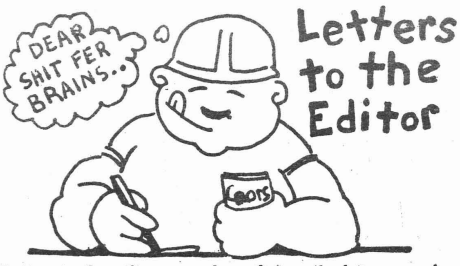

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Lengthy letters may be edited for space requirement. Letters should be typed or carefully printed and double-spaced, using only one side of a sheet of paper. Be sure to indicate if you want your name and location to appear or if you wish to remain anonymous. Send letters to POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703.

Dear SFB:

After the mythical time spent travelin underground, Tongass Turtle has re-emerged in the mountains of South Central Alaska with a new moniker – Pipeline Panther!

Yep, I'm here at the ass end of the big straw runnin from the greasy golf course of Prudhoe Bay crost 800 miles of caribou, moose, wolves, eagles, ravens, arctic fox, field mice and permafrost. Here in Valdez, that 48-inch pipe spews out its cargo of crude oil, LPG, carcinogens, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, and volatile hydrocarbons. Some of it goes into those big boats out in the bay and gets hauled away, but a lot of the crap ends up in our air and water (and in halibut, salmon, rockfish, red snapper, grey cod, eagles, sea otters, humpback whales, orcas, mussels, limpets and kelp).

These folks here at Alyeska, who're sposed to be runnin this show, don't give a shit about where the black goo ends up; they just want to haul in the cash. They've showed an upthrust middle finger to the Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation who are tryin to control this mess, harassin state officials charged with inspectin the terminal facility, insultin them publicly in the local, company-bought rag. They've insisted on ferryin the DEC official around in their own gas-guzzlers, refusin to allow em access to areas where they're conductin "periodic burns for fire suppression practice." They prohibit photographs or videotape, claimin this interferes with their workmen.

Just to keep everybody in their place, Alyeska just held a "terrorist drill," simulatin an attack on the terminal by a band of renegade Marxists bent on destroyin this fine upstandin example of 'Merican Free Enterprise. They had the local constabulary out in force, as well as some strangers. Why, you couldn't hardly take a leak without splashin on some feller in a three piece suit.

Looks to me like Alyeska's tryin to cover somethin up at the Valdez terminal, like they've been doin for years up at Prudhoe Bay. Now there's talk of buildin a refinery and an LPG pipeline and processin facility. Course folks here in the little company town of Valdez are all for that, specially the ones who've got money in it, which is most. Us Panthers ain't got much of a chance!

We get no help from our state or federal legislators either. They're bought and paid for by the oil companies, the largest contributors of campaign funds in the state. Don Young's the worst of the lot, sayin Prudhoe Bay proves that oil exploration in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge can be done without harmin the environment. He's trying to hide the evidence under a supertanker load of bullshit. Read "Oil in the Arctic," put out by Trustees for Alaska to see for yourself the environmental damage done by the oil suckers. (Trustees for Alaska, 725 Christensen Dr., Suite #4, Anchorage, AK 99501, 907-276-4244).

If any folks want more information on what's goin on in the Lost Frontier, drop me a chard. I'll be doin a newsletter with articles about ANWR, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, wolf huntin and trappin, and general news about Alaska.

Well, nuff of this palaver, I gotta go sharpen my pipe cutters.

–Pipeline Panther, Box 501, Valdez, AK 99686

Dear EF!

George Wuerthner's suggestions for the Crow Reservation's "Big Open" sound like something out of Disneyland.

I don't know what a "Master Warrior" is, but I do know that there is a big difference between a hunter and a warrior, and that his ideas, though well-intentioned, are insulting to both those traditional roles.

In typical American fashion, Wuerthner takes our modern capitalistic, exploitative system as a given, an acceptable baseline, and suggests that the Crows make a buck by selling vacations and workshops where people can pretend to be Indians for a couple months a year.

