

And YOU'RE not Robin...something is strange here and I think it's the cartoonist

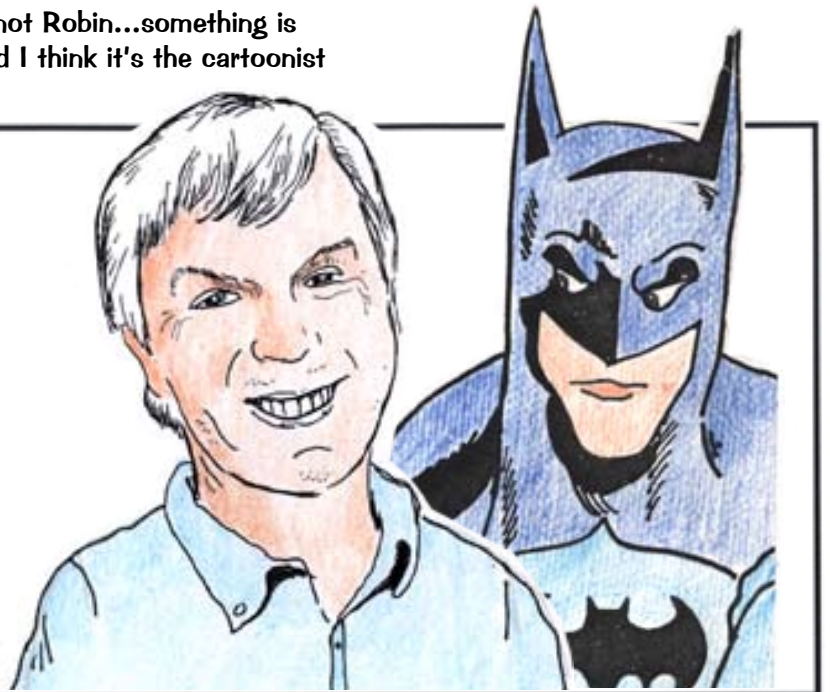



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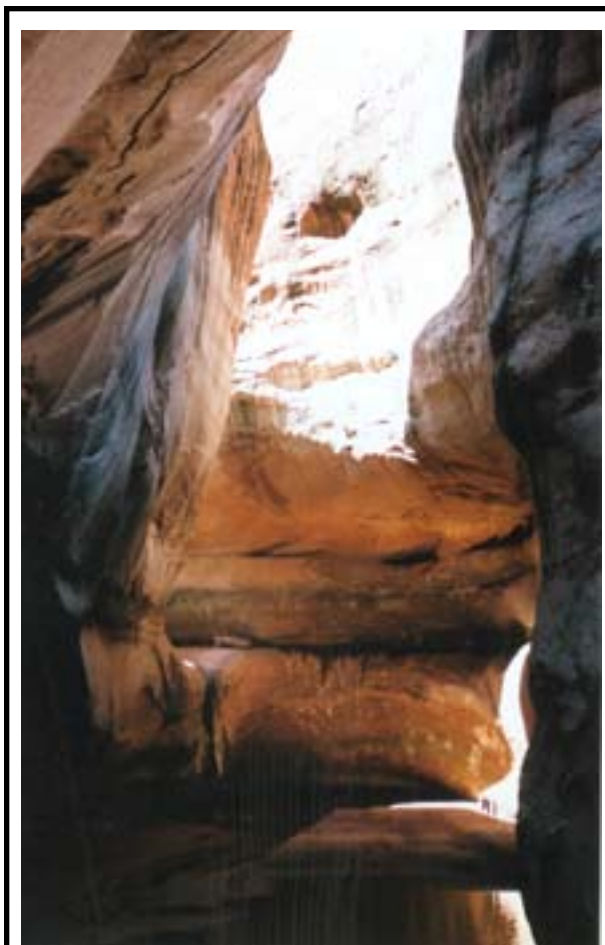
No...me either. I could not begin to tell you why in the hell BATMAN is in a FOOTPRINTS advertisement.

