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# PEACE & JUSTICE

APR - MAY - JUN 2019

## NEWS



US Youths' Plea for Green New Deal

Let Scotland Lead on Zero Carbon

Environmental Peacebuilding: a New Way of Building Peace

Book Review: *Enough: Breaking Free from the World of More*

## Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre

**Working in Scotland since 1980 to promote:  
Nonviolence ♦ Conflict Resolution ♦ Human Rights ♦ Ecological Sustainability  
Creating a Culture of Peace**

Opposing War Memorial Campaign – Diary of Events  
Peacebuilding for Primary Schools Programme - Campaigning for Nuclear Disarmament  
Origami Cranes Project – Mailbox facility for Centre Users –  
Desk & meeting space available – Peace & Justice News

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## Editor's Introduction

In Peace & Justice News this month we focus on the relationship between security, peace and the environment.

Our Editorial calls on the Scottish Government to increase emission reduction targets in the Climate Change Bill to zero by 2040 rather than 2050 and require the Budget be linked to the Climate Change Plan so the Government has to say how much it will spend on reductions initiatives.

Noting that most conflicts have resources as at least part of their cause, Anelise Vaz explores the idea of Environmental Peacebuilding as an emerging way of building peace, but one which needs to be better understood.

Writing from San Francisco following a protest at the office of powerful Senator Diane Feinstein Samantha M., age 12, and Angelica Perkins, age 17, make an impassioned Plea for Green New Deal that would both avert [\*climate change\*<sup>\[1\]\[2\]</sup>](#) and address [\*economic inequality\*](#).

In our book review Anelise Vaz recommends John Naish's *Enough: Breaking Free from the World of More*. It seems that, when it comes to happiness, less really is more.

*The Editors*



**Fly Kites Not Armed Drones.** Took place in the Meadows. **Sunday 7 April.** At the **Meadows Pavilion Café.**

Photo credit: Brian Larkin.

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## Editorial: Let Scotland Lead the World to Zero Carbon Emissions

In 2015, world leaders signed the Paris Agreement to set a goal of reducing carbon emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 °C above 1990 and avert climate catastrophe. And the COP24 meeting in Katowice last December made some progress, but failed to agree on how countries will step up their targets on cutting emissions.

According to the report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the world faces more severe and frequent floods, droughts and wildfires. The ice caps are melting. Whole nations could disappear. As we show in this issue of *P&J News* ignoring environmental issues brings serious consequences to peace and security.

Yet the refusal of some countries to commit to reduce carbon emissions, doesn't mean we should give up. New technologies that can lower emissions are being developed. And some countries are committing to Zero Carbon futures. In March Costa Rica announced a National Decarbonization Plan that identifies concrete steps including zero emissions from all public transport and increasing re-forestation.

Scotland now has the opportunity to lead the way. Stop Climate Chaos Scotland is calling on Scottish government to increase emission reduction targets in the Climate Change Bill. If we're going to limit global warming to around 1.5 °C above 1990 levels, then our emissions need to fall to zero by 2040 rather than 2050. To achieve this the Climate Bill should require the Budget be linked to the Climate Change Plan so the Government has to say how much it will spend on reductions initiatives.

Crucially, the plan should include commitments to improve the energy efficiency of all Scotland's homes. Energy efficiency is one of the lowest-cost ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation are cheap to install. Investment in this area would save energy and emissions for decades, lift households out of fuel poverty and create thousands of jobs.

**Take Action: Write to your MSPs now to urge them to strengthen the Climate Bill. To send an email to your MSPs go to: <https://act.foe.scot/climate-zero-2040>**

On a personal level everyone can take steps to embrace a more sustainable lifestyle, steps that can show the kind of commitment that the international community desperately needs. Maybe we can set the example, one by one, while small countries like Costa Rica and Scotland can set the example for bigger countries.

*The Editors*

## Centre News

**We've Moved! After 3 years in our old location the P&J has moved - to City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, EH8 9BX.**

When our landlords informed us of a steep rise in rent we quickly found a new home. We'll carry on organising all our programmes: Peacebuilders for Schools, the Opposing War Memorial, the Cranes project, and our programme of events.