Maybe Earth First! could train people to be ecologically conscious for a month out of twelve and the other eleven months they could go back to trashing the planet.

Native traditions were a way of life, with roots in a particular spirituality and world view, in a totality of participation. You can't be a part-time warrior, or separate warriorism from its context. So call it something else, ok, George? Like "boy scouts" maybe.

The idea of a Big Open where traditionals can live the old ways is great, and if they choose to teach their ways to others, that's great too. But it is not the tribespeople who profit from the Serengeti, and it won't be the Indians who ultimately profit from the Big Open if it is used, as Wuerthner proposes, as a place for canned big game hunts (call a spade a spade, George) and a back-door way of mainstreaming Natives into the dollar culture.

–Loren Cruden, Port Townsend, WA

Dear Friends,

Our young tribe here in Melbourne has, for several months, been campaigning on the "ozone depletion" issue. We feel that because of the damage already caused to some marine life (Antarctic) and the high likelihood of increasing damage to all parts of the biosphere if ozone depleting compounds continue to be used, action must be taken.

We invite others to join, expand, give information or whatever in this action which we believe to be within the Earth First! context.

–Gerrard Winstanley, PO Box 256, Mitcham 3132, Victoria, Australia

Attention early *EF! Journal* subscribers,

I am trying to assemble a complete set of the *EF! Journal* for archival purposes. I intend to have a set chemically treated so that it will not yellow and deteriorate with time and then donate it to a worthy library. This journal needs to survive the centuries so that one day the seeds of our hopeful utopia will be available for study. I need your help with this effort because I am missing 21 early issues: V1 #1-8; V2 #1,3,5,7,8; V3 #2,3,6,7,8; V4 #1,2,7. If anyone has *any* of these issues and is willing to donate them for a good cause, please write me.

–Bruce Semans, POB 5211, Madison, WI 53705, (608) 233-0625

EF! Activists,

I am presently involved in a project to index all of the major articles that have appeared in the *EF! Journal* (hopefully since its birth). I've only been reading the *Journal* for about 18 months and am severely lacking in knowledge about certain issues – especially about old, ongoing campaigns. If any of you have ideas or concerns about this project, please write to me. I would especially like input from folks who have had their heads and guts in the old, drawn-out battles so that I can do them justice.

If only I had a masters degree in Library Science!

–Bradd Schulke, 1016 Wooten Dr, Las Cruces, NM 88001

Dear Director:

Your organization was listed in the National Council for Families and Television's Information Service Bulletin, as an organization concerned with improving the environment. Sesame Street Research is initiating research and curriculum development activities on geography and ecology. Our goal is to develop messages appropriate for preschoolers (3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds) to learn about these topics.

We would like your assistance. We would like to know if your organization has materials appropriate for our review. We would also appreciate names and telephone numbers for any individual(s) who could help us in this work.

–Margarita Perez, Sesame Street Research, Children's Television Workshop, One Lincoln Plaza, New York, NY 10023, (212) 595-3456

[*Visions of Big Bird reading* Ecodefense *to the Cookie Monster come to mind.* –JD]

At the Okanogan Forest Service action after the RRR I saw one thing that disturbed me. In fact, if I could've figured how to get on top of the building, fast, with all the police there, I would have. What disturbed me was: someone had flown Old Glory upside down on the flagpole. (There was an EF! flag there too, flying right-side up – I had no problem with that.) Flying The Flag upside down is an outrageous act, and EF! is noted for its outrageous acts – but it was not *mindfully* outrageous. It was not thought out. It was not EF! protecting wilderness, conserving Nature – these are All American occupations. True Red-White-and-Blue. People seeing The Flag flying upside down at our actions might get the wrong idea.

It was a source of personal pain for me as well. I remember well what went on during the Vietnam War. I think even less of it now, looking back, since it seems that the flag burnings, the waving the NVA flag, etc. were a slap at veterans. As a veteran myself, I can recall the way these actions affected me then – they pretty much rolled off my back. I didn't see them affecting everybody that way, though. We were a bunch of ordinary guys and women in an extraordinary situation, and we see stuff like that coming down. A slap. A personal slap. A lot of vets never recovered from the shock – first of the war, second of the reception they got on returning. My point is, no one can escape the society he or she is living in. One can only hope to make it a little better. The pain and suffering were real.

