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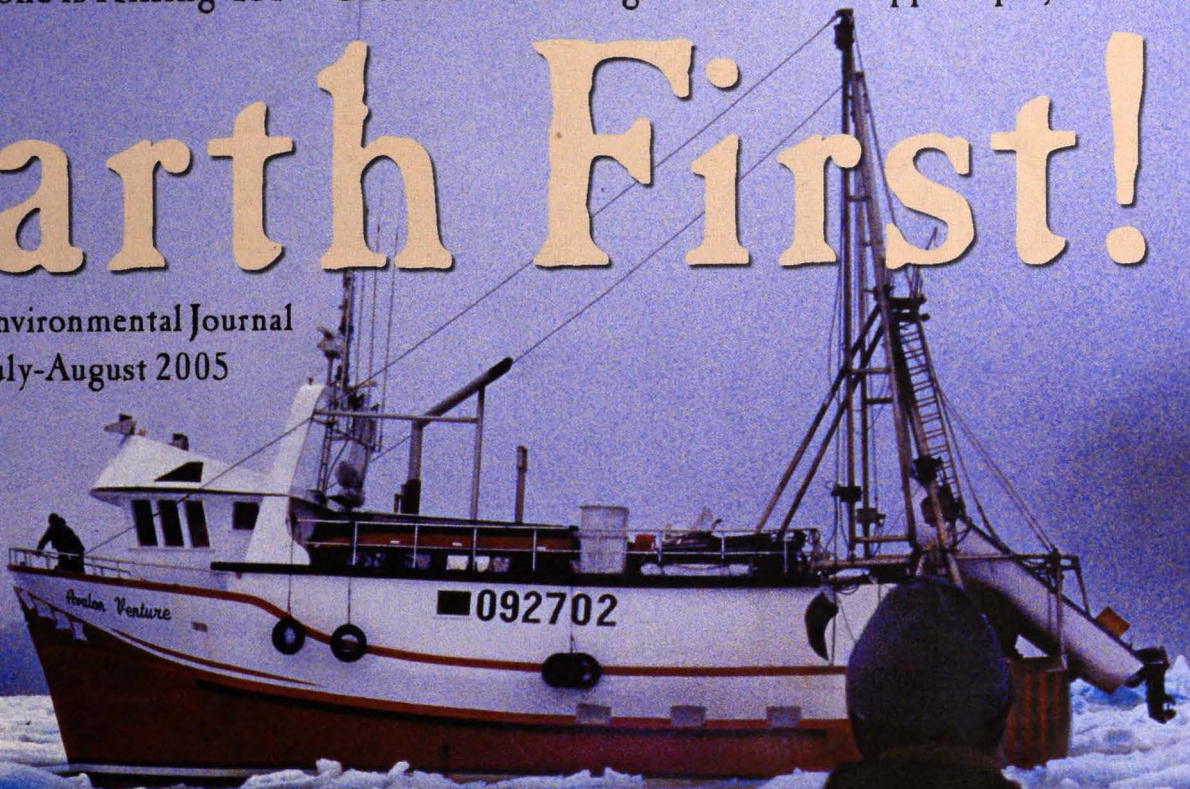
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Your Cell Phone is Killing You · Global Protests Against Coal · Pepper Spray Verdict

# Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal  
Lughnasadh July-August 2005



## CONFRONTING THE SLAUGHTER

ON THE FRONTLINES OF  
CANADA'S SEAL HUNT

\$4.50 US \$7 Canada · Volume 25 #5





## *Twenty years of arboreal eco-defense:*

*“Finally, after 45 minutes, he was up. He pulled his gear up, and this tree was safe! There wasn’t a logger around who could cut the tree down in the view of so many witnesses....”*

*—May 20, 1985*

## *Earth First!*

# Earth



# First!

Lughnasadh July-August 2005

The Radical Environmental Journal

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artwork by Georgia Peterson

**Special Section:**  
**Kill Your Cell Phone**  
See pages 18-25

Left: See story page 31. Front & Back Covers: Sea Shepherd travels to the Canadian seal hunt. See story page 10.

# The Tales We Are Told

The impossible task is a common theme in fairy tales. An idealistic, young commoner seeking to escape a life of poverty and toil is confronted by a sly, immoral and tyrannical king. This king promises to fulfill the hero's wishes if the hero can complete a series of seemingly impossible tasks. Of course, the hero is able to succeed where no one else has—solving puzzles with creativity, taming monsters with compassion and approaching feats of strength with unexpected ingenuity.

Although the hero returns triumphantly each time, the king always breaks their original bargain and assigns new and increasingly difficult errands. The hero masters these as well; he never complains as the king bends the rules in his own favor, but merely trusts that determination will benefit him in the end.

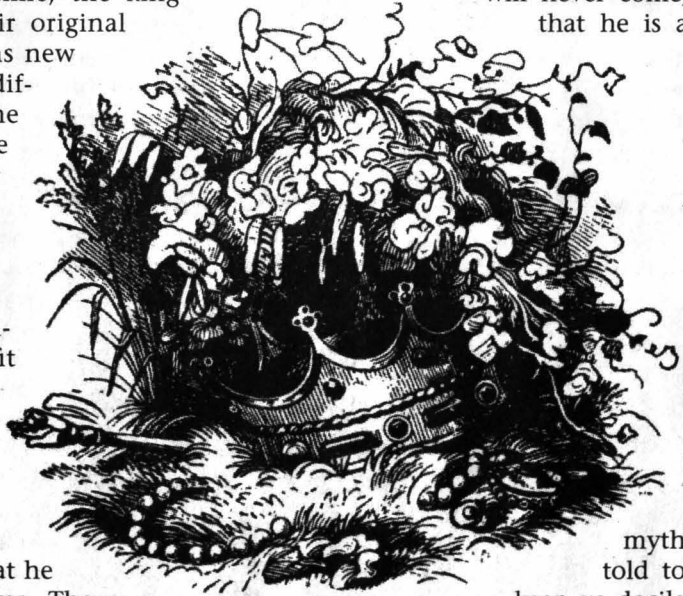
And of course, it does. Eventually, the king is so overcome by the purity and dedication of the hero that he can resist no longer. The hero is granted his just reward, and everyone lives happily ever after.

It might seem odd to suggest that this fairy tale is an accurate reflection of the mainstream model of social change, but I'm convinced that this is the case. Time and time again, we are told that the only acceptable, moral or civilized way to effect a change is through a series of inane tasks: petitions, ballot initiatives, elections and even peaceful demonstrations.

Those in power know these tasks to be impossible—that's why the trials

are assigned to us in the first place. And whenever we get close to a victory, the rules are suddenly changed to render our victory void. Yet, even those who acknowledge the futility of the process still expect us to operate by its rules. Better to petition forever and fail than to embrace an unsanctioned method and succeed, they say. We are told to abide and hope, to await the arrival of some messianic figure who can succeed at the impossible: a victory against the status quo, achieved by following its own rules.

We need to recognize that this hero will never come, that he is a



artwork by Vilhelm Pedersen and Lorenz Fröhlich

myth told to

keep us docile

and disinterested in our own liberation. Yes, his idealism, dedication and ingenuity are his greatest weapons, and we must embrace them accordingly. But to attempt victory by methods that are known to be impossible is the same as never trying at all.

