in our homes and on holiday, go on as before. The friend who raved about the Al Gore film whacks up the heat and wears a T-shirt indoors. I bang on about halogen downlights but do nothing about the picturesque but colossally leaky wooden sash windows in my picturesque but colossally leaky Victorian house. If my 1880s stained glass was under threat, I'd get a handgun. What's going on?

"People see it as such a big, difficult problem. They ask how on Earth can they influence it in their day-to-day behaviour," says Nick Pidgeon, a professor of applied psychology at Cardiff University, and the co-author of several studies on attitudes to climate change. "They say overwhelmingly that the Government or international community should be responsible for action, but are not changing their own behaviour because it all seems too much."

The research concludes that old, wild forests are far better than plantations of young trees at ridding the air of carbon dioxide

It's also about connecting, he says. "We understand the consequences of climate change, but there's a disconnect with our actions. People don't think about climate change when they get in the car. And when taking a risk [of damaging the climate] has personal benefits, there's much less pressure to change behaviour. Getting in the car has an immediate benefit."

And although Commissioner Dimas talks of world war, Hitler hasn't invaded Poland yet. There has been Katrina and some extra drought, but the Gulf Stream still pumps Caribbean warmth to Europe. We haven't seen crop failure in Hampshire. Bread still comes from the supermarket.

There's also that tic that psychologists call cognitive dissonance. If reality has square edges, you file them down. You buy a diesel car. Then you read about the dangers of unburnt nanoparticles, but brighten up when a friend says that diesel cars have lower CO2 emissions.

Last year I was invited to India by a friend. I felt awful about burning, in a few hours, the equivalent of a couple of years of my normal carbon output and, for this among other reasons, did not go. But I could have filed down those square edges, couldn't I? Reduced the dissonance. After all, as one friend said, we only produce 2 per cent of global carbon in Britain. China and India are the problem. The friend who invited me commented: "I think the plane is going to fly that day whether you are on it or not."

My own response was to say, if there were rationing of long-haul flights to a globally sustainable level, I would go. There isn't, and I didn't.

The point is that, bizarrely, dealing with climate change is, so far, presented to us as a lifestyle choice. The current ads from the Energy Saving

Trust urging us to switch off are the equivalent of wartime posters saying how it would be really helpful if you could black out your windows during air-raids. Accordingly, our response to the threat of climate change is lost in complex and contradictory individual responses. There's the sense too, of the futility of boycott. Why should I stop flying if no one else does?

As Mike Childs, a climate campaigner at Friends of the Earth, points out: "At the moment the economic signals [to the individual] are that climate change doesn't really matter. The economic signals don't suggest you should do the right thing. So there may have to be punitive taxes on flying to India or Prague, so you say, 'that's a ridiculous amount of money, I can't afford to fly there'."

Should there be rationing? Coupons for carbon? "The idea of a trading scheme, with tradeable quotas, say in aviation, has its attractions," says Childs. "Then it's not all down to the individual." He accepts, however, that there may have to be "catastrophe that creates a groundswell of public pressure" for drastic action.

In the past, wars were won using the brutality of conscription. Cities were defended and populations fed through regulations and rationing. If human populations are to survive against a far bigger threat than Hitler or al-Qa'ida or avian flu, won't governments have to be brutal? Turn off the power, perhaps? It's been done before, so surely it's do-able. We won't fly for our holidays and we won't drink Evian and maybe we'll even enjoy the spirit of the carbon blitz. If we're lucky, the Gulf Stream won't turn off and we won't end up with the climate of Newfoundland.

But according to Professor Pidgeon, we're just not going to change our behaviour enough voluntarily. "We could all end up with low-energy light-bulbs but still flying to the Alps for the weekend. Under those circumstances, a government is going to have to take some pretty tough action."

We are challenged, morally, to change our behaviour, as individuals, but the bigger challenge is for our leaders to come up with a proper coordinated survival plan. They'll need our backing.

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*"Economic advance is not the same thing as human progress."*  
- John Clapham, *A Concise*

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# Clean Coal, Forest Biofuel and Other Fairy Tales

The history of global heating has largely been written by coal and forest loss, now wrongly hailed as climate change solutions

by Glenn Barry

Two of the biggest, most dangerous lies being promoted in response to global warming are that clean coal exists and the world's forests are adequate to provide biofuel. Dirty coal and industrial forest harvest for energy only accelerates the root causes of looming Domsday for the Earth - that is destruction of the biosphere's atmospheric and terrestrial ecosystems.

