

ACT NOW! FOR ECO-JUSTICE

DEADLY DECEPTION: General Electric, Nuclear Weapons and Our Environment. Produced and Directed by Debra Chasnoff, 29 minutes. Individual sale: \$25.00; Institutional sale: \$50.00. The Video Project, 5332 College Avenue, Suite 101, Oakland, CA 94618. 800-4-PLANET. A 1991 Academy Award Winner for Best Documentary Short.

General Electric is the most powerful company in the United States. It owns NBC, Hotpoint, and RCA and spends millions of dollars every year to advertise its products with slogans such as "we bring good things to life," "people helping people," and "progress is our most important product." **Deadly Deception** illustrates the hypocrisy in these slogans. The deception lies in what GE does not advertise—that it is in the nuclear weapons business, and that it has been responsible for multiple employee deaths, radiation contamination, stillbirths, miscarriages, and birth defects. Throughout the video, the devastating results of GE's negligence are interspersed with snatches of the company's TV ad slogans sung to catchy tunes, "warm and fuzzy" commercials the American public has learned to trust.

The contrast between truth and lies is powerful. From 1946-1965, GE made plutonium. At the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state, there were multiple radioactive releases, causing devastating environmental and health damage. The Columbia River, a source of recreation for the people of the Northwest, is the most polluted river in the country thanks to GE. At other locations, due to negligent policies and lack of proper precautionary procedures, GE employees died from asbestos exposure. When a long-time employee's inspection report cited GE for inadequate fire protection, inadequate emergency evacuation plans and falsifying asbestos records at one of its locations, that employee found himself demoted over and over for speaking the truth. Even the Federal Government, citing National security as its reason, exempted GE from OSHA regulations governing employee health and safety. Today, General Electric continues to make critical components for nuclear weapons. Its 150-member lobby in Washington, DC, the largest of its industry, continues to lobby Congress to build more nuclear weapons. In 1986, an organization calling itself INFACT launched a campaign to educate the public about GE. Determined to push GE out of the nuclear weapons business and force them to stop polluting, INFACT initiated a boycott of all GE products that continues today. INFACT has made an impact. GE sales in health and consumer divisions have dropped, influencing GE to significantly decrease its nuclear weapons division output. **Deadly Deception** is a "must see" expose. The more people become aware of the facts about GE, the better the chance there is to stop this destructive and irresponsible giant. ▲

SUSAN VALENTINE-GLASER

The 1993 edition of **Personal Care with Principle** is now available from the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) based in Chicago. The NAVS is one of the oldest and largest animal advocacy organizations in the United States. Its goals are to eliminate animal use in research, education and product testing by finding humane alternatives.

Now in its sixth edition, **Personal Care with Principle** offers valuable information on locating cruelty-free cosmetics, personal care items and household and companion animal products. It lists companies that do and do not test their products on animals, and it includes a product reference guide to help readers locate specific cruelty-free products. Sections on alternatives, FDA regulations and information on what the reader can do to make a difference are also included.

ACTION:

For a copy of this book, send a check or money order for \$4.95 to NAVS, Donor Response Center, Dept. 931, Milwaukee, WI 53259-0931. Cost includes postage and handling. Call 1-800-888-NAVS for Visa or Mastercard orders.



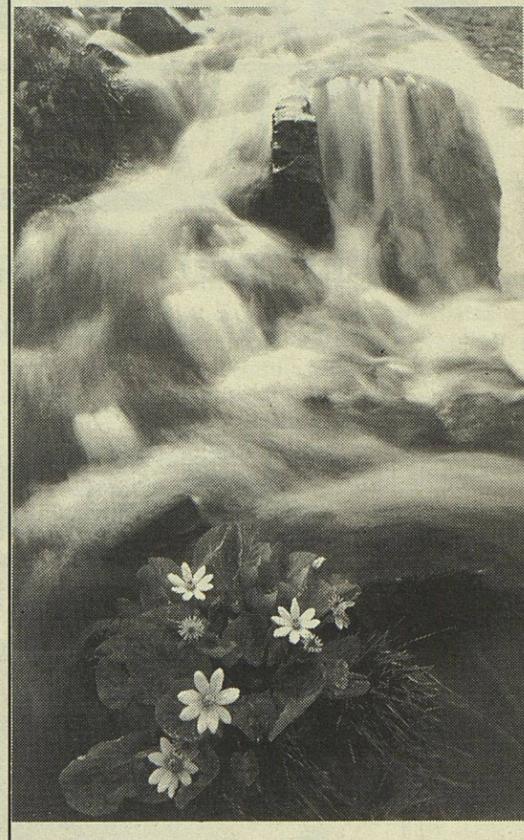
The killing of cats and dogs in the United States is a national disgrace. In 1991, about 9 million were prematurely put to death in our 1,500 animal shelters, which keep animals for a maximum of 10 days before euthanizing them to make room for the endless chain of strays. Only 20 percent of the pets entering shelters were adopted into good homes, since there are simply too many cats and dogs for the homes available (for the 450 babies born each hour in the U.S., approximately 3,000 dogs and cats are born).

We need legislation in all local jurisdictions requiring owners to sterilize cats and dogs to prevent unwanted births. Besides legislation, education is necessary to teach responsibility to potential and present pet owners so they can care for their pets humanely and not abandon them or turn them over to shelters. Communities must provide for cooperative sterilization programs with veterinarians because the cost of the service bars some owners from seeking it. We also need more shelters where unwanted animals can be kept indefinitely until good homes are found for them.

