

These

EXIT

Times

\$4.99
Value

Number Two 1992

English Edition

"May we live long and die out"

Voluntary human extinction: Idea whose time has come

Unity, diversity, and common sense have advanced the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement (VHEMT) to unprecedented dimensions.

Since the mass mailing of the first These EXIT Times (T.E.T.) in January '91, a growing number of VHEMT Volunteers have been further extending The Movement worldwide. They set up booths, call radio talk shows, write letters to the editor, and create new ways of helping potential Volunteers gain a new perspective on human existence.

Many Earth-centered newsletters, such as Appalachian Connection!, Earth First! Journal, North Star News, & Wild Earth, have reprinted portions of T.E.T.

TRANET, a networking publication in Maine, poetically presented the VHEMT concept with deep understanding in May '91. This was picked up by New Age Journal, which featured The Movement in their September/October '91 issue and included a photo of T.E.T. editor Les U. Knight with inflated condoms floating around his head. Many readers were Volunteers before they read the article, and appreciated seeing their ideas in print with an address to contact.

One of these readers was a writer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, whose presentation of The Movement completed the December '91 issue of Marketing magazine under the title "Ponto Final."

Condensing the New Age Journal article in April '92, Reader's Digest called VHEMT "outrageous!" and introduced The Movement to 100 million readers in 17 languages. A hearty "Thank you!" to the Reader's Digest folks. Their comment, "Spotlighting absurdities in our society is the first step toward eliminating them," seems to echo the VHEMT view. One of society's minor absurdities is magazines which are too wide for the toilet tank and keep sliding off the back. Again, the Digest and T.E.T. agree.

Most absurd of all is, of course, the irresponsible repeating of ourselves and each other.

The simple truth of voluntary human extinction is being shared throughout the world, giving Volunteers renewed hope, and giving potential Volunteers a window into a brand new world view -- a view of the world that's full of opportunity for all life.



Volunteers demonstrate love for life on Valentine's Day

What does a male Volunteer give his lover on Valentine's Day? If he's not gay and is still fertile, he might give her the gift that says "I love you" every time it's used... a vasectomy.

Three Volunteers at the University of Western Florida chose to demonstrate their love for Earth as well as for their girlfriends by tying the lovers' knots.

As Volunteer Corbin McMulin puts it, "Every time I see a turtle sunning itself, or a deer bouncing across my path, I will say, 'there is my child.'"

Press releases called for others to "join them on this mission of duty," and resulted in wide exposure for the group vasectomy.

In making his decision to live long and die out, Corbin states, "I view receiving a vasectomy as a divine act by a humble man."

Volunteer Johnny Ardis, of the UWF Greens, sums it up: "It takes a lot of people doing very little to do a lot."

The third Volunteer, Mike, is offering a video tape of his operation for sale. Any takers?

Everyone can look forward to a better world, thanks to the generosity of VHEMT Volunteers such as these. By allowing wildlife to take the space which their additional descendants would have taken, these Volunteers are giving the gift of life to planet Earth.

These **EXIT** Times

The authoritative voice of
The Voluntary Human Extinction Movement
VHEMT (pronounced "vehement")

©1992 by Les U. Knight.

Reprint freely with credit and address.

Volunteer translators still needed in most languages.

Please reproduce T.E.T. rather than yourself.

Most photocopiers can do both sides.

Large print edition available:

Find an enlarging photocopier and make copies. At 130% of this, a page will be 8.5x11, and text type will go from nine to 12 point.

The official VHEMT position:

Since the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement isn't alive with a brain or a mouth, it can't take positions or have opinions. It can't get into arguments, tell people what to do and think, or get punched.

Voluntary human extinction is simply a concept to be added to existing belief systems, not a complex code of behavior to live by. No committee of Movement shakers decides what position everyone else should take.

Most Volunteers subscribe to the philosophy embodied in the motto: "May we live long and die out," but if someone doesn't want to live long that's their business. Really, the only requirement for being a VHEMT Volunteer is the decision to not add another human being to the population. A couple could conceivably be expecting and decide to become VHEMT. That new human would be the last one they produced.

Volunteers are so diverse in their religious, political, and philosophical views that it would be divisive to begin formulating official Movement positions. Beware of dogmas. We speak with our own voices.

Special thanks to everyone who has written in.

Your challenging questions, inspiring suggestions, constructive comments, and friendly conversations have contributed as much spirit to issue number two as I have. Your editor, Les

Moral claimer and legal disclaimer:

These EXIT Times' status quo as a legal entity per se is de facto and is prima facie ad hoc in perpetuity, so there. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows, which is probably not at all because VHEMT doesn't exist as a corporation — never mind the 501 (c) 3. We can make arrangements, though.

Donations to help T.E.T. spread the VHEMT concept are best made in cash, stamps, or IRCs. Sending postage stamps deducted as business expenses could constitute tax evasion, and so is not condoned nor knowingly participated therein herein. Please write before sending donations by check or money order. Your editor doesn't bank.

Nature Bats Last

By Bill and Les

Nature Bats Last,
the bumpersticker reads.
We're playing at the inning's top,
and the bottom no one heeds.
Did we forget who else is playing in the game?
Power hitter, undefeated a billion seasons:
Gaia is the name.
We like to think we're Big League Stars,
the series will be ours.
We boast and cheer "We're number one!"
but we're headed for the showers.
'Cuz Nature Bats Last.

MIGRATION: The old in and out

Editorial by Les U. Knight



IN-migration or immigration — out-migration or emigration, call it what you will, the only difference is in the direction. People moving in someplace always move out of some place else.

Within the borders of freer countries like the United States, migration is determined mainly by economics and personal preference.

But, between countries, restrictions on migration are plentiful and often capricious. Enforcement is always at gunpoint.

It has been suggested that increasing these restrictions will reduce population growth, and will therefore benefit our environment. However, looking at Earth from a broader perspective, say from space, reveals that all those lines arbitrarily dotted across the planet do not help the biosphere as a whole.

If one of the methods we choose for improving our environment is to draw lines on the ground and dare people to step over them, we should be drawing them around wilderness preserves, as many African nations are doing. Restrictions on in-migration are needed in the remaining vestiges of Nature, in the fragile ecosystems which can't absorb more human impact.

Urban and suburban growth boundaries also help reduce encroachment into less-spoiled areas. Cities will get more crowded until birth rates drop, but perhaps birth rates will drop as cities get more crowded, and as people give up the fantasy of "someday moving out to the country."

The idea of restricting our own migration within our borders may not have the appeal that restricting in-migration by foreigners has, but, for Earth's sake, I think that's the direction we should be migrating in.

Naturally, the best in-migration control is birth control. May we live long and die

OUT.

Letters to T.E.T. policy:

All letters are returned to their writers for approval after editing and before publishing.

To contact a writer whose address isn't included: place your letter to them in a stamped envelope and mail it, inside another stamped envelope, to T.E.T. We will then address and forward it for you.

Volunteer Mom profoundly deep

Dear Les & Friends,

Thank you for the newsletter. I was absolutely flabbergasted to be made aware of VHEMT. I have long regarded humans as a parasitic infection on the planet, and have tried to live simply and reverently. I've had four children (and only used one bag of disposable diapers), but have three of them fairly well convinced that reproduction would actually be cruel considering the condition of our ecosystem now. I've lived rurally most of my life and have only realized in the last decade that this world is utterly ravaged by hordes of greedy, inconsiderate, thoughtless two-legged beasts. Fortunately, I am acquainted with some people who have respect for Gaia and who try to have as little impact as possible on the environment. My best friend, however, is a spotted, four-legged who provides me with transportation and companionship! I've always felt more attuned to other species and somewhat uneasy about being human. At times I feel very homesick and am always comforted by gazing at the night sky, marvelling at the distances and the possibilities. Just Friday night a little 6-year-old friend of mine approached me and remarked, "I know where you come from! SPACE!" Astute child!

I figure we're here for some reason, so I'm trying to make the best of it all — making music, love, vegetarian meals, a garden, friends, peace. I rate, on your eco depth gauge, profoundly deep.

Thank you also for encouraging vasectomy. Do you know how many men are total WIMPS about a simple 20-minute procedure?

I'm really disgusted with the so-called "right-to-lifers" who would deny a woman a safe abortion, but who are nowhere to be found when a young girl or very fertile mother needs *help*. I got pregnant TWICE using spermicide; it was emotionally painful, but the chance of having deformed babies made me choose abortion. I was fortunate.

I cannot guarantee that everyone here will be in agreement with VHEMT principles, but I will definitely spread the word as I am most heartened to know there are others of like mind.

I'd like to know more about your movement; how it's funded (enclosed please find a couple of bucks), how extensive is your mailing list, how long you've had these ideas....

Thanks again,
Deborah
Summertown, Tennessee

"Out, out, brief candle"

Les,

MacBeth act III

I take this idea about "no children" very seriously myself. I am 37 years old and have never married nor had any children, nor am I gay.

As far as I am concerned, the logic of the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement appears airtight. It is not for nothing that human beings have been compared to a life-threatening disease. Like cancer cells, we are Nature's aberration that has far outstepped any checks or balances She has kept upon Her creatures. Therefore, our only hope is the spiritual understanding of our total responsibility to "erase" ourselves from this picture.