Coal burning and forest loss have been the leading culprit in climate change to date, and should their continued use at any scale be pursued as the solution to climate change and energy security, it will prove the death-knell for the Planet. We need less fossil fuel use and more forest regeneration, not the reverse.

The myth of "Clean Coal" is pernicious nonsense, as promised carbon sequestration technologies remain unproven, are not likely to be pursued at any scale anytime soon and are primarily used to put off limits on burning coal. Coal is cheap, plentiful and dirty. Carbon emissions from burning coal have been the leading cause of global warming. The world's coal reserves hold some 3500 gigatonne of carbon, compared to the atmosphere currently holding around 800 gigatonne (600 gigatonne before the industrial revolution). If this coal is burnt and carbon vented into the atmosphere the planet will be several times past the concentration of carbon dioxide considered able to be adapted to safely.

**Energy and climate solutions that increase pressures upon the biosphere are no help at all.**

China is opening another coal plant every 7 to 10 days. The U.S. coal industry is rushing to build some 150 new plants before mandatory carbon caps, carbon taxes or carbon sequestration are put in place. Each of these new dirty coal plants uses the oldest of technologies, locking the world's two greatest polluters into dirty coal for at least 50 more years. I know of no plans to make carbon sequestration mandatory any time soon for new coal plants. It will be at least 10 years before

we know if geosequestration even works. Carbon capture and storage is expensive, increasing the costs of power generation by 40 to 80%. Despite all the promises of coal gasification and carbon sequestration, it may never be possible to produce energy from coal without atmospheric carbon emissions.

Could it be that carbon sequestration like the hydrogen automobile is a red-herring to allow the fossil fuel industries to squeeze every last drop of profit from the Planet before being forced to stop? In the world of nine billion consumers to come, with the condition of the atmosphere in such tatters, the majority of the world's filthy coal reserves must be left in the ground as we transition exclusively to clean renewable energy alternatives.

Many herald the promise of converting woody biomass - primarily forest "waste" such as sawdust, forest thinning, and agriculture residues such as straw - into cellulosic ethanol as a source of biofuel. Cellulosic ethanol technology uses enzymes to break down the woody bits of plant cellulose. The fact that woody materials may provide for more energy than corn or soy based ethanol does not in itself justify large-scale establishment of such an industry. Just as hasty efforts to promote corn ethanol have lead to sharp price increases for corn worldwide, production of biofuel from forest and agricultural "waste" will have grave unintended consequences.

The world's forests have been hammered for millennia; and are barely able to continue providing ecosystem services of cycling of nutrients, energy and water while providing for traditional wood products. Removal of forest biomass and agricultural residues from natural ecosystems and human agro-ecosystems at the industrial scale envisioned will be yet one more massive drain upon the Earth's net primary productivity. The woody forest "waste" materials to be used; including forest slash, thinning, bark and sawdust are the nutrient materials that new forests depend upon.

Surely woody biomass requirements will be met by vast plantations of genetically modified fiber bearing plants and/or by encroaching into regenerating forests and land used to grow food. A large biofuel industry based upon ethanol from cellulose will lead to greater deforestation, forest diminishment and degradation of agricultural lands. Ancient forests will be replaced to grow genetically modified crops in plantations, regenerating secondary forests will be logged into further decline, and land use will shift from food to fiber even as soils become more degraded. One must only look at oil palm in Asia, sugar cane and soya in Brazil and corn in the U.S. to see this is true. To presume that the massive energy needs of the world can be met by already overworked and still diminishing forest and agricultural ecosystems is true folly.

Al Gore, self-appointed alpha Earth savior, and most of the environmental mainstream, are on record as talking about the future promise of clean coal and forest biofuel technologies; just another reminder of the extent to which the mainstream environmental movement has neither diagnosed the seriousness of the global biosphere's condition nor presented solutions adequate to sufficiently address ecocide in a timely manner without making things worse. Energy and climate solutions that increase pressures upon the biosphere are no help at all.