ACTION:

Call and write your local legislators and request that laws be enacted to require pet spaying and neutering to prevent unwanted births. Also speak with your local veterinarians to arrange for low-cost programs that make spaying and neutering available to all pet owners in your local area.

Friends of Animals (FoA), based in Norwalk, CT, has a national low-cost spay/alter program available to people of all incomes. Ask your local paper to include the telephone number (800-321-PETS). ▲



Brenda Tharp

Marsh Marigolds By Green Falls, Gunnison National Forest, Colorado

MOTHER EARTH: Through the Eyes of Women Photographers and Writers. Edited by Judith Boice (A Sierra Club Book) \$20.00.

This anthology of 70 color photographs and accompanying poetry and prose simply takes my breath away. These talented women's passion for Mother Earth and all her creatures is reflected in their work and is a true gift to us.

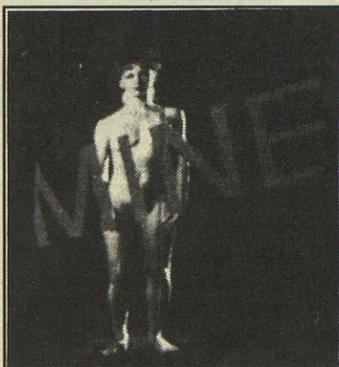
To describe this collection as beautiful is inadequate. It goes beyond beauty with a power and sensitivity that evoke deep feelings of love, awe, reverence and connectedness. It's a visual and literary representation of our spiritual oneness with the earth and her creatures. While enabling us to sense the greatness of creation, the images succeed in communicating its fragility too. **Mother Earth** moved me in a way no book has for a very long time. ▲

STATISTICS ON STRAYS

70,000
27 percent
10-27 million
200,000
7-20 million
\$20 million

Number of dogs and cats born each day in the U.S.
The number of people who say, when asked why their pets had litters, "Just happened."
Number of dogs and cats who enter a shelter each year
Pets seized each year from pounds and used in medical research.
Number of dogs and cats who are euthanized each year.
The cost of destroying unadoptable pets—in Texas alone!
—Source: Humane Society of the U.S.; Texas Humane Information Network

Everyday Rebellions



BETH DULIN

It started on June 19, 1989, when a 100 foot high photograph of a nude woman with the word "MINE" across her body was projected onto a building in downtown Atlanta. A large crowd of startled motorists gathered in groups on both sides of the freeway until the police arrived.

Who did it? Girl Vigilantes, an anonymous guerrilla abortion-rights group. The action was a counter-response to the extraordinary amount of media attention anti-abortion forces in the Atlanta area were receiving. According to the group, "We are constantly reminded that a woman's choice to

control her own body and by extension her life is not considered by many a right. No matter how many may speak out, the actions of the minority opposition seem to capture the attention of the media and influence national policy."

Since their initial success, Girl Vigilantes has not backed down. In November of 1990, the same "MINE" image was incorporated into a store-front exhibition, entitled "Peep Show." It featured three peepholes through which people could look and see the "MINE" image and under that the words "Citizen," "Majority," or "Voter." The action was done in response to the controversy surrounding the Robert Mapplethorpe show at the Cincinnati Art Institute. According to Bettina, an active member of Girl Vigilantes, "There is no separation between art and the political."

Perhaps what drew the most attention was the group's campaign against a major telecommunications corporation. When the telephone company stopped its 25-year funding of a national abortion and healthcare provider for women, Girl Vigilantes fought back. They organized a boycott against the telephone company, which involved placing stickers on pay phones in the Atlanta area, urging users to protest the company's change of heart. It is something the group still cannot be open about. According to Bettina, "We

don't normally break the law, but we came close to the edge on that one. It was a case where being anonymous paid off big-time." Pam agrees, "We draw the line at breaking the law. It's tricky. You have to be prepared if you're going to break the law. You have to have funds and a lawyer on hand." Both the telecommunications corporation and the healthcare provider tried to track down the instigators. But as Bettina explains, "There is a lot of loyalty among the women of Atlanta." So they were never found out.

The anonymous fast-moving group is responsible for the banner over the stadium at the National League championship series in 1991, reading "Judge Thomas: To The Showers, Not The Bench!" and for two networking projects where stickers proclaiming "Separate Church From State, Pro Choice Is Pro America" and "A woman voting for a Republican is like a chicken voting for Colonel Sanders" were sent to women's groups throughout the country. They are signed, "Girl Vigilantes: We Draw The Line."

Both Bettina and *Carol agree that having a sense of humor and wit are the key to being successful. Bettina explains, "We're trying to disregard the hysterical and strident bra-burner feminist stereotype. Like with the telecommunications action, we got all dressed up in our pumps and pearls and went out sticking those stickers on pay phones everywhere, and nobody suspected a thing. It was like being in drag." Carol feels that a sense of humor really "throws people off balance and gets them to notice more."

Unlike many other women's groups, Girl Vigilantes is very ad-hoc. There are no meetings. When someone has an idea, the group gets together to talk about it. The size of the group varies from project to project. Bettina says they started out with about six to eight members, but at their last meeting, there were 19 people present.

As far as plans for the future go, Girl Vigilantes thinks it's important to take advantages of the change of power in Washington. We now have a woman Attorney General, a woman ambassador to the U.N., and a good woman in the White House. As Carol explains, "You have to use the power that comes your way." She would like to concentrate on "laying groundwork with younger women in order to enlarge the role of women, in general." Another member would like "to see women get asylum status here in the U.S. like they're doing now in Canada."

Carol and Bettina agree that Girl Vigilantes is probably not going to change the world. But as Carol explains, "Girl Vigilantes is one part of our lives, and we live our lives to change the world."

*not their real names