

These **EXIT** Times

Number Four 1994

"May we live long and die out."

English Edition

Voluntary human extinction movement accelerating as awareness rises

"Movement" in the voluntary human extinction movement refers to the transfer of an idea from one person to another. The idea that Earth would be better off without humans is moving faster and in more directions than ever before.

Publications around the globe are picking up the story of VHEMT. Virtually all recognize the benevolent nature of our message, and present it with respect.

London's international *Independent On Sunday*¹ ran an extensive article favorable to the VHEMT plan. *Earth Island Journal*² dedicated a full page to The Movement. *Toward Freedom*³ included us in their demography column "Head Count".

A BBC radio program, *Outlook*⁴, interviewed Les U. Knight and broadcast it throughout the world on long and short waves.

*Kooks*⁵, a book documenting outrageous beliefs, supportively included the VHEMT perspective in depth. We might seem like kooks today, but that's the way of new discoveries: ridicule, then discussion, then acceptance.

Small publications too numerous to mention have reprinted pieces from *These EXIT Times* and have given glowing recommendations, resulting in many contacts from people who thought they were the only ones who realized this simple truth. As others allow themselves to independently think through the Earth's situation, using logic and love, they will eventually arrive at the same conclusion and solution. This, too, is part of The Movement, and, when this spontaneous generation occurs in the minds of those who speak other languages, tedious translations from English are avoided.

Volunteers are sharing the message at Earth Day booths and tables, conferences, radio talk shows, social gatherings, and anywhere we have the chance. Awareness is rising and The Movement is advancing.



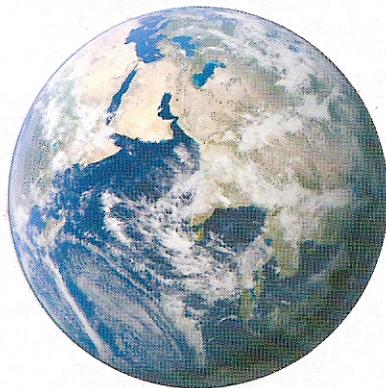
¹*Independent On Sunday*, Jarvis, Stephen, April 24, '94, pg 22.

²*Earth Island Journal*, Summer '94 "Other Voices", pg 43.

³*Toward Freedom*, Polston, Pamela, June/July '94 pg 17.

⁴BBC World Service, *Outlook*, Myers, Barbara, June 8, '94.

⁵*Kooks*, Kossy, Donna, Feral House, '94, pgs 141-144.



"If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it, people would walk around it, marvelling at the creatures walking around the surface and swimming in the water. They would marvel at the water itself, its plentitude, and how it was even suspended in the wondrous thin layer of gas surrounding this floating sphere.

"The visitors would stare at its lumps and holes and its myriad of colors. They would declare it sacred because it would be unique in the universe. This ball would be the greatest known wonder and all would ponder its existence.

"Everyone would love it and protect it with their lives because they would somehow know that their lives would be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter."

Patrick C. Wall

Photo of planet Earth above:

Your copy may have a full-color sticker of a Full Earth from 23,000 miles out in space: an EarthSeal.

Printed with environmentally safer ink, these self-adhering stickers are available for suggested donations of \$2 per dozen, \$25 per 200, or \$100 for a roll of 1,000 from Paul Hoffman P.O. Box 8000 Berkeley CA 94707. Ask for "Apollo 17(E)".

Your editor's apology, thanks, ramblings, appeals, and stuff

In *These EXIT Times* number two, I referred to people who have already repeated themselves as "breeders". I wish I hadn't done so, and I apologize to all who felt disrespected. Thanks, Ann, for reminding me.

Sticking labels of any kind on others, or on ourselves, diminishes individuality and diversity. We are our Selves, not what we do. We share common ground, but each of us is unique. Identifying people as *being* an occupation, belief system, activity, diet, genetic background, geographical location, or whatever, reduces noble Homo sapiens to just another member of some homogenous group: one of *those*.

I do, however, identify myself as a VHEMT Volunteer, and tend to think of folks who are not yet as being potential Volunteers. Since Volunteers have no stereotype, this doesn't seem hypocritical to me, just paradoxical.

Volunteers are so diverse in religious, political, and philosophical viewpoints that sometimes The Movement is the only thing we have in common.

Some are Volunteers for humanitarian reasons, some out of ecological considerations, and most of us are motivated, to some degree, by a combination of concern for both planet and people.

A few misanthropes... rather, misanthropically inclined could no doubt be found among us, but they tend to be softies. While hardcore misanthropics are wishing for new diseases, Volunteers tend to hope for new contraceptives.

Some are parenting, some are not, and some are in between. Age, gender, income, education, and all those demographic factors also seem widely varied.

We're a motley crew, and that's what makes The Movement so dynamic. Our differences enable us to reach a broad portion of society in more meaningful ways.

To stay united, we just have to tolerate each other's differences... which shouldn't be hard as long as no one starts calling those darn meetings.

Volunteers have been active around the world, and many of these activities require meetings, but those tend to be *ad hoc*, and avoid the regularly scheduled rituals of old and new business according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

This is what I think of meetings, but activities of Volunteers can't be restricted by some hierarchical cabal unleashing the dogma. All who consider themselves VHEMT Volunteers automatically have the authority to publish newsletters, make statements to the media, organize events, and so on. No one, however, can speak for all of us. Beginning any statement with "We believe" most likely renders it false. However, it does seem to me that the motto is sort of a manifesto: the foundation of whatever we

choose to do as Volunteers. The Movement has no followers, only leaders, leading the way to a better future for all life on planet Earth.