Humanity has shown little inclination or ability to properly scale their activities to not undermine and destroy natural capital. Perhaps limited coal could be burnt and its carbon buried to tool the necessary renewable energy capital



HAIL TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

including solar and wind equipment. And perhaps communities can take the increment from forests and farmlands of woody biomass that does not reduce natural and agro ecosystem productivity. But this is not what is being proposed. Clean coal and cellulosic ethanol technologies are being envisioned at industrial scales adequate to meet the world's current and surging energy needs, in order that more fundamental changes in energy efficiency, energy conservation and sustainable lifestyles are averted.

**The world's forests have been hammered for millennia; and are barely able to continue providing ecosystem services**

Will humanity accept no limits upon its actions, particularly limiting its population, consumption and energy use; in order to ensure the biosphere continues functioning? The way forward in renewable energy is to harvest wind and sunlight. Further, the way forward on climate change policy is to also stress energy conservation and efficiency, and ending deforestation and selective logging in ancient forests. Coal and forest based climate solutions enlarge the scale of the human enterprise when it needs to be shrunk. To think otherwise is to believe in ghosts, monsters and other fairy tales.

*"Thus, confronted by powerful corporate opposition, the environmental movement has split in two. The older national environmental organizations, in their Washington offices, have taken the soft path of negotiation, compromising with the corporations about how much pollution is acceptable ... The people living in the polluted communities have taken the hard path of confrontation ... The national organizations deal with the environmental disease by negotiating about the kind of 'Band-Aid' to apply to it; the community groups deal with the disease by trying to prevent it."*

**- Barry Commoner, Making Peace With the Planet**



[Editor's Note: On January 22, 2007, The Register-Guard, our local paper, here in Eugene, Oregon) published an article on Tim Hermach and the Native Forest Council. We present for you that article, and some responses to it.]

# In his neck of our woods, compromise won't grow on trees

By Bill Bishop  
The Register-Guard

If you tell Tim Hermach that he is extreme, radical and counterproductive because of his uncompromising stance on preserving the nation's public lands, he will tell you that you forgot to mention "hard to work with."

Hermach, the 61-year-old president of the Native Forest Council, embraces the disparaging terms that his opponents slap on him like so many bumper stickers on a hippie van.

He holds his own bumper sticker in a photograph accompanying his column in the Forest Voice, a 25,000-circulation nationwide magazine he has published in Eugene since 1988. It reads: "Compromise be damned."

To Hermach, the nation's public lands are a life support system, a sacred trust for future generations that is being liquidated for short-term gain. Nothing less.

The Native Forest Council was the first environmental group to publicly call for an absolute ban on tree-cutting in public forests nearly two decades ago.

Hermach considers it his greatest achievement because it eventually led to the Sierra Club adopting the proposal and legislation that proposed implementing it.

"We basically changed the high bar," says Hermach, who adds, "I have a long list of failures."

These days Hermach espouses a "corporate death penalty" to terminate and financially eviscerate businesses that deliberately do public harm.

As Hermach's stances have grown more strident with the passing years, he has earned admiration from committed environmentalists, but no allies among the business interests he condemns. He would have it no other way.

"I deeply respect the work that Tim does and believe it is crucial to the environmental movement to have voices that will push the envelope," says Lauren Regan, executive director of the Civil Liberties Defense Center in Eugene. "Given the ecological crisis that the planet is currently facing, there is no time for anything less than pushing for 'no compromise.'"

But Chris West, spokesman for the American Forest Resources Council of Portland, says Hermach's shrill voice does not contribute to solving problems.

"These are very complex and intertwined issues. He is not about finding solutions. If you don't work to solve problems, you end up marginalizing yourself," West says. "We can't return the Pacific Northwest to where it was before Lewis and Clark came down the Columbia River. What we need to do is find solutions, given where we are today and what we can do."

To Hermach, that sounds like "compromise."

He believes big dreams and a vision of a better world can empower people to overcome seemingly unstoppable forces - like big-money corporate influence and consumer habits that create waste and pollution.

"I don't cut deals," he says. "I'm not opposed to industry. I have no problem with compromise when it is ethical, moral and reasonable. So often big money dictates the rules."

