

We of the Green Rage staff offer our readers this special issue of the Rage as our gift of the season.

Most of us imbued with the wilderness ethic have, at rare moments in the sanctuary of our personal wildernesses, understood the undeniable unity of ourselves and our worlds. We have known that Man truly is Nature, that our worlds are simply reflections of ourselves, and ourselves of our worlds. We are at the same time

The Green Rage

PUGET SOUND GROUP
OF THE SIERRA CLUB



individually unique and totally one. At the root of the "ecology movement" is the assertion of this unity. Ourselves divorced from our worlds is the social fiction whose

assumptions and applications today threaten all of life on this planet. We must each individually realize that Man is a part of, not apart from Nature. The rift--the separation--is artificial. At best it is the source of endless desire, frustration, and despair. Hopefully the passages below may reflect the unity; the oneness that allows us to see wholes, to envision the relational universe, to comprehend the integrity of the One. This is Ecology!

from The Joyous Cosmology, Alan W. Watts

[I have] a marvelously enhanced appreciation of patterning in nature, a fascination deeper than ever with the structure of ferns, the formation of crystals, the markings upon sea shells, the incredible jewelry of such unicellular creatures of the ocean as the radiolaria, the fairy architecture of seeds and pods, the engineering of bones and skeletons, the aerodynamics of feathers, and the astonishing profusion of eye-forms upon the wings of butterflies and birds. All this involved delicacy of organization may, from one point of view, be strictly functional for the purposes of reproduction and survival. But when you come down to it, the survival of these creatures is the same as their very existence--and what is that for?

...it seems that the ordering of nature is an art akin to music--fugues in shell and cartilage, counterpoint in fibers and capillaries, throbbing rhythm in waves of sound, light and nerve. And oneself is connected with it quite inextricably--a node, a ganglion, an electronic interweaving of paths, circuits, and impulses that stretch and hum through the whole of time and space. The entire pattern swirls in its complexity like smoke in sunbeams or the rippling networks of sunlight in shallow water. Transforming itself endlessly into itself, the pattern alone remains. The crosspoints, nodes, nets, and curlicues vanish perpetually into each other. "The baseless fabric of this vision." It is its own base. When the ground dissolves beneath me I float.

Regarded as one of the finest contemporary "nature poets," Gary Snyder has written numerous volumes, the most popular of which are Earth Household and The Back Country. Most recently, Mr. Snyder has worked with Dave Brower's organization, The Friends of the Earth. The following selection first appeared in Myths & Texts, published in 1960.

this poem is for deer

"I dance on all the mountains
On five mountains, I have a dancing place
When they shoot at me I run
To my five mountains"

Missed a last shot
At the Buck, in twilight
So we came back sliding
On dry needles through cold pines.
Scared out a cottontail
Whipped up the winchester
Shot off its head.
The white body rolls and twitches
In the dark ravine
As we run down the hill to the car.

deer foot down scree
Picasso's fawn, Issa's fawn,
Deer on the autumn mountain
Howling like a wise man

Stiff springy jumps down the snowfields
Head held back, forefeet out,
Balls tight in a tough hair sack
Keeping the human soul from care
on the autumn mountain
Standing in late sun, ear-flick
Tail-flick, gold mist of flies
Whirling from nostril to eyes.

Home by night
drunken eye
Still picks out Taurus
Low, and growing high:
four-point buck
Dancing in the headlights
on the lonely road
A mile past the mill-pond,
With the car stopped, shot
That wild silly blinded creature down.

Pull out the hot guts
with hard bare hands
While night-frost chills the tongue
and eye
The cold horn-bones.
The hunter's belt
just below the sky
Warm blood in the car trunk.
Deer-smell
the limp tongue

Deer don't want to die for me.
I'll drink sea-water
Sleep on beach pebbles in the rain
Until the deer come down to die
in pity for my pain.

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The sky is everlasting
And the earth is very old
Why so? Because the world
Exists not for itself;
It can and will live on.

The Wise Man chooses to be last
And so becomes the first of all;
Denying self, he too is saved.
For does he not fulfillment find
In being an unselfish man?

--Tao Te Ching
(The Book of the Way and Its Virtue)

ONLY ONCE

In recent months you all have received requests for contributions from Sierra Club President Phil Berry, the Pacific Northwest Chapter, the Puget Sound Group, and the Sierra Club Foundation (tax-deductible). A response to any or all of these requests will insure that the Sierra Club will continue to be the most effective voice in conservation. If you have not already made a donation, please do it today. These are the only fund drives which the Club will conduct this year.

--Earil Murman, Chairman, PSG, Sierra Club

JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 7 (Thur.) ZPG. 8 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, N.E. 82nd and 18th N.E. The film "The Time of Man" (Museum of Natural History) will be shown.
- Jan. 13 (Tue.) Executive Meeting. 7:30 p.m., Larry Hard's house, 6015 65th Ave. N.E. (call new listings for phone number).
- Jan. 18 (Mon.) Outings Committee. 8 p.m., Larry Hard's house, 6015 65th Ave N.E. Everyone welcome to discuss future outings. (Call new listings for phone number.)
- Jan. 19 (Tue.) Tacoma Conservation Committee. 7:30 p.m., Beth Henning's home, 1534 North Jackson, Tacoma. What Tacoma citizens can do about the establishment of a Nisqually River Parkway.
- Jan. 29 (Fri.) Snowshoe Clinic. 7:30 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church. Members and non-members are urged to take advantage of this SC & ALPS sponsored teaching session. Note change in date from earlier listing.
- Jan. 30 (Sat.) Puget Sound Group Annual Banquet. 6 p.m., Pacific Science Center, Eames Theater. (See enclosure.) There will be a speaker and a slide show from ALPS.

SOLID WASTE?

The Urban Problems and Pollution Committee is devoting its time to the effort of the Citizens for Better Solid Waste Management (co-chaired by Bob Lynette and Bonnie Hodson) to help push the "Son of Initiative 256" through the legislature. Opinion Research, a professional sampling group, is heading up the part of the project which hopes to find out why people did not vote for 256. The committee is looking for more helpers for work on the entire project. Call Bob Lynette, EX 2-5969.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER
THE SIERRA CLUB
4534 1/2 University Way N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98105

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