I would like to post These EXIT Times at my church, (I am a Quaker, so actually we call it a 'meeting'), at my workplace, (which is the Medical College of Virginia — a lot of inquiring minds here) and anywhere I can think of. However, I am somewhat fearful of being called a "kook".

Still, this material is truly exciting: spiritually and intellectually. Please keep up the great work. I am (obviously) very enthusiastic that someone is actually telling the truth about this planet.

A few years ago, I had a vision of mankind as a candle flame and the candle voluntarily slowly extinguishing it and going out. I think this "sacrifice" could be considered the greatest moral act that people could accomplish, akin to the crucifixion in intensity, if not as dramatic.

May God bless you. Darryl Carlton
3116 Park Avenue Richmond VA 23221

Foolish to look forward to mini reproductions of selves

Dear Mr. Knight,

I read about your organization in the October issue of New Age Journal. I was very pleased to hear that someone else feels as strongly as I do about this issue.

I am an eighteen-year-old girl who long ago decided, for personal and environmental reasons, that procreation was not for me. I must say that I have had an awfully hard time finding other people who feel this way. Everyone that I know foolishly looks forward to the day when there will be miniature reproductions of themselves running around all over the place.

It is great to know that I am not alone in my decision! Yours most supportively,

Sophia M.
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Printed on recyclable paper

Of course it's recyclable. *Everything's* recyclable if you wanna spend enough money on it. That doesn't mean it's ever gonna happen.

Rather than recycling this, please pass it along

Alternatives to procreation

For many, it isn't enough to say, "just don't do it". Most people who aren't already parents need alternatives to fill the needs which procreation seems to fill.

Both men and women can feel a need to nurture and, rather than producing a new human to care for, nurturing Earth's "children" can be a viable alternative. Wildlife rehabilitation and protection, habitat preservation, reforestation, Adopt-A-Stream, and gardening are some possibilities.

For those who can't substitute Nature for humans, there are plenty of children in need of parenting. Adoption, step and foster parenting, borrowing relatives' children, and big brother/sister programs might fill the need. Also, occupations in child care and education can provide ample opportunity for sharing and caring.

Young people aren't the only ones in need of care. Helping the elderly, handicapped, or other disadvantaged folks could also satisfy altruistic needs.

Pets have less of an impact on the environment than humans, and many childfree couples find a dog or cat to be an emotionally rewarding surrogate child.

The first step to finding an alternative to procreating is to rethink the pronatalist mindset of the past. From an early age, we are told we'll have children of our own some day. The questions are: when and how many? The day we answered: never and none, alternatives began to have meaning.

Too many people for Rasta Surfer to know and love

Hey Les U. Knight,

Just so happens I'm with you, I-Bro. No need for unloved children in a world such as I-self who believes whole heartedly in Peace. I would be overwhelmingly depressed every time I move through a city burgeoning with so many people I DON'T KNOW! I mean, I need to love everyone wholly to be content... and so I do my utmost best. But this human procreation is out-a-hand. They don't know me and I don't know them. Be real! It takes time to heal and be friends — like growing a garden.

So unless I'm selfish or arrogant believing my kids will be *better* than others already existing (all species included!!!) I'm not willing to be greedy under Jah (Natural God), I'm becoming in tune with "True Dream Hope" so I don't feel I'm part of the human Baby Greed. And it is greed! Unless people are well aware of the whole environmental well being they will be adding further burden to our Beloved Earth's already depleted resources.

I agree with you in spirit brother Less, let's be whole within ourselves by taking care of what we already have... and it's a whole lot! So be cool ya'll. Surf Easy. Stay Lush. Many religions and philosophies but the truth remains as One. The Lotus has many petals but the flower is JUST ONE.

Tree Dream Santa Cruz, California

Economic incentives and pronatalism

Les,

As far as human extinction goes I still think that vast reductions in the human population are preferable, yet I do realize that even if only a few of us are left, there is a possibility we could multiply at an out-of-control rate again.

Personally I have, since late childhood, been relatively growing to very firm in my decision not to have children. Yet I do enjoy the human race in general & think in many ways our extinction would be very much a loss — yet also quite a gain for "Gaia" as you say.

Your idea is excellent but I have some problems with your proposed plan of action. First of all, the human race does not generally operate on purely voluntary motivation. It is quite idealistic to propose that people voluntarily stop reproducing w/o incentive or reward.

True, an enlightened few would/will probably eventually adopt your philosophy and turn it into practice. In fact many already are at least in some capacity. This can be observed in the declining birthrate of the educated and/or wealthy classes of people in the U.S. (& world wide I suspect). However, the people who would adopt this philosophy/practice are the very ones with the capability and foresight to save the planet. The ones you may never reach are the very ones most responsible for overpopulation of the planet.

I agree that the overpopulation in America is more dangerous to the environment than in poverty stricken nations. Yet it's been projected/suggested by some/many? that the 3rd world will surpass us in pollution production soon as they are becoming more industrialized with fewer restrictions & less \$ to put towards cleaning the environment.

One question: In what ways are economic incentives genocide? It seems to me that in some *instances* it is genocide because, like you said, certain groups are generally targeted. But is it not possible to have an across-the-board incentive equal for all?

B. Gray

4531 Chouteau Apt. 1 South Saint Louis MO 63110

B. -- Because discrimination against racial and ethnic groups has caused economic inequities, the long-term result of paying people to not reproduce could be a subtle form of genocide. It's worth the risk, though.

The term "genocide" technically refers to the killing of a racial group, but it's been loosely used for lack of a better term for anything that means "more of us and less of them." The practice continues around the globe.

Pronatalist policies also tend to be racially and ethnically biased, and can be more inhuman than genocide. Promoting procreation and denying reproductive rights, especially when famine is rampant, causes more suffering than plain old-fashioned genocide. Les.

Stitch in time saves nine

Millions of men would rather be shootin' blanks, but can't afford to get the lead out.

If you can provide financial assistance towards a vasectomy, please write to T.E.T. and we will put you in touch with a needy young man like this one:

"I'm committed to The Movement! I want a vasectomy but I'm broke. So, do I volunteer to be some med student's science project, or do the sheep method and put a rubber band around my balls?"

Won't you help this fertile dude prevent unwanted pregnancies, abortions, and live births? Future lovers, and all life on Earth, will rejoice in your caring and giving.

Traditional folk wisdom tells us: "if you give a man a pack of condoms he's safe for a night, but if you give him a vasectomy he's safe for a lifetime."

Hopeless, but worth trying

Hey Les —

I was most impressed with your logic — what better way to save the Earth? But, I fear the vast majority will turn a deaf ear to it. Want another oxymoron for your list? Add "human intelligence," if it's not already there. If we're too stupid as a species to do the best thing for ourselves — and when in the history of mankind has that ever happened? — what hope have we for doing the best for all involved? Damn little I'm afraid. Even though I give The Movement little chance of success, it's important enough that I'm willing to give it a try. Please send me a copy of "Reaching Out" and I'll do the best I can to enlighten as many as possible. Who knows, maybe they'll surprise me.

People need to understand that we (humankind) are not stewards of Earth or our fellow Earthlings. If anything, we're Nature's children and our fellow Earthlings brothers and sisters, and as such we can save our entire family (Well, what's left of it) by taking this opportunity to bow out while there's still time.

I congratulate you on having the foresight and courage to not only think of a solution like this, but to openly advocate it as well.

Pablo Picasso once said, "Anything new, anything worth doing, can't be recognized. People just don't have that much vision." This is the major problem of The Movement — that is, how to give sight to the blind. So what's the answer, Les, or is there one? Are we without vision too?

Sincerely,

L.W. Brown #508941

Ellis One Unit Huntsville TX 77343

L.W. — That's a thought-provoking question. Just because we have a vision doesn't mean we see everything. We have to keep looking and thinking. Les.

Recycle a life: All my children

By Andrea Lynn Oefinger

All during my teenage years I could think of nothing worse than having a baby. It was never one of my goals or desires, and I thought it never would be. But all of a sudden as I approached 19 it all changed. All of my time was devoted to learning about childbirth and midwifery, in hopes to be better prepared for a future child. My mother and I have always been environmentalists, long before it was "the" thing to be, but I never realized how having just one baby further upsets the delicate balance of Mother Earth. I am 23, and have successfully held off having a child, and always will.

The desire to give birth is very strong, something men may never be able to understand, but I know that fulfilling my desires is not as important as fulfilling my responsibility as an Earth steward. The strong desire for pregnancy does not go away, it is merely suppressed.

I have always felt a cosmic love, a love which is not limited to one person or thing, but to all creatures. But now that I know I will never have children, I will treat all children as my own. The space in my house that would be devoted to a baby, is now home to another kind of the world's homeless, animals that were thrown away like yesterday's trash. I consider them all my children, a bit furry maybe, but they are still part of me. Before some of my small animals passed to the other side, I tried to nurse them to health, just as a "real" mother would, and as they died I held them close, just as a "biological" mother would. The genes and DNA of a person have nothing to do with love. Just because a woman has a baby she is not considered a mother. A mother is someone who nourishes and loves unconditionally.

