

Also Raised on Star Stuff

BY JOHN SEED

Editor's note: When word got to the Cosmogen listserve that Bill Bruehl had contributed "Raised on Star Stuff" for this issue of the Epic, two others on the list—Mary Nelson and John Seed—offered brief recollections. There was sufficient time for John to polish his spontaneously filed recollection for this publication, but Mary's story will be delayed till fall. Perhaps by then one or more of the Montessori teachers in our society will also have time to share their experiences. Here now is John Seed's Star Stuff story. John Seed is a long-time rainforest activist in Australia and co-originator of the Council of All Beings ritual.



I remember hitching with my then 7-year-old son Bodhi and our 8-year-old friend Emu to the blockade at Cape Tribulation. We had a lot of time on the road, and I taught them all the songs I know.

Their favorite (still my favorite too) was "Expanding Universe" by Eric Idle (last four

lines by John Seed). The boys were really excited, and we later drew maps of the galaxy based on the figures in the song. They talked about it and said to me, "You know the game Trivial Pursuits?" "Yes."

it's the only game in town.

Editor's note: See below for the song, "Expanding Universe."

"Well, what's the opposite of trivial? Couldn't we make a game like Profound Pursuits, which taught you information like this song does?"

With that memory in mind, my thoughts for the Epic of Evolution community are two-fold: First, if a picture is worth a thousand words, the right song can be worth a thousand pictures. Second, as important as I thought learning this song was for the boys, far more important was their decision to join me at the action, which protected the tropical rainforests of Australia. Ed Abbey once wrote, "Sentiment without action is the ruination of the soul," which I would here paraphrase as "deep time without deep ecology remains a trivial pursuit." Let's mobilize on behalf of the remnants of the Cenozoic;

Expanding Universe

BY ERIC IDLE

*Remember that you're standing on a planet that's evolving
And revolving at 900 miles an hour:
It's orbiting at 19 miles a second so it's reckoned
A sun that is the source of all our power:
The sun and you and me and all the stars that you can see
Are moving at a million miles a day.
In an outer spiral arm at 40,000 miles an hour
In a galaxy they call the Milky Way.
The Milky Way.*

*Our galaxy contains a hundred million stars
It's a hundred thousand light-years side to side.
It bulges in the middle 16,000 light-years thick
But out by us it's just 3,000 light-years wide.
We're 30,000 light-years from galactic central-point,
We go round every 200 million years.
And this galaxy is only one of millions and billions*

*In this amazing and expanding universe.
Expanding Universe.*

*The universe itself keeps on expanding and expanding
In all of the directions it can whizz.
As fast as it can go, at the speed of light you know,
12 million miles a minute and that's the fastest speed there is.
So remember when you're feeling very small and insecure
How amazingly unlikely is your birth.
And sink your roots deep into the galaxy,
Dance of life, Planet Earth.
Yes sink your roots deep into reality,
Dance your life for Planet Earth.*

This song is included in "At Night They Howl at the Moon: Environmental Songs for Kids," which is available on cassette (\$12) or CD (\$17) from Rainforest Information Centre, 9009 Fairview Rd., Silver Spring MD 20910. ph: 301-565-2025.