The new Centre is fully accessible. We'll still be able to provide space for small community based groups' meetings of up to ten people and desk space at low cost. Our new location is just a few steps from the University of Edinburgh campus and so more accessible for students to get involved as interns or volunteers. And we still house a small library of books on nonviolence, peacebuilding, human rights, conflict resolution and disarmament. Open Wednesdays 2 – 5pm and Fridays 10am – 1pm. Other times by appointment.



Image: Margaret Ferguson Burns

### **140,000 Origami Peace Cranes: Nearing our Goal.**

With receipt of another shipment of several boxes packed with cranes from Japan we probably have over 125,000 cranes now. We still have to count this latest lot to be sure!

Lots of people have asked what we will

do with all these cranes. We plan to organise an exhibition, probably in August 2020 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of Hiroshima and we hope, to celebrate that, by that time the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty will be ratified by 50 states and will have become international law.

**We just need to make 10 or 15,000 more Origami Cranes. Can you help? Come along to a workshop first Saturday of each month at the P&J or make cranes at home.**



Image: Brian Larkin

**Don't Bank on the Bomb** The P&J is active in the Don't Bank on the Bomb Scotland Network. RBS is undertaking a review of its defence sector investment policy. Information about the bank's investments in nuclear weapons and its policy is at: <https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/royal-bank-of-scotland-group/>. RBS won't change its policy to exclude all nuclear weapons producers unless the UK ratifies the TPNW. However, the bank is concerned about reputational risk. Customer concerns are passed to the review team. **Please write to the bank** to request that it change its policy. You can use the template letter as a guide but it's better if you can compose your own: <https://nukedivestmentscotland.org/template-letters-2/>

## Opposing War Memorial

So far we've raised over £38,000. This has enabled us to commission the design. Now we will commission technical drawings, an engineer's certification of the design and exploration of the site in Princes St Gardens. Then we'll be able to obtain planning permission.



Image: Opposing War Memorial by Kate Ive

Artist Kate Ive will run **Embroidery Workshops** in the coming months, enabling interested people to participate in the project. Workshop dates are to be confirmed. To register interest in the workshops email [admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk) or phone 07512 868687.

**To commission fabrication and installation of the Memorial we need to raise £130,000 more.** We're now working on grant applications and we've received our first grant from William A Cadbury Charitable Trust. These funding bids will be strengthened by the public support demonstrated by donations received so far. **If you have not already done so please consider donating to the Memorial:** *To Donate online visit [www.opposingwar.scot/donate/](http://www.opposingwar.scot/donate/)*

*By Bank Transfer: Bank of Scotland Account: Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre. Account No.: 00207018 / Sort Code: 80-11-30 Reference: Opposing War Memorial*

*By cheque made out to Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre. Post to Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre, Central Edinburgh Methodist Church, 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX with a note that the donation is for the Opposing War Memorial.*

## Legacies of Resistance to the First World War

As a project partner P&J staff delivered workshops to the HLF funded Legacies of Resistance to the First World War project. We edited learners' materials, helped set up and participated in the final exhibition. We're currently working with WEA Scotland on a booklet that will celebrate the lives of about 30 First World War Conscientious Objectors from Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh.



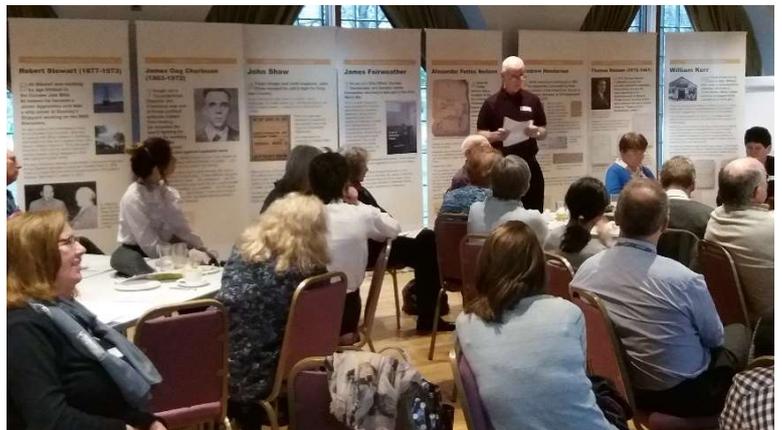
P&J Coordinator Brian Larkin at Legacies of Resistance Exhibition with CO Henry McIntyre's son and grandson Ken.