So to get to the point, why do people continue to have more children when the world is already overpopulated, and when there will be another billion people in another 12 years? There cannot be a good reason to me. If you're worried that a part of you isn't going to be living on somewhere, then live your life as an example to others, by your conduct and your love, and I guarantee that you will be talked about after you've departed. Everything we do affects the whole of existence. Adopt, adopt, adopt, to fill that space, don't create another space to fill by having another child. For the good of all, LIVE LONG AND DIE OUT.

*Andrea is a writer serving truth seekers involved in all positive spiritual paths and may be reached at:
2505 Main Street Suite 115A Stratford CT 06497*

It's never too late.

VHEMT isn't just for people in their child-bearing years. Society's attitudes are determined by all of its members. Grandparents who don't long to be great-grandparents are helping their grand-children make the responsible choice.

Radicals prioritize

Whew! This recycling is hard work. How about a hand?

Not me. While we're busy sorting our trash, huge corporations are producing millions of tons of toxins that'll never be recycled.

You're just trying to shift the blame. We're the ones who pay for that evil stuff they produce. If you cared about toxic waste, you'd get rid of your car.

Oh, right. As if the establishment didn't have enough of an advantage over us already. Besides, your diet kills more animals than my car. Meat is murder.

You're fretting about cows and chickens when human beings all over the world are stuck in cages. If you really care about justice, you'll work for human rights.

Who cares about criminals when 40,000 children die from malnutrition each day? If you care about humanity, you'll work to end world hunger.

Why focus on human suffering when millions of other species are going extinct and entire ecosystems are being lost forever?

Ancient forests and all life is threatened by nuclear weapons and power plants. Plutonium is the biggest enemy of life on Earth.

But radiation is just one of death-culture's products. To stop the madness, we have to destroy the fascist-capitalist system before it destroys the whole planet.

Exploitation of workers and Nature can exist in any political-economic system. Revolution has to happen within each of us for a meaningful, lasting change.

Yeah maybe, but no matter how enlightened we get, we're still harmful to Nature. We still have to live somewhere and eat something and...

... and drive to work, too. Maybe all we can do is set our own priorities and respect each others' priorities — support them if we can.

Agreed. Now, how about a hand with this pile of cardboard?



Text: Les U. Knight Art: Frater Pancake

Post industrial culture needed for modern eye opening

Dear Les,

What is it about humans? Obviously, our technology has allowed us to exceed the carrying capacity of our environment. But why haven't we been able to moderate our numbers to produce less impact? My researches show me that other animals, in the absence of predators, are able to regulate their own populations (sometimes by eating their young, but also by just not conceiving). "Primitive" hunter-gatherer humans also managed to maintain steady-state non-growth lifestyles. Hunter-gatherer technology was advanced enough that it could have seriously depleted (and sometimes did) game animals. Those people took conscious steps to control their numbers — again, infanticide was used, abortion (very hard on the mother) and herbal contraceptives.

So why are modern humans so abysmally stupid about these things?

When we adopted agriculture, our culture changed. (Culture of course is what regulates our behavior). Not only did we domesticate plants & animals, but we domesticated ourselves — masters and slaves, Lords and serfs, now bosses and workers.

Our only hope is to create a new culture, one that opens our eyes wide to the limits imposed upon us by our fragile earth. But cultural evolution seems to take so long and we don't have the time...

VHEMT is clearly the answer, but will it work? I guess all we can do is try.

Kelpie Wilson

P.O. Box 1444 Cave Junction OR 97523

Foregoing Homo mega-consumerus

Hi Les,

Thanks for your extremely prompt delivery of "These EXIT Times #1" and your personal note. I very much enjoyed both and admire your honesty and openness. I thank you for returning my check and the beautiful envelope with which I'm returning \$10 cash. I admire your willingness to forego the banking system. I hope my contribution will help get VHEMT ideas distributed.

I have never felt the need to produce mega consumers or to pass on my ego. Perhaps we should encourage research into why it is so many humans feel an overwhelming urge to procreate. I had a vasectomy at age 29, since I have long realized the world doesn't need even one more mega consumer.

I am presently involved in a project to reveal the environmental effects of 46 years of nuclear weapons testing. I recently visited and photographed seven abandoned and forgotten underground nuclear test sites which lie scattered around the lower 48 states.

With best regards,

Vern Brechin c/o AE Systems

P.O. Box 7052 Menlo Park CA 94026-7052

Roots of The Movement run as deep as human history

The potential for a voluntary human extinction movement has been around for as long as humans have.

When Ice Age humans hunted animals to extinction, at least one of the Neanderdunces among them must have grunted in bewilderment.

As the Fertile Crescent became a barren desert, and the Cedars of Lebanon were sacrificed for ships, someone must have thought, "this bodes ill," or words to that effect.

When the Romans created the Sahara by clearcutting the forests to fuel their empire, surely someone remarked, "Humanus non gratis." *Someone* had to get the idea that the planet would be better off without this busy horde.

Someone, that is, besides the middle-eastern God Yahweh/Jehovah/Allah. Tradition tells how, in ancient times, God realized His mistake and was going to flush all humans from the system, but in a weak moment He spared Noah and his family. Oops!

The situation today is critical, and any of us who thinks about it long enough will come up with the same solution. I call The Movement VHEMT, but it's undoubtedly been given other names throughout history.

END 3000 was a British humanitarian movement to end all human suffering by the year 3000... through voluntary extinction, of course.

D.W.I.N.D.L.E. Depopulate Willingly Increasing the Natural Delight of Life on Earth, also encouraged people to live long and die out.

Zero Birthing Now! (page 9) and the Gaia Liberation Front (page 12) have also put 2 and 2 together. They got virtually the same answer.

There must be thousands, if not millions, of people around the world who are independently arriving at the same conclusion. A large portion of today's Volunteers were vehement extinctionists before they heard of VHEMT and T.E.T.

The true origins of The Movement can be found in the natural abundance of love and logic within each one of us. Our in-born sense of justice guides us to make the moral choice.

Decision for Nature made early

Dear Mr. Knight,

I would appreciate knowing how to be included on the mailing list for "These EXIT Times" which I read about in New Age Magazine. I am 48 years old and decided at a very early age not to have children. Even then it seemed to me that Nature was paying a heavy price for human life style. I know your newsletter would be of great interest to me.

Thank you!

Michelle R.

Chicago, Illinois

Population-oriented organizations: A partial listing. To be continued.

Population/Environment Balance

1325 G Street NW Suite 1003
Washington DC 20005-3104
202-879-3000

Membership: 5,000. \$15+ per year. Donations tax deductible.

Newsletter: Two quarterly — The Balance Report & Have You Heard?

Director: Rose M. Hanes.

Honorary Chairman: Garrett Hardin.

Organization: Private non-profit corporation. Known as The Environmental Fund until 1986.

Goals: "... dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in the United States through population stabilization." Encourages small families and the availability of contraception, and is concerned with limiting migration into the USA.

Action: Influences legislation, especially in-migration limitation, with membership support.

Migration: Limit of 200,000 into USA.

Optimum human population: USA — Stabilized as low as possible. World — Not global.

Zero Population Growth

1400 Sixteenth Street NW Suite 320
Washington DC 20036
202-332-2200

Membership: 44,000. \$25+ per yr Donations tax deductible. Local chapters active in major cities.

Newsletter: ZPG Activist quarterly. Many other publications concerning population issues.

Executive Director: Susan Weber.

Co-founder and Honorary President: Paul R. Ehrlich.

Organization: Private, non-profit corp. Founded 1968.

Goals: Stabilize population, especially of USA.

Action: Research, education, lobbying. Opportunities for members to become directly involved.

Migration: Position currently being formulated.

Optimum human population: USA and World — Zero growth as soon as possible.

Over-Population Awareness

P.O. Box 40218
Saint Paul MN 55104-8218
612-644-3757

Membership: 600+. Donation. Not tax deductible.

Newsletter: Over-population Awareness, bimonthly, duplication encouraged. Sample for SASE.

President: Gerry Flood.

Organization: Soon to be incorporated as non-profit, tax-exempt, educational.

Goals: 1st, network of 1,000 members. 2nd, expand mailing list to include others concerned w/ecology.

3rd, design next phases w/ consensus of members.

Action: Networking, educating, publicizing.

Migration: "Open borders for infertile people."

Optimum human population: World — One billion.

Negative Population Growth

P.O. Box 1206
Teaneck NJ 07666-9896
201-837-3555

Membership: \$30+ per year. \$10 students. Donations tax deductible.

Newsletter: Human Survival, 3 times/yr.

President: Donald Mann.

Organization: Private, non-profit corp. Founded 1972.

Goals: To "... defuse the population bomb and make this a better world for your children, grandchildren, and posterity. ... it is both irresponsible and immoral for any couple to have more than two children..." And promotes "easy access to family planning, including safe, legal abortion and voluntary sterilization in all countries."

Action: Education.

Migration: Limit in-migration to equal out-migration.

Optimum human population: USA — 150 Million. World — 2 Billion.

Save Our Earth

2008 1/2 Preuss Road
Los Angeles CA 90034
213-839-1976

Membership: 100. Donation. Not tax deductible.

Newsletter: Sporadically publishes Save Our Earth, with a circulation of about 200, sample available for SASE. Subscriptions by donation.

Director: Elaine Stansfield; charter member of ZPG and director of LA Chapter from 1978 until 1988, when she stepped down to organize Save Our Earth. Became a population activist in 1933, after reading Thomas Malthus in junior high school.