Virtually all Volunteers have loved ones who grant us the unsolicited honors of being aunt, uncle, grandparent, or even sibling. My daughter and her husband have become Volunteers following the birth of their only heir in September of 1993. What to do? I like being around most children and enjoy my grandson, so it's easy for me. I say make the best of it whatever your feelings, just don't let 'em be hard feelings. Each person we meet is another potential Volunteer, no matter what their age. If at first you don't succeed..

I hope you enjoy this issue and will be inspired to write in with comments, suggestions and questions. Consider this *your* newsletter. Although I write most of it, put it together, decide what goes in and what gets censored... I mean, edited out, I'd like more Volunteers to use this forum to share their views, advice, and experiences with each other.

In upcoming issues I hope to feature discussions on a variety of topics pertaining to voluntary human extinction. I need your help to do it properly. Pronatalism, male-based contraception, vasectomy projects, fertility, disincentives to breeding, "license to breed", and many other topics are in need of discussion. Clippings, copies of articles, references, and so on are very helpful so keep 'em coming. Including dates and publication name helps.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Les.

These EXIT Times

The vehement voice of
The Voluntary Human Extinction Movement
©1994 by Les U. Knight

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T.E.T. number one is still best introduction.

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Find an enlarging photocopier. At 130% a page will become 8.5x11, and text type will go from 9 point to 12.

Dedication

This issue is dedicated to my high school Journalism and Typography teacher, Mr. E. Howard Hillis, without whom you wouldn't be reading any of this.

STOP AT TWO?

"Stop at two" may have been a radical proclamation when ZPG was founded 26 years ago, but it was barely adequate even then. Replacement level fertility of 2.1 wouldn't bring about true zero population growth until well into the next century, due to momentum.

Today the message is only slightly revised: "Consider having none or one, and be sure to stop after two."

The notion that producing two descendants simply replaces a couple and creates no increased impact is specious. We aren't salmon: we don't spawn and die. Most of us will be around to see our progeny beget, and those begetten beget to boot.

When a couple of us "replaces" ourselves, our environmental impact doubles -- assuming our off-springs' lifestyles are as environmentally friendly as ours, and that they won't reproduce themselves.

The "stop at two" message actually *encourages* reproduction by "qualified" couples. A wanted child is better than unwanted, intelligent (whatever that is) better than stupid, and well-cared-for better than neglected, but each of us in the industrialized world has a huge impact on Nature regardless of these factors.

For example, in terms of energy consumption, when we stop at two it's about the same as an average Ethiopian couple stopping at a thousand.

Two is better than four, and one is twice as good as two, but to intentionally set out to make even one more of us today is too much like selling berths on a sinking ship.

As vehement Volunteers know, regardless of how many off-spring we have or haven't produced, rather than stop at two, we must stop at once.



Non-parents' choices increase as affinity groups organize

In the 1970s, the National Organization for Non-parents (N.O.N.) provided social contacts for people whose lives were not child-oriented. It successfully provided support and grew large.

The name was changed to the National Organization of Optional Parenthood in an attempt to broaden their membership, however, ZPG already had that ministry, and it eventually folded.

Now at least three organizations in North America offer non-parents assistance: Childfree Network (CFN), Childless by Choice (CbC), and No Kidding! (NK!).

CFN makes no distinction about why no children. The rights of those who aren't parenting are being infringed upon in favor of those who are, and CFN proposes something be done about it.

CbC considers the distinction between choosing non-parenthood and suffering from infertility important enough to make it their focus, and also favors equal rights.

NK! was founded in 1984 with goals similar to N.O.N. Vancouver-area members host social activities several times a month, and prospective members are welcome. A 24-hour "activities line" gives recorded information on upcoming events. A \$15 donation will get you a kit for setting up your own chapter.

Both CFN and CbC provide networking for members to form local groups and sell coffee cups. If you're not parenting, and are interested, I recommend requesting information from each to see which best fits your needs.

Parental status is irrelevant to being a Volunteer, since the distinction that *really* matters is the decision to produce no more of us.



Childfree Network

7777 Sunrise Blvd Suite 1800-111

Citrus Heights CA 95610 916-773-7178

Membership: \$22.

Newsletter: *Childfree*, bimonthly. "We are all parents of the future."

President, founder, editor: Leslie Lafayette.

Goals: "Advocates neutral rather than pronatalist stance by government, media, and business." Defends right to live in adults-only apartments.

Action: Supports local chapters, hosts annual convention, facilitates "home swaps."

Childless by Choice

P.O. Box 695

Leavenworth WA 98826 509-763-2112

Membership: \$15.

Newsletter: *Childless by Choice*, quarterly. "Your irreverent guide to the childfree lifestyle."

Founders, editors: Carin Smith & Jay Bender.

Goals: "A network for people without children" by choice. "... fight for acceptance of the childless option".

Action: Newsletter, guide for local groups, and resource of information on childlessness. Emphasizes positive effects on society and environment.

No Kidding!

P.O. Box 27001

Vancouver BC V5R 6A8 CANADA 604-538-7736

Membership: \$36 individuals, \$60 couples.

Newsletter: None.

President: Donna Simmer.

Founding Non-father: Jerry Steinberg.

Goal: "Opportunity to make some child-free friends."

Action: Mostly social activities. Help in setting up independent chapters.

Zero Population Growth is still worth joining and supporting. No other organization does as much to educate and lobby about population issues. 1400 16th Street NW Suite 320 Washington DC 20036. 202-332-2200.

Grim Reaper to the rescue!

