



## Up Front

*Eco-fashion & politics.*

By C.J. Hadley

**J**ack Swanson is an inspired and popular western artist who paints what he knows. Jack offered the use of a few of his favorite paintings to make limited-edition prints to benefit the nonprofit Range Conservation Foundation (see p. 44). The RCF is dedicated to intelligent use of natural resources. Its purpose is to educate. Money from RCF has helped produce *RANGE* special reports on issues that affect the West. Cost for those ran about half-a-million bucks and—thanks to the donors to *RANGE* and the foundation—they were distributed from coast to coast and available to download from the [www.rangemagazine.com](http://www.rangemagazine.com) Web site.

We are indebted to our good friend, Jack.

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Today is April 22, Earth Day, and I've received too many e-mails announcing the parties. Earth Day Network's April 19 press release says: "More than one *billion* people are expected to participate in Earth Day civic activities, making it the largest secular civic event in the world."

Cliché-ridden press releases blasted around the Internet without mercy: "We must be responsible stewards of our earth and reduce our contribution to global warming pollution," one says.

"Green-built exhibit makes debut at Midwest's largest green festival...to impress thousands of discerning environmental experts and eco-conscious event-goers at the Chicago Green Festival," says another. An exhibitor brags about having distributed "sustainably manufactured clothing apparel since 1996." Their "eco-fashion and workplace" gear includes silk, cotton, and wool.

Boy, am I lost. I must be hopelessly out of date and accidentally eco-conscious because I've been wrapped in secondhand cotton and wool since 1941 (thanks to aging relatives back in Birmingham, England, and to American farmers and ranchers).

From the Wilderness Society on April 20: "Today, more than 200 million people all over the world participate in Earth Day." (What happened to Earth Day Network's other 800 million?) They recommend watching movies on Earth Day, including: "A River Runs Through It," directed by Robert Red-

ford; "Jeremiah Johnson," starring Robert Redford (the same guy who's promoting Green TV); and energy-guzzling Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." (It might be hard to believe but some individuals and companies actually make money on our guilt.)

Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, is bragging about the Democrats' first 100 days. Her new leadership is "working across party lines" (huh?) and "working together to get the job done" (really?) and "spending our energy dollars in the Midwest rather than the Middle East" (where a rise in the price of corn in our heartland destroys one industry while encouraging another).

Pelosi says that global warming "not only threatens our environment, but our economy and our national security as well. Democrats in the House are taking bold action to combat global warming and achieve energy independence, beginning right there in the Capitol. Through our 'Green the Capitol' initiative we will lead by example, operating the House in a carbon-neutral manner." (Al Gore can teach them how.) Nancy didn't mention how much will be taken out of House members' pockets.

About the same time, majority leader Sen. Harry Reid said, to the delight of terrorists: "The war [in Iraq] has already been lost." After a meeting with President George W. Bush, he gathered the media to announce: "I know that I was like the odd guy out yesterday at the White House. But I, at least, told [the president] what he needed to hear, not what he wants to hear. I did that, and my conscience is clear."

Some Nevadans don't think Harry has a conscience. Almost half of America agrees. The applause from his depressing and treasonous statements ran instantly from the Beltway all around the radical Muslim world. The killers love Harry and Nancy (isn't that a movie?) and patiently await our brave troops' redeployment—and they are smiling.

Last week, Harry's friends connected to the Las Vegas Water Authority received a huge victory over ranchers in White Pine County in eastern Nevada. (See "To Move An Ocean," by Tim Findley, Fall 2005, or check our Web site.) The state engineer blessed a taking of 41,000 acre-feet of water to be pumped from the aquifer beneath those old ranches with two promises: that after 10 years, if it's decided there is "no damage" to the rural counties, Las Vegas can take another 25,000 acre-feet; and if it is detrimental to the rurals, then Harry's neighborhood, Las Vegas, will be denied. Yeah, right. ■

*C.J. Hadley, a registered Democrat, has known Harry for 32 years.*