It's time we accept what we've known all along: The king is cruel, selfish and sly; his game benefits no one but himself; and he will not yield without a fight. We cannot win on his terms. It's time we make our own.

—JOSH

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We welcome submissions of articles, letters, poetry and art that put the Earth first, aid in healthy debate shaping the growth of the movement and advance the creation of a world free of speciesism, classism, racism, sexism, violence, exploitation and oppression.

Article submissions should be typed or clearly printed. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via email. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

All submissions are edited for length and clarity. If an article is significantly edited, we will make a reasonable effort to contact the author prior to publication.

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Front and Back Covers: Sprocket

Inside Front: Mayfly



# Victory in Pepper Spray Torture Trial

BY TERRI COMPOST

On April 28, a California jury unanimously found the direct application of pepper spray to protesters' eyes with Q-tips to be excessive force in violation of their constitutional rights (see EFLJ November-December 2004). One juror said that the jury helped to set a precedent that "non-violent people should not have violence used against them."

When asked if Humboldt County deputies would resume using pepper spray on nonviolent protesters, Sheriff Gary Philp acknowledged the defeat, saying, "We're not going to do a practice that is just going to put us back in court."

As one of the Pepper Spray 8, the plaintiffs in this case, I am grateful for this positive outcome. It was a long, hard haul. We went through three federal jury trials and appeals to the Ninth Circuit and Supreme Courts. In the end, each of us was awarded one dollar for the violation of our rights. The county and city insurance companies will hopefully compensate our *pro bono* lawyers for their costs and fees (see page 40).

This case was an important challenge to a dangerous new practice, invented by the Humboldt County Sheriffs' Department in 1997. For many years, the police had been using grinders to cut protesters out of lock boxes. Then they decided to use torture to force us to unlock. In three incidents where people protesting the logging of old-growth redwoods refused to unlock—the third being my action in the office of former US Representative Frank Riggs—the police swabbed pepper spray directly into our eyes with Q-tips. When that wasn't successful, they fired full blasts into our eyes from only three

inches away. The police even videotaped themselves doing this.

A line had been crossed. Pepper spray was not being used for self-defense as designed, but in a controlled, non-threatening situation. It was being used to punish protesters, so that they would remain in pain whether or not they complied with the officers.

I knew that it would be hard to convince eight average US people that the police had done something wrong. The plaintiffs twice offered to settle for no money, instead focusing on discontinuing the use of chemical weapons on nonviolent protesters. The county stonewalled, however, rejected our proposals and continued to waste taxpayer money by defending police brutality.

forests and families. It is a tragic loss, and most people know it. How can this injustice continue?

I feel joy and relief when I remember that we have won a small part of our struggle. I have such warmth in my heart for the hard work of all the good people who brought this success. Our legal team—the same folks who won Judi Bari's case against the FBI—was truly a group of righteous, amazing people who put their souls into this struggle. I thank them all profusely. My co-plaintiffs were also a fine collection of beautiful people, and it was an honor and pleasure to stick it out with them. The support of people who came to the trial and filled the seats day after day really made a big difference, both

to the outcome and in the sense of support and community that I felt throughout. Humboldt County was well represented! And thank you to all of the people who wrote letters or contributed money and whose taxes paid for this case. At least we still have the jury trial system to fall back on for some justice. Sometimes it even works.

It is good to celebrate our successes, and this is certainly one. May we live for a better world. May hope and wildness thrive.

For more information, visit [www.nopepperspray.org](http://www.nopepperspray.org) or contact the Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley, CA 94702; (510) 835-6303; [bach@headwaterspreserve.org](mailto:bach@headwaterspreserve.org); [www.headwaterspreserve.org](http://www.headwaterspreserve.org).

*Terri Compost, 41, lives in Oakland, California. She works as a naturalist with the American Youth Hostel's Adventure Program, is an organic gardener and curator of the BASIL seed library at the Ecology Center, a docent at the Oakland Museum of California and a longtime Food Not Bombs activist.*



The Pepper Spray 8 plaintiffs during their second trial, in September 2004

photo by Nicholas Wilson

Perhaps this had something to do with the fact that the county lawyer also represents Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) in its ongoing Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation directed toward forest activists. The collusion between government and big business has remained quite clear in Humboldt.

Throughout the litigation struggle, we continued to bring the dialogue back to the real travesty: the looting of Humboldt County's resources by PL. As we faced off in court, PL continued its destruction, ripping apart



## DEAR SFB

### *Letters to the Editors*

.....

Dear SFB,

In the March-April issue, you gave a wolf to United Poultry Concerns President Karen Davis for her quote that the 9/11 attacks reduced suffering in the world because many of those who died in the attacks (drum roll please...) ate chicken.

Whoa. Wait a second. Let me read that again, I found myself saying, not believing the *EF!J* was applauding this woman's wingnut quote by giving her a wolf.

The quote (I know only the context the *Journal* provided) is exactly the type of eco-fascist, bizarre, myopic, single-issue insanity that sabotages efforts to build actual social movements around Earth-centered principles. The logic of this quote is that we should kill meat eaters to save chickens.

That's insane. Based on the blurb you printed about this woman's organization, it seems pretty clear that her quote is setting back her own work.

Presumably, the *Journal* was looking for a startled, misanthropic chuckle, but applauding this type of totally unstrategic, marginal perspective seems pretty counterproductive to the larger goals of saving the planet.

Arguably this quote was worth reporting on (preferably under the heading "wingnut animal rights freaks you should stay far away from if you ever want to build a movement with the breadth and appeal to transform the system..."), but it definitely shouldn't be held up as worthy of celebration.

If the *Journal* wanted to applaud courage and skill in expressing an important and under-reported analysis of 9/11, I would humbly suggest that Ward Churchill might have been a more relevant choice for a quote.

Dreaming of a stronger, smarter, more diverse movement to defend the Earth,

—PATRICK REINSBOROUGH

Dear SFB,

Political writer Arthur Koestler once wrote that if Descartes had owned a poodle, he wouldn't have argued that animals are mindless automations. While I'm thrilled that I got a "wolf" for saying that the 9/11 attacks, while terrible, reduced the amount of pain and suffering in the world by removing 3,000 chicken killers ("consumers") from the planet, I'd welcome a poodle award as well (see *EF!J* March-April 2005). I used to walk poodles for well-to-do people in San

Francisco, who pampered their captives as much as possible into becoming neurotic extensions of themselves.

I dislike the strain in environmentalism that blames domesticated animal victims, as in "blame the chickens, blame the cows" for despoiling nature and poisoning the Earth via feedlots and factory farms. These animals too are captive extensions of human malfeasance. It's not their fault they've been dragged from their natural homes and habitats into our species' manufactured hells seeping out in all directions. Likewise, a dog who has to stand there and be shaved to look like a manicured English hedge should not be further insulted by being falsely anthropomorphized. Poodles are not depraved, destructive humans any more than the wild jungle fowl called "chicken" is a factory farmer or a cockfighter. Why not pin a "Ted Nugent" or a "GW Bush" badge of infamy on humans who willfully do bad things?