Will super hero Grim Reaper pull our precious Gaia from the brink of ecological catastrophe in time? Will generous, sweeping strokes of his deadly scythe mow down millions of humans, stopping us before we destroy ourselves and our host?

Grim Reaper's henchmen, Famine, Disease, and War, joined lately by mutant cousin, Plutonium, are harvesting



as fast as ever, and haven't kept up with our rank growth.

Yet, despite Death's dismal record for slowing human population growth, some today advocate utilizing more of his services for the benefit of all. They're trying to make him seem good.

Like Pentti Linkola of Saaksmaki, Finland, quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*¹. Another world war, he says (in Finnish), would be "a happy occasion for the planet ... If there were a button I could press, I would sacrifice myself without hesitating if it meant millions would die."

He didn't say how many millions he wants to play lemming with, but even a hundred million would only eliminate one year's growth. It wouldn't rescue Gaia, and we'd be stuck with all those bodies. Yuck. Even Garrett "Let 'em Starve" Hardin balks at Linkola's hard-nosed philosophy: "We have many possibilities which should be explored before we take a strong-arm approach," he cautions.

*Weekly World News*² tells the story of two escaped French chemists, Henri Mevel and Jean-Michael DuPont, who allegedly plan to poison every human on the planet to "save it from pollution and overpopulation." Interpol's

Marc Jubert admits, "we don't know exactly what Mevel and DuPont are making but if we don't stop them in time the results would be devastating. They may be mad, but they aren't crazy."

Well, even with their "network of 2,000 radical environmentalists around the world," there's no way they'll even approach Linkola's magic-button body count: a paltry 2% of us.

Equally incredible is a *Newhouse News Service*³ story about former CIA chief of counter-terrorism, Vincent M. Cannistraro. He envisions "highly educated scientists... (in) small organized clandestine cells working on the development of technologies to diminish or even eliminate the race of man [sic] from the Earth." The article also cites the voluntary human extinction movement, in hopes of adding credence to this fantasy.

There may very well be well-funded, clandestine cells of scientists working to eliminate large numbers of people. However, saving planet Earth is probably not one of their motives.

The Church of Euthanasia advocates what many think of when they hear about VHEMT for the first time: suicide for Earth's sake. Founder Chris Korda, in their newsletter *Snuff It*⁴, encourages those who are truly serious about saving the planet to kill themselves. A Volunteer facetiously suggested that, if Rev. Korda is serious, he should "put his shotgun where his mouth is." Let's hope he's not.

The Gaia Liberation Front⁵ favors people killing each other as in wars, but prefers "hand-to-hand combat, or better yet, biological agents that kill only humans".

No matter how many millions are sacrificed by the Grim Reaper, and for whatever reason, benefits to Gaia would be minimal. In fact, high death rates cause high birth rates, often resulting in a net increase. Post-war baby booms quickly replace the dead of both victor and vanquished.

In *Wild Earth*,⁶ your editor examines the infamous Bubonic Plague's effect on western civilization's census report: "Immediately after this minor blip [see graph], our numbers began to shoot for the moon. The industrial revolution was no doubt a factor in allowing us to burgeon to the bursting point, but the Black Death may be the reason we *want* to breed like bunnies. Burned into our collective memory was the horror of massive deaths of our kind. Our reaction as a species, naturally, has been fertility with a vengeance."

To cope with this rampant fertility, I conclude, "...reproductive freedom, economic opportunity, and education are far more effective methods of improving the ratio of people-to-wildlife than promoting death could ever be."

No, the Grim Reaper is not Gaia's knight in shining armor — he can't just kill the stork. We are the potential

See *Grim Reaper* page 5...

Newsletter cheers, awakens, exposes shut-ins to new ideas

Dear Les U. Knight,

New Moon October 1992

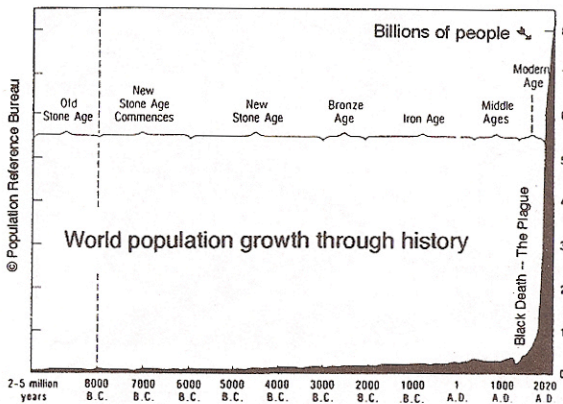
A thousand thanks for your informative newsletter. It really cheered me up while I'm doing time for the feds. I feel like a charter member of VHEMT since I made the decision to remain childless at age 18. I love your humor and positive attitude and firmly believe in the principles of VHEMT. The newsletter got passed around a little here. Most women here are mothers and some found no humor in your publication but some were awakened and at least exposed to some new ideas. Blessings on you.

With Love and Light, Peg

Editor's note: Peg Millett, Earth defender and folk musician, is no longer a guest of the Feds. Her musical compilation "Gentle Warrior" is available on tape for \$12. "Clear Horizon" is \$12 tape or on CD for \$17 from Hidden Waters Music POB 2544 Prescott AZ 86302. Another album is due out anytime and may be ordered for the same.

... Grim Reaper continued from page 4

heroes of this rescue. If enough members of the human family become vehement about preserving life on Earth, fair Gaia has a prayer.



References.