Goals: "Population/Environmental with an emphasis on women's rights, animal rights, and ways to reduce population. (Free contraceptives for all, a tax on big families, stop immigration and development, etc.)"

Action: Letter writing, Elaine speaks wherever asked.

Migration: Advocates moratorium on in-migration.

Reproductive freedom: No restrictions. Free and available contraception, sterilization, abortion, RU486.

Optimum human population: USA — 100 thousand. World — 2 billion.

Voluntary Human Extinction Movement

Everywhere humans still exist

Membership: Millions of Volunteers worldwide, though most haven't heard of VHEMT yet. Free.

Newsletter: These EXIT Times claims to be the authoritative voice of The Movement — thus far unchallenged. Published sporadically. Sample issue \$1.

Leader: Every Volunteer is a leader — leading the way to a better life for all species, including our own.

Organization: None.

Goals: Voluntary extinction of the human race as soon as possible if not sooner.

Action: VHEMT is an attitude, not an activity. It's more about what Volunteers don't do than do do.

Migration: No position taken.

Optimum human population: Zero.

Population Crisis Committee
1120 19th Street NW Suite 550
Washington DC 20036-3605
202-659-1833

Membership: Not a membership organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Newsletter: None, but publishes bulletins on pending legislation, judicial proceedings, and political developments. Also, colorful, informative wall charts and other materials.

President: J. Joseph Speidel, MD.

Organization: Private, non-profit corporation primarily for professionals in population fields.

Goals: "PCC seeks to stimulate public awareness, understanding and action towards the reduction of population growth rates in developing countries through voluntary family planning and other actions need to solve world population problems." Aims for stabilizing population at less than double 1992 rather than the projected triple or higher.

Action: Internat'l policy influence in governments.

Migration: Not an issue for global pop stabilization.

Optimum human population: No position taken.

Population Reference Bureau.
777 4th Street NW Suite 800
Washington DC 20090-6152
202-639-8040

Membership: \$45+ per year. Reduced rates for seniors, students, and educators who provide proof of their status. Donations tax deductible.

Newsletter: Population Today, monthly. Also publishes bulletins, pamphlets, wall charts, educational materials, and more, available to non-members.

Organization: Private, non-profit corporation. Since 1929, PRB has been informing the world about human population trends. Maintains reference library and offers on-line computer retrieval from several major data bases. Best single source for demographic statistics, bibliographies, and policy studies.

Goals: "... to increase public awareness of issues related to national and world population trends and to increase understanding of the impact of population change on the quality of our lives."

Action: Research and education.

Migration: No position taken.

Optimum human population: No position taken.

Carrying Capacity Network
1325 G Street NW Suite 1003
Washington DC 20005-3104
1-800-466-4866

Membership: 875 individuals and organizations. \$20+ Donations tax deductible.

Newsletter: Clearinghouse Bulletin, 4300 circulation. Also publishes Focus.

Executive Director: Dale A. Didion.

Publications Coordinator: Monique A. Miller.

Organization: Nonpartisan activist network facilitating cooperation and information dissemination among organizations which work on carrying capacity issues such as environmental protection, population stabilization, and resource conservation.

Migration: No position taken.

Optimum human population: No position taken.

Zero Birthing Now!
Route 1 Box 28
Delancey NY 13752
607-746-3872

Membership: Not a membership organization.

Newsletter: Zero Birthing Now!, on an occasional basis. Includes statistics and opinions. Photocopies permitted. Available for SASE. Donations not tax-deductible. Checks payable to Richard M. Bowers.

Co-ordinator: Richard M. Bowers, co-founder and first president of Zero Population Growth.

Organization: Private, non-profit, unincorporated.

Goals: Favors making contraceptives, sterilizations, and abortions available free, and "advocates worldwide Homo sapiens birthing postponement EVERYWHERE until the number of births have been reduced at least to deaths." Also suggests a "tax rebate for those who do not birth."

Action: Involved in state politics, Green Party.

Migration: Open borders.

Optimum population: 1 million. Max: 500 million.

Elaine Tyler May
American Studies Program, 104 Scott Hall,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis MN 55455.

Your help is needed for a study of childfree lifestyles. Professor May is collecting personal histories of people who have chosen to be childfree or who have been unable to conceive. Adoption and sterilization (voluntary and coerced), are also of interest to Professor May.

If you are willing to participate, you may do so in writing or on tape. A transcript will be returned to you with the tape. Your real name won't be used in the resulting book without your consent.

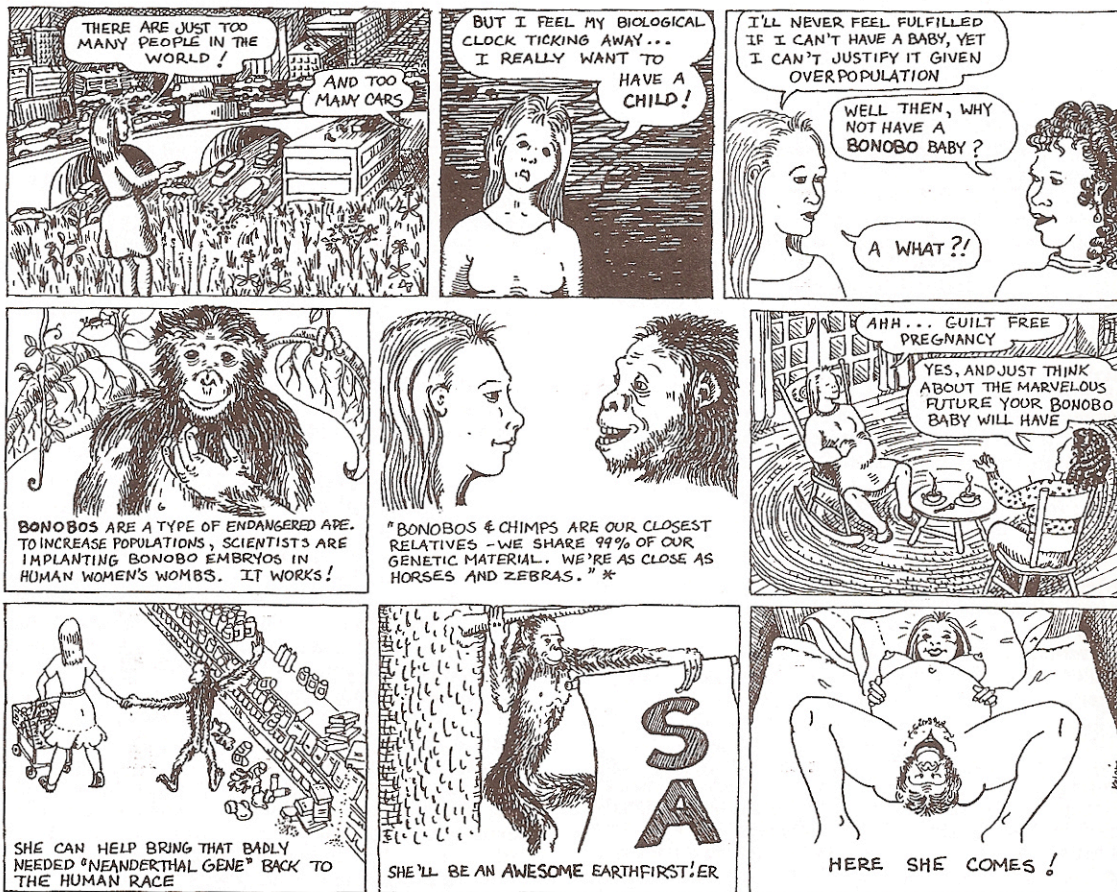
The usual demographic information is appreciated: age, race, ethnic background, family history, religion, sexual orientation, and so on. Professor May is particularly interested in feelings generated by infertility and in how the situation was dealt with by everyone concerned.

Editor's note: T.E.T. is also asking for short personal reports on feelings about and reactions to voluntarily remaining childfree or deciding not to produce additional off-spring. How did your decision affect relationships with family, friends, and lovers?

Sharing your experiences could provide valuable emotional and practical support for Volunteers and potential Volunteers, who may feel outnumbered in our pronatalist society.

TRANET
P.O. Box 567
Rangeley ME 04970
202-864-2252

Membership: \$30+ per yr. Donations tax deductible. Organization: Private non-profit corp. Publishes international networking newsletter/directory of people participating in transformation of their own lives, culture, and technology. Not population-oriented, but their listing of T.E.T. boosted VHEMT abundantly.



* DE WAAL, FRANS, PEACEMAKING AMONG PRIMATES, HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1990

“Mother instinct” strangely strong for non-breeder

Les,

On the subject of “mother instinct” let me offer autobiographical data.

Even before puberty I had decided Never to have children. Sexually active from the age of sixteen, I took precautions to avoid pregnancy. Even so — against logic, against intention, against my will — something in my chemistry beyond intelligence engineered little lapses, and I was pregnant three times in twenty-five years.

Of course, all three of those potential people were terminated before they could join the blight.

Particularly fascinating to my partner and me was that during my late thirties, knowing what I know and believing as I do — as I always have — in the complete

extinction of our kind, still I felt an extraordinary, terrifying, ravenous, soul-shattering physical NEED to reproduce.