Thanks for your attention,

—KAREN DAVIS

Dear SFB,

The letter from G. de LaMar in the Beltane issue kept referring to issues and asking, "Where was Sea Shepherd?" Now, it is obvious that this person does not like Sea Shepherd. Lots of people don't like us. Not that we care. But I do think that people should do a little research before making undocumented, unsubstantiated accusations.

First, the seal hunt is not conducted by poor people. Every single sealing captain makes more than I do as a captain involved with marine conservation. The average income of a sealing captain in Newfoundland from fishing is over \$100K. The average income of a Newfoundland fisherman is over \$40K.

There is not a single aboriginal person involved in the East Coast seal hunt. In fact, the slaughter diminishes the seals for the Inuit of the far north who hunt the seals in the Summer.

I don't know what criteria LaMar uses to define "poor." I myself was raised in an East Coast Canadian fishing village. I was the eldest son of six children living with a single mother. I could tell LaMar a thing or two about poverty, but the reality of my experiences might disrupt his fantasies.

Our opposition to the Canadian seal slaughter is motivated by conservation. The seals are threatened, not just by the hunt, but by global warming, which is literally melting the ice upon which the seals are born, and by toxic metal pollution and the decline of prey.

It is also a threat to the recovery of the cod fish because of the disruption of prey-predator relations between seals and fish, which has resulted in the increase of some species of fish to the detriment of others—like the cod.

Given the opportunity and the space, Alex Cornelissen could have offered a more scientific case against the seal slaughter. But what is the point? The scientific case has already been presented more accurately by people like Dr. David Lavigne or Rebecca Aldworth of the Humane Society of the United States. What did our actions achieve? We elevated the awareness of this issue on a global level and as a result we have increased the political and economic pressure on Canada to end this mass killing.

LaMar then ignorantly asks where Sea Shepherd is in reference to US Navy Sonar tests.

We are very much involved in this issue. We were the first to expose and make the link between Low Frequency Active Sonar and the killing of whales and dolphins off the Bahamas in 2001. We received national and international coverage on the issue. I guess LaMar was not watching television or reading the newspapers on that day. We not only continue to oppose sonar testing, we also oppose the use of sonar by oil companies, most recently off Siberia.

LaMar then accuses Sea Shepherd of doing nothing about salmon farming. This has also been a concern of ours for two decades. I have written extensively on this issue, and I have been widely published. As for active opposition against salmon farming, I'm sorry LaMar but that is classified information on a need to know basis, and you don't need to know.

He then goes on to ask what we are doing about drag trawlers. Gee, I don't know—how about dropping net rippers on the Tail of the Grand Banks? How about when we escorted the Cuban and Spanish drag trawlers off the Tail of the Banks in 1993, and I was arrested for that and faced life in prison? Fortunately, I was acquitted. We will be going to the Flemish Cap in a few months to drop more net rippers, LaMar, if you want to know where we will be.

We have a full-time patrol vessel, intercepting poachers in the Galapagos National Park. We have supplied equipment to the rangers of Costa Rica's Cocos Island National Park. We are providing a patrol vessel to Colombia's Malpelo National Park to intercept poachers. We are in partnership with the rangers of Fernando National Park off Brazil to oppose illegal fishing. I recently met with the President of Senegal to work on a cooperative program to oppose illegal fishing off the West African coast.

Where we are, LaMar, is out on the high seas doing what we can with the resources we

have to defend and protect the oceans. My questions to you, LaMar, is: Where the fuck are you?

Sincerely,

—CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

*Editors' Note: For more coverage of the Canadian seal hunt, see article on page 10.*

Dear *Earth First! Journal*,

I'm an activist in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, who's been working for about two years now to create a framework for activist groups, intentional communities, politically aware subcultures and others who have come to face the unhappy reality that their groups and communities are not immune to rape, sexual assault and domestic violence. As such, these groups have to

have mechanisms in place to constructively respond to survivors when they come forward to share their stories and out their attackers. Moreover, these groups need to have a process in place to hold the attackers accountable for their actions, while respecting the individual needs of each survivor.

To my knowledge, activist groups and other progressive communities almost universally screw this up—and that is as slamming a critique of our movement as is possible.

So I'm asking that this letter be published in an attempt to reach anyone and everyone with a plea for help. I am asking for those who have been a part of a group or community that has responded to a survivor

coming forward to get in touch with me and share the story of how your group responded—whether they responded positively or negatively—and offer your critique of the response as well as your suggestions as to how the response could have been more respectful of the survivor and more positive in general.

In addition to sharing stories and critiques of group processes (and lack thereof) that you've experienced, I would also ask that people pass on any resources that they have uncovered—magazine issues, position papers, books and other resources that deal with these issues from more than a theoretical place and attempt to construct a

*continued on next page*



BY FAITH M. WALKER

Some tortoises are racing across Europe, wailing. When a male Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) finally locates a member of the larger sex, he proceeds to ram her shell and bite her legs, and generally attempts to stop her waltzing about, since he can mount but not mate when she's on the move. A female responds by rushing about in an exhausting display of stamina, testing the amorous male's endurance as well as assessing his sweet talk. Like many tortoises, this species only vocalizes during courtship. The male, while mounted, unleashes his mating cry, a high-pitched, squeaky wail. His chelonian cherub is impressed if it's very squeaky and very fast—so impressed that she'll copulate with her clambering, carapaced caller.

Smaller males have sex at a younger age and are more athletic than their beefy brethren, and thus are more successful in their quest for females when roaming across the landscape. They're also better at delivering high-pitched calls. Hence, there's selection for smaller males. Further, tortoises with rapid wailings have higher aerobic capacities than more lackadaisical callers, so rate is a good indication of fitness. Thus, this is another example of an honest signal of male quality: a female uses a suitor's call to judge his health and vigor, and benefits by birthing small, sexy squeakers.





continued from previous page  
process for communities to actively respond.

Finally a quick recognition that yes, I am a man doing this work. Just to speak in general terms for a moment, rape and domestic violence are social manifestations of men's weaknesses and problems.

For the most part, men are the ones who are creating the need for safe shelters and rape crisis centers, and as such men should feel a large degree of collective responsibility toward dealing with these problems and supporting survivors. Moreover, women have been trying to end rape and domestic violence for thousands of years—it's about time they get some help from men.

To get in touch or to offer help please contact me at Apt. 1B, 445-5th Ave N, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 2P8, Canada or email me at dlyonsmorgan@yahoo.ca, although paper mail is always preferred to email!

Thanks in advance for any help you can give me.

—DAVE

Dear Opinions for Brains,

A few statements in the Eo-star issue deserve comment.

Jim Flynn's comments: Fact is, alliances between EF! (and other eco-activists) and indigenous people are more extensive than "occasional" or "not very often." Granted, not all EF!ers work the eco-indigenous realm, but the last several decades brought

many examples of long-term, highly critical alliances that still evolve and grow.

Black Mesa in Dinetah ("4 corners"); anti-nuke/anti-mining struggles in Newe Sogobia ("Nevada"); Buffalo Field Campaign in the Greater Yellowstone; the rainforests in Canada; and Minnehaha in Minnesota are a few (on this continent) highly successful and evolutionary interrelationships that this Movement cultivated across cultural and racial lines. These efforts experienced serious issues and problems through the years, yet they continue to evolve.