- ¹Wall Street Journal, Milbank, Dana, May 20, 1994, pg A4.
 - ²Weekly World News, August 6, 1991, pg 33.
 - ³Newhouse News Service, Tilove, Jonathan, The Grand Rapids Press, April 14, 1991, pg E4.
 - ⁴Snuff It, Korda, Chris, Spring 1994, Church of Euthanasia, POB 261 Somerville MA 02143.
 - ⁵These EXIT Times, No. 2, 1992, pg 12.
 - ⁶Wild Earth, Knight, Les U., Winter 1992/93, pgs 76-77.
- Cenozoic Society, Inc., POB 455, Richmond VT 05477.

Vaso-Rap

Les,

I read TET #2 with great interest. Yes, yes, and again yes! I wholeheartedly agree with your position and aims. (I've been vasectomized for almost half my life and never once regretted it). As a matter of fact my band Health and Beauty did a rap which included the following:

Hey everybody now listen to me
My name is Thommy M, I had a vasectomy
They cut me open and they tied that thing
and now I can't have any offspring
I give it to you straight, no if ands or buts
If you want to be a man you got to get yourself cut
Now you may say "Thommy that's a big disgrace"
Well I won't be happy 'till there ain't no human race.

Best thing — Thom Metzger
POB 25193 Rochester NY 14625

Editor's note: Thom has produced several interesting books of poetic prose, among them are: *This is Your Final Warning*, *Big Gurl*, and *Shock Totem*, available from Autonomedia, POB 568, Williamsburg Sta. Brooklyn NY 11211-0568. 718-387-6471.

Ahead of time if not too late

Dear Les,

Thanks for *These EXIT Times* #1. Love that Swiftian whimsy, with good will and hard truth at its core. An idea well ahead of its time, if it's not too late already.

I've remained true to my vow (to not reproduce) and am glad I did.

Stephanie Mills,
Maple City, Michigan

Editor's note: Stephanie has edited, and written essays for, an anthology of ecological literature: *In Praise of Nature*, Island Press, 1990, \$15.

Her most recent book, *In service to the Wild*, is about ecological restoration and reinhabitation. Beacon Press, due out in the Spring of 1995.

Population Reference Bureau has a new address:
2213 M Street NW Washington DC 20037.

Thank You For Not Breeding, 1994, is a collection of comic art compiled by Gene Mahoney to raise funds for Globally Responsible Birthing. (formerly Zero Birthing Now!) Route 1 Box 28 DeLancey NY 13752.

Only a couple of pieces relate to the title, and some may offend the easily offended. The title was taken from our most popular bumpersticker, which was plagiarized from a Humane Society button seen in California.

\$4.25 from POB 843 Redwood City CA 94064.

FREE VASECTOMY!

In the spirit of Saint Valentines Day, *These EXIT Times* sponsored a drawing for a free vasectomy.

Twenty-six fertile men entered, demonstrating the need for low-cost surgical contraception for men.

Coverage of the event in a local paper tacked on a urology clinic's comment that they "don't recommend vasectomies for single men, whose aversion to fatherhood may change after meeting that special someone later in life. A vasectomy reversal can be a pricey procedure, often ranging close to five times the original operation's cost." Oh my, how dreadful.

So, in the meantime, his not-so-special lovers will mess with dangerous, unreliable contraceptives, have abortions, miscarriages, and unwanted live births, just to keep his options open.

Five times the cost of a vasectomy reversal is still half the cost of a tubal ligation, and a minute fraction of the cost to raise someone to adulthood. And what about sperm banks? No reversal, just withdrawal of deposits.

Ignorance and superstition continue to surround male surgical contraception, though it's the surest, safest, and most economical contraceptive available. In the US, only 20% of men over 30 have taken full responsibility for contraception. Even subtracting gay, infertile, and celibate cohorts from the computation, this tally is abysmal. Men can do better. Unwanted conceptions strike millions of women — every one caused by a man.

Future Valentines Day vasectomy drawings will be sponsored by Respect for Life, a humanitarian organization promoting reproductive freedom, and currently focusing on male responsibility for preventing pregnancies.

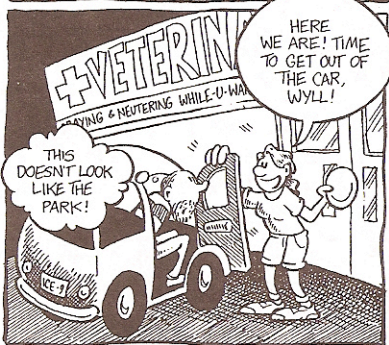
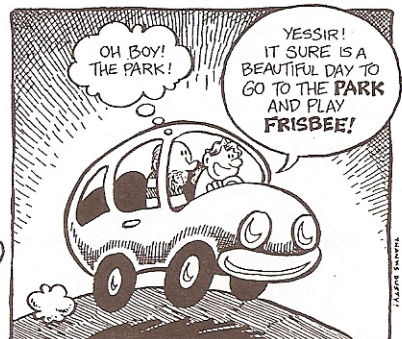
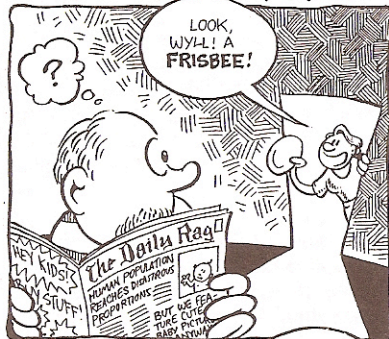
Director Rev. Barron explains, "It's time we advanced the definition of reproductive freedom beyond a woman's right to safe and legal access to contraception and abortion. Women should be free from *needing* abortions, and from suffering the harmful side effects of female-based contraceptives." Barron hopes to unite people from all sides of the abortion debate. "Preventing unwanted pregnancies is the common ground for pro-choice, anti-abortion, and other human rights activists," he states.

