

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/12/20/magazine/lives-they-lived-reader-submissions.html#index>

December 20, 2011

The Lives They Loved

We invited readers to contribute a photograph of someone close to them who died this year. Here are some that illustrate a story from their lives.

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I submitted the contribution below, but far as I can see, it was not published. Helga Hoffmann-Orton

David Keith Orton January 6, 1934 – May 12, 2011



David loved the forest surrounding our home in rural Nova Scotia. He called this his paradise and went walking or cross-country skiing here every day, always with his dog Lucy. His love of nature started in his youth in Portsmouth, England. David cherished his simple lifestyle, living in an old homestead without modern comforts, while defending and writing about wild nature.

His activist days began while he was a graduate student at the New School in New York: he opposed the Vietnam War and supported various left-wing causes. David spent his life protesting the destruction of nature for profit - from the Canadian seal hunt to clear-cutting and gas exploration.

As an ecophilosopher, David developed Left Biocentrism, which combines Deep Ecology and social justice concerns. He believed in the rights of all living beings to exist without human interference. He loved having long discussions with friends about politics and the environment and was known for always getting right to the heart of any issue.

David died at home of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 77. In the last post on his "Deep Green Web" blog, he said "We all eventually return to the Earth. Goodbye and keep fighting."

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