

# Bob HUNTER

The eco-fronts are opening all over . . .

Skagit Valley. The Point Grey Foreshore, Amchitka Island, Boundary Bay, Cypress Bowl. And, as of this Saturday, Robson Street.



Members of the Take Back The Earth Committee plan to be down at two points on Robson at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. They are going to put up a "barrier" of trees. Potted plants. Nobody wants to call this a barricade, but that's what it amounts to.

A barricade of living plants holding back a wave of non-life, meaning cars.

Irving Stowe, organizer of the action, is counting on it not turning into a violent confrontation between conservationists and police. Stowe, a non-violent type himself, believes that the police have even more to gain from the action than those taking part.

"After all, those guys spend their days saturated in carbon monoxide. Their lives are made shorter as a result." By establishing an ecological beachhead along six blocks of Robson, Stowe hopes to bring support for the idea of a pedestrian mall into focus.

"If there are thousands of people there on Saturday, it will mean we'll get a pedestrian mall."

If only 50 people show up, the project will probably collapse. But thousands are another matter. As Stowe sees it, with an election coming up not even the loose lip of Mayor Tom Campbell will dare to give the signal sending the police into battle with individuals who are, after all, demanding nothing more than some action to make the city habitable again.

City council has repeatedly shown itself to be more interested in the welfare of land developers and real estate hustlers — surprise! surprise! — than the people who have to crawl in clouds of poison between the stumps of giant steel mushrooms.

So, finally, the initiative is being taken out of the hands of council.

If you want to see a pedestrian mall downtown, get to Robson as early as possible Saturday.

And, if you are no more thrilled by radiation than you are by carbon monoxide, get down to the Vancouver Ticket Centre and buy your tickets to the Greenpeace Benefit Concert to be staged at the Pacific Coliseum 8 p.m. Friday.

The concert, featuring Joni Mitchell, Chilliwack, and Phil Ochs, has been organized by the Don't Make A Wave Committee. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of a ship to go up to Amchitka Island prior to the next American nuclear weapons test.

The idea is to park the ship, loaded with Canadian scientists and citizens, just outside the 12-mile limit, forcing the U.S. to recognize the fact that there are many Canadians who feel more strongly about the hazards of the test than the federal government.

External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp has indicated that he "doesn't know" if the findings of Canadian scientists who investigated the previous Amchitka test will be made public. One of the aims of the Greenpeace venture is to find out what damage is being done and, definitely, to make the findings public.

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Don't forget that the next Amchitka atomic test will likely be the biggest underground blast in history. And it will be set off within a few miles of a "crack" which runs around the entire planet.

Last year, efforts to stop the test failed. One reason, obviously, was that the demonstrations and protests came too late. The countdown had already begun.

Don't wait until a few days before the next test to act. Act now. Go down to the benefit concert Friday.

Tests have indicated that the radiation from the last Amchitka blast will be with us for 66 years. And this is radioactivity which registers above the so-called "maximum permissible level." This level itself has been challenged by many scientists as being, to begin with, 10 times more than it should be.

However, if you can't relate to Amchitka or Robson St., SPEC is holding a meeting at the Labor Temple at 8 p.m. Thursday, featuring Chief Dan George, some films and speeches about environment, pollution, and what has to be done to avoid further deterioration.

Today, by the way, is Survival Day in Canada. Did you do anything to make your survival any more likely?

## Six-month term penalty for theft

Senior provincial court Judge Larry Eckardt imposed a six-month jail sentence Tuesday on a 36-year-old man convicted of breaking, entering and theft Sept. 11.

John Henry Petty, 566 Powell, was convicted of breaking into a room of a rooming-house where he lived and stealing a television set, hotplate and propane stove.