Any donation of \$2 or more to their no-interest vasectomy loan fund gets you a bumpersticker: "Vasectomy prevents Abortion". Contact them at 4326 Woodstock Blvd. No. 419 Portland OR 97206-6270.

EXIT

WINA'S ADVENTURES

I WOULDN'T REALLY DO THIS — I DON'T HAVE A CAR!



© Winna Bailey 9-21-93

Although the Valentines Day drawing for a free vasectomy was by chance, entrants were asked to complete this sentence:

"I want to tie the lover's knot for my Valentine because..."

I love her and I love the earth.
R.N. Tigard, Oregon

It won't cause a loss of sensation
This painless and safe operation
But it will keep us one day
From having to pay
The cost of some kid's education.
N.T.W. Portland, Oregon

The knowledge that there is no way I could get a woman pregnant could only increase the pleasure of SEX!
R.W. Ruidoso, New Mexico

The sight of Earth-munching toddlers makes my blood run cold. The thought of me accidentally producing one of these cute little devils is horrifying. I couldn't abandon it or want to, but it would change my life in a worldly way.
D.B. Santa Cruz, California

I shouldn't be allowed to reproduce.
D.G. Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Although I don't necessarily want to see the extinction of Homo sapiens, I do see negative population growth as one of the necessary and non-negotiable requirements to preserve what is left of our Earth. I am more than willing to not reproduce for my part.
D.W.C. Olympia, Washington

Too much child support: 5 kids by 3 women. The world is getting too over crowded & we can't support sustainability.
J.P. Portland, Oregon

Even though we think of it all, try even to put our goop on the wall; some spills out, but with an operation it would help.
A.C. Portland, Oregon

Ever since I was little I had told my father I wasn't going to have kids. He would always tell me I had to, to keep the family name going. I had no moral reasons then, now that I know all of the ecological damage bringing one more child to this earth causes, there is no way I could have a child. Screw the family name.
L.S. Reno, Nevada

We want fear free, guilt free, artificial hormone free, drug free, latex free sex.

R. W-S. Roseland, Virginia

As an environmentalist, the very worst thing I can do in my life is to create another super-consuming American. Of course, if I did create a child I would do everything in my power to ensure he or she would do more good than bad in their life. But the only guarantee is that my kid would unsustainably devour vast quantities of natural resources during their lifetime.
L.B. Ketchum, Idaho

2 kids is enough for us. We want to be able to make love anytime, anywhere, without the worry of contraceptives.
J.J.A. Portland, Oregon

She's a love! I want to feel flesh again!
W.G.F. Aloha, Oregon

As a believer in a world run by the supreme race of Aryans, which God placed on the earth himself, I feel it is my duty to remove my tainted blood from the genepool. Suicide would do me in, so a vasectomy would be my next logical choice. Just joking @.
D.O. Colorado Springs, Colorado

I'd rather not add to the population problem. There's always adoption and yes, contraception for both parties is a pain. Besides there's no "norplant" for men.
N.N. Portland, Oregon

The earth has too many Homo sapiens as it is and neither of us wants to add any more.
G.S. Santa Fe, New Mexico

It's the most sensible, responsible, permanent solution to birth control.
B.R. Portland, Oregon

Even though I've already tied it, I want to have a ritual vasectomy every year to express my deep love for nature's beauty and to show my sincere concern for my soon-to-be-extinct bipedal lover — may we live long and die out! K.B. Santa Cruz, Cal.

I don't want to bring another person into the world, especially not another American. One of us uses much more and does more damage to the environment than someone in the Third World.
D.L. Lake Oswego, Oregon

With this small gesture of love for this planet, I hope to restore an ecological balance... someday?...maybe?
M.T. Seattle, Washington

Balanced Love

by Chuck Swift

She is my love, she is my wife,
she wants a child, another life.
Another soul, to breathe the air,
to eat the food, to need our care.
I realize now, that I just can't,
I want to give our Earth a chance.
Emotions now, are at their worst,
but in the end, the Earth comes First!

i Red Herring alert !

Have you caught wind of this one? "Over-population is more a symptom than a cause of our fundamental problems."

So, this means that Earth has too many people on it *because* of our problems rather than Earth having problems because there are too many people on it.

It's like:

"Gee, Dear, there's sure a lot of noise and pollution in the air."

"Yeah, I wish we could breathe"

"Huh? Oh, we can still breed. C'mon, coff, coff, let's make more of us."

Or maybe you can imagine:

"I'm outta work, homeless, and got a bad disease... makes me feel like creating an heir to share all this with."

Our biggest problem, destruction of Earth's biosphere, is undoubtedly a symptom rather than a cause of over-population.

But to be fair, it's true that some of our problems promote higher birth rates: especially mental problems like mindless conformity and massive denial.

In addition, problems like high mortality rates, a lack of care for the elderly, low status for women and their subsequent loss of reproductive freedom all significantly contribute to high birth rates. In return, an excess of humans makes each of those problems worse. In some ways, over-population is both a symptom and a cause: a self-perpetuating, malicious cycle.

In contrast, voluntary human extinction is a positively motivated, beneficial cycle of solutions and benefits for all. Besides being a "symptom" of a heightened awareness, The Movement is "causing" a higher awareness. (Do I hear an "Amen, Sibling"?)

Whether our problems are symptoms or causes, they'll be more easily solved when there are fewer of us.



