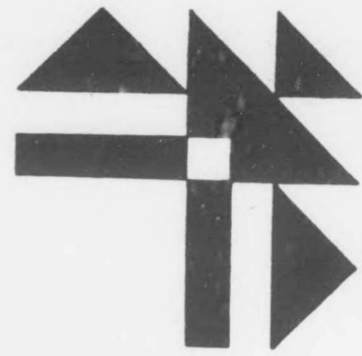


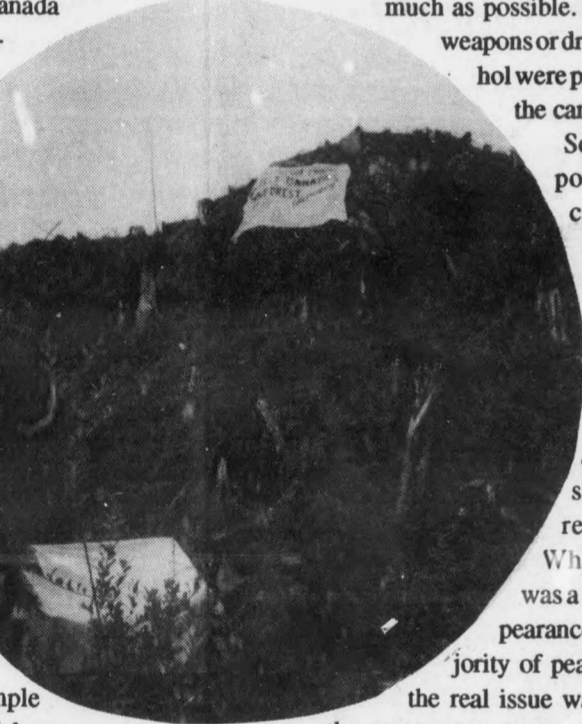
Clayoquot Sound

By Eugene Tan



...?" somebody asked
...ve something to eat
..."

...ring in one location
...ent of making infor-
...as well as bringing
...world. The peacecamp
...ber of environmental
...ocated in a clearcut
...It is located about
...the West Coast of
...peacecamp began with
...anada



...ple
...t became a
...o live in a truly eco-
...rail references aside,
...ng to anarchy-com-
...described as social
...Murray Bookchin).
...planned twice daily
...ulation of the camp
...ncements, consider
...questions. The camp
...at is, every person
...utions were passed.
...number of responsi-
...arge at the camp.
...orters and campers
...hours daily staffing
...e front gate, main-
...or preparing veg-
...all the campers.
...ampers had to agree

...to adopt certain behaviors in conformity with
...a peaceful direct action code. There was a
...strict non-violence ethic which encompassed
...physical violence, such as non-violent dem-
...onstration, and verbal non-violence, such as
...insulting police or loggers (or each other).
...The non-violent ethic also promoted an atti-
...tude of openness, friendliness and respect
...towards all life. Campers also agreed to make
...as little impact on the environment as possi-
...ble which meant camping on already estab-
...lished logging roads, composting or recy-
...cling all waste and reusing any products as
...much as possible. Finally, no
...weapons or drugs or alco-
...hol were permitted on
...the campgrounds.
...Some tried to
...portray the
...camp as a
...collection
...of hippie
...freaks and
...welfare
...bums.
...That char-
...acterization
...skirted the
...real issue.
...While there
...was a distinct ap-
...pearance to the ma-
...jority of peacecampers
...the real issue was whether
...the camp was a successful demon-
...stration. By maintaining a thriving commu-
...nity, spreading information and continuing a
...respectful, non-violent demonstration the crit-
...ics were proved wrong.

I asked him what his name was. "Tobias,"
he replied. He was from Germany and had
been travelling around Canada for a few
months. I asked what brought him here.
"We've already destroyed all of our forests"
he started, "I hope that you do not do the
same." I asked him how long he would stay.
"Until I'm ready to leave, not before."

