

Greenpeace anyway?



with nuclear submarines, man
world with nuclear reactors and
computer controlled cruise air-
me which float along in our at-
ments are seeking the sort of data which
ntly inspire detonation. At this time, an
hundred two-thirds of the world's
floods are involved in the production

of racy new nuclear weapons and the
exhaustive studies of the principles
therein. It sounds like an awful waste of
intelligent manpower.

The same good old national defense
has allowed the Canadian government
to sell their Candu reactors to countries
all over the world and justify it by saying

that it is Canada's "moral responsibility"
to sell reactors to under-developed
countries. Canada sells one to India, for
example, who promptly proceed to
detonate an atomic bomb, presumably
to see if it works, all in the interest of
national defense, of course. And one to
Argentina, who proceed to sell one to
Peru, keeping it on the continent you
know. It all sounds like insanity to me.

Some two years ago the
Greenpeace Foundation added another
issue to their list of priorities. That was,
to seek a moratorium on cetaceans from
the International Whaling commission.
To attain this, Greenpeaces V thru VII
sailed from Vancouver in confrontation
with Russian and Japanese whaling
fleets. In the spring of 1975, as 23,000
supporters organised in a Vancouver
protest, Greenpeace V tracked down the
Soviet whaling fleet 'Vostok.' Placing
their rubber boats between the whales
and the harpoon ships they were
challenged by the Russians who fired
over their heads, the harpoon cables
hitting the water but five feet from the
rubber boats. Employing these same
tactics in 1976 Greenpeace forced the
Russian fleet to stay 1000 miles off the
North American coast; depriving them of
rich whaling territory. Surprisingly, the
Russian whaling fleet stopped their
procedures, covering their harpoon and
withdrawing from the scene. Credited
with saving the lives of hundreds of
whales the Foundation also participated
in an ecological education program
conducted in Japan and reports indicate
that there may soon be a reduction if not
a halt to Japanese whaling. Reports from
Moscow indicate that we should expect
the same from Russia by 1980.

It is heartening to hear that there
may soon be a moratorium on whaling.
But hardly on time. In 1972 the
Stockholm United Nation conference on
the Human Environment proposed a ten-
year moratorium on all commercial
whaling. The International Whaling
Commission, however, has glossed over
this proposal and under the tutorial of
the two heavyweight members of that
commission, Japan and Russia, chosen
to only reduce quotas very very gradual-
ly. (Incidentally, Canada is on this fifteen
member commission although we do not
maintain a commercial whaling industry.
Nor do we choose to support the
conservationist proposals.) The 1976
recommendations set the quota at
roughly 26,500 representing a reduction
of about six thousand. The quotas
operate on the concept of MSY (Max-
imum Sustainable Yield) which involves
management of the quotas in such a
manner as to ensure continued MSY. (A
glossy federal production on the seals
qualifies this term to be a procedure that
"implies keeping the population relative-
ly stable at a level somewhere in the
order of half its size before exploitation
began." Odd that they'd even consider
using the concept since "the exploita-
tion" has eliminated over 90 per cent of
the original seal population.) Where the
MSY goes wrong is that when dealing
with a species, such as whales, they do
not consider their place within an
ecosystem and pay little attention to
status within a species. They overlook

the relationship of Fin whales to whales,
for example, and tend to look at things in
bulk, keeping them all 'just whales.' As it
is the Atlantic and Korean grays and the
North American blues are probably
extinct, the Fins, and Seis and the
Bryde's are gone in a lot of areas and not
too far off extinction in others. The right
and the bowhead whales are completely
out of it. They had the misfortune of
being of a slower speed class.

Whaling, itself, is a heavyweight
industry. Although occasionally used for
food (mainly in Japan) the major
product is oil, along with others such as
leather, cosmetics, wax for dandles. The
oil is derived primarily from the Sperm
whale. Sperm oil has the misfortune of
being a compound of one long-chain
alcohol molecule esterified with one
molecule of a long-chain fatty acid. It's
sort of a liquid wax. Capable of sustain-
ing high pressures and temperatures it is
used for the making of automatic
transmission fluid and other highly
specified oils for intricate mechanical
devices.

One of the problems with the
curtailing of the whaling industry was
that until recently there has been no
substitute for sperm oil. But there is one
now. It is called Jojoba and is a small
shrub found in the desert areas of the
States and Mexico. Unfortunately, no
one has taken the interest to institute an
agricultural program which would multi-
ply the amount of jojoba being grown
and until then, mankind will continue on
his merry little path, slaughtering the
whales.

It seems highly presumptuous of
mankind to consciously annihilate a
species whose probability of sentient
intelligence are very high. A species of
obviously superior sonic communica-
tion systems and of whom we have
documented ethics. They deserve our
respect.

Other areas of interest and support
of the Greenpeace Foundation include
the fate of the harp seals (see adjoining
article) and the fate of victims of the
dreaded Minamata disease. Minamata
disease, or mercury poisoning, is on a
scale of rapid increase across the world.
Coupled with reports of dangerously
high levels of mercury pollution of rivers
in Canada's once unpolluted north, the
recent discovery of the disease in
various persons in Ontario has made it a
disaster in this country. With Greenpeace's
scorecard, it is good that they are slowly
turning their attention to this disease,
chances are there will be a few changes.