Holding fast on the embattled flank of environmental issues is lonely work, Hermach says. It's no place for quitters, for anyone who won't embrace conflict with the same commitment that one would pledge to a marriage - 'til death do us part, he says.

The personal cost is high.

"One of my kids said, 'How come you never laugh?' I've lost some of my cheerful spirit," Hermach says. "Some people would say I've lost all of it. I understand people's depression (over environmental degradation). People tell me, 'Don't tell me. I don't want to know. I can't do anything about it.'"



Hermach's activism awakened in the mid-1980s, when he returned to Eugene after working 20 years in Alaska and Southern California. He says the clear-cuts he saw during a flight in a small plane over old familiar stretches of the Willamette National Forest appalled him.

"I was raised by my parents to challenge authority. Question authority. Make it make sense," he says.

He says it appears to him that the equation for timber harvest assigns a zero to the value of clean air, pure water and soil conservation provided by old trees.

"Zero. The one thing we know they are not. There is only one true god in America. It is money," he says. "If those things counted, we'd make different decisions. We encourage unethical and immoral decision-making by corporations."

He volunteered with the Sierra Club in the 1980s, but quit after he was asked to study and recommend club support for one of five proposed logging plans for the forest. None was acceptable to Hermach, so he struck off on his own and ever since has been an outspoken critic of "beltway environmental front groups" who are "kinder, gentler versions of the deadly corporate parasites that are destroying nature."

Compromise be damned.

"They're robbing our kids' future," Hermach says. "I keep doing it because if I don't quit, I keep hope alive for my kids."

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*The warnings about global warming have been extremely clear for a long time. We are facing a global climate crisis. It is deepening. We are entering a period of consequences.*

**-Al Gore**

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# Forest Activist Can Be a Pain, But He's Right

by Victor Rozek

We stone our prophets. We ridicule them, call them crazy and push them aside. Prophets make us uncomfortable. They are demanding, adamant and infuriating in their rejection of compromise. They tell us hard truths, and we don't want to hear them. They admonish us to stop destructive behavior, and we are weary of being told to change. They call for inclusion on behalf of the disenfranchised, but we think our status secure so we ignore them.

Martin Luther King is revered today, but was feared and hated in his time. Bobby Kennedy threatened established powers, and in many circles he was despised. But if prophets have one thing in common it is their steadfast refusal to abandon their beliefs in the face of widespread disapproval.

In his own way, Tim Hermach of the Native Forest Council, profiled in the Jan. 22 Register-Guard, is a prophet. Yes, he can be abrasive. He can appear unreasonable. But like prophets before him, he understands what's at stake. His life's work is saving one of the planet's essential life-support systems: the forests.

His most controversial position calls for the total cessation of logging on public lands. Prophetically, it was a position he espoused before the world's glaciers began to melt in earnest, before 100-year storms began occurring with semi-annual regularity, before we began to appreciate that, although our planet is far from fragile, the conditions that

support human life are at risk.

Still, it is a position frequently dismissed, particularly by those whose financial interests compel them to discount the noneconomic benefits of natural systems, the growing climatic threat and the often shameful history of timber industry practices.

**The point Hermach is making is that difficult decisions must be made while there is still a choice to be had.**

But given that the issue of logging public lands is polarizing, let's set it aside for a moment and look at a recent development which strikingly illustrates the validity of Hermach's position. In a Jan. 29 Register-Guard editorial titled "Rivers of mercury," we were told that every one of nearly 3,000 fish from 626 streams and rivers in Oregon and 11 other Western states tested positive for mercury. Every one. We know that mercury causes a variety of serious health problems including impaired fetal development and neurological damage. Even though not all of the pollution originated locally, in retrospect, it now seems reasonable that perhaps - just perhaps - we should not have blindly compromised on emission standards. Of course there were prophets who warned us of the dangers of mercury contamination decades ago. But like most prophets, they were ignored.

The point Hermach is making is that difficult decisions must be made while there is still a choice to be had. Every human on Earth now carries more than 100 synthetic chemicals in his or her body. Every fish in the Northwest now has traces of mercury. We can continue mindlessly felling our forests until the environmental damage reaches a tipping point and becomes irreversible, or we can make the difficult decisions now.

