

An Exclusive look into the minds of ♀ EF!ers.

BITCHIN' TIMES

Rants from Wild Womyn

To Breed or Not to Breed... That Is Not The Question!



Radical "environmental" activism needs to be undertaken with and guided by an understanding of the role of patriarchal ideology in the planetary devastation we face today. The connection between the work of saving the planet and the liberation of womyn comes up clearly with the issue of humyn overpopulation and the analysis around how we address it. In order truly to address humyn overpopulation and its environmental toll, we have to put it into its proper context and address it accordingly. We have to recognize and confront its root causes: the domination of womyn through patriarchal ideology and institutions, and the objectification, "ownership," and subjugation of all living beings and the planet by capitalist and patriarchal power.

Corporate-patriarchal political and economic dominion is at the root of humyn overpopulation. The problem is not ultimately about individual womyn's choices. Cultures where womyn have power within themselves do not over "breed." Patriarchies, with their pro-natalist bent, act to override healthy and natural social instincts to keep populations in check. Patriarchies have perverted the social context of individual womyn's choices and, in combination with capitalist exploitation, have led us to the current population crisis. Patriarchy rests its power on the control of womyn's sexuality and reproductive choice. Patriarchies do this because womyn's control over reproduction is the ultimate power in a society; men recognized this and acted (and are still acting) to wrest this control away from womyn. The maintenance of this power involves keeping womyn childbearing and rearing, twisting our capacity to bear children into our ordained role.

Addressing overpopulation is not as simple as blaming and shaming those who choose to have children, calling them "breeders," and calling for "voluntary humyn extinction." Denigrating the act of humyn reproduction because you're angry about the overpopulation and over consumption of humyns in the industrialized world might make you feel better, but it is ineffective at best, and dangerous at worst, because it ignores what is really to blame, thus perpetuating the subjugation of womyn as well as the ethic of domination that is destroying the planet.

A lack of child-bearing and rearing will not stop the machine, or the havoc it wreaks. Sure, we could all stop having children and reduce the population burden, but if capitalist patriarchy is left intact, the planet will fare little better. Nothing short of resisting and stopping the machine itself, the patriarchal ordering of "life," is going to save this planet. Stopping patriarchy means stopping, *not re-creating*, the disempowerment of womyn, and you are recreating our disempowerment when you impose political mandates on what we do with our wombs, as opposed to recognizing and resisting our exploiters. I will not exchange one misogynist culture for another. I will not be told not to "breed"

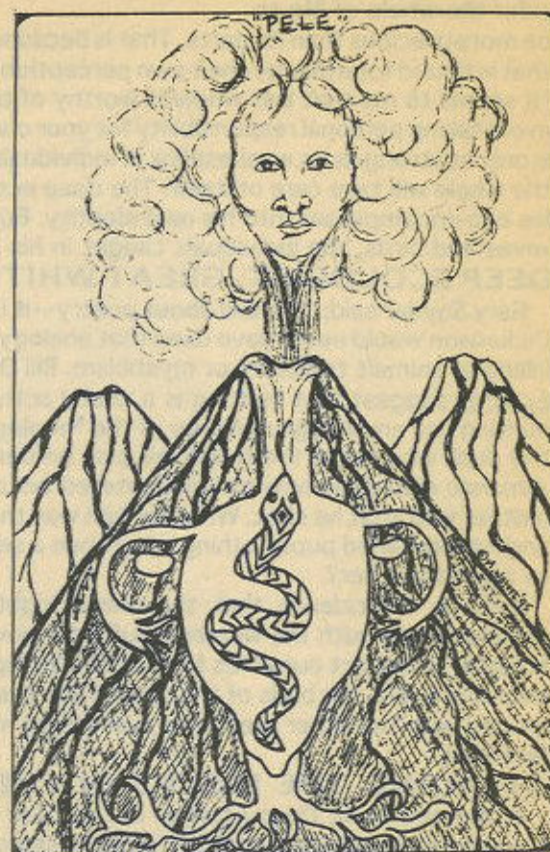
or be segregated by my "reactionary" choice to have children (for the record-I don't have children). I will take responsibility for my choices, I will work to empower other womyn to make healthy and life-affirming choices and to take their place in our evolutionary potential.

