

Editorial

Pity the poor panda

We would like to rescue our friend, the panda, from the embarrassment of serving as a mascot for the World Wildlife Fund. Condemned to consume over a hundred pounds of virtually nutritionless bamboo every day, the poor creature can barely drag itself from plant to plant; needless to say, it is not very sexually active either.

Only 1,000 of these sadly dysfunctional creatures exist, so every one of them should receive serious consideration. Therefore we are pleased to announce that the magazine *21st Century Science & Technology* is establishing a Panda Award, and has chosen as its first recipient, the Audubon Society, which is proving itself to be as dysfunctional as the panda.

In their January-February 1995 issue, the society's one-million circulation magazine featured an attack on *EIR* correspondent—and *21st Century* associate editor—Rogelio Maduro for his work in helping to stall ratification of the Biodiversity Treaty by the U.S. Senate.

Their editorial is headlined, "Biodiversity and Strange Bedfellows," and begins with an incredibly naive assertion: "The word *biodiversity* refers simply to the sum total of all life on earth. Politically, it hardly seems like a concept to generate controversy, much less opposition. If you don't favor biodiversity, what do you favor? Biological simplicity? Death on earth?"

Really, fellows!

As most of our readers should be aware, the Biodiversity Treaty is not a simple statement of the joys of multiplicity, but a program for protecting animal subspecies at the expense of human settlements. The treaty, which unfortunately has been ratified by over 60 unsuspecting countries, creates a legal enforcement regime that will allow eco-fascists to dictate national economic policies and land use policies down to local levels to preserve what they claim to be the earth's biological diversity.

In effect, the treaty establishes belief in biodiversity, a scientifically fraudulent concept, as one of the dogmas of a new earth-worshipping religion.

The signed editorial, by Michael W. Robbins, editor

of the National Audubon Society's magazine, complains that although the treaty was expected to pass, no vote was taken in the last Congress and "prospects for passage in the 104th Congress are dim." The editorial states: "Whence came the opposition? Some of it is surely due to partisanship and to reservations about specific measures. But the Senate opposition crystallized after a late-summer disinformation campaign by a combination of Wise Use groups, and supporters of political fantasist (and convicted felon) Lyndon LaRouche.

"Their 'message'—which describes biodiversity as a new religion and the treaty as a threat to U.S. sovereignty, private-property rights, control of natural resources, and individual freedom—was written by LaRouche associate Rogelio Maduro."

Debate is the last thing these eco-fascists wanted. The treaty was moving as a submarine through the Senate and the great majority of senators simply had not even read it. By keeping such secrecy, the eco-fascists hoped the senators would sign it before they realized what a dangerous document it was.

Further, the treaty that would have been signed would have been only a preamble. The actual treaty is being written in the course of a massive international undertaking called the Global Biodiversity Assessment. This task force has produced a draft treaty that is over 3,000 pages long and which dictates draconian policies to severely curtail human consumption and all economic activities to save "biodiversity."

In the present budget-cutting climate in the Congress, environmental protection measures will likely suffer the same slash-and-burn treatment being threatened for far worthier objects of government spending. There will be no reason to cheer, however, if the opponents of treaty and other insanities propagated by Prince Philip's World Wide Fund for Nature and the Audubon Society, do not rally themselves to fight for the kind of large-scale infrastructure development projects which can transform the biosphere into a productive garden. Otherwise mankind will tread in the pawprints of the unfortunate panda.