While it is understandable that people not working this realm would not recognize the depth and scope of these historic struggles and the alliances they foster, they should be cautious with objective assessments of such revolutionary developments. Earth First! is a movement—not an organization—and thus represents a diverse, multifaceted plethora of angles and approaches to defending Earth and Life.

Nobody can say *all* EF!ers should work on indigenous cultural preservation and land-rights struggles—or that *all* EF!ers should sit in trees; file appeals and lawsuits; sab hunt or labs; work w/poor urban communities on racism/police brutality issues; vote (or not vote); blockade roads and occupy offices; riot, spike trees, wrench 'dozers or torch

developments (or *not* riot, spike trees, wrench 'dozers or torch developments); attend (or quit) graduate school; or tour as radical musicians, artists, writers and performers. All these approaches and more will do the job; humyns made the mess—humyns must fix it.

The fantasy of humyn extinction solving the problems represents a dangerous cop-out: Hundreds of thousands of years hence, the biotic community would face continual "detonation" of the chemical, bacteriological and radioactive time-bombs with which our wonderful species littered the globe—from the ocean bottom to the Moon. Alliances between diverse humyn communities are a necessary, vital component to the task, especially with cataclysmic climate change, peak fossil-fuel production, and lack of arable land and clean water.

In this sense, there is a place for humanity within the Movement—and efforts by activists and indigenous peoples to promote and support the physical, mental, spiritual, emotional and communal health of eco-revolutionaries are crucial to the survival of the biotic community. Nothing here confronts ecocentrism; indeed, it represents crucial underpinnings to the survival, spread and flourishing of ecocentric ways necessary to stop the slaughter of Life itself.

The Indigenous Ones know this, which is one reason why indigenous cultural preservation is a vital component of Revolutionary Ecology.

A great humyn die-off may be inevitable and necessary, but that is not enough to prevent ecological collapse. Humyns affiliating with ecocentrism increase the chances for long-term survival for all species.

Swamp Thing's gem of wisdom re: affinity cells proactively assessing their actions: Our work is much easier if we are receptive to the perspectives of poor/working classes also being driven into hell by corporate capitalism.

We learn from them—and they from us.

Che Guevara was very wise, and understood that a guerilla movement without support from common folk is doomed. While such alliances are not always possible, in many places they thrive: Katúah, for instance, or the gardens projects in the cities. "EF!ers" are not the only people picking up the pen, the videocam, the U-lock, the wrench—or the torch....

Kathy Nelson's disappointing rant brings to mind a poignant statement an awesome African-American labor organizer from Oakland, CA made when addressing the EF! Organizers' Conference in 2003: "Show these people from the '60s to the door!"

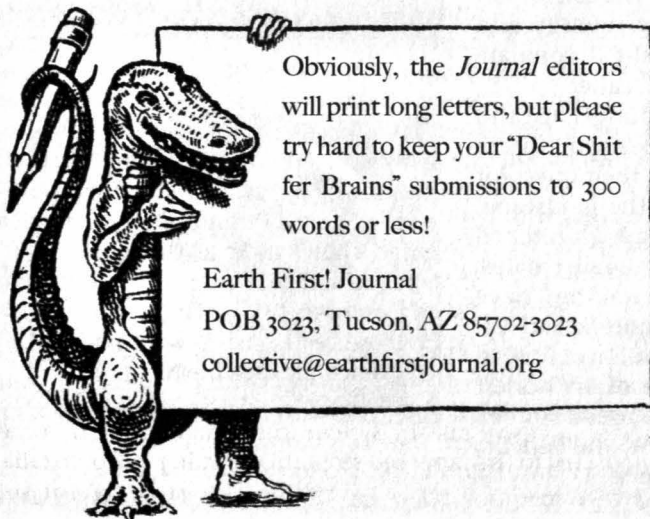
That statement seemed prejudiced—based on generational divisions—but soon I understood him. Many in that generation labor under the misconception that they were the first and last word in "revolution."

This privilege-based, self-centered arrogance among the white middle class (the "Crown of Creation") ruined the last revolutionary effort and left poorer, nonwhite communities vulnerable to violent, crushing repression. Facing the greatest mass extinction in Earth's history, we cannot afford to hide and reminisce.

Timothy Leary knew nothing of ecocentrism, environmental justice, or Earth-based cultures and struggles; his soapbox was more about individual freedoms than anything else. Abbie Hoffman was more cognizant of perspectives outside his subculture, race and class—but his own self-absorption enabled the Man to silence him.

Ms. Nelson's withdrawal from the *EF!J* roster felt like more of that "things-aren't-going-according-to-my-expectations-so-I-quit!" mindset that ultimately washed out the Woodstock Nation. Sorry, Kathy—it sounds like you know where the door is....

—STRIDER LONGSHANKS



# What's So Revolutionary About



photo courtesy El Libertario

## Venezuelan Coal?

*Barí warriors shooting arrows at Coal (Death) at a protest in Caracas, Venezuela*

BY CHRISTIAN GUERRERO

In recent months, the Venezuelan government has announced its intentions to quadruple its extraction of coal in the western state of Zulia—from eight million to 36 million metric tons per year. This long-term, energy-sector expansion project falls into a much larger development plan, which has come into sharp conflict with communities and environmental interests in the region. In seeming contrast to the anti-imperialist rhetoric of President Hugo Chávez Frías, Big Coal and Big Oil figure heavily into Venezuela's plans for development and "revolutionary process." But indigenous communities and radical ecologists throughout the region are fighting back in defense of the land, the water and their way of life.

### Exploiting the Sierra de Perijá

Zulia has historically been the cradle of the nation's oil wealth, generating hundreds of billions of dollars for foreign oil companies since the 1920s. It is also a region where many traditional indigenous communities continue to defend their last-remaining ancestral lands. For decades, Barí, Yukpa and Wayúu tribes have resisted encroachment by oil, mining, ranching and timber interests.

In the last 15 years, entire Wayúu communities have been forced off of their lands in the Guasare-Socuy river valley in northwestern Zulia, immediately north of the Sierra de Perijá mountain range. The primary culprit in the relocation has been the metal-laden dust produced by two open-pit coal mines run by Corpozulia (the regional development agency), along with foreign, private mining firms. Exposure to this dust can cause pneumoconiosis, a respiratory disease that can also lead to lung cancer. The government wants to increase the volume of coal exploited in the region, with new mining concessions spanning more than 620,000 acres—an area that includes the entire eastern foothills region of the Sierra de Perijá.

Dividing Venezuela and Colombia, the Sierra de Perijá is home to one of Venezuela's premier national parks, with

humid to subhumid tropical rainforests and high-mountain grasslands extending across 700,000 acres. The park harbors such rare fauna as the black eagle, capuchin monkey and Andean bear. The Sierra de Perijá is a key source of fresh water in the region, birthing rivers and rich riparian ecosystems that are also important sources of food security for river basin communities.

The ecologically rich Sierra de Perijá is also the premier coal reserve in the country, with estimated deposits of 400 million metric tons.