Acting to empower womyn, as opposed to regulating us, and acting to support our empowerment, on our terms, is an act of liberatory resistance that serves us all, as well as the planet. Try listening to us. To our strategies. To our needs. We do not exist for you to rule. We are finding our own way, battling our desecration and the silencing of our heritage by the "culture" of patriarchy. We are resisting having our very existence being defined and stunted and mutilated by a misogynist society. We do not need your politics to validate our worth or to *define our path*. And obviously, not all childbearing and rearing arises from or because of the patriarchal machine. There is a myriad of choice, a myriad of biology, the expression of love and community, and the instinct for survival involved here. Try not to forget that certain indigenous and other populations face a very real threat of their own "extinction" and there has been nothing "voluntary" about it. Glorifying the death of the humyn species only reveals your cultural privilege and so please spare me the insipid hatefulness of the "Voluntary Human Extinction Movement."

When you ignore the rule of capitalist patriarchy, you are scapegoating, and you are scapegoating womyn primarily, because the fact is the burden of the pregnancy choice and the reality of abortion lies with the womyn. The anti-breeding onus for "zero-population growth" rests upon the womyn. So hear this: Womyn are not responsible for cleaning up after what is ultimately a male-created mess. To the male misogynist misanthropes, I say: Do your own friggin dishes. Scrub patriarchy. You cannot have your cake (male privilege) and eat it too (moral superiority via politically correct sex).

We must direct our "environmental" resistance with an analysis of the role of patriarchal power, exactly as we need to direct our actions with an acknowledgment of class and colour reality and resistance. These struggles are all intimately connected and the links must be made if we plan on ever truly changing anything. We need to focus on resisting the engineers of overpopulation and those who profit by it, whether in wealth or in social power via keeping womyn "producing" for their own purposes, (e.g. more consumers, more cannon fodder). Spend your time organizing and preaching and acting against the corporations, the catholic church, and the myriad of minor patriarchs/rapists/batterers/gay bashers/child molesters. Basically, take your hands and your politics off my womb. I refuse to allow you and Operations Rescue to DICKer over what I should do with it.

— Annie



WHAT'S A WOMEN'S BLANKWALL... AND WHO REALLY SHOT JFK?

It has been over two years since the last EF! women's blank wall. Some things have changed in the movement, other things remain the same, life is life and just keeps chugging along.

To articulate the theme of a women's blank wall is no simple task, and to be honest I do not know what it truly is: Is it a space for women to vocalize their criticism of the movement? Is it the appropriate space to discuss women's issues; some would consider those to be anthropocentric arguments about human interaction... not deep ecology??!! Hmmm... I have given this a lot of thought and have come up with this:

As women in this movement, we have no "theme." We are activists bound together by a common goal, a common anger, a common obligation, a common understanding—a common gender. We are here—in the woods, in the city, in our homes, our teepees, our squats, our prison cells. But wherever we are, we are angry. We are riled and are striking back with a vengeance; defending what begs our attention. We are all in the same movement, women and men.

So why a women's blank wall?

Maybe this is just a space to check in. For new activists it is a chance to see what women are thinking, as individuals. It serves as a catalyst for conversation, maybe in opening the lines of communication we can further understand one another's concerns.

Maybe we can listen to each other and one day the battle of the sexes will end in this movement. However, I am not holding my breath, so until then sit back, relax and listen. We speak as Earth First! women in the next four pages, but even before our voices can be heard as women, they must first be heard as individuals. — Michelle

INSIDE

- A women's guide to Deep Ecology books
 - Deep Ecology or Deep Testosterone?
 - Women's Equality or Whitewash?
 - FYI's
 - Gender Paradigms
 - A little Woo-Woo
- and other party favorites.....