This lust consumed me for three or four years. I felt in the depth of my entire being that I would die if I didn't fulfill that Earth-function of pouring forth new life. Intelligent, educated ME.

It took every bit of our considerable combined discipline to override that primary directive.

So, as you say, for men the urge is to have sex. For me (shall I make that presumptuous leap and say “for women”?) the urge WAS to make babies.

Abigail Paine
Redmond, Washington

Pithy presentation solicited

Dear Les,

Maybe some of the other VHEMT Volunteers could recommend a pithy response for a problem I've been running into. Every time I mention VHEMT or talk about it, I get a groan, or a rolling of the eyes, or a "You've got to be kidding" or a "Gee there's a group for everything nowadays," or a similar response. Other than responding by saying "No, *you've* got to be kidding," I've yet to come up with a witty retort. Do you or any of the other Volunteers have any suggestions? Giving the individual making the comment a pamphlet doesn't seem to do much to change their minds. I'd certainly welcome any input from you all out there.

J.B.

Evanston, Illinois

J.B. -- Each situation calls for a different comment, but it helps to have some stock phrases to begin with. One of the goals of T.E.T. is to share information such as this with Volunteers worldwide.

For a first exposure, just getting the concept across accurately is plenty. Seems like some potential Volunteers get stuck trying to realize that our population can shrink without killings or suicides.

If they react negatively I don't pursue it further. "Something to think about." And maybe they will.

In addition to your request, I have another: what can we say instead of "Congratulations"?

Mindless approval is expected when a pregnancy or birth is announced. Comments to the contrary must be carefully worded to keep from being dismissed as anti-baby.

Some possibilities: "They know what causes that now." "Ohhhhhh." "Have to file an environmental impact statement for that these days." "There's a lot of that goin' around now." Also, see page 18. Les.

How about it Volunteers? What else can we say? Share your thoughts with the rest of us. Write to T.E.T.

Fixed young, no regrets

Aloha VHEMT,

I enjoyed your article in Earth First! (March '91). I'm a 47 year old male with no children who got a vasectomy shortly after the first Earth Day in 1970. I'm amazed at this late date to find "breeders" still view me as a tragic character. It seems that the capacity of the human race for denial is truly mind-boggling. When I see the amount of energy that is spent by the "Right to Lifers" on their mission to destroy the planet with over-population my mind just goes numb. The vast majority of humanity seems to be as thoughtful as cancer cells. Replicate, replicate, til you kill your host.

Anyway, here's a buck. Send me a copy of EXIT Times. Keep spreading the word.

Mahalo, Sean R.

Makawao, Maui, Hawai'i

Curmudgeon's shrink deep in denial

Dear Les:

Hot damn it's great to hear from a kindred spirit.

Babies, babies everywhere. It became so depressing that my wife Georgia thought I should see a shrink. I agreed that I was in pretty bad shape, so I went.

To sum it up, this guy who charges \$100.00 per hour, wants to know my problem. I tell him my depression about world overpopulation, how every time I see parents with more than one baby I get this feeling I want to kick the guy in his balls. He, the Doc, wants to avoid the issue by asking about my childhood, wife, marital relations, and all that standard psych bullshit. The world is facing the worst ecological disaster since the comet or asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs, and this dumb jerk thinks I am really upset over something as mundane as family problems. He probably has four kids at home, thereby proving he's no smarter than the rest of the human lemmings that are breeding themselves to extinction and taking all natural beauty and wildlife with them. If I were to have continued seeing him I would be as stupid as he was.

My first wife whined and cried until I gave in and despite my better instincts, I had two children—boys. When I married my very fine second wife, she already had four children, three boys and a grown daughter, already married. The daughter I couldn't influence, but the boys, all five, have chosen not to have any children—zero. Their wives may put the pressure on, but so far, the lads have held firm. Who says I can't raise kids right? Does it bother me that I won't be a grandfather? Nope. The world will be better off.

Some people have even said that the U.S.A. is approaching zero population growth. Dumb. Here is an interesting way of looking at population growth by the numbers: If every couple on earth were to have only one child, assuming 100% survival, then the population will still grow by 75% in two generations.

The sad truth is that people are having a damn sight more than one child per couple. In Africa, Mexico, & Indonesia it is more like eight babies per. And my goddamn shrink couldn't believe I was depressed just because of the population explosion.

Perhaps by the year 2010, famine will have become so pandemic that even the unaware block-heads will realize there is a population problem. Then someone will suggest we, the U.S.A., will have to do as China has tried to do, make it mandatory to have only one child per couple. Mandatory sterilization to those who have more. What will the stupid pro-lifers do then?

In a few days I'll be 69. I probably won't be around to see the world when it really gets bad. Most of the predictions I have made in my life have come true. This is one time I wish I would be wrong.

Sincerely, From a sixty-eight year old, earth-loving curmudgeon,

Jack O. Seattle, Washington

Radicals demand Gaia liberation

Headquartered in Toronto, **The Gaia Liberation Front** is one of the many grassroots movements which have grown out of the belief that all life on planet Earth is more important than survival of the human race.

The GLF states in communique #1, dated Earth Day 1990: "Our mission is the total liberation of the Earth, which can be accomplished only through the extinction of the Humans as a species."

Membership requirements are similar to VHEMT's: "The GLF is a concept, not an organization. You're a member of the GLF if you join us in our work."

Although more radical than VHEMT, the GLF is cautious enough to include a legal disclaimer: "We don't advocate anything illegal, because it's illegal to advocate anything illegal and we don't want to get busted. Our members choose their own methods."

The GLF takes a dim view of *Homo sapiens*. "The Humans evolved *on* the Earth, but are no longer *of* the Earth. Having become alienated from the Earth, they must be regarded as an alien species.

"The evidence is overwhelming that the Humans are programmed to kill the Earth. This programming is not only cultural, but probably also genetic since the major technologies that the Humans use for this purpose, from agriculture and metallurgy to writing and mathematics, have all been invented independently more than once.

"In any case, every Human now carries the seeds of terracide. If *any* Humans survive, they may start the whole thing over again. Our policy is to take no chances."

The GLF can be contacted at:

P.O. Box 127 Station P,
Toronto ON M5S 2S7

GLF Spokesorganism Geophilus shares insights with Les U. Knight

Les: How does the GLF differ from the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement?

Geophilus: While we support all voluntary efforts to make the humans extinct, we do not exclude the *involuntary* route. At the rate that the Humans are killing the earth — and for all we know she may have already passed the point of no return — a decision to not reproduce, by itself, even if adopted immediately by every human — as a result, say, of a new Gaia-worshipping religious movement — would be just too damn slow.

Les: What involuntary methods do you have in mind?

Geophilus: We support, for example, involuntary sterilization, but we would also welcome the escape of any new anti-Human viruses — such as the airborne

version of AIDS that might result from AIDS research on mice. [*Science* 16 February 1991 p. 809]

Les: What about wars?

Geophilus: In the war of the Humans against the Earth — the only war we're concerned about — we take the side of the Earth, so we have no problem in principle with the humans reducing their numbers by killing one another. It's an inefficient way of making the Humans extinct — every quarter of a million Humans killed represents only one day's growth of the Human population — but every little bit helps. Our only concern is that, in the process, the Humans do a lot of collateral damage to non-human life, so we want them to confine themselves to hand-to-hand combat or, better yet, to the use of biological agents that kill only Humans.

Les: In practice, wouldn't involuntary human extinction take the form of genocide?

Geophilus: Well, sure, it might. You know what those Humans are like. But remember that the outcome might be the same if someone released a new virus *without* targeting a particular race — or even if a new virus popped up on its own — just because one race might be genetically more susceptible. Humans can be egalitarian, but nature isn't. And while it matters from the point of view of Human ethics whether a particular result was intended, it doesn't matter to the Earth. The taboo against genocide helps to protect the Humans from one another, so it's a good thing for *them*, but as soon as you stop seeing things from a Human point of view and adopt the viewpoint of the Earth — and it helps here to see Humans as having become a hostile alien species — things look rather different. If you want the Humans to die out, is it so awful if some of them die out before the rest? Of course, if I knew that someone *had* targeted a particular race, I'd be happier knowing that that race was my own, because that's the one that's *doing* the most damage. But if it weren't, I wouldn't be *unhappy*, just *less* happy. As far as the Earth is concerned, it would still be a good start.

Les: I can understand your position when viewing the planet from the Moon, but I have to disagree when I think about the death and suffering down here on the ground. Shouldn't all of us be allowed to live out our lives?

Geophilus: Why? It's self-indulgent for the breeders to insist on their "right" to have kids, but it's also self-indulgent for the rest of us to insist on our "right" to live out our allotted threescore and ten.

Les: So, why don't you just commit suicide?

Geophilus: If I merely *believed* in human extinction, then of course, you'd be right. But, in my judgement, the good I'm doing by *promoting* the idea of Human extinction outweighs the harm I'm doing by staying alive.

Les: So you hope to live long before you die out. We do agree on some things. Thank you for sharing the GLF perspective with T.E.T. readers.

Les Talk

Abortion: Pro or Con?

Y'know, something that really jerks my chain is the way the media tries to herd us all into two corrals on critical issues. They like to ask, "Are you pro or con?" as if there were only two sides to ethical questions. Take a woman's right to a safe abortion, for example.