### More than Mining

Zulia's state capital, Maracaibo, with a sprawling population of approximately three million, has always had severe water shortages—in spite of being the most developed metropolis in western Venezuela. The Tulé and Manuelote reservoirs—the city's only sources of fresh water—are fed by the Cachirí, Socuy and Maché rivers, all of which originate in the Sierra de Perijá. The region has already seen its water supply contaminated by coal-mining operations, which use the Socuy river to "wash" coal during the collection and separation processes. Ironically, Maracaibo sits on the coast of Lake Maracaibo, one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. Contaminated by decades of oil exploitation, Lake Maracaibo is no longer safe to swim in.

In addition to increased coal mining, Chávez has chosen Zulia as the site for Puerto America—a mega-industrial seaport for the export of coal, oil, petrochemicals and other "goods" (or bads) to the US and Europe. Puerto America would be built atop three islands at Lake Maracaibo's outlet to the Gulf of Venezuela. These islands are home to unique, artisan fishing communities, which maintain a modest lifestyle and a close relationship with nearby Los Olivitos, a nature preserve for rare sea birds.

Chávez's plans also include a coal-powered electric plant and an extensive railway system to facilitate the transportation of coal to the proposed seaport. According to Corpozulia,

*continued on next page*

continued from previous page

these expanded coal concessions and parallel transportation projects are set to begin next year, with hundreds of millions of dollars in funding from the World Bank.

## Indigenous Resistance

Since the government announced its plans to increase the volume of coal exploited in Zulia, indigenous communities and environmental groups of all colors have banded together in a resistance movement to save Maracaibo's water sources and the Sierra de Perijá.

On March 18, a crowd of 3,000, mostly Yukpa and Barí, marched 12 miles to the city of Machiques, a small farming town close to the proposed mining concessions. After reaching the city, the crowd overtook the central plaza for a rally and occupied the mayor's office, shooting arrows and breaking through the front door. Their main slogan: "No al Carbón [Coal] en la Sierra de Perijá."

Earlier that month, a Chilean mining company called MIACCA announced that two of its coal transport trucks had been "destroyed" and a Chilean mining engineer had been kidnapped. Shortly afterward, Barí warriors released the captive engineer unharmed and admitted responsibility for "disabling" the two transport trucks. The warriors declared their total opposition to coal mining in the Sierra de Perijá.

Then on March 31, thousands of protesters took to the streets of Caracas in an attempt to personally meet with Chávez and ask him for the cancellation of the expanded concessions. The protesters also demanded the immediate recognition of indigenous lands, as outlined in Venezuela's new "Bolivarian Constitution" and Indigenous Territory Demarcation Law. Hundreds of protesters traveled overnight in a five-bus caravan from Zulia, a mostly indigenous contingent composed of Wayúu from the Guasare-Socuy valley (communities already affected by mines in their region) and Yukpa and Barí from the Sierra de Perijá (communities resisting the opening of new mines in their territories). A large group of university students and adults from Maracaibo also joined the caravan; among them were former mine employees protesting the lack of health and safety standards in the mining operations.

These groups were met in Caracas by hundreds of protesters from throughout Venezuela, representing a wide spectrum of social, human rights and environmental groups. Many of those who attended are supporters of the populist Chávez government and its sociopolitical movement, the "Bolivarian revolutionary process," but they feel that the plans of the coal industry are not in the best interests of Zulia or the local communities.

The demonstration ended late in the evening, without a meeting with Chávez. The president was "too busy" to attend to the thousands of protesters in the streets because he was in a high-profile meeting with the Argentinean soccer legend and renowned party animal, Diego Maradona.

The next day, Corpozulia paid for full-page, color publicity spots disguised as editorials in all of the local Chávez-friendly newspapers, leading one to suspect that the ads' claims of a "commitment to the environment and the affected communities" were meant to equate coal with the progress of the "Bolivarian revolution" in people's minds. The reality is that behind these green-washing projects lies a greater development plan, one that receives little attention.

## Connecting the Dots

All of the development projects in question have been negotiated behind closed doors and without the consent of local communities. The appropriate question to ask would be: Who is at the drawing board when it comes to these long-term energy and transportation plans? The names of the multinational corporations investing in the region are too many to list, but they include all of the usual suspects in Big Oil—ChevronTexaco being Chávez's favorite darling.

The Venezuelan Ministry of Development and Planning calls the coordinated Zulia initiatives the "Western Axis of Development," which is one of three axes designated for Venezuela within the South American Regional Infrastructure Integration Initiative (IIRSA).

Funded in part by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Andean Development Corporation, IIRSA is a

regional initiative aimed at integrating and synchronizing strategic infrastructure projects, which will facilitate a "more efficient" exploitation of human and natural resources. IIRSA seeks multi-state cooperation and funding for a wide range of sectors, such as transportation (land, sea and air), information technology and communications, borders, ports and energy markets. Zulia's coal industry and Puerto America are the cornerstones of Venezuela's participation in IIRSA, mostly because



Marching against coal in Caracas, Venezuela

they facilitate a gradual connection of South America to the Central American infrastructural integration initiative, Plan Puebla Panama (PPP) (see *EFJ* November-December 2004). Along with the recently announced gas pipeline between Colombia and Venezuela (*Gasoducto Trans-Guajira*) and the largest heavy crude oil reserves in the Western Hemisphere in Venezuela's Orinoco river basin, the Zulia projects have allowed Chávez, Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and their closest associates in Big Coal and Big Oil to secure 50 years worth of cheap and reliable fossil fuels for the First World's unsustainable and growing energy markets.

Unlike other international "cooperation" initiatives such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), PPP or even Plan Colombia—which are overtly despised by the Venezuelan government—IIRSA has received little or no local media attention. This is because Venezuela's government has been openly in favor of the initiative, marketing it as a step toward Simón Bolívar's dream of a united South America composed of independent states. But what is not being discussed are the social and ecological impacts that

# Venezuelans and Appalachians Unite!

BY COMMUNITIES AGAINST COAL

Indigenous people in Venezuela are rising up against large-scale coal projects that threaten their communities. Meanwhile, Mountain Justice Summer is raising hell in Appalachia, igniting a mass movement to dethrone King Coal once and for all (see page 16). All around the world, power-hungry and unimaginative politicians continue to support archaic fossil-fuel industries, with coal leading the way; and all around the world, local communities are resisting.

Organizers in Appalachia and Venezuela have been coordinating, plotting a hemisphere-wide alliance of grassroots groups. After all, the coal companies are international; it only makes sense that the resistance be as well. Ideally, this network will include folks from the coalfields, indigenous people defending their land and sovereignty, environmental justice groups fighting the poison spewed by coal plants, and anyone who is harmed by coal extraction, processing, transportation or burning.

Together, we are planning local actions for the Day of Action Against Climate Change, a project of anti-G8 organizing in Scotland. We plan to put forth a coordinated message against coal as a primary energy source and use the flurry of international activity to highlight our local struggles.

We invite you to join us on July 8! Is there a mercury-ridden coal plant near you? Are you sick of seeing mountains bulldozed for cheap electricity? Take action to educate your community about a local social and environmental hazard, or simply to express your solidarity with battles being waged in Venezuela, Appalachia and elsewhere.



photo courtesy: El Libertario, www.nodo50.org/elibertario

Anarchist punks in Caracas, Venezuela, protest in solidarity with indigenous tribes.

