

# Cathedral Grove

"You don't know what you've got . . . till it's gone"



GARTH LENZ

## Q Is there a history of activism in your family?

**A** We were country people. As country people, nobody had this concept of activism. But my parents were unique in a way. Even though they were decidedly Southern country people, with all that implies, they instilled in me a belief that there was something not quite right about racism.

When I was about 10 years old, we were riding in the country. We stopped at the edge of a flooded river where two white men were watching a black man who was caught in his truck. He was in danger of drowning. The black man was screaming for help and these two big white men were just standing there. My father was a small man, but he went over to them and said, "Are you just going to let this man die? What kind of men are you?"

They said, "I'm not going to risk my life for a nigger." My father was furious. He said, "You're Christians aren't you? God's

● Krawczyk spent 4.5 months in jail for participating in 1993-94 protests and blockades to halt clearcut logging of ancient forests like this one on Meares Island in Clayoquot Sound, off Vancouver Island's west coast.

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watching and you will pay for this if you just stand here." He finally harassed them enough that they all went out and saved that black man.

That made a big impression on me. You can't just stand there and watch things die and not intervene; whether it's human beings or the natural world.

## Q Of all the worthy causes, why are you focused on environmental protection?

**A** Because all of the other issues are wrapped up in the environment and the destruction of the environment. Even social issues, such as the civil rights movement, has its roots in poverty—some people claiming the land in exclusion of others. Some people think that if they have enough money and power, they can control nature. And by controlling nature, they can have power over other people. This wasn't clear to me in the beginning. It was only when I went to Clayoquot Sound that I began to see what clearcutting was doing to the public forests of British Columbia. It is killing them.

I'm dedicating the rest of my life to trying to bring public attention to the rapid deterioration of our life-support systems. We have to come forward and demand that governments stop acting as managers for corporate aggrandizement. The planet is in a crisis.