Neither Rain Nor Snow... But Spam Filters Are Tough:

Using Email for Marketing and Fundraising

Development Executives Roundtable April 8, 2005

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Agenda

- Email Marketing 101:
 - Survey of the What, Why, and How of "broadcast" email
- Discuss Best Practices, Case Studies.
- Provide resources.
- Time for questions and discussion.



Uses of Email Communications

- Staying in contact (cultivation)
- Engagement (advocacy, activism)
- Fundraising (email appeal)
- Urgent appeal (for action or funds)
- Service delivery (news, listings)



The Gilbert Email Manifesto

- E-mail is more important than a web site.
- Resources spent on e-mail strategies are more valuable than the same resources spent on the web.
- E-mail combines personal communication, immediacy, rapid response, and scale.
- People treat e-mail messages as To Do items.

http://news.gilbert.org/features/featureReader\$3608



Nielsen-Norman Survey

Jakob Nielsen (study of email newsletter usability):

- "E-newsletters that are informative, convenient, and timely are often preferred over other media."
- "Email newsletters are so powerful that the best of them have a future" (despite spam and information overload).
- From a study participant: "Bottom line, I'd rather (get information) in an email newsletter than in regular mail."

http://www.useit.com/alertbox/20040217.html



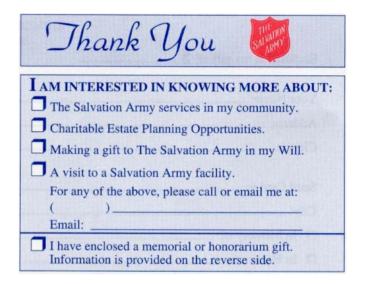
Collect Email Addresses Constantly

 Ask for email addresses in all communications.



Subscriber Information (required)

First Name	
Last Name	
Email Address	



- Direct Mail
- During phonathons
- On surveys
- And on your website.



Get Permission

- Businesses generally use double opt-in.
- Higher education & nonprofits still tend to use optout.
- If you use opt-out, first email (and all subsequent) should offer it.
- Develop and post a privacy policy.
 - DMA Privacy Policy Generator www.the-dma.org/privacy/creating.shtml
 - Customer Respect Group privacy policy guidelines:
 www.customerrespect.com/default.asp?hdnFilename=research_bp_privacypays.htm
- Bottom line: make sure your audience wants to hear from you by email.



I'm a Real Publication Now

Treat it like any publication or appeal:

- Develop a publication/appeal schedule.
- Mail regularly (so recipients remember that they subscribed) but not too often.
- Set realistic goals.
- Be prepared to deal with responses.



Give The People What They Want

- Message format
- Content
- Frequency of contact



Contact Us | Unsubscribe | Request a Text-only Version Privacy Policy

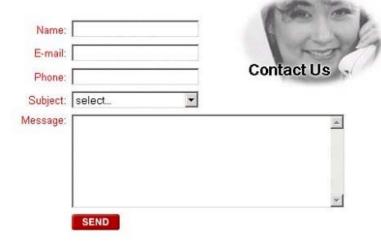


Make it Easy

Make it easy to:

- Subscribe
- Learn more
- Give
- Unsubscribe
- Reach a human.

Subscribing, unsubscribing, and dealing with bounces should be automated!





We invite your feedback. Email the editor at dschack@ucsc.edu.

To unsubscribe from the eSlug Bulletin mailing list, email us at alumni@ucsc.edu

The UCSC Alumni Association - 1156 High St. - Santa Cruz, CA 95064 - (800) 933-SLUG - <u>alumni@ucsc.edu</u>



Get Personal





Measuring email

Campaign Detail: Performance Summary

summary	tracked urls	subscribe	ers	
Show Content Form	ats Totals	Rate	Change vs. Previous	Change vs. List
Attempts	2210		14 ★	22 🛊
Bounces	3	0.001%	4.3% ♣	5.3% ♣
Deliveries	2197	99.4%	4.3% +	5.3% +
Unique Opens	2143	96.9%	38.4% ★	1.3% 🕈
Unique Clicks	2019	91.3%	4.9% ★	4.4% 🛨
Total Opens	2189			
Total Clicks	2175			



