

Shades Of Green

OPINION

I was listening to Don Henley's greatest hits CD and in the song, "The Garden of Allah," these lyrics jumped out at me:

... I am an expert witness because I say I am ... I will testify for you ...

I am a gun for hire. I'm a saint. I'm a liar. Because there are no facts, there is no truth — just data to be manipulated.

I can get you any result you like.

What's it worth to ya? ..."

The more I thought about it, the more I realized these words perfectly describe the overwrought arguments of environmentalists about the overall effect of pesticides.

Ever since Rachel Carson distorted Dr. James DeWitt's data on DDT testing in 1956, environmental activists have been willing to falsify evidence to support their cause. Nobody remembers that DDT was exonerated when the data was actually examined. Meanwhile, millions of people in Third World countries have died from mosquito-borne diseases that DDT prevented before Ms. Carson's wanton wailing.

What is the agenda of environmental activist organizations? If you look hard enough, you can find everything from world domination to plain old greed. After all, there's money to be made in selling fear and falling skies.

Drunk on their successful headline grabbing, activists may have been a little hungover during the Alar scare when, according to the June 9, 1997 *Wall Street Journal*, they neglected to mention that a person would have to drink 19,000 quarts of apple juice every day to equal the same exposure as lab rats that developed tumors. They also conveniently labeled Alar a pesticide, while in truth it was a growth regulator. By the time the dust cleared, apple growers had lost an estimated \$250 million and processors another \$125 million. In the end, the U.S. taxpayer was stuck with a bill of \$15 million to pay for the Department of Agriculture's emergency purchase of leftover apples.

In the May issue of *Water Life*, a boating magazine, I found the following additional accounts of biofraud in a column called "Standing Watch" by Jim Calvin:

"According to the *Washington Times*, faulty data on the now infamous spotted owl has cost the federal government over \$15 million in

Distortions Harm Movement's Cause

BY JOEL JACKSON



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timber sales and another \$9.5 million in reparations to companies for canceling four timber contracts. These decisions were based on pressure from the activists as the faulty data moved through the system.

"Patrick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace, was quoted in an after-the-fact guest commentary in *The Los Angeles Times* as stating the environmental movement may have gone too far in crucifying the timber industry," Calvin continued. "He states that wood is a renewable resource ... and that the only reason timber interests are attacked (as opposed to other industries like steel or concrete manufacturing) is that the emotive images of forests sells memberships."

From the Alar hoax perpetrated on the apple industry a few years ago to the global-warming hysteria rampant today, activists have willing accomplices in the mainstream media who have morphed into story tellers instead of fact finders. This shameful and willing complicity by the media to create controversy, grab headlines and improve ratings is not sitting well with some in their own ranks.

According to a *USA Today* story by Peter Johnson, John Stossel of ABC News recently devoted an hour on the show *20/20* to the subject of media manipulation, as in the media misleading or altering the truth in stories. "It goes on all the time," Stossel said in the story. "And I get angry and frustrated that the public gets misled."

You're not alone, John. Many of us take exception to the devious agendas of those who believe they are morally superior to you and me and have the right to distort the truth to control our lives. These people commit fraud as harmful as the recent Wall Street scandals, and they are never held accountable for their lies and the often ruinous consequences.

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