Scientists tell us that the carbon dioxide level is the highest it has been in 650,000 years. Credible researchers are warning that a rapidly heating planet will be a hellish place to live. They, too, are prophets, and like Hermach they understand how urgently we need standing forests to protect us.

The question is: How much longer will we ignore them, and what will the conditions be when we finally pay attention?

Next time you see a massive clear-cut and wince; next time you fly over Oregon and see the mangelike patchwork of stripped earth that passes for public forests; next time you see rivers running sickly brown with erosion from insensitive logging practices, remember Tim Hermach. Remember, too, that the consequences of environmental inaction are often deadly and irreversible, and remember that there are principles that should never be compromised.

*Victor Rozek of Springfield, Oregon is a former editor of The Forest Voice.*

## Tipping Point Is Near For Health Of Earth; Time For Compromise Is Gone

By Tim Hermach

On Jan. 22, The Register-Guard published a profile of me and the organization I head, the Native Forest Council. I was portrayed as uncompromising - which is perfectly accurate. But what was missing from the article was the urgency of the cause we are fighting for: humanity's dependence upon the natural world for its survival.

Once this issue is put into proper perspective, it becomes obvious why not one more sliver of our forest legacy should be sacrificed, and why even a hundred years ago Teddy Roosevelt said the time for compromise was long past.

Our forests, the commons of the Earth, are a crucial component of our planet's self-regulating climate system. Overcutting our forests contributes significantly to global warming, and is a threat to ecosystems, habitat and water quality.

The continuing degradation of water quality is plain. The dams on the McKenzie River, Eugene's water supply, were engineered in the 1960s, before the steep mountainsides above the river were clear-cut. The Eugene Water & Electric Board has spent \$15 million on drinking water wells to hedge against catastrophic events made increasingly likely by Weyerhaeuser and friends' destructive logging of Eugene's watershed.

Water quality has also been degraded by herbicides and pesticides sprayed to plant and manage industrial-scale tree plantations where native forest ecosystems once thrived. Drought and the threat of forest fires have also increased as

the temperatures of cut-over forests are radically elevated.

The public is forced to accept these consequences as the price of keeping industry competitive, protecting jobs and keeping profits flowing. The sad truth is the systematic degradation of our forests incurs uncounted costs for the many, and counted profits for the few.

We seldom get the complete picture about this, because access to the government and the media has been usurped by the wealthy and powerful. Global warming offers a sobering example. Scientists worldwide agree that the Earth is warming and that the fragile web of life that regulates the planet's climate is under attack. Yet global corporations, enriched by the wealth they extract, have misled the public with billion-dollar misinformation campaigns.

James Lovelock names carbon, cows and chain saws as the primary human causes of global heating. Lovelock is the father of the Gaia hypothesis, which explains how systems have evolved over millions of years to create a self-regulating system of life-friendly temperature control and chemical composition on Earth.

As the removal of native forest ecosystems has accelerated - ecosystems that cycle water, carbon and oxygen - and the volume of carbon and methane pollutants has increased, the dynamics of climate feedback have been altered and temperatures have risen to the hottest levels ever measured. Half the cover of forest ecosystems, a vital component of this self-regulating system,

has already been removed for building, fiber and agriculture.

Lovelock warns that we are perilously close to the tipping point at which our climate will leap to unfriendly temperatures - not gradual global warming, but catastrophic global heating within one or two decades.

**If we care about human survival and civilization, we need to take a hard look at the true costs of what we are doing to nature**

These priceless and irreplaceable forests and watersheds are the commons upon which we depend for life. In the name of free markets and efficiency, global corporations continue to harvest the planet's lungs at an increasing rate with little or no accounting of the true costs and consequences. Industrial logging has put all of nature and creation at risk (check our Web site, [www.forestcouncil.org](http://www.forestcouncil.org), for obscene images).

If we care about human survival and civilization, we need to take a hard look at the true costs of what we are doing to nature. We have disturbed the equilibrium of the planet. We won't compromise our way out of this crisis. We've run out of time for further lopsided debate, and do not have room for compromise. We owe it to ourselves and our children to do no further harm. We can and should do everything in our power to stop making it worse - now.

So how do we get from here to there?