As can be seen, the Greenpeace
Foundation has been highly successful
to this date because of their amazing
capacity to take on a large number of
issues and yet somehow not manage to
spread themselves too thin. For the
cynical among you, it's not justifiable to
pass them off as just another group of
do-gooders. The issues are of great
importance, they've got an amazing
track record, and they are a dedicated
group intent on attaining their Declara-
tion of Interdependence, which is based
on three laws of ecology, as follows: 'The
First Law of Ecology states that all forms
of life are interdependent. The prey is as
dependant on the predator for the
control of its population as the predator
is on the prey for a supply of food.'

'The Second Law of Ecology states
that the stability (unity, security, harm-
mony, togetherness) of ecosystems is
dependant on their diversity (complexity).
An ecosystem that contains 100
different species is more stable than an
ecosystem that has only three species.'

'The Third Law of Ecology states
that all resources (food, water, air,
minerals, energy) are finite and there are
limits to the growth of all living systems.
These limits are finally dictated by the
finite size of the earth and the finite input
of energy from the sun.'

If you are interested in more infor-
mation on the Greenpeace Foundation
or in joining the Greenpeace Foundation,
I would suggest you attend a weekly
meeting (See Gateway footnotes for
details) or contact Ed Robinson at 433-
0733, regular office hours, as a local
chapter of the Foundation is in the
process of formation.

Do you like seals?

essential for us to have an active
fishing industry just to
daily food needs. Do industrial
justify the abuse of our marine
resources? Do you know anything about
the seal population? Do you know that there is a
balance between all of its parts. If
the population is dropping in number you can
predict what an effect this will have
on the seal population itself. It will
drop in order to maintain that
balance designed to preserve
the seal population. To this end the seal has
to become sexually receptive
at four years, a year and a half
of its usual maturity. Added to this
is the fact that we do
not have an adequate system of
counting the seal population, although
the Guelph has recently developed
a photographic method that
fully prove more effective. They
institute this method after this
hunt. Let's hope that the
federal estimates were not too
low. The seal is endangered enough

present on this campus suggested
that those who were concerned
with the preservation of the seal popula-
tion were actually displaying "their
heart liberality" and were really
concerned with the cruel method in
which seals are killed. As you know,
5 million seals are killed each year.
Over seals have used this
method for their own ends. The opposition
to the slaughter has seized upon the
issue. Involved in the killing and have
gone to attain public support for
their oppositional intent. Swiss Franz
for example, is sponsoring 300
seals onto the ice floes. LeBlanc,
on the other hand, fails to recognize the
issue, and releases press
statements which instruct us to attend a
plant, view the slaughter of
seals, etc., and thereafter to stop
the slaughter of seals.

This confusion of motives many
have decided in their support and are
being led away from some of
the issues at hand. If we can so
easily annihilate life, for the pleasure
of the fashion-conscious and
the wallets of the already too rich,
are we going to go from here
and their long existence the seals are
our unknown species. Their
localization implies a communica-
tion on par with the dolphin.
Mammals with physiological

similarities to man (heart, blood system,
lungs) you'd think we'd have a lot to
learn from an animal that has devised a
method of diving underwater to depths
of 600 feet for up to half an hour without
needing to resurface for air. The seal is
capable of channeling most of its blood
into its brain and yet suffers no adverse
effects to its muscles. They are also
capable of eliminating toxic chemicals
from their bodies (such as mercury)
through a process in the liver. Think of
the medical possibilities and benefits we
could incur if we ascertained these
phenomena. It seems we have a lot to
learn about and from the seal. In the face
of the attitude of the bureaucracies, it is
welcoming to hear that at least a few
agencies are doing something about the
devastating slaughter of the seals. The
Greenpeace Foundation is commencing
their second year of direct protest to the
seal hunt. Last year's protest proved
somewhat futile for the Foundation
released their intentions prior to the
protest, and the federal government
instituted legislation designed to stop
Greenpeace from preventing the
slaughter. Greenpeace intended to dye
the coats of the young seals so as to
make the furs commercially useless.
This was legislated against. They were
also prevented from moving the seals
from one place to another it being
decided that the preservation of a
species is an illegal act. The Greenpeace
expedition, headed by Paul Watson was
eventually arrested for flying within 2000
feet and landing within one quarter of a
mile of a seal (which had apparently just
dove under). Their arrest prevented
them from any further activity. This year
Greenpeace have not divulged the
intentions of their expedition onto the
floes, and have, as a consequence,
incurred the wrath of Fisheries and
Environment Minister Romeo LeBlanc
who has vowed to stop the expedition.
To this end he signed an order-in-
council on March 8 which allowed the
drafting of a Newfoundland RCMP
detachment as a militia against
Greenpeace.

Meanwhile, the protest grows. A
British organization, for instance, has
constructed a huge billboard in Lon-
don's busy Trafalgar Square which
pictures a young seal pup being clubbed
to death alongside an inscription which
reads Canada's Shame. The hunt starts
on March 16, it should be interesting for
we'll have both sides of the human
mentality at work. Let's hope the right
side wins.