Modern male rite of passage has roots in tribal scarification ritual

To Les U. Knight —

Lately, groups of so-called Modern Primitives have received attention through various media. These MPs appear to enjoy tattoos, piercings, and other forms of ritual body-change as a means of increasing personal ownership of the body and group identity. While the only markings on my flesh are freckles, chicken pox scars, and occasional pimples, I have been inspired by these primitives to come up with an idea for a Modern Male Tribal Initiation Scarification Ritual: the vasectomy.

Many aboriginal cultures have employed various means to mark the transition from boyhood to manhood, as well as from girlhood to womanhood. Much of the angst and isolation of modern culture comes from the lack of a meaningful tribal mythology which celebrates and marks the cycles of life.

I propose that one way this dearth could be cured would be to have a vasectomy ceremony for males at puberty, to mark their transition from carefree boys to men who must learn and practice sexual, social, and ecological ethics for membership in the global community.

The initiation would be a voluntary event, educating the boys on the implications, procedures, and options. I feel this would bond men together in a new way, reducing the blind competition and violence which have marked our species since the beginning of our spawning days. Correspondingly, a population of sterile men would not dominate women through their genetic claim on women's offspring.

Koven UI'Niall

Koven,

Terrific idea. Reversible vasectomies would make the initiation more acceptable to all. Then pregnancies would at least be planned, unlike 56% in the US today.* The trouble is, modern vasectomies don't leave scars, and I doubt many doctors would go for putting ashes in the incision. What about a tattoo? Maybe a double V for the two vas deferens?

Les.

* Association of Reproductive Health Professionals/Upjohn Co.

100% non-cycled paper.

In the interest of saving trees, issue number three of *These EXIT Times* was not published.

Well, we might have saved *one* tree anyway... maybe not a whole tree... a good-sized limb, for sure.

This issue is printed entirely on the paper that was saved by not printing the previous issue.

Simply setting an example by living well and being happy presents our decision in a good light. For many potential Volunteers, this is enough help, so never underestimate your passive influence.

But, if you want to be more active in helping others make progress along their Paths of Awareness (see T.E.T.#1), the following may be helpful.

Reaching Out

The better you understand your potential Volunteer, the better you'll be able to help them along. We really must be able to see things their way before we can help them see things from our perspective.

During this interview stage, you may be given opportunities to explain the VHEMT concept. A quick phrase that sums things up might be all you have a chance to say. You needn't hurry; this often takes years.

It helps to match the approach to fit your friend, but whatever you find most comfortable is probably best. Ask leading questions and listen.

- A **logical** approach is the only one some will recognize. The VHEMT concept only requires a few steps of logic. Keep it simple. If logic appeals to your friend but not to you, just share the concept and a graph; they can take it from there.

- A **philosophical** or **theoretical** approach avoids deciding whether VHEMT can really work or not.

- A **moralistic** approach is dangerous because it's hard to keep from sounding judgmental. Even though preserving life on Earth is basically a moral issue, use caution in mentioning this aspect.

- A **humorous** approach runs the risk that you won't be taken seriously, but it's generally less threatening and can avoid negative feelings. It's fun, too.

- An **intellectual** approach bores some, but adds credibility for others.

- The effectiveness of a **personal** approach depends on which person you are being personal about: you or your friend. It's fine to use your life as an example for discussion, but it's safer to let others make applications to their own lives.

- **Shock** approach. A good way to get nowhere fast is to attempt to shock your friend with horror stories about overpopulation. If they haven't listened before, they won't hear you now either.

Decide how much your friend is ready to think about. For some, an explanation of the goal of preserving life on Earth might be the limit for a first exposure. Others can handle the whole concept and add to it for good measure.

You'll have another chance if you don't go far enough, but if you go too far, it may be the last time they listen to you.

Eschewing fecundity — a loving gift to Earth

Dear Les,

I received your first publication in 1991 and have, until now, neglected to let you know how much in agreement I am with your vision for the earth. I also had the opportunity to hear you speak and to meet you at the 1994 Environmental L.A.W. Conference at the University of Oregon Law School.

I've believed since I was 12 years old that bringing a child into this world was a rotten thing to do to both the child and to the earth. I arrived at this conclusion while faced with imminent nuclear annihilation during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. Living in Southern California, the center of the universe as far as I was concerned, I knew that the first bombs would fall on everyone and everything I loved. Humanity had made the world a very dangerous place to live. I decided then that, if I lived through the crisis, I would not give birth to another person who might contribute to the danger nor would I subject another person to the danger.

During the last 30 years I have periodically reviewed my decision not to bear children and have never been the least bit tempted to change my mind. My adolescence was engulfed in the news of the Vietnam War, no way would I add cannon fodder to the war machine. I then became aware of environmental destruction caused by humanity, of extinction of species brought on by human greed and ignorance, and of the incredible problems caused by human overpopulation. It has long been my conviction that not having children is the most loving contribution I will ever give to this earth.

Les, your dedication and determination to educate the public through *These EXIT Times* has given me the courage to boldly state how I feel about adding more people to this beautiful, overpopulated earth. I share your belief that it is time to give the earth a break and let her go back to her natural state.

There is no place for humanity on this earth but, for the time we are here, I will loudly and lovingly state the VHEMT motto to everyone I meet, "May we live long and die out." Thanks for saying publicly what I have quietly believed for a very long time and thanks for helping me find the courage to add my voice to your movement.

Sincerely, Cheryl Brittain
Salem, Oregon

Hard Question

No. 1

"How can you say that overpopulation is what's destroying the planet when such a small percent of us does so much of the damage?"

Send in your answers for the next issue.