Or join us in Richmond, Virginia, as we descend on the headquarters of Massey Energy, the most heinous coal corporation in the Eastern US. Bring your affinity group and plans for decentralized action!

Nationally and internationally, we must make it clear that coal kills, whether in the coalfields of Appalachia, the jungles of Venezuela or the low-income urban neighborhoods where it's burned.

For more information or to join the growing network of anti-coal activists, contact [communitiesagainstcoal@yahoo.com](mailto:communitiesagainstcoal@yahoo.com); [mountainjusticesummer@yahoo.com](mailto:mountainjusticesummer@yahoo.com); or, in Spanish, [noalcarbon@riseup.net](mailto:noalcarbon@riseup.net).

## Day of Action Against Climate Change • July 8

these "cooperation projects" will have on local communities and the natural environment.

The campaign to stop coal mining and save Maracaibo's water and the Sierra de Perijá has opened a much larger can of worms. "No al PPP" and "No al IIRSA" have become standard messages that activists in these struggles are using to connect the dots between the many industrial development projects taking place in the region. This has not come without a propaganda backlash from the "revolutionary government."

### Propaganda Wars

On April 22, an Earth Day march to Corpozulia's headquarters in Maracaibo turned into a media stunt propagated by General Carlos Martínez Mendoza, head of Corpozulia. As with many other important positions in the Venezuelan government, military officers in business suits are calling the shots at Corpozulia. Martínez, getting word of yet another annoying indigenous protest, called for a rally of coal supporters in front of the office. Contracting coal truckers and other Corpozulia mining employees, the "counter-march" was reminiscent of the tactics of anti-Chávez forces during their fights with the president's supporters in 2002 and 2004. Martínez claimed that the counter-march was spontaneous

and that he was surprised to see the "overwhelming support for Zulia's mining industry." He failed to explain how the "spontaneous" counter-march had arranged for streets to be blocked off by police and for a huge rally stage with concert-like sound equipment to be set up in front of Corpozulia.

The original, anti-Corpozulia march was organized by the Union of Alternative Collectives (UCA), a broad group of radical ecologists, music bands, and video and street artists. This Earth First!esque collective has been carrying out a popular education campaign by visiting various communities that are slated to be affected by the proposed mining and transportation projects. By making face-to-face contact with the communities, conducting workshops, and sharing experiences, video documentaries and music, this collective has done a considerable job in revealing how all the development projects are intimately connected.

For more information about how you can help fight coal mining and save the rivers and mountains of the Sierra de Perijá, contact UCA, [noalcarbon@riseup.net](mailto:noalcarbon@riseup.net); [www.noalg8.contrapoder.org.ve](http://www.noalg8.contrapoder.org.ve).

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# CONFRONTING THE SLAUGHTER

## ON THE FRONTLINES OF CANADA'S SEAL HUNT



photo by Spockett

BY TURTLE

**I**T IS JUST BEFORE SUNSET AT THE END OF another crisp, clear day out on the ice. It is also the eve of Canada's commercial harp seal hunt, and a friend and I have climbed up to the crow's nest of the *Farley Mowat* to better take in our surroundings. We had desperately wanted to travel to the ice floes in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to play our part in disrupting the largest marine mammal slaughter in the world; early the next morning, the killing would begin (see *EFJ* March-April 2005).

This moment was a long time in coming. Following years of reading stories and watching video footage that showed the gruesome nature of the Canadian seal hunt, I had regularly felt at a loss, without any real way to contribute to ending this massacre. My friend and I knew that the only place we wanted to be was onboard the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's vessel. For the first time since 1998, the ship was poised and ready for action out on the ice.

Sea Shepherd cut its teeth protesting Canada's seal hunt in the 1970s, and Captain Paul Watson was proud that his was a maverick, direct-action organization, committed to defending the world's oceans.

"The days of being manipulated by the moderates were over. We made no excuses. We sank ships, we rammed ships, we made waves, rocked the boat, and stood up to proclaim that we were mad as hell and definitely did not intend to take it anymore." These words echoed loudly as I read passages from Watson's book *Ocean Warrior*.

I, too, was mad as hell that the seal hunt continues even after so many years of protest. I expected the next morning to be full of action, yet incredibly gut-wrenching as well.

Heavy winds and rain rolled in under the cover of darkness that night. Initially, we thought that these conditions might postpone the killing, but soon we caught glimpses

of hunters out on the ice in the distance—their hakapiks raised in the air.

I was aware that if we were to be effective in coming between the sealers and the seals, we would need to suspend our emotions temporarily. Time and again, I watched sealers run quickly across the ice, hit a seal on the head as many as nine times in a row, drag the lifeless body back to the boat, haul it onboard and scurry off to the next kill. A few moments later, what was left of the seal's carcass would be thrown overboard.

Our captain didn't want to rush into a plan of action hastily. We would sit back for a while and watch the events unfold around us. The waiting hardened my spirit.

**H**UNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF BABY SEALS endure an immeasurable amount of suffering each Spring so that their skins can be turned into fur coats. These infants are between 12 days and four months old, and many have not even taken their first swim or eaten their first solid meal when they are killed. After being struck by a hakapik, many pups, with blood seeping from their bodies, will cling to life for hours before they pass silently away. The blood-stains cover large swaths of ice, and thousands of carcasses are left behind to rot—far from the public eye.

Several years ago, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) announced a kill quota of 975,000 harp seals and 30,000 hood seals between 2003 and 2005. In short, DFO declared war on the seals.

When European explorers first came to the eastern coast of Canada, an estimated 30 million harp, hood and gray seals were thriving. Today, after years of overfishing of the cod population and overhunting of the seals, many scientists and environmentalists argue that the annual hunt has become

a threat to the survival of these species. Even the US Senate passed a resolution earlier this year, urging the Canadian government to end the commercial hunt of seals.

Yet Canadian Minister of Natural Resources John Efford maintains, "I would like to see the six million seals, or whatever number is out there, killed and sold, or destroyed or burned. I do not care what happens to them. The more they kill, the better I will love it."

**B**ACK ON THE STORM-PLAGUED ICE, A HANDFUL of sealing boats were in trouble and issued distress calls over the radio. These small, wooden boats would not be able to successfully navigate the ice floes without assistance from the Canadian Coast Guard. But the Coast Guard told many of these sealers that they would simply have to wait in line to be rescued. Out of the two Coast Guard icebreakers in the vicinity, one was preoccupied watching over our ship.

Knowing that the kill quota would be filled in just three to five days, each boat of sealers was in a hurry to capture as many seals as it could. We were perched near one such boat, the *Newfoundland Leader*, when the Coast Guard's *Amundsen* made itself known.

Via the radio, officials gave us warning that we were in violation of the Seal Protection Act by being within a half nautical mile of sealing activity without a permit. They said that we needed to move our vessel further from the sealing boat, or action would be taken against us.

Out on the ice, there really was nowhere to go—and we didn't want to leave anyway. Then, looking out the starboard windows, I saw the *Amundsen* barreling toward us and picking up speed—plowing past the seals in its path, clearly on a collision course with the *Farley Mowat*.