Track Results

			Total	Response	Avg
Appeal	Net Sent	# of Donations	Donations	Rate	Gift
Undergraduate AF Solicitation	11758	184	18,124	1.6%	98.50
Law AF Solicitation	8847	23	5,990	0.3%	260.43
Medical AF Solicitation	1998	2	200	0.1%	100.00
Class of 1999 AF Solicitation	1068	41	2,254	3.8%	54.98
Class of 1997 AF Solicitation	931	31	1,652	3.3%	53.29
Class of 1993 AF Solicitation	864	16	1,145	1.9%	71.56
Class of 1995 AF Solicitation	603	18	1,615	3.0%	89.72



Neither Rain nor Snow nor AOL

- Use a consistent and/or easily recognizable Sender name
 - preferably a real person.
- Don't personalize the Subject, but do mention your institution.
- Don't overdo HTML or graphics.
- Test appeals with spam filters (www.lyris.com/contentchecker/,
 http://spamcheck.sitesell.com/, www.spamassassin.org) & accounts on AOL,
 Earthlink, Yahoo, etc.
- Avoid spam "trigger words" <u>www.businessknowhow.com/internet/spamwords.htm</u>



Good, Better, Best

Test, Analyze, Fine Tune

- Subject line
- Sender
- Frequency
- Message
- Segmentation
- Format.



Evaluating email vendors & software

- (Not systems: Microsoft Outlook, Eudora, Yahoo!
 Mail, AOL address book, etc.)
- Free: Topica, Yahoo Groups
- Single solutions: Cooler, Groundspring, iMakeNews, Microsoft bCentral, MailerMailer, NPOGroups, Sparklist.com, Topica Email Publisher, Roving, etc.
- Integrated solutions: GetActive, Convio, Blackbaud, Kintera, CitySoft, etc.



Earthjustice: A nonprofit law firm for the environment, representing—without charge—hundreds of citizen and conservation groups throughout the country.

- online cultivation program since 2001
- monthly e-newsletter, online fundraising appeals, online Supporter Center, online action alerts, e-cards, memos
- integrated approach to communicating online with donors and prospects
- in 2004, earthjustice.org averaged 47,000 visits and 220,000 page views per month
- 120,000 active donors, of which 30,000 receive e-Brief
- 65,000 e-mail addresses on GetActive list of which 34,000 are online activists and 44,000 e-Brief recipients





Sweating about global warming? Don't miss a special opportunity to speak out about <u>climate change</u>. Help fund the Inuit people in their struggle to hold the U.S. accountable for its failure to curb its greenhouse gas emissions—emissions causing devastation in the Arctic region and threatening to destroy the Inuit's food sources, homes, and culture. <u>Please give generously today</u>.

▶ Block William Myers and oppose the Senate's "nuclear option"! The Senate will soon vote on the re-nomination of former Interior Solicitor

Advocate Profile: Cara Pike, VP of Communications

Fighting for our forests

Tom's Turn: Manipulating science

Mail Bag

dugong



A CLOSER LOOK: EARTHJUSTICE REPORTS

Want to get the whole story behind the cases we're taking to court on behalf of our environment? Check out the PDFs of the reports featured below and e-mail Eve Lotter to request hard copies: elotter@earthjustice.org (Please write "Report Request" in the subject line, include your mailing address, and specify which reports you'd like to receive.)

Citizens' Guide to the Endangered Species Act

The Northwest Forest Plan: Ancient Forests At Risk Again

Refuges in Peril: Fish, Wildlife, and the Klamath Water Crisis

Reckless Abandon: How the Bush Administration is Exposing America's Waters to Harm

Defending the Gains: June 2004 Report (PDF only)

ABOUT EARTHJUSTICE Founded as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in 1971, Earthjustice is the nonprofit law firm for the environment Teshekpuk Lake area, one of the most sensitive and important wetlands of the Western Arctic. Only the lake itself is subject to a temporary leasing deferral. By rejecting any idea of balance and opening virtually every acre around the Lake, the administration's plan undoes longstanding



Photo courtesy BLM

protections for wildlife and subsistence values--tens of thousands of geese and 45,000 caribou could be surrounded by roads, pipelines, and industrial sprawl.

<u>Take action now--send</u> a letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton telling her to retain protections for critical bird, fish, and wildlife habitats around Teshekpuk Lake. <u>Click here.</u>

<u>See this month's "Buck in Brief</u>" for more on the Bush administration's energy policy and public lands.

▶ Photo Download: Alaska's Midnight Sun

This month's desktop download, taken in the Western Arctic, tracks the path of the midnight sun over the partly frozen Arctic Ocean. Though much of the Western Arctic is officially known as the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, this vibrant and sensitive ecosystem is far more than its formal name suggests. After taking action to protect the prized Teshekpuk Lake area, click here to decorate your desktop with this fantastic image.