Sexy Stats

Sex is the way most babies are started, but is sexual activity *really* the primary cause of human reproduction? Let's consider the statistics:

The World Health Organization estimates that 100 million couples engage in sexual intercourse on an average day, which is only 3.6% of the world's 5.6 billion humans. This pitifully low figure results in around 910,000 pregnancies. For a variety of reasons, 55% of these zygotes don't make it through fetushood to live birth. According to the Population Reference Bureau estimate, 387,000 do make it daily.

So, less than 0.4% of each day's heterosexual trysts result in the creation of new humans — a statistically insignificant correlation for proving causation.

Try it for yourself. Estimate how many times you've engaged in sexual activity in your lifetime. Now estimate how many times you were trying to make a baby. Divide the little number by the big number to give you the percent of times sex and procreation have simultaneously motivated you. Now, how often were you striving for preservation of our species?

Perhaps if there were more opportunities for sexual gratification, so many people wouldn't feel the need to fill a nagging emptiness with a needy dependent.



Misfortune to be born?

Dear Les,

I read about your movement in *Childless by Choice*. I'm writing to you in the hope of finding kindred spirits, as I have long believed that the end of the human race is a desirable goal. However, my reasons are different from yours.

I believe it is a great misfortune to be born. Life means suffering and dying, with very small doses of happiness and large doses of boredom. My life is very empty and I have often thought of ending it.

There are no people in my life who are childless by choice. I am told to keep my opinions to myself, and for the most part I do. I hate the hypocrisy but I don't know how else to survive in a society where I definitely do not belong.

I admire you for having the guts to publish the newsletter and look forward to issue number two. I hope you have a happy, healthy life.

Elizabeth Ann Schadel
1026B Elm Street
Fayetteville NC 28303-4067

Hello Elizabeth,

Being born is indeed a great misfortune for many. At least half of today's children begin life unwanted. A third will die from malnutrition before they have a chance to live. Most will fight to eke out an existence.

At the same time, a few will have more material wealth than they can deal with, but will still feel unfulfilled.

It doesn't have to be this way.

If there weren't so many of us, everyone could be well provided for, with ample opportunity to live a bountiful life, full of good friends and meaningful creativity.

I have to disagree — you definitely *do* belong in this society. People who don't fit in are far more influential than those who do. You can't keep your opinions to yourself when you live them for all to see. Vehement is an attitude — a positive attitude based on love for all life.

Don't be in a hurry to get to the end of your life. Nature takes care of these details soon enough. Voluntary human extinction is a cause to live for, not to die for.

Imagine how good you'll feel when you help to prevent your first human.

Les.

Les Talk

"Am not!"

I've had it with all these misanthropes dissin' the human race. Awright, sure, I can understand calling us "killer apes" and "greedy parasites". After all, we're only human. But, now it's gone too far. Some are saying our species is no better than a common cancer feeding off a host organism.

True, empirical scientific evidence shows us behaving exactly like a cancerous growth on Earth's biosphere*. But humanity includes a couple of major attributes that all the scientific calibrations and computations ignore: we got logic and love.

Cancer cells are both mindless and heartless. They can't figure out what's going on and wouldn't care if they did. We're different. We're smart enough to get a grip on the situation and nice enough to go the right way with it. We can choose to bring forth a better world into reality. You'll never see a cancer cell say that with a straight face.

So, when some loud bragger tries to put us down, says we be tumorous and bad, just tell 'em right away, "Hey, what's the matter buddy, ain't you heard of our logic and love? They're number one in the cosmos." We're not malignant, we're benign.

And away we go! Les



Les flashes the double V for well-wishers.

*Hern, Warren M., 1990, "Why Are There So Many of Us? Description and Diagnosis of a Planetary Ecopathological Process." *Population and Environment* Vol 12 No 1, pgs 9-39.

"The wrong people are having children these days."

How many times have you heard that one? We can be sure they're not talking about themselves: it's *those* wrong people. It's those stupid, slack-jawed degenerates who shouldn't breed. Those too poor to raise children, or so warped they don't even *like* children and might abuse them. Certainly, this logic follows, bad genetic specimens should never duplicate their defects.


Implicit in these opinions is the attitude that some people are the right people to pass along their genes. Smart, financially secure, responsible, socially aware people with superior genes ought to make more of each other. After all, someone is going to, right?

Maybe so, but even if intelligence could be measured or inherited, there's no evidence that smart people's cars pollute less than morons'. And, since the wealthy are better able to provide materially for their dependents than are the economically disadvantaged, they're also likely to do the most damage to the environment with their excessive consumption.

Some say that their religious or political belief system needs more members to make the world a better place, but there's no guarantee that off-spring will follow the traditions of their parents. In fact, just the opposite seems to be the norm in modern societies. Besides, if the only people who will accept a belief system are those born into it, there must be some serious flaws in that system.

Others contend that their race or ethnic group is in the minority, or will be soon if they don't keep up. Carrying on the family name has long been an unquestioned justification for reproduction, and when a couple says they want to "have one of our own," they mean "make one that has our genes." The mindset behind this bloodline mentality is deep and strong: more of "Us" and less of "Them". Smells like racism to me. When couples try to conceive a specific gender, sexism is also in the wind. It goes beyond racism for us to create replicas of ourselves while tens of thousands of Others' children die from lack of care each day.

Anyway, simply increasing the sheer numbers of people who share a philosophy or genetic makeup doesn't always improve their status. "Breeding wars" between rival groups have shifted political power in a few majority-rule governments, however, members of those groups usually aren't any better off just by being in a larger voting block. Breeding for power is a remnant of that ancient tradition of mass murder we call genocide. The motivation remains the same.