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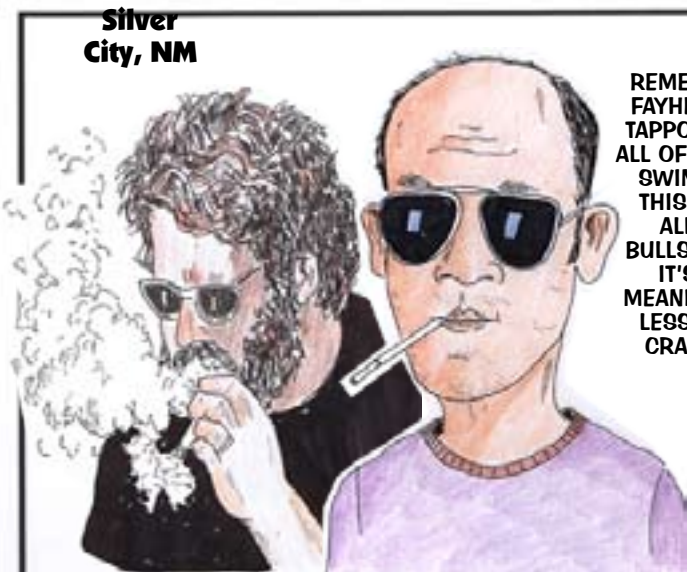


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TOM THORNE...SLC, UT



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FEEDBACK

The Readers Respond...

A "SUWA ACTIVIST" HAS A MIXED MESSAGE

Hi Jim,
I hope that you will hold it together because the Zephyr truly is a classic and we would all like to see it carry on, though in my case at least, not necessarily in exactly the same vein.

I thought that I had heard you had moved right out of the state--to Australia, I thought, and were gone completely not just from Moab but from the U.S.

He's BACK!

While we are fundraising (NOTE: Wheeler refers to a recent Zephyr plea for readers to join the Backbone.) consider this: Tim DeChristopher was able to raise \$50,000 in a one week for his personal legal expenses.

There are perhaps many interpretations of that sudden outpouring, but I would suggest to you that the zeitgeist is at this moment not nearly as concerned about the failure of the family farm or the celebration of the traditional mining and ranching cultures or the flogging of safe enemies such as the tourism industry, as it is about the gigantic corruption in government--at every level especially including local government--and the cascading collapse of environmental systems, not to mention commerce, industry and civilization.

You are a wonderfully gifted and able journalist, but if only in service of the business model, it's time for a strategic rededication of that talent. Pick up the gun, turn it back on the Mob and begin using the trigger part.

Ray Wheeler
Salt Lake City, UT

EDITOR'S NOTE: Well...here we go again. Ray Wheeler is a lifetime environmentalist and the author of SUWA's "Handbook for Activists." I appreciate Ray's words of support but cannot help but take note of his not-so-veiled message. Like many other mainstream greens, Ray still tries to marginalize The Zephyr's message by suggesting its focus is the defense of the family farm and that it has become an apologist for miners and loggers and ranchers.

NO, RAY...What this publication has said and will continue to stress is that environmentalists cannot rage hypocritically against the impacts on our wildlands from production activities like oil and gas development, without acknowledging that the extractive industries would not exist were it not for the demand to consume the products they generate.

And while Ray tries to trivialize the impacts of tourism, he knows better than that. In fact, main stream environmentalism has advocated the amenities economy as THE solution to the economic woes of the rural west for almost two decades. By definition, the amenities economy DEMANDS the massive consumption of natural resources, including oil. The effect on rural communities has been devastating.

As Wendell Berry said, "The problem with the conservation movement is that it has a clear conscience." Arrogance like Ray's and his ilk will get us nowhere.

The environmental organizations he blindly supports are funded by some of the richest and most consumptive individuals on the planet. How do "conservation" organizations expect to be taken seriously when they are funded by individuals and corporations currently building dirty coal-fired power plants like David Bonderman's in Texas?

Come on, Ray. Talk about pointing the gun at the wrong guy. If somebody like Bonderman isn't a member of that "Mob" you refer to, then nobody is.

In subsequent emails between us, Ray alternately lavishes The Zephyr with praise while slapping us upside the head. ("If the Zephyr is now wholly digital, printing costs or the need to sell ad space proportional to editorial space can no longer serve as a rationalization for the juvenilization of complex realities.")