The presence of attention grabbing events
has been impressive. The concert by Mid-
night Oil likely brought more attention in a
single event than most previous efforts.
Robert Kennedy Jr. also came to lend his

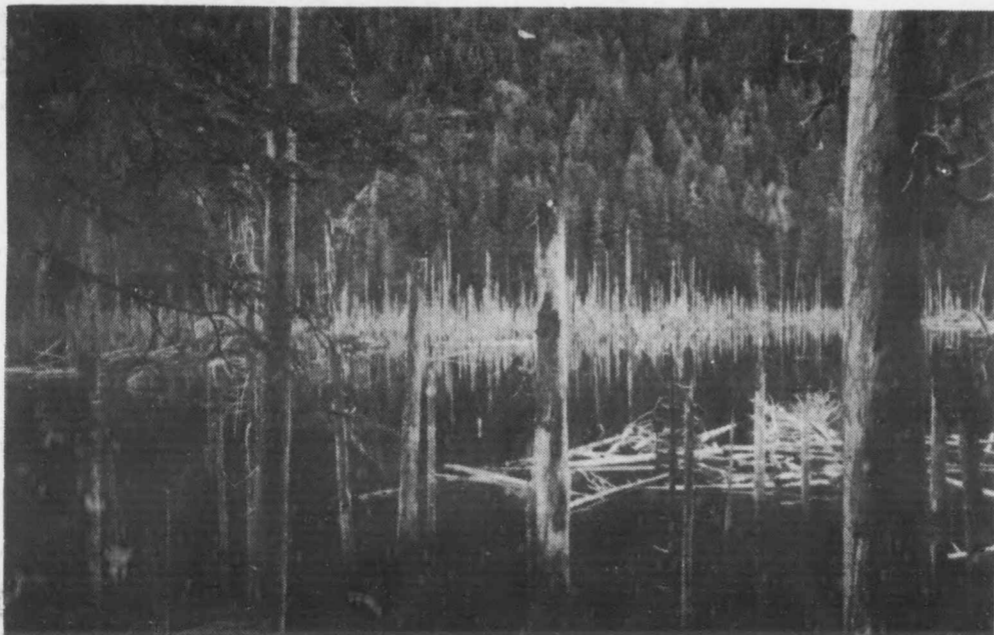
support on the long weekend in August. Co-
ordinated demonstrations occur weekly out-
side government buildings as well as outside
the offices of MacMillan-Bloedel. For much
of the summer the national headlines dealt
with the Clayoquot Sound issue. MacMillan-
Bloedel has even placed two page ads in a
number of periodicals on a number of occa-
sions to deal with the issue.

Why has Clayoquot Sound come to the
national (and international) forefront? Why
has one stand of trees polarized a country to a
degree never truly witnessed previously? After
all, logging protests have been taking place
for decades with declining attention. The an-
swers are varied. Maybe it is because it is
presently a time where environmentalism has
experienced a resurgence in public opinion.
The popularity of these issues in the mass
media has served Clayoquot Sound well this
summer. It is also a time when environmen-
talists have become media-savvy as demon-
strated by the organization of events meant to
draw attention. Clayoquot also marks a project
which has united many environmental groups.
Over at least the past decade or so these
groups have become increasingly focused and
somewhat factionalized. Among the con-
tributors are the Friends of Clayoquot Sound,
the Western Canada Wilderness Committee,
Greenpeace and the Sierra Club. The level of
inter-organization teamwork is unprecedented
in recent history.

Finally, it might be that the country identi-
fies with one side of the issue. One has to be
sympathetic with the potential economic prob-

lems faced by logging families. On the other
hand one might feel that Clayoquot is a mi-
crocosm of frustration felt by those who value
the environment. Or maybe it is something
less honourable. The protestors at Clayoquot
were predominantly young and Canadian or
European with a few Americans. During my
first evening a band of Cree Elders—the Pro-
tectors of Mother Earth—from Canoe Lake in
Saskatchewan visited our camp to lend sup-
port and give us the gift of one of their
banners. They had successfully maintained a
similar demonstration for 16 months at that
point without a shred of national attention.

I came in after a long day of trail building



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Photos: The Black Hole at
Clayoquot Sound, opposite page
and above. Scene from the
protesters' camp, centre. The
Witness Trail, near left.