The exhibition included presentations by all of the learners. Amongst the treasures

displayed was the autograph book of CO Henry McIntyre which contains drawings poems and the thoughts of dozens of imprisoned COs. Henry's son and grandson were on hand.

A few of the learners performed two short original plays and a selection of women's peace songs from the era. Amongst the COs presented were a bootmaker, a coal miner, a University lecturer and a novelist. Uncovered

letters, drawings of their prison cells and Tribunal applications illustrated the stories of these diverse men who were united in refusing to take part in war. The exhibition featured tribunal statements, accounts of their loves, prison experiences, even death.



One of the aims of the project was to show the contribution COs made to society. Edinburgh Quaker Andrew Farrar found two notable examples in the stories he'd uncovered of Edinburgh Quakers Jack Hamilton and Donald Grey both of whom volunteered with the Friends Ambulance Unit, risking their lives in Belgium. Grey went on to become Head Master of Bootham School and Hamilton was Resident Engineer on the construction of the Forth Road Bridge which was opened by Queen Elizabeth in 1964.

## Peacebuilding for Schools Programme

In addition to funding awards from **Anglican Peace Fellowship** and **Pumphouse Trust** our Peacebuilders programme has received support from **Fellowship of Reconciliation** and notice of awards from **Network for Social Change Charitable Trust** and **Big Lottery Fund Awards for All**.



Image: Brian Larkin

**Project Development Coordinator Emma Quayle** and **Louise Smith Project Coordinator** have been working to improve Facilitator training and targeting and tracking of outcomes. Facilitators meet up at regular **Play and Connect** sessions to share experience and learn from each other.



We worked in just two schools over the past two terms, focusing on building relationships with schools like Hermitage Park Primary, which is in an area of deprivation. Intensive long-term work with schools and a whole school approach is a key part of our strategy, especially where the project has the support of the Head Teacher. The team are learning Restorative practices by

establishing an internal Conflict system. Lessons learned will be translated into our work in schools, following the principle of teaching out of personal experience. Thanks to improved systems and Facilitator training we will be able to work in four schools in the coming term.

**Low Cost Hot Desk & Part time Desk Rentals & Meeting Space.**

Contact [admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:admin@peaceandjustice.org.uk) for more info or to book.



AL Kennedy at Burns Supper

## Burns Supper: Great Speakers Raised £1,400 in support of Peace & Justice

At our *Peace & Justice Burns Supper* Gerda Stevenson gave the Toast to the Lassies with poems from her book *Quines* that celebrate Scots women including peace campaigner Chrystal Macmillan. AL Kennedy gave a slightly edgy Response from the Lassies and feminist historian Lesley Orr gave the Immortal Memory. Stan Reeves piped in addressed the haggis. Thanks to them and the volunteers, Robin Naumann and Bespoke Organic Events for organizing and catering. It was all in

aid of our work to promote nonviolence, peacebuilding and alternatives to war.

To support our work visit: [peaceandjustice.org.uk/become-a-member/](https://peaceandjustice.org.uk/become-a-member/)

## Kites Not Killer Drones Happened at Meadows Pavilion Café.

It was a dreich morning. Wet cello tape wouldn't stick to the plastic kite sails and it looked like we'd have to cancel. Then, like the parting of the Red Sea, the mist cleared. A good number of people came along and lots of kids had fun making and flying kites.

We've organised these popular Kites Not Drones events in solidarity with people living under the threat of drones annually since 2014. The events were inspired by the Afghan Peace Volunteers, an

interethnic peace community of young people. Afghans fly kites at the Nao Ruz, or New Year.