It was a near miss, as our ship got out of the way just in time. Someone on the *Amundsen* radioed to inform us that he had orders to take whatever action was necessary to stop us. He suggested that our captain inform the crew to clear the bow of the *Farley Mowat* for our own safety. When the Coast Guard was asked if this was a threat, the radio was quiet.

Next, it was a sealing boat, the *Gulf Clipper*, that was attempting to ram us, backing its stern at full speed toward our bow. We again backed away to avoid a collision. I was told that Sea Shepherd didn't want to face an endless legal battle over which boat did the ramming—it would be our word against theirs. Plus, our captain didn't want us out of commission only a few hours into the hunt. He was focused on documenting the atrocity of the killing.

Even just observing with our cameras, not even out on the ice ourselves, we were still a threat. The captain of the *Gulf Clipper* came out and pointed a rifle at one of our crew. The radio was going wild with threats directed toward us from countless sealers.

Later that day, I noticed a number of seals between us and a sealing boat. Though we were closer, the sealers aboard the *Avalon Venture* were closing in fast. We pulled the *Farley*

*Mowat* up to the pan of ice, and 16 crewmembers jumped out and ran to the seals.

By the time we reached them, a handful had already been taken. Yet using our presence, we were able to protect another group of seal pups huddled together. The sealers avoided confrontation and went to where they would not be bothered.

As I watched the sealers leave, I wished we could encircle the *Avalon Venture* and block it from going off to kill more seals. But there was open water everywhere, interspersed with the solid ice, and the *Avalon Venture* was fast and mobile. I knew that we had protected these particular seals for the moment, and we had given them a chance to survive. But wherever the *Avalon Venture* was headed, other seals would be the victims. This interaction would help me realize that even here out on the ice, we could do nothing to stop the quota from being reached this year.

**W**E WOULD ULTIMATELY HAVE JUST AS MANY encounters with living seals as we had with the sealers. I know I was not the first to feel that harp seals are some of the most beautiful and gentle creatures on the planet. The Sea Shepherd crew sprayed organic dye on the backs of the seal pups when we could, a few dozen individuals in total, hoping that if these seals came in contact with sealers, their "ruined," unmarketable pelts would spare their lives.

The seal pelt industry would not be economically viable if it weren't for the subsidies doled out by the Canadian government, which spends millions of dollars to provide icebreakers, helicopters and Coast Guard personnel to regulate the hunt.

The *Farley Mowat* continued to push through the ice. The remains of dozens of seal carcasses littered the landscape, which was now a thousand shades of red. These seals, skinned on the ice, looked at us with what was left of their hollow, vacant eyes. Not entirely deadened to all that we had seen up until this point, much of the crew fell silent. If we had been there sooner, perhaps we could have intervened. Again, we grasped that we couldn't cover the entire area of the hunt with our solitary boat; we needed an entire fleet.

**T**HEN CAME THE LAST DAY I SPENT AT THE hunt. About a mile away, a sealing boat sat locked in the ice. As 18 of us approached the *Brady Mariner* crew on foot, I could not make out any sealing activity on their part, although the sealers would later claim that they were indeed out hunting.

A confrontation swiftly ensued, and harsh words were exchanged. The captain of the *Brady Mariner* was clearly agitated. Several of the Sea Shepherd volunteers were assaulted—some were punched in the face; others had their cameras hit with hakapiks and clubs. None of these seal advocates responded with any sort of physical aggression, and the entire exchange was captured on film.

*continued on next page*



photo courtesy Sea Shepherd

Sea Shepherd faces off with the Canadian Coast Guard.

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As hastily as we came together, the two parties split up to return to our respective ships. Yet more trouble was on the horizon: The *Amundsen* was fast approaching. Before everyone on our crew could make it safely back to the *Farley Mowat*, this towering Coast Guard vessel pulled up to block our return passage.

We tried to find ways around the *Amundsen*, but this proved to be extremely difficult. It was awkward to run on the ice, and it seemed unsafe to hide where the Coast Guard might unknowingly crush us or our own ship might leave us behind. Eleven of us were arrested out on the ice—some transported to the *Amundsen* by helicopter, others dragged across the ice and hauled up the gangplank. The arresting officers used threats and pain compliance holds to try to force us to cooperate, with very limited success.

From our jail cell on Prince Edward Island, I reminded myself that the real heroes out on the remote ice floes are the young seals who struggle so valiantly—the seals who would raise their heads high in the air, with their mouths open wide, as a sealer hovered above them.

Much to the chagrin of the prosecutor, we argued that even if bail were set, we would not pay it; we would stay in jail on hunger strike until released. The day after our arrest, our judge commented that people are allowed to protest and that protests will continue as long as the seal hunt continues. He released us without bail. We made it clear that Sea Shepherd intends to challenge the “Seal Protection Act” regulations in court.

**W**HILE WE WERE TIED UP IN THE COURTHOUSE, a film crew from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and various representatives of the media were assaulted by sealers on the ice. One sealer fired warn-

ing shots into the air. I’m told that during previous years, there has been a media blackout in Canada in regards to the seal hunt. This year, Canadian journalists were shot at, the hunt made national and international headlines, and everywhere we went in the Maritime provinces, people were aware of what was happening to the seal pups.

I’m sure that the very presence of the *Farley Mowat* helped generate this attention. From the boat, more than 100 interviews were conducted with the international press.

By the end of the hunt in the gulf region, two sealing boats had sunk, others were abandoned and still others were damaged due to the severe weather. One Newfoundland sealer was overheard on the radio saying, “These seals ain’t worth this trouble.”

**F**OLLOWING OUR ARREST, THERE WAS NO EASY way for us all to get back to the ship, which was still positioned out in the gulf. So while I headed for home, the *Farley Mowat* sailed north to the Labrador Front for the second phase of the killing. This voyage marked the first time that a conservation ship had traveled the coast of Newfoundland while surrounded by the sealing fleet. What transpired was similar to what I witnessed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Once again, the regional kill quota was reached in just a couple of days.

According to Captain Watson, “We were the first group into the ice and the last group to leave. We will be back next year, hopefully with a better ship and more resources.” Watson believes that this year was the strongest protest against the seal slaughter since the 1980s—with participation from Sea Shepherd, helicopters from IFAW and the Humane Society of the US (HSUS) flying to the ice daily to document events, and dozens of protests held around the world.

I agree that this year was a peak in recent protests against

the seal hunt. But we didn't sink or ram ships like reading *Ocean Warrior* had promised me; more importantly, we didn't stand up and proclaim that we did not intend to take it anymore. We watched thousands of seals being slaughtered from a distance. Then we made some waves and rocked the boat a little.

When I first climbed onboard the *Farley Mowat*, I was told that the seal campaign would be broken into two segments. First, there would be a photo shoot, with celebrities posing with the seals to generate media attention. Then when the hunt started, activists would take to the ice.

But when the hunt started, there wasn't much opportunity to go out onto the ice because it was so broken up. It also seemed as though Sea Shepherd's primary goal was actually to document what happened and that disruption would happen only if and when the opportunity presented itself. And only at the crew's urging.