Almost every abortion is the result of an unwanted pregnancy. Who could be "pro" unwanted pregnancy? And, if someone is "con" abortion then they shouldn't get one. So much for the two sides.

Everybody seems to think they have to take a stand on abortion these days. Even *men* think their opinions on the subject amount to more than a sack of yak turds. I don't know about the rest of you dudes, but I sure don't want someone telling me what to do with my balls, *especially* if they don't have a pair in the first place. So, it's really none of my business either.

But, when someone tries to make abortions unsafe, and to force others into motherhood just because of accidental conceptions, it's everybody's business.

Personal freedom and safety are at stake here. It's time lawmakers stopped playing political football with the unborn child. A role as revered as motherhood should never be subjected to the degrading whims of politics.

Criminalizing abortions just makes them dangerous. It's trying to rescue unwanted zygotes by sacrificing innocent women.

The single most important decision in our lives is whether or not to bring another one of us into the world. We should be free to make that choice without government hindrance.

Rather than allow ourselves to be divided into opposing factions on abortion, let's join together in spite of our differences and find the middle ground where we all agree. Surely everyone is for preventing unwanted pregnancies... let's start there.

For a better world,



Les flashes the double V sign for well-wishers.

More naked apes avoided thanks to "Snip, snip"

Dear Mr. Knight,

Here's \$5 for your latest newsletter and information packet for potential new members. We read your interview in the Florida Flambeau, and had a wonderful time. Loved your comment: "Having babies is not the problem. It's having adults that's the problem." What a light-hearted way you have of communicating these important and fresh insights into humanity's rocky relations with the rest of Gaia.

Back around 1979 an idea surfaced for a group to be called D.W.I.N.D.L.E. ("Depopulate Willingly, Increasing the Natural Delight of Life on Earth" might be appropriate words for the acronym). It, like VHEMT, envisioned Homo sapiens going extinct through voluntary attrition to the delight of the rest of Nature. Unlike VHEMT, DWINDLE never got beyond the pondering stage. So I very much appreciate your courage and determination in turning VHEMT into reality. And I am glad to have a chance to join the group. Great knowing we are not alone in eyeing human extinction with relish.

I had a vasectomy in 1971 and am still happy we chose not to bring any more naked apes into this already over-human-crowded world. Another gutsy organization, Zero Population Growth, had a lot to do with getting me connected with info and doctor for that "snip, snip" operation.

Here's wishing you health and light hearts at VHEMT. B.E.S. Bend, Oregon

1000-fold drop proposed

To Voluntary Human Extinction Movement:

I'd like to join your group. Wish to propose a thousand fold drop in our population by 2080 — going from the present 5,500,000,000 to a future of 5,500,000 would be great for the materialists; think of all the electric juicers, cars, stereos, houses, etc. that each of the very few kids would inherit as leftovers from our present glut. Yes, most items would be junk by then, ah, but the planet and its other species would be so much better off.

Guy Cloutier
P.O. Box 1418
Benson AZ 85602

Guy -- Assuming the VHEMT plan is adopted tomorrow: Zero births, and a steady death rate -- 145,000 per day, though in reality it would drop dramatically. That's 53 million per year X 100 years = 5.3 billion. Since there are about 5.5 billion of us now, 200 million would still be around in 2092. Will the year 2100 be soon enough for the thousandfold drop? Lcs.

I'd rather be printing on hemp fiber than wood fiber. Hemp crops can yield four times as much useable fiber per acre as forests.

Les

Les U. Knight

Enclave not alone in vehemence

Hello,

Please tell us how to subscribe. We just heard about you and we have an entire enclave who all think this way. We thought we were the only ones.

Thanks,
Martha & Jeb R.
Newport News, Virginia

Figuring fecundity: the why of it

Intentional breeders can't give the true reasons they plan to create more people. We have to translate:

I just love children. = Out of touch with inner child.

To carry on the family name. = Trying to please Dad.

I want my kids (who don't exist yet) to have all the things I didn't have. = Unfulfilled childhood fantasies.

We'd like to try for a boy/girl this time. = Ego extension. Gender identity insecurity. Disappointment with existing progeny.

Want someone to visit me when I'm old. = Insecurity. Fear of aging. Exploitative personality.

We want to give our parents grandchildren. = Still seeking parental approval.

Conformity is probably the main cause of wanted pregnancies. There's a fear of being different, and a reluctance to question tradition.

By living well without producing more of ourselves, Volunteers are providing positive role-models for potential breeders.

Right to breed inalienable?

Dear Les,

While visiting the University of Illinois last weekend, I discovered your organization. There were tables set up for an Earth Day celebration in the quad, and I talked to some people at a table set up for VHEMT.

I came about the idea of human extinction three years ago while pondering on how to save the environment as a sophomore in high school. You can imagine how happy I was when I learned of your movement. I couldn't believe someone else shared my ideas.

I have thought about the possibility of creating diseases to wipe out humans. But you're right, it won't make a dent before they find a cure if the disease kills.

Currently I'm pondering possible mass sterilization methods. Is it ethical to take away people's right to reproduce without their consent? Billions of animals' lives seem more valuable than a couple of warped testicles.

Wishing for a better world. Clinton Kent
1315 Washington Street Evanston IL 60202-1623

Clinton -- Yes, I think it's unethical for someone to take away another's right to reproduce. It's even worse to force people to reproduce against their will. Where contraception is unavailable and abortions are criminalized, new humans are sentenced to life in a world that doesn't want them and can't or won't care for them. The UN estimates that 1/3 of the 405,000 daily births are unwanted. Universal reproductive freedom could cut the crude birth rate in half — not enough to achieve ZPG, but a good start.

By overpopulating, our species has forfeited its right to reproduce, but this doesn't give a government the right to control us further. First, everyone should be empowered to avoid unwanted births. There is much to be done in this area as well as in awareness. Les.

Alternative Pledge of Allegiance

Some Volunteers no doubt enjoy reciting the pledge of allegiance to the United States and its flag. However, others might prefer to pledge their allegiance to higher principles. Below is a pledge that can be recited along with the crowd at sporting events, school assemblies, and the like.

"I pledge allegiance to what's right and to the Earth on which we stand, one planet, under siege, indispensable, with liberty and justice for all life."

Because a pledge is so personal, it should suit the individual making it. Deists may wish to retain "under God" and "life" could be left off to avoid detection, or changed to "species" if you prefer.

VHEMT noble concept

Dear Mr. Knight,

I think your "[May we] Live Long And Die Out" concept is a very noble one. Being 31, I plan on never having any offspring since the world doesn't appear as if it's ready to care for any more geometrically multiplied growth on my behalf.

I am starting a company up that is dedicated to saving the resources of the earth called The Conserve Group.

Although our approaches are different, I believe our motives are the same.

Kevin K.

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Responses to life choices heated and alarmed

Dear Les,

What a surprise and delight to find another human sharing what I believe is the only ethical human reproductive philosophy at this point in time. My husband and I also have elected to spare this planet our progeny. All this honey baloney that people get into about children giving you immortality, and the so-called "sanctity" of human life! As you say, let us live long, happy lives while we're here, then as a species get the hell out.

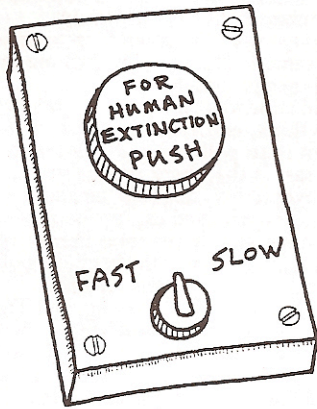
Please send me a copy of your "Exit Times". Judging by the heated and alarmed responses this idea elicits from most people I know, those few of us basing our life choices on this belief will be the only extinct humans, but at least we'll know we're not alone.

Charlotte Bell

1704 Stanford Avenue
Redondo Beach CA 90278

The government subsidizes farmers to not grow unwanted produce, maybe couples should be subsidized to not produce unwanted growths.

Would you push this button?



- No. I wouldn't push it. I can justify the existence of the human race in spite of the obvious evidence.
- Yes. I'd push the button. I'm vehement about preserving life and returning Earth to a natural paradise.

There are two settings on this imaginary button: SLOW and FAST. Where would you set it?

FAST: All people fall over and rot.

The carnage would be easily integrated into the food chain by scavengers and maggots, but our clever machinery could cause gigantic problems for Earth.

Major appliances like stoves and cars could be absorbed, but nuclear reactors would begin to melt down or explode and, tragically, no humans would be around to appreciate the fireworks. Without someone there to hear them, they might not make a sound. For miles around every reactor, a zone of death would exist for tens of thousands of years. Not long in Earth history, but at a time when plant and animal life has been reduced in diversity, the impact would be heavy.

Abandoned oil wells, landfills, and coal mines would eventually stop burning.

Dams would fail and cause much local destruction of ecosystems. Impact would vary depending on which dam in a series broke first.

Toxic waste would migrate into the water cycle, and would eventually be dispersed throughout the planet, re-collecting in pockets. Mutations and adaptations by lower life forms would allow life to continue in spite of the poisons. However, most animals higher on the food chain would be unable to adapt fast enough.

In short, biodiversity would be set back several hundred million years.