This year the event took on special significance as President Trump has said the US will withdraw from Afghanistan and the US is in peace talks with the Taliban. Peace is good, but after years of war the Taliban control half the country and with



civil society, and especially women, not represented in peace talks, there are fears of what will happen when the US leaves.



The event was a joint one with **Refugee Community Kitchen** who offered soup, chutney and music.

Thanks to Amanda and Meadows Pavilion Cafe for hosting and warm coffees and to Jan Benvie and Peter Gossip for assembling kite

kits – and to Elena Ramos and Vicky, Coady, Brian Rutherford and Jelena Basics who helped on the day with kite making and face painting.

## Upcoming Events

### Origami Cranes Workshops

**Saturday 13 April. & Second Saturday of each month. 2 – 4pm**

### Conscientious Objectors Day Vigil

**15 May. 5 – 6pm. On the Mound.**

We'll be holding a vigil again this year to remember COs of the First World War who were not released until 2019 and those of all wars, including present day COs. Save the Date!



## Volunteer Opportunities, Student Work Placements and Internships:

**Volunteers needed:** Photographer – Videographer - Graphic Artists - Fundraising - Stalls - Posting Flyers.

## Internships and work placement opportunities:

Conscientious Objectors Memorial Researcher; Event's Organisers; Bloggers & Writers; Social Media - Fundraising Researcher - Policy Researcher - Origami Cranes Exhibition Curator

**Other Projects:** *We open to ideas and can support projects in the area of sustainability, peacebuilding, conflict resolution, nonviolence, anti-militarism, human rights and refugee issues. If you have an idea get in touch.*

## Environmental Peacebuilding: a new way of building peace

Studies have shown that at least 40% of all intrastate armed conflicts over the past 65 years had natural resources as an important triggering factor. Although environmental factors are rarely the sole cause of violent conflicts, the scarcity and destruction of natural resources - especially when it affects water availability, fertile land or food security - aggravates existing tensions and may create new ones. One example is the ongoing conflict in Darfur. The fighting started as a dispute between herders and farmers over failing lands, after droughts shrank the extension of grazing land considerably. It has later been intensified by other motives, but the environmental stress was at the starting point.



Photo: Image by Marion Wunder. Pixabay

Other civil wars such as those in Syria and Yemen have also had their tensions linked to environmental changes. In Syria, before the war began, an intense drought caused 75% of Syria's farms to fail and 85% of livestock to die, intensifying regional instability. Drought has also exacerbated conflict in Yemen by causing water shortages and food insecurity in the country. The millions of people facing famine and the catastrophic cholera crisis that has developed, along with the ongoing war, have contributed to what is being called "the world's worst humanitarian crisis"<sup>1</sup>. The link between environmental degradation and conflict is clear: when the survival of groups of people are threatened because of lack of natural resources, the potential for violent conflict is much higher.

In the coming decades, as the global population continues to grow, disputes over natural resources and extreme climate stresses are expected to double the risk of violent conflict. A report by the Environmental Justice Foundation warns that climate change will likely reshape the environment in ways that may

<sup>1</sup> Almosawa, S.; Hubbard, B.; Griggs, T. *'It's a Slow Death': The World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis*. The New York Times, 23 August 2017.

cause the largest refugee crisis in human history. The report has also found that “conflicts associated with natural resources are twice as likely to relapse into conflict in the first five years”<sup>2</sup>

But more than a cause of concern, the environment can be a source of hope and a valuable peacebuilding tool. Many have pointed to the potential of environment to provide a platform of collaboration. Common environmental issues can encourage people to come together, in spite of



Photo: Mathias Eick, EU/ECHO, Rakhine State, Myanmar/Burma, Sept 2013.  
[flickr.com/photos/eu\\_echo/10015500834](https://www.flickr.com/photos/eu_echo/10015500834)

their differences, and this can be used to foster cooperation and mutual trust between conflicting parties. There are many examples of successful environmental cooperation between nations who were hostile towards each other, such as the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan, and the Cordillera Condor, a conservation “peace park” in the border between Peru and Chile, where there used to be a long history of territorial conflict. They prove that joint efforts to restore ecological systems can be the entry point to a more peaceful and collaborative political relationship.