And finally, Wheeler's ONLY reference to Tim DeChristopher's remarkably courageous act of civil disobedience was with regard to his fund raising potential. Yeesh.

JS

THUMBS UP FOR THE ONLINE Z FROM PASTOR DON

Hey Stiles,

Jim, I am one that believes the internet is good for porn and E-mails, but I did look at your new thing and it looks great. How the hell it works god or God only knows. I am sure my son can show me the ends and outs. I wanted to blog.

Don Falke
Marshall, TX

NOTE: Don Falke was for years a pastor in Moab, Utah. He moved to Pineland, Texas in the mid-90s, then to Port Arthur. Now he has retired and opened a book store in Marshall, Texas. He and I have been arguing about God and the Universe for 20 years...JS

A 'NO NEW ENERGY' POLICY

Dear Jim and all the Zeps,

Congratulations, the new on-line issue is beautiful. Especially since I got chewed out for reading magazines in my office. They don't seem to care if I'm staring into the computer screen, though. Reading the Zep makes me glad, as always, that there's still somebody out there railing against the bullshit.

To get specific, let me preface my remarks by saying that I really like President Obama. He's articulate, smart and trustworthy. However, there's an element of his promises that do frighten me and that is the business of sustainable energy development. How can one be "for" sustainable energy development and "for" the environment at the same time? Nuclear, wind and solar farms are all hugely environmentally intensive operations. Nobody wants them in >their< backyards. To promote development of such things is to essentially sacrifice the environment we all thought we wanted protected.

We need a "No New Energy Development" policy. We need to say, "Sorry, this is all the energy we're ever going to have. We're already over-committed and we're going to have to make do with what we've got and consider ourselves lucky to have it, because there's gonna be less come tomorrow." That would get us working on the true real challenge to earthlings who love their planet: Population Reduction. It's quite possible that, outside of nuclear, none of our technologies would be problematic environmentally if we reduced our numbers by, for the moment, let's say 75%. I know. Plague, famine, drought. Here it comes, pass me another cold one and an orange.

yours,
Evan Cantor
Table Mesa, CO

A LONGTIME READER ON OUTRAGE AND HUMOR AND TOILET PAPER

Greetings, Stiles!

Since my last finely crafted letter to the editor didn't make it into the last and final print issue of The Zephyr, I thought I'd shoot for a chance to be in the FIRST issue of the Cyber Monster deal you got going on. I truly wish you the best of luck out there where the wind don't blow and the sun don't shine. I've read the Z since its conception and watched it morph (your favorite word??) from a little rag that mostly covered local politics: county, and city, and mayor Tom, to the larger environmental causes that it has become today. Quite a journey, my friend. And it now appears that you are intent on going global on us! I'll try and follow you there as well -- but please keep that great sense of humor of yours out front. Saving the planet can wear a man down. Make him grumpy; disheveled; ready to piss into the wind at a moment's notice. I would suggest that after the "Planet Earth Edition" you could follow that up, with say, a Take It Or Leave It piece about the foibles of your personal sex life. There could be some issues there we all need to have a frank discussion about...

Moving quickly along, and please don't try and read too much into this, I wonder if I'm the only person on the planet, besides yourself, who actually owns almost every issue of The Zephyr that was ever printed. You see, I had this large box that a sixty count of Scott toilet paper had come in. Got it from the local grocer to bring a pup home as best I recall. Well, I had a crawl space above my study and I found the toilet tissue box to be the perfect size to store three stacks of old Zephyrs side by side. When the Z was a monthly, they got to stacking up pretty quickly. I would let a year's worth stay in the study, then sort them chronologically, and put them in the box. I did this for years, and years -- never throwing one away. I finished reading the final print copy yesterday and dutifully put it in the toilet paper box with all the others. The box was perfectly full to the brim with old Zephyrs. A treasure chest of memories, and moments, and even a few letters I sent you that got past your ornery editor's eye and actually made it into print.

next page...

But what's an honest man to do?
I don't know. I can say:
be loyal to what you love,
be true to the Earth,
fight your enemies
with with passion
and laughter.

Ed Abbey

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