Too much has been already been lost, compromised away. We will continue losing our climate, our forested watersheds and our drinking water to Weyerhaeuser and friends unless we act now. Call your utility, city, county, state and federal officials and tell them to save what's left of our forests, trees and drinking water. While we may not be able to undo the damage, it's never too late to stop making things worse.



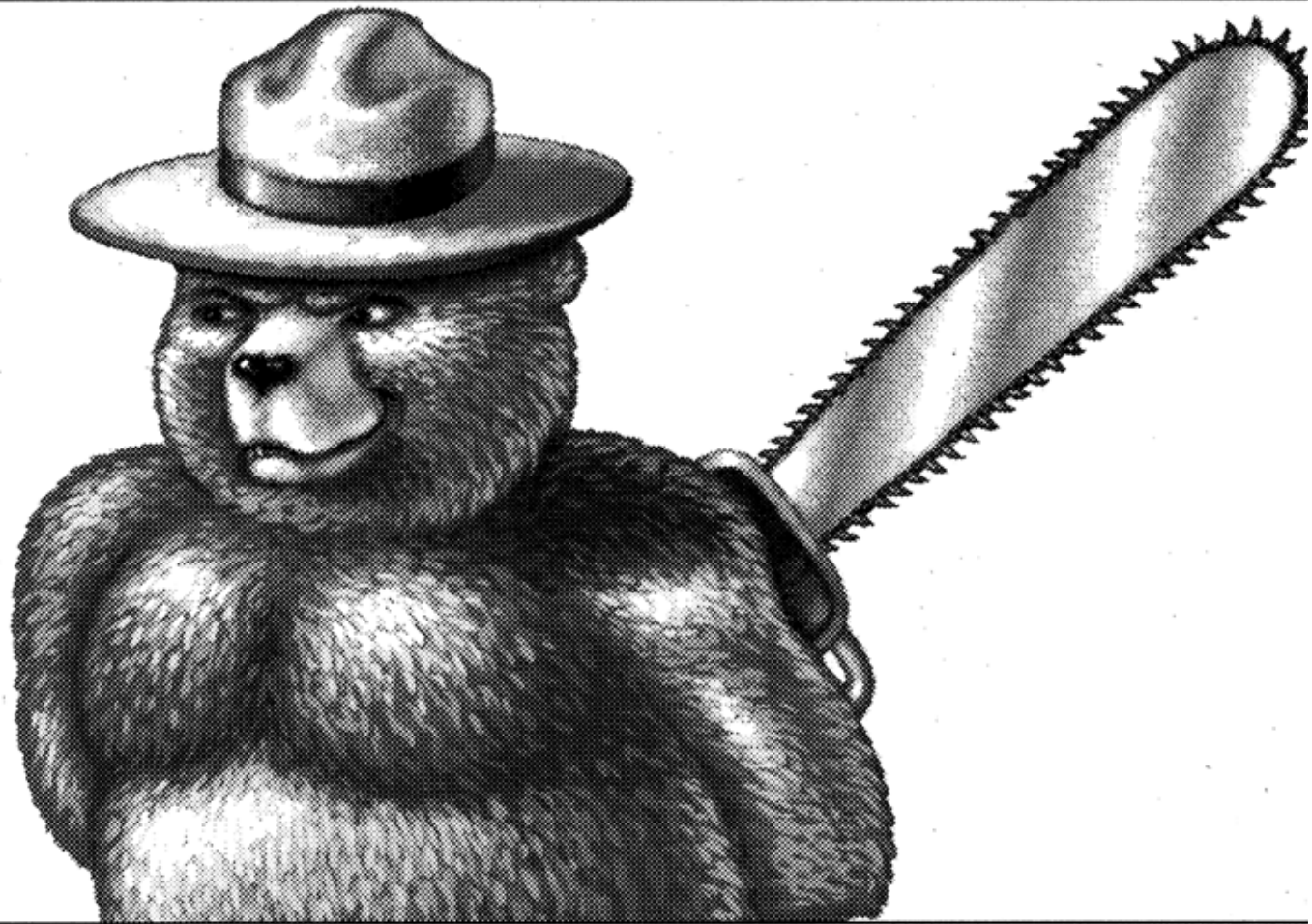
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