Photo by Gary Schultz

For more on the Western Arctic, click here.

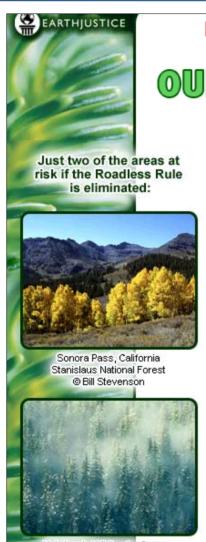
Help the Inuit People Fight for Survival!

Climate change isn't just an environmental issue--to the Inuit people of the Arctic, it threatens their lives and culture. As ice and permafrost melt and





November 11, 2004 (part of listbuilding campaign)



LAST CHANCE: The deadline is Monday, November 15

OUR ROADLESS FORESTS NEED YOU!

Dear Eve.

Last week, the Bush administration--the most anti-environmental administration in American history--secured a second term. The coming years will hold many challenges for the environmental community, but here's the first one: Stopping the administration's reckless

LAST CHANCE It only takes a minute:

CLICK HERE to stand up for the Roadless Rule.

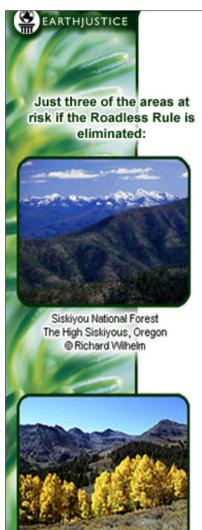
plan to scrap the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Of course, we've been telling you about the administration's plans to eliminate the Roadless Rule--the landmark conservation measure that protects nearly 60 million acres of wild national forests--for some time. The result of last week's election means that our fight to protect our national forests just became a whole lot more critical.

This is your FIRST chance since the election to speak up and declare that last Tuesday was not a mandate to despoil our wild forests--and it's your LAST chance to speak up and tell the Bush administration and its friends in the timber, mining, and energy industries that you support the Roadless Rule. The deadline is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15. Make your first action since the election count. Click here.

The Beauties But is an extreme to its in the





HELP US KEEP UP THE FIGHT FOR ROADLESS FORESTS!

With people's attention elsewhere, the Bush administration and its friends in the timber, mining, and energy industries are zeroing in on our nation's forests. Their #1 goal? Eliminating the Roadless Rule, the landmark conservation measure that protects nearly 60 million acres of wild national forests.

The administration isn't taking any time off in the battle over these forests--and neither can we! Today we need your help to keep our work going strong on behalf of our national forests

It only takes a minute:

Click here to help us protect roadless forests!

Please, <u>click here</u> to make an emergency gift to support our work to safeguard roadless forests!

We MUST remain strong in response to this challenge.

Earthjustice, the non-profit law firm for the environment, is part of an all-out effort to stand up to the administration's reckless plan to scrap the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Rule was established in 2001 to safeguard our last unspoiled national forest lands from road building and the industrial development that comes with it. We're working around the clock to hold the line against the extractive industries' push to log, drill,

2004 Roadless Appeal

Integrated with action alert/list-building campaign. Overall, roughly **21,000 comments** to Forest Service generated through GetActive.

- \$9,182 raised
- 174 gifts
- \$52 average gift



There's still time!

Make your tax-deductible year-end gift to Earthjustice by December 31st

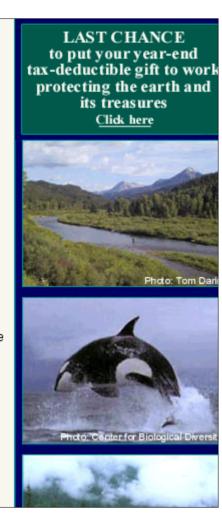
Dear Eve,

As we look forward to 2005, there's no denying this fact: Never in American modern history have Congress and the White House been so hostile to environmental progress.

So why am I writing to ask you to share my spirit of optimism and resolve?

Not just because despair is not an option, but because over the past four years, Earthjustice's ability to hold the line--and force the administration to uphold the law--has been proven time and time again by our accomplishments as the lawyers for the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, and hundreds of other national, regional, and local groups.

In the last year we have:



2004 Year-End Appeal

- \$33,340 raised
- 307 gifts
- \$108 average gift



LAST CHANCE!

The deadine to have your gift matched

is TOMORROW!

Click here to give TODAY!



Last chance to double your money to stop the Bush administration!