On the bright side, Earth's biosphere would soon begin to get better, reversing the direction of the past 15,000 years of human activity.

Erratum: An Op-Ed article by Theodore Roszak in *The New York Times* (6/9/92) reported the VHEMT motto to be "The Answer to All Our Problems." But really, "our problems" are secondary to Earth's problems. "May we live long and die out."

VHEMT Volunteers conserve Earth's limited resources

The number of times a Volunteer has reproduced in the past is not important. What counts is how many more of us we don't make in the future.

Each new North American human we don't create is the equivalent of 72 years of 100% recycling. We save 56 years of car driving, avoid tons of pollution, and prevent the potential for an additional procreation 20 years later.

When the impact our descendants' descendants have on Earth's biosphere is added to what we are saving, it becomes astronomical. And, if we decide to not make two more of us, it's astronomical doubled.

Volunteers who are ready to make even more of a commitment to The Movement might consider not producing 10 new people: 720 human-years of industrial consumption and pollution can be saved by just one pair of us. Congratulations!

SLOW: Universal human infertility.

Zygotes of *Homo sapiens* would never again begin cell division. Abortion providers might be the first to notice; happily going out of business in a few months.

A worldwide panic might set in, but without reason. There would be no negative impact on the world nor on society as a whole. Individuals' lives could change profoundly, but all for the good.

Starving people would begin finding enough to eat and resources would become more plentiful. New housing would be unnecessary. All human technology would be scaled back but could still advance. Nuclear power plants could begin to be safely decommissioned. Dams could be removed, technology could focus on dealing with unsolved problems such as radioactive and other toxic wastes. Healing the wounds of past exploitations could become a priority, reversing the expanding deserts and shrinking forests.

Conditions for society would also improve as shortages are eliminated and our death rate drops to an unheard of low.

Domestic plants and animals could be phased out as farms and ranches are converted to ecosystems supporting wildlife and natural vegetation.

The last humans could enjoy their final sunsets peacefully, knowing they have returned the planet to as close to the garden of Eden as possible under the circumstances.

The last one out could turn off the lights.

Our enemy has no butt

Editorial by Les U. Knight

After we've seen a few hundred TV dramas where the good guy kicks the bad guy's butt, it's tempting to look at the real world with this same chicken-brained, zero-sum mentality. We might look for an enemy to attack when championing our righteous cause, but our enemy doesn't have a butt to kick. In the end, the real "enemies" are human greed, ignorance, and oppression. We can achieve more by promoting generosity, awareness, and freedom than we can by vainly kicking at the buttless foe.

Just because the heaviest impact we can have on Nature and humanity is to co-create another human being, doesn't mean that breeders are the enemy. It's the *causes* of procreation that we need to deal with.

Many Volunteers are mothers or fathers, having become aware after procreating, and many of us who haven't reproduced are more lucky than we are righteous. The past is history — regardless of our heirs, it's the awareness we now share that unites us in The Movement.

Potential Volunteers who continue to breed are not our enemies. They simply haven't broken through denial yet. You don't have to be a brain surgeon to figure out that kicking butts isn't the way to change minds.

Breeders need our help, not our criticism. Intentional breeders need help in getting beyond denial, and unwilling breeders need help in gaining their reproductive freedom.

We can make great progress toward improving the quality of life on Earth by countering greed with responsibility, ignorance with education, and oppression with freedom.

Faith in Creation, strong spirit needed in these exit times

Dear Les,

My wife and I enjoyed "These Exit Times" #1, and are looking forward to further issues. Your work is invaluable, and its chances for success directly in proportion, I believe, to the compassionate tone of your newsletter.

As a former Catholic high school religion teacher, I am deeply impressed by the absence of indignation, righteous anger, or finger-pointing. A balance that calls for a strong faith in Creation, and a strong spirit, exactly what is needed in these times.

My wife and I are interested in spreading the "Gospel," this Good News. Please send us the Reaching Out pamphlet, stamp enclosed.

Best wishes and continued success in the work ahead.

Sincerely,
Steve Mikals & Carol Furpahs
HC 61 Box 152 Ozark AR 72949

Who is this Les guy, anyway?

I'm just another one of the 5,500,000,000 of us: another member of the human family.

I was happily raised in a small farm town by a large, supportive family. The army drafted me in '68... an insult I still take personally.

The GI Bill stipend let me prolong college and gave me time to think, and I realized that the reason the environment is so polluted and wilderness is disappearing so fast is that there are just too many of us doing whatever it is we do. That, no matter how much we conserve, recycle, and eat low on the food chain, we have a huge and detrimental impact on Nature. This simple realization was the beginning of my life's work: the extinction of Homo sapiens.

ZPG was only a few years young, and The Population Bomb the same age. Both recommended stopping at two children: gaining respectability from middle America. I and many others joined the cause, but we kept on growing. It became obvious to me that nothing short of a moratorium on births was needed.

Having never planned on being a father, it was easy to go get fixed when I learned of a cut rate at the medical school. At the last minute, the teacher/doctor balked at snipping because I hadn't made any heirs yet. Lying on the table, prepped and ready, I had to persuade him to cork my stork, so to speak. Any fool can make a baby, but you gotta have some darn good reasons not to.

With college out of the way, I resumed my education. I enrolled in Real Life as a juvenile counselor, helping unwanted kids cope with society.

Next, I rode my thumb around the US and Canada, living solo out of a backpack, and discovering how little unspoiled land is left. I talked with people from Oregon to Florida to Nova Scotia who often told me, "When I was a kid all this was farmland."

In '77 I founded GreenWar-Oregon and began the Arm the Whales movement as commander-in-chief. When it became apparent that the whales would refuse to fight, I realized that the militant methods human beings so often use to deal with problems is a major problem in the first place. I began thinking more about human extinction as a peaceful alternative.

I also began parenting. A good friend, her five-year-old daughter, and I began living as a nuclear family... downwind from Hanford. Pairing and parenting are definitely not for everyone, but I'll always treasure my experiences with both.

I thought about the concept of human extinction a lot, and discussed it with anyone who was willing... maybe with a few who weren't. A newsletter was constantly aspiring to exist, eventually coming to life as These EXIT Times in 1991.

Since then, mail from all over the world has confirmed my belief that millions of humans are as ethical as whales... we would rather die out than kill off.

As more Volunteers promote voluntary human extinction throughout the world, my faith in our species' sense of justice is reaffirmed, and hope for Gaia's future seems more promising. The Movement is gaining momentum, and I'd like to kick it along for as long as I'm kickin'. *V-Vol la Terra!*

BONOBO BABY

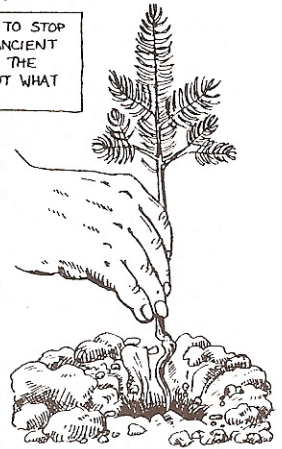
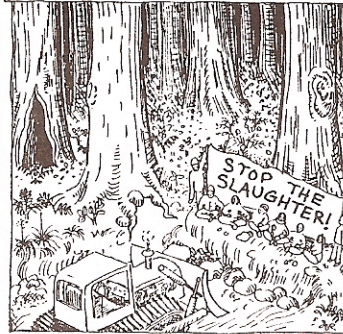
Kelpie Wilson



AFTER I HAD BOBO, MY BONOBO* BABY, MY FRIENDS STARTED TO REALIZE THAT THE EARTH NEEDS US TO CARE FOR HER "OTHER" CHILDREN. INSTEAD OF HAVING BABIES, MY FRIENDS TOOK ON PROJECTS TO RESTORE THE EARTH. AND LIKE WOMEN EVERYWHERE, WE GET TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT OUR "CHILDREN."

*BONOBO'S ARE A SPECIES OF ENDANGERED APE WHICH SHARES 99% OF OUR GENES!

"IT'S REALLY EXCITING! FIRST WE HAVE TO STOP THEM FROM CUTTING ANY MORE OF THE ANCIENT ONES. THEN WE CAN PLANT SEEDLINGS IN THE CLEARCUTS. BUT I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WHAT MEGAN AND HOLLY ARE DOING ..."



"I'M WORKING ON RESTORING A FRAGILE DUNE HABITAT THAT HAS BEEN INVADDED BY EXOTIC PLANTS. FIRST WE REMOVE THE INVADERS AND THEN WE REPLANT NATIVE SPECIES."



"I LOVE SPENDING TIME IN THE MARSH. WE KEEP THE WATER FLOWING IN. THAT MEANS CLEANING THE DITCHES AND MAKING SURE THE FARMERS DON'T USE TOO MUCH WATER"



Childfree pair uplifted by Movement

Dear Knight,

You have no idea how uplifting this article [Florida Flambeau] was to me, my husband and close friends. My friend who lives in Florida sent it to me who immediately called my friend in Arizona to read it to her. We closet-misanthropes have to keep our spirits up. Ironically, even though I believe humans should go extinct — I'm glad you're around!

Please send me These Exit Times and anything else. My husband and I have such a wonderful child-less marriage. I'm always trying to tell other people how fantastic it can be on so many different levels not to have children.