Really, as Volunteers know, it's the wrong *species* "having children". Regardless of our superficial differences, we are all *Homo sapiens*. As long as extinctions of wildlife continue at an outrageous pace, the intentional creation of another one of us can't be justified. 

God's own fishin' hole

For Volunteers of the Christian Faith



What does the Bible say about abortion? Absolutely nothing. The word "abortion" doesn't appear in any translation.

Out of the more than 600 laws of Moses, none comment on abortion. One Mosaic law about miscarriage specifically contradicts the claim that the Bible considers abortion to be murder, clearly stating that miscarriage does not involve the death of a human being.

"If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow, he shall be surely punished according as the woman's husband will lay upon him, and he shall pay as the judges determine.


"And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth..."

Exodus 21:22-25 KJV

The Old Testament orders the death penalty for murder of a human being, but not for the expulsion of a fetus.

The issue of abortion has reached mythical proportions, with people throwing away their lives for the cause, even going so far as to take other's lives in the name of the sacred fetus. This judgmental attitude is not based on the word of God.

Passing a law forbidding unwanted pregnancies wouldn't stop them from occurring. Nor will criminalizing abortions stop people from seeking them. Illegal abortions can be fatal: an unholy sacrifice of thinking, feeling human beings to preserve unwanted zygotes.

Christians, and those of any faith, can prevent more abortions by supporting reproductive freedom than by attempting to enforce involuntary motherhood. 

Editor's note: Volunteers of any faith are invited to write a guest column from that perspective.

Basic intelligence test before issuing a "license to breed"

Do you think it would be a good idea to create another of yourself?

YES NO

If you answered **YES**: Sorry, your intelligence is too low. Thank you for trying. Please consider the many options to creating "one of your own".

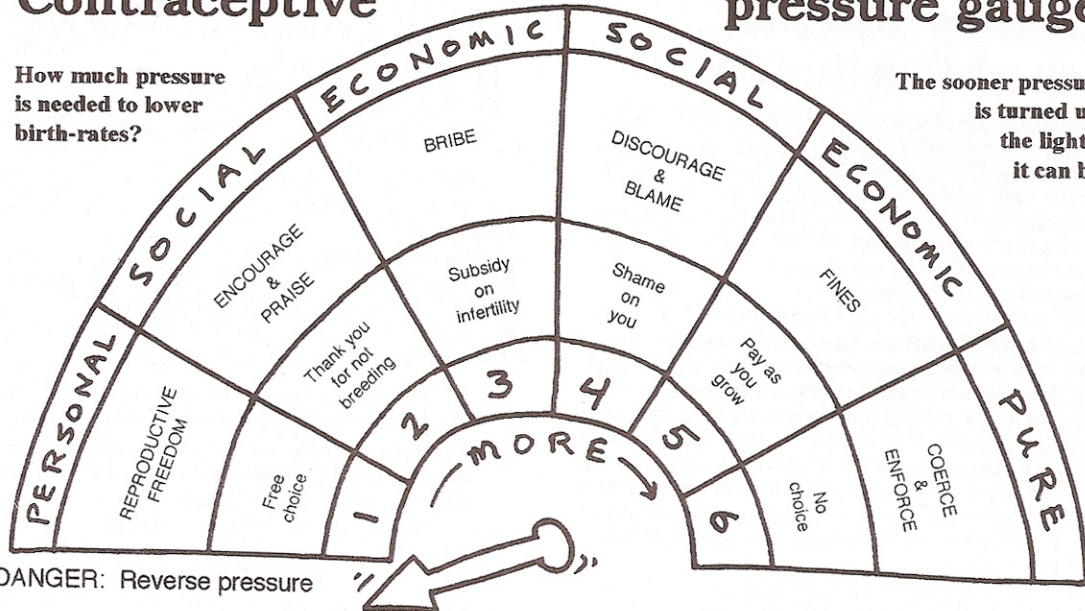
If you answered **NO**: Congratulations. You're smart enough to pass on your genes. Thanks for not doing so.

Contraceptive

pressure gauge

How much pressure is needed to lower birth-rates?

The sooner pressure is turned up, the lighter it can be.



DANGER: Reverse pressure

If you were ruler of the world, where would the contraceptive pressure gauge arrow point when you announced your global family planning policy? Each level has pros and cons to consider. Join the fun and add your own.

| PRO: | | CON: |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Neutral pressure. Equalitarian. Birth rate reduced to one half. Child mortality drops dramatically. No enforcement required. | 1. FREEDOM | Deprives misogynists of enforcing mandatory motherhood. Would not be enough pressure to lower birth rate to equal death rate. |
| Positive. Optimistic. Minimal cost. | 2. PRAISE | Condescending. Judgmental |
| Saves money in long run. Provides alternative to being paid to breed. | 3. BRIBE | Males' eligibility hard to determine, making it gender biased. |
| Lets people know that what they're doing is not good for Nature and humanity. | 4. BLAME | Negative. Pessimistic. Fault-finding. |
| Costs of increasing population are more justly charged. | 5. FINE | Collection problems, especially from single men. Rich have more freedom than poor. |
| Deprivation of right to breed better than sentencing child to life of exploitation, suffering, and early death. Birth rate reduced to below death rate. | 6. FORCE | Fascistic. Politically unworkable in most regions. Creates other problems, such as infanticide, black-market babies, and genocide. |

Today, tragically few areas in the world have reached level one. Regardless of how much pressure we think is needed to improve human population density, can we all agree that justice mandates freedom as a minimum?