To help Earthjustice fend off the Bush administration's relentless anti-environment assault, a generous Earthjustice Trustee has offered to match all donations, dollar for dollar. **But this offer ends TOMORROW!**

So before the Bush administration can double its efforts to...

- ▶ Threaten treasured national forests like the Tongass by undermining the Roadless Rule
- Allow Big Industry to develop millions of acres of public lands
- Place our federal courts in the hands of extremist judges

...you can double YOUR efforts to protect our precious earth. It's your last chance. Click here to give right now! And if you've already responded, thank you! Please tell a friend.

If you would like to unsubscribe from Earthjustice, or update your account settings, please with the creation or respond to this email with "REMOVE" as the subject line

2003 Matching Gift Campaign Appeal

- \$32,663 raised
- 480 gifts
- \$68 average gift

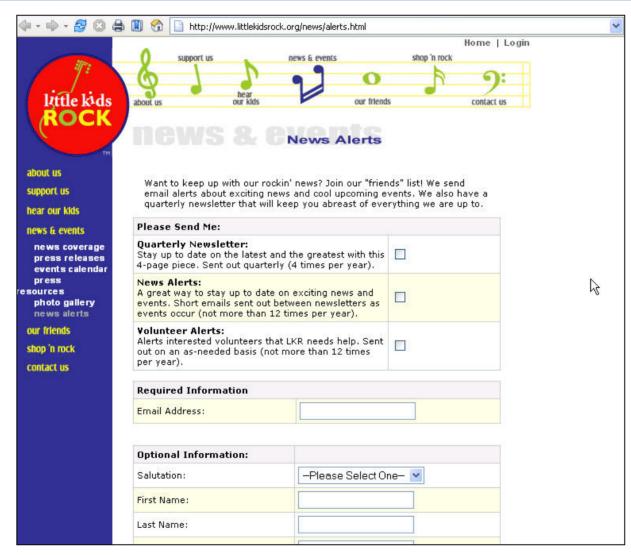


- <u>Little Kids Rock (LKR)</u> works to inspire children to express
 themselves through music, building creativity, confidence, and selfesteem. LKR provides instruments and trains public school
 teachers to offer free music classes to kids.
- Annual budget: \$150,000, 3 FTE staff
- Technology vendors:
 - SalesForce.com for database
 - Groundspring.org for online gift processing
 - VerticalResponse for email messaging



- Size of their email list: Under 5,000; approximately 66% receive regular email communications
- 20% of individual donations come online
- Benefit event on March 23, 2005 (\$100 per ticket)
- Series of emails
 - 2 months before: Save the date
 - Feb 15 e-newsletter: top story was benefit event
 - 1 month before: event invitation mailed and emailed
 - 1 week before: reminder email
 - 1 day before: blast to people that are coming
- 75% of tickets were bought online









Wednesday, March 23rd, 2005 • 6:30 - 9:00pm • Mighty • 119 Utah St. • San Francisco • CA

Join Us for an Evening of Live Music, Cocktails & Hors D'oeuvres Tickets available at: www.littlekidsrock.org/mmtickets.html

Help us put music back where it belongs . . . in our public schools!

Peformances by:

Rick Springfield



Rick Springfield has given us much enduring pop & rock music. He's sold 18 million

records and scored 17 Top 40 Hits. He's also a father and a strong advocate for music education.

Joesph "Ziggy" Modeliste



Joseph "Ziggy"
Modeliste is one
of the premier
drummers in
modern history.
His innovative

work as a member of the

Norton Buffalo & Friends



Norton Buffalo is a highly celebrated member of the Steve Miller Band. He has

recorded and toured with some of the top names in music including: Bonnie Raitt, The Doobie Brothers, Johnny Cash, and others.

Mimi Fox



Mimi Fox is a virtuoso guitarist and an outstanding performer who plays major jazz

clubs and festivals around the

Sponsored By:

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- Project Ahimsa
- Display and Play
- Gretsch Guitars
- ▶ Modulus Guitars
- Sunlite Guitars
- Digidesign

Email invitation that went out one week before March fundraising event

Online event registration





Click Here to Donate!

In This Issue:

- LKR Fundraiser in March!
- New LKR Website
- Al Leiter Joins Board
- Rockin' Cruise Helps LKR
- ▶ New LA Chapter Launches
- Thoughts from a Volunteer

Support Little Kids Rock While You Shop

at Amazon.com and iTunes!