In post-conflict countries, where years of destruction and violence leave people struggling to survive, trying to rebuild sustainable livelihoods is extremely important, and it should involve efforts to restore the environment. Collaborative initiatives such as the ones mentioned above should be included as much as possible because they drive cooperation towards a common goal - preserving or restoring the environment - in ways that build trust and contribute to conflict prevention.

However, bringing together issues of environment, peace and security is a very new approach, and one that most are not used to and fail to understand. Environment is still usually associated with simply conservation of species or planting trees. There is an amusing true story that illustrates this well: when David Jansen, a leading figure in environmental peacebuilding, went to

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Justice Foundation. *Beyond Borders: our changing climate - its role in conflict and displacement*. Report: EJF, 02 November 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Wilson Center Staff. *A Paradigm for Peace: Celebrating “Environmental Peacemaking”*. News Security Beat, 20 March 2018.

Afghanistan and the Democratic republic of Congo to address environmental challenges, his local hosts took him to the zoo 3. This shows the amount of work still ahead and the challenges of environmental peacebuilding. Without better knowledge of the great potential the environment can have in promoting peace and preventing conflict, the international community may be missing a powerful tool, especially in the face of our future environmental challenges. This awareness needs to be better used if we are really committed to achieving long lasting sustainable peace for all.

Anelise Vaz

## A Green New Deal for the USA?

*Editor's Note: In the US Representative [Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#) and Senator [Ed Markey](#) released a resolution for a Green New Deal in February: a set of [economic stimulus](#) programs that aim to address [climate change](#) and [economic inequality](#). The name refers to the [New Deal](#), a set of [public works projects](#) undertaken by President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) in response to the [Great Depression](#). The Green New Deal combines Roosevelt's economic approach with solutions to the climate crisis such as [renewable energy](#) and [resource efficiency](#).*



*The approach pushes for transitioning the US to 100% renewables and zero-emissions, and implementing the "[social cost of carbon](#)" that has been part of Obama administration's plans for addressing climate change. Besides providing new jobs, this Green New Deal is aimed to address poverty by aiming improvements in "frontline and vulnerable communities" which include disadvantaged people.*

Photo by [American Public Power Association](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## US Youths' Impassioned Plea for a Green New Deal

By Samantha M., age 12, and Angelica Perkins, age 17

*Samantha and Angelica write for [PeaceVoice](#), are Oakland students and members of the youth-led climate justice group, [Youth Vs. Apocalypse](#). To contact their adult advisor: [carolyn@350bayarea.org](mailto:carolyn@350bayarea.org)*

On Friday, February 22, 2019, Sunrise Bay Area, [Youth Vs. Apocalypse](#) and Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew gathered together for a rally held outside of Senator Feinstein's office in San Francisco in an attempt to persuade her to vote yes on the Green New Deal.



Photo by [Shane Rounce](#) on [Unsplash](#).

We attended the rally at Feinstein's to show support and help in whatever ways we could as this movement is one that matters to us and our future-- we hadn't planned to talk with Feinstein directly. In spite of this, when the opportunity presented itself YVA and Earth Guardians accepted gladly and were more than excited when we learned that we would actually be allowed into her office to speak to her personally. For us at least, this excitement turned quickly into fear as our peers and Senator Feinstein began to converse.

This fear was not because we felt that we were being "Taught a lesson" or "Told off". It was because we could see ourselves talking to our future grandchildren about what breathable air used to be like. We could see workers in impoverished communities whose children's lives

depended on risking their own. We were afraid because, at that moment, we could see the world around us shrinking - becoming something small and unimportant, and with it so did we.

However, we only *felt* this way. As we sit here and write this piece, we know that we are not small and we are definitely not unimportant. Our words speak for all youth, as we demand a future. And that future will only be possible through the Green New Deal. Because as we advocate for the Green New Deal, we are also advocating for the future of our Earth and all of its inhabitants. A promised future. The future we deserve. Because the adults that decide our future, got theirs. So who are they to cancel ours?