Another experience came from the war: Once you got to know the enemy, you began to respect him. You saw his resourcefulness, his tactics, his anguish at his own fallen buddies. Some g.i.s called him Charlie (our slang for the Viet Cong) or Sir Charles. Even as we tried to kill him, and he us.

This returns me to my point about mindfulness. If you're sloppy, if you're unaware, if you walk casually along a trail, you're sure to run into an ambush, or booby traps. Always we should be alert, aware. The more experienced soldiers took the newbys (also called greenies and fng's) under their wing. In Vietnam it was a matter of life and death. Here, it is a matter of success or failure.

–Dennis Fritzinger

The Pacific Northwest timber industry, which provides about half of the total U.S. output, employs around 130,000 people. This is down from the employment levels of the 1970's. When the recession of the early 1980's came, the forest products industry was hit particularly hard for a couple reasons. The industry is always vulnerable to the level of housing construction, which is dependent upon interest rates. There had also been outrageous speculative bidding on timber when things were busy in the late 1970's – bids had been put up and contracts signed for $600 per thousand board feet, when the average price is around $200. So everybody got laid off. And it took an act of Congress to bail the industry out of contracts they couldn't afford to meet.

When things returned to "normal," some of the mills stayed closed. About 100 of the 500 mills in the Northwest never did reopen when the recession was over. Most of the mills that survived (the ones belonging to the corporations that could afford it, of course) have been upgraded and modernized – mostly gotten ready for handling the smaller, second growth logs that are replacing the irreplaceable old growth giants.

The mills are now cranking out the board feet again, surpassing the all-time records set in 1979. But they are doing it with fewer employees: in 1979, 14.6 billion board feet was processed by 159,000 employees; in 1986, 15.1 billion board feet with 126,000 employees. The removal of old growth (and thus, our campaigns to save the forests) is not related to the labor/employment situation.

Some, the Greens and Wobblies mostly, see it otherwise. As most are probably aware, the IWW has been covering Earth First! lately. The Wobs who started that see a great alliance with environmentalists. I hope they are right, but I just

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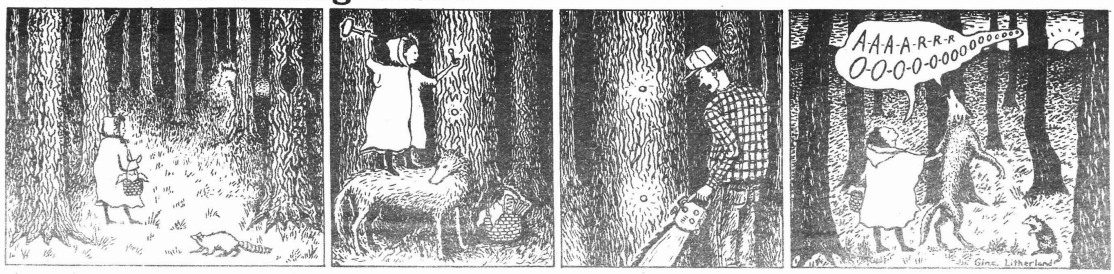
SCHEDULE

***Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal* is published 8 times a year on the old pagan European nature holidays: Samhain (November 1), Yule (December 21 or 22), Brigid (February 2), Eostar (March 21 or 22), Beltane (May 1), Litha (June 21 or 22), Lughnasadh (August 1), and Mabon (September 21 or 22). Deadlines for articles are three weeks before the cover date: October 10, December 1, January 10, March 1, April 10, June 1, July 10, and September 1. The newspaper is mailed Third Class on the cover date. First Class delivery is available for $15 extra a year. Surface delivery outside the USA is available for $30; airmail delivery overseas is available for $45 a year.**

Little Green Riding Hood