Click here to learn more

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D'Addario Foundation
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Elvis Presley Enterprises™
Mockingbird Foundation

MUSIC MATTERS: LKR Fundraising Event in March!



March is National Music In Our Schools month and LKR is pleased to announce that we will be celebrating with a special fundraising event: Music Matters 2005. The event will be held on March 23 in San Francisco, the city of our birth. Legendary pop star Rick Springfield will make an appearance and guests at the event will be treated to a rockin' evening of music, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Jazz virtuoso Mimiters will also be performing as will LKR students and others to be

announced. Several guests will be honored at the event, including <u>Peter Finch</u> from KFOG Radio. All proceeds will benefit Little Kids Rock.

The event will take place from 6:30 to 9:00pm at Mighty which is located on 119 Utah Street in San Francisco. Tickets start at \$100 and are available online at: http://www.littlekidsrock.org/mmtickets.html.

Corporate sponsors include: NAMM, Sonor, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, J. D'Addario Company, Inc., Norcal Music Coalition, Sony Computer Entertainment, Air Products, First Republic Bank, Promark, Sabian LTD, Modulus Guitars, Gretsch Guitars, Display And Play and Digidesign

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STAFF

David Wish Barbara Crossen Allison Neves Laura Subotky

Thoughts from a Volunteer

Excerpt from a letter from <u>Tara</u> <u>Kelly</u>, one of our volunteer designers



"Music's positive impact on the minds of our youth has long been a focus of educators

worldwide. When introduced to this concept through the volunteer efforts of the Little Kids Rock program, I knew I had found something that would inevitably have a profound impact on my own life.

Not only have I met some amazingly talented and inspiring people through LKR, I also know that by volunteering for the program, I have taken away the personal gift of realizing the effect that music has had, and continues to have on me and on

NY Met, Al Leiter, "Pitches" In for Music Education!

We are happy to announce that New York Mets pitcher, Al Leiter, has joined Little Kids Rock as an Honorary Board Member. Mr. Leiter's involvement with Little Kids Rock is just one of his many endeavors that help give back to the community.



"I am proud to be teaming up with Little Kids Rock to bring music education to public school children." said Al Leiter. "At a time when funding for music programs is being cut in schools across the country, Little Kids Rock's work is more important than ever." "We are delighted that Al Leiter has accepted an appointment to our Honorary Board," said David Wish, founder and Executive Director of Little Kids Rock. "Mr. Leiter is a long-standing champion of children's causes. so it is no surprise that his ideals and tremendous

foresight align with the mission of Little Kids Rock."

With an impressive professional baseball career spanning nearly fifteen years, Al Leiter became an avid coordinator and participant in aid organizations in 1998. At that time, Mr. Leiter publicly pledged to donate \$1 million to kids' causes, mostly through a foundation he and his wife launched called the Leiterlanding Children's Foundation. Al Leiter is the latest name on LKR's growing list of high profile supporters. Bonnie Raitt, Paul Simon, BB King, Jason Newsted, Dave Mason and Les Paul are all honorary members of the Board of Directors.

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Michael McDonald & Show Boat Cruises Help Us Rock the



More from Jakob Nielsen

- The good news: most participants can distinguish between spam and legitimate email.
- The bad news: spam has made people less patient when reading email.
- Only 11% of participants read e-newsletters thoroughly. 57% skim them.
- Newsletters must be current and timely. However, people will continue to subscribe to newsletters that are periodically relevant.
- Most frequent advice: "Keep it brief."
- Most frequent complaint: newsletters that arrived too frequently.



Resources

Alder Consulting - *E-Newsletter Tools on a Shoestring:*

www.alderconsulting.com/enews.html

Allison, Rachel: Testing e-mail without testing your sanity

http://www.malwarwick.com/newsletter/success0403.html#testing

dotorgEssentials: Best Practice for Email Campaigns:

http://www.dotorgessentials.net/browse issues.php?switch=1&dir=20040116

DotOrg Media – Electronic Mailing Lists - Resource List

www.dotorgmedia.org/Publications/Publications.cfm?ID=76&c=18

Groundspring.org: Online Fundraising Handbook (chapter 3 discusses email newsletters): www.groundspring.org/learningcenter/handbook.cfm

NP Advisors: *Guidelines for Preparing E-mail Copy:* www.npadvisors.com/NewContent/100244.asp

Stoner, Michael: Creating Effective Email Campaigns:

http://www.mstonerblog.com/archives.php?id=A2004081

More resources are at: www.rlweiner.com/resources.html