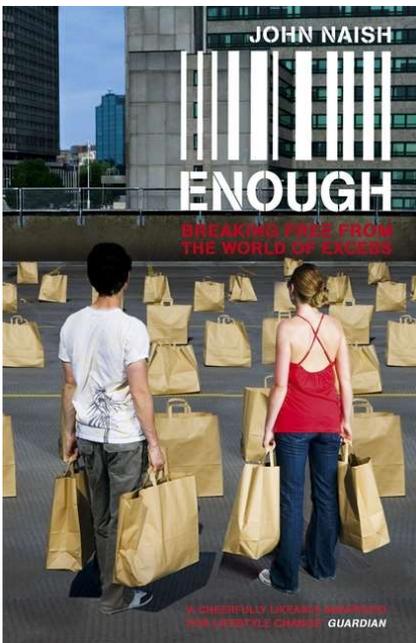
We are not fighting for the Green New Deal because we are brainwashed youth or because we are being manipulated and used for political gain. We fight for the Green New Deal because we are in charge of our future, and know exactly what it means. It lies in our hands, only ours. It is our future, whether or not elected officials like that and the only way to protect what belongs to us is through bold and transformative action.

We cannot separate ourselves from all the animals, plants and all other life because we are all interconnected. We are all affected by the destructive

aftermath of climate change. Just because we are human, it does not negate the fact that we are also in danger because of our actions. We are in also in danger from inequality and lack of economic opportunity. We can't leave behind anyone.

That is why we believe in the Green New Deal, and we know what the Green New Deal is. We have read it and we understand it because we know exactly what we have to do to secure our future. Youth have a right to be in this conversation because in the long run, this is more than a debate. It is our life and future.

## Book Review: Enough: Breaking Free from the World of More



By John Naish. Hodder & Stoughton. 2008.  
Reviewed by Anelise Vaz

During our evolutionary history, our brains have been programmed to instinctively want more and more of anything we can get. The more food, clothing, information and tools we could gather, the higher our chances of surviving in the many times of scarcity. And we keep chasing for more, even now, in modern times, when we have more of everything than we can ever use, enjoy or afford. This unconscious behavior keeps cluttering our lives and homes with stuff we don't need, gets us sick, tired, overweight, angry, in debt and still unsatisfied. Even more, the overabundance of disposable things generated by this exaggerated consumption cycle has a huge impact on our environment.

John Naish makes the case for adopting the art of “enoughness”. He describes how our Stone-Age brains are hardwired to have an infinite appetite for any resources we can gather, and how this instinct is exploited by a profit-driven world that wants to encourage us to always want more. He argues that we have lost sense of what is enough in our lives and explains how liberating it is when we learn not to let our culture of excess drive our choices.

In the ten chapters on topics such as “Enough Food”, “Enough Stuff”, “Enough Hurry”, “Enough Options” and “Enough Information”, he explores the problem and gives us advice on how to recognize our overload and practice “enoughness”. The book concludes with a chapter called “Never Enoughs”, in

which the author explains that there are some nonmaterial things that we can't ever get enough of, such as gratitude, generosity and social connectedness. These are proven to bring greater happiness and increase our longevity.

The book is a thought-provoking and interesting read, especially for those on the minimalist/ simplicity road who want to be encouraged to shed the excesses in their lives. *Book cover Image:* <https://www.hodder.co.uk/books/>

## Reflection: Maldives Underwater

"There is a view among many of us that this is failing. What's the point of having such negotiations if they don't lead to progress or solutions to problems that are related to the lives of people worldwide?"



We are not prepared to die. We are not going to become the first victims of the climate crisis. Instead, we are going to do everything in our power to keep our heads above water,"

*Mohamed Nasheed, head of the Maldives delegation, at the UN climate conference in Poland, December 2018. The Maldives is an island nation*

*in the India Ocean and it is among countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as rising sea levels and coral reef deterioration. Scientific reports have predicted that, if sea levels keep rising at the current rate, the Maldives will be completely submerged in 30 years. To dramatize their plight the Maldives government held an underwater cabinet meeting last year.*

*Image: Maldives Underwater Cabinet Meeting. By Sindi. Divers Association of Maldives.*  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/diversmv/4084294081/>