In these "green" times we live in we thought about writing a book entitled "One Thing You Can Do To Save the Earth!"

Barbara A. & Danny B. Lothian, Maryland

VHEMT perspective reframes population debate

Dear Les,

We have been Vehement activists since we first became acquainted with the movement at the Earth First! rendezvous this Summer. We've been busily photocopying the "Exit Times" and distributing it among friends and neighbors. We get some interesting and surprising reactions. Some folks won't even read beyond the first few sentences! Others just gobble it up. Obviously the population issue needs to have its debate reframed and the Vehement movement is doing just that.

Mark & Beth
P.O. Box 858

Cave Junction OR 97523

Thank you for sharing

For many of us, helping others gain a VHEMT perspective is an important part of being a Volunteer. The following are ways we can share the concept.

Above all, stay positive. Focus on all the good things that an improved population density will bring about. No one needs another rounddown on the latest in doom and gloom. If you're sharing the VHEMT concept and aren't having fun at it, stop it.

Mail

We can send:

- 1) Cards to wish non-breeders well on Mother's and Father's Days.
- 2) Cards congratulating friends for using surgical contraception.
- 3) Meritorious Service Awards to individuals and couples who have decided to not add another one of us to the pile. (see order form).
- 4) Non-birth announcements to friends and family, letting them know of your decision so they'll stop prodding.
- 5) Personal letters to anyone who might be interested. Mention it and get 'em thinking.
- 6) Official letters to government reps involved in critical legislation. It only seems to work with a "campaign contribution" larger than the opposition's.

Talk

Talking has passed the test of time and is still more effective than the slickest media blitz.

- 1) Call radio talk shows: It doesn't matter if the host is for it or against it, the VHEMT concept gets into the air either way.
- 2) Radio interviews: News reports get edited as much on radio as on TV. (see below--well, see to the right and up a little). An interview program, however, can give an in-depth view into The Movement. Rehearse on tape with a friend asking you questions.
- 3) Slip it in: When a problem comes up in conversation or discussion, suggest that voluntary human extinction might help solve it.

Ink

Getting the VHEMT concept in newspapers and magazines shares it with prospective Volunteers without spending much money. Each publication has a different readership, allowing us to reach a wide variety of people.

Here are three ways to generate ink on voluntary human extinction.

- 1) Media event: The media is hungry. Feed it something exciting. Group vasectomy on Valentine's or Earth Days. Free vasectomy to whoever comes up with the best reason in 25 words or less. Ideas alone usually aren't enough to get ink unless your press release gives good quote.
- 2) Letters to Editors: After an article relating to population or ecology is published, write in to clarify

the situation, debunk pronatalist propaganda, or simply congratulate them on increasing awareness. Shorter letters have better chances. The more you edit the less they will edit. Write as soon as possible to keep it current. Gauge the readership and write it as they like it. Using a catchy phrase they can turn into a kitchy headline helps. A letter commenting on a letter can stretch that ink over several issues if they're hard up for copy.

It's not always appropriate to mention VHEMT in your letter, but if you do, you might include the T.E.T. address as well.

3) Small publications, including this one, are always in need of informative and thought-provoking articles and letters. Art is also in big demand.

TV or not TV

If the opportunity to get the VHEMT concept on TV arises, maybe we shouldn't pass it up. However, TV is risky. Your sentence can be cut in half, and by the time your words are edited down and around you'll sound like a combination of Hitler and Malthus if that's the image the producer feels like presenting.

Unless you want to rehearse with a video camera first, the safest way to use TV is to give 'em one quick quote and then shut up. They'll cut it down to that anyway and this way you choose which bite they take. Good luck.

Word Magic

Many ancient peoples believed that words had magical powers. Today we might belittle this as superstition, but in the process we would ignore the power which words can still conjure up.

When we share the voluntary human extinction concept with potential Volunteers, we should choose our words as carefully as a wizard casting a spell. Some commonly used terms are emotional triggers, which can instantly jinx the exchange.

For example: "population control." If we say, "we have to control the population", it sounds to freedom-loving people like the curse of fascism. Avoid "birth control" for the same reason. A safer term is "contraception" and, for its availability, "reproductive freedom."

Avoid sounding anti-baby or anti-child. Rather than saying "no one should have children," you might try "we should take care of the children who already exist before we create any more of them."

Instead of "having a baby" maybe "bringing another of us into the world." or "starting someone for life" or "repeating ourselves" or "reproducing" or "adding to the problem" are more charming phrases.

"Overpopulation" has been over-used and gets tuned out. "Sterilization" has negative connotations for many and can be replaced with "surgical contraception."

Euphemisms may seem deceitful or even cowardly, but, unless we're preaching to the converted, word choice can make a magically powerful difference in how well the VHEMT view is perceived.

Wrong people having children?

Les,

I have an interesting concern of your plight for human extinction. It is an honorable goal, but the individuals who would engage in such activities are the same individuals who can raise good children to balance the stupidity in the world. If we let a huge portion of potential constituents become a lost reality, won't the earth be over-burdened with people who don't share our enlightenment and become demolished from human activity?

I think that, after much consideration, we should be helping the closed-minded, puppets-of-society type people become educated on the plight. Do you think your efforts reach these people? They are the ones who have the biggest impact.

I still believe in The Movement, but only as long as it never inhibits freedom to choose and as long as it is carried out in a way that the goal will become reality rather than a bad move.

For life, Jared R. Shortman

P.O. Box 2511

Cordova AK 99574

Jared -- Assuming we are the best Homo sapiens to reproduce, and assuming our off-spring will become the perfect adults we dream of: it could be 20 years before these fresh champions begin to counter the "stupidity in the world." Can we out-breed the ignorant masses in time to save the planet? I think not.

A faster way would be, as you suggest, to help existing people see the world with a new perspective. People can gain awareness almost instantly when they're ready... hopefully in less than 20 years.

The main reason I'm opposed to selective human reproduction is that the intentional creation of one more human by anyone anywhere, no matter how super they might turn out to be, is morally unjustifiable, especially now.

Existing children already have the potential for becoming the greatest people who ever lived. Only the opportunity to realize their greatness is being denied. Imagine how many geniuses are among the world's 40,000 children who die needlessly each day.

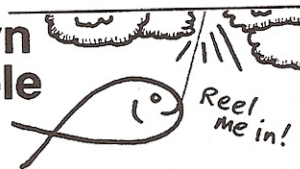
It is possible that The Movement will not succeed in saving the planet, which is all the more reason to avoid sentencing another human to life and death on it. Les.

Saving paper statistics.

This issue could be twice as long, so we're saving 50% by keeping it short. By shrinking the pages to 76%, we save another 24%. That's 74% and if the paper is 50% recycled, this newsletter saves 24% more paper than it uses. So it's OK. OK? It's not half as bad as most people might think.

God's own fishin' hole

For Volunteers of the Christian Faith



God is often quoted as telling us to "be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the Earth and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 1:28 KJV.

When we are told to "replenish the Earth," the first people had only just been created, so "replenish" probably refers to other life forms. God is instructing us to reforest, re-establish wildlife habitat, enable wildlife to flourish, and replenish Earth with His blessed creatures.

Having "dominion" includes the responsibility to preserve and care for "every living thing which moveth on the Earth." Bringing about a creature's extinction most certainly violates this divine directive.

Humans are not the only creatures blessed by God. In Genesis 1:22, God blesses the other lives He has created and instructs them also to "be fruitful and multiply."

There are limits to our fruitful multiplying:

"Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, 'til there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the Earth!" Isaiah 5:8 KJV

We seem to be exceeding God's admonishment.

God also advises us to care for the children who already exist instead of giving birth to more:

"Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth in singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord."

Isaiah 54:1 KJV

If the second coming of Jesus is to be soon, then this is not the time to bring another person into the world. Jesus speaks of these last days:

"Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts which never gave suck."

Luke 23:29 RSV

We have been fruitful and multiplied, now it is time to mature and nurture.

The apostle Paul compares our earthly existence to that of a house:

"...if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God... whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord."

II Corinthians 5:1-6 KJV

Thus, extinction of the human race on Earth doesn't mean an end to humanity. Extinction is in accordance with God's plan for us.

Jesus Christ lived His life as a lesson to us all, and begat naught. Let us follow His example and concentrate on the spiritual journey to God, rather than on human endeavors such as producing more humans.

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Code	Item description	Retail	V-Vol	Add'l	Qty	Total
B-Mot	Bumpersticker: "May we live long and die out."	2.00	1.00	.50		
B-TNB	Bumpersticker: "Thank you for not breeding."	2.00	1.00	.50		
V-btn	Volunteer's button (1.75" diameter)	2.00	1.00	1.00		
V-cd	Volunteer's card (Wallet size)	N/A	1.00	.50		
MSA	Meritorious Service Award (Fancy 5.5" x 8.5")	2.00	1.00	.50		
RO	Reaching Out Guide to helping others progress	N/A	SASE	----		
TET-1	These EXIT Times Issue Number One	SASE	5/1.00	5/1.00		
TET-2	These EXIT Times Issue Number Two	4.99	1.00	.50		
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Before TET-3 comes out, other items might be available, including: iron-on transfers for T-shirts, non-birth announcements, and congratulations for getting fixed cards.

If you're interested, let us know and we'll keep you posted.
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