While I do feel strongly that we were heavily outnumbered and that public opinion is what will ultimately determine the future of the seal hunt, I believe that Sea Shepherd's role is to be the uncompromising force amongst the seal defenders. IFAW and HSUS take plenty of disturbing footage and photographs of the slaughter each year—with their vast resources, photographers and helicopters that allow them to travel to the heart of the killing. If the hunt continues, maybe next year Sea Shepherd will be successful in creatively generating attention with its ship by engaging in more direct action.

I imagine that the entire Sea Shepherd crew left the ice understanding the issues surrounding the hunt more intimately. As in any campaign, it is my hope that this group does not internalize what it saw, and that we will use our knowledge and experience to play a role in stopping the hunt in the months to come. It is our responsibility to cry out now, before any more bloodshed can take place.

**A** "SEAL FORUM," WHERE PEOPLE WILL HAVE an opportunity to discuss the next multi-year seal management plan, is being planned by DFO for this Fall. In preparation for that event, DFO announced in May that based upon recent scientific information and "eye-ball estimates" from sealers, the harp seal population is estimated at 5.9 million individuals—up from 5.5 million seals in 2000.

"These figures clearly indicate that the harp seal population remains stable and healthy, and that the hunt is managed in a way that ensures the conservation of the herd as well as the sustainability of a continued hunt," said Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Geoff Regan.

"I was out [on the ice floes] for two months this year, and I can tell you that there are not six million seals out there," Captain Watson responded. "Canada wants these seals wasted; they want them gone and obliterated. I will not be surprised to see the [new] quota set between 400,000 and half a million seals a year."

With Canada intending to announce a kill quota for 2006 by the end of the year, I'm hopeful that what happens at the seal forum, including any protests during the discussions and leading up to that point, could tip the scales in favor of the seals.

And with its 30 years of experience protesting the seal

hunt, I'm looking to Sea Shepherd to remember—as Captain Watson himself once expressed—that the only effective means of communication with DFO have been confrontation, controversy and conflict. From this vantage point, hunt opponents are organizing an international boycott of Canadian seafood—assuming that the Canadian government will understand the language of profit and loss. The DFO itself has stated that the hunt will end only if the fishing industry demands it.

Besides boycotting Canadian seafood, other ways to take action might include organizing hunt sabotage efforts locally, volunteering to crew with Sea Shepherd to help defend the world's oceans and protesting seal hunt activities elsewhere around the globe that do not get as much attention but are every bit as horrid.

For more information, visit [www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org); [www.harpseals.org](http://www.harpseals.org); [www.protectseals.org](http://www.protectseals.org).

*Turtle wants to thank Ian for sticking with her through the*

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SEALS?



With fashion designers such as Prada and Dolce & Gabbana selling sealskin apparel, the demand for seal pelts is currently skyrocketing. Birger Christensen sells and exports seal fur manufactured under these two labels. Contact Birger Christensen, Via Goldoni, 10, 20129 Milano, Italy; [bc@birger-christensen.com](mailto:bc@birger-christensen.com); [www.birger-christensen.com](http://www.birger-christensen.com).

Atlantic Marine Products is the largest seal pelt processing company, and it has a plant in Catalina, Newfoundland, that is capable of handling up to 150,000 pelts each year. A promotional brochure states, "We keep our warehouse well-stocked at all times." In Catalina, the company claims, "The harvesting and processing of seals forms a community event involving many local residents." The plant employs approximately 45 people out of Catalina's fewer than 1,000 residents. Contact Atlantic Marine Products, POB 39, Catalina, NF A0C 1J0, Canada; (709) 785-7387; (709) 785-1333 (fax); [mduchesne.amp@nfld.net](mailto:mduchesne.amp@nfld.net); [aag819@thezone.net](mailto:aag819@thezone.net).

Owned by a Norwegian corporation, Carino is another major processor of seal pelts. It has a plant in a small industrial complex next to a fish processing plant in South Dildo, Newfoundland. Employees keep a low profile, and there are no signs that identify the Carino building.

*Information from [www.harpseals.org](http://www.harpseals.org).*



# SHEPHERDS OF THE SEA:

## 30 YEARS CAMPAIGNING FOR THE SEALS

1976: Fourteen members of the Greenpeace Foundation intervene against the seal hunt off the coast of Labrador. Robert Hunter and Paul Watson stand on the ice in the path of the *Arctic Endeavor*, forcing it to stop. In response, the Canadian government passes legislation against interfering with a seal hunt.

1977: In an effort to stop the operation of a sealing ship, Watson handcuffs himself to the winch line. The sealers drag him across the ice, repeatedly plunge him into the water and slam him into the side of the ship.

1979: Watson takes the *Sea Shepherd* to the ice floes near the Magdalen Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Eight of the crew are arrested for spraying red dye on more than 1,000 seals.

1983: The *Sea Shepherd II* blockades the harbor at St. John's, Newfoundland, preventing the Canadian sealing fleet from leaving for two weeks. Later, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadian Coast Guard units ram the *Sea Shepherd* ship. The crew is arrested on charges of conspiracy to violate the "Seal Protection Act."

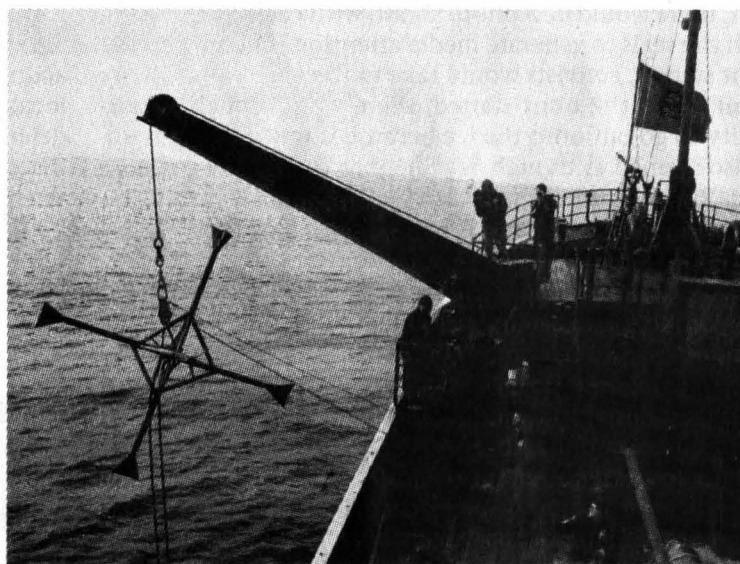
1984: The commercial hunt is shut down following the European Parliament's ban of harp seal pelts.

1995: Canada announces the full-scale resumption of commercial sealing. A mob of sealers takes over a hotel where Watson, *Sea Shepherd* volunteers and representatives of the media are staying in the Magdalen Islands. Sealers break down the door to Watson's room and assault him.

1998: The *Sea Shepherd III* becomes the first conservation vessel to travel to the Canadian seal hunt since 1983. The crew stakes out the largest floating nursery in the gulf for a week, and the sealers stay away.

2004: *Sea Shepherd* successfully undermines the market for seal products. Costco Wholesale Corporation pulls seal oil capsules from its shelves in St. John's, Newfoundland, when a *Sea Shepherd* representative provides information about the sealing industry.

For more info., visit [www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org).



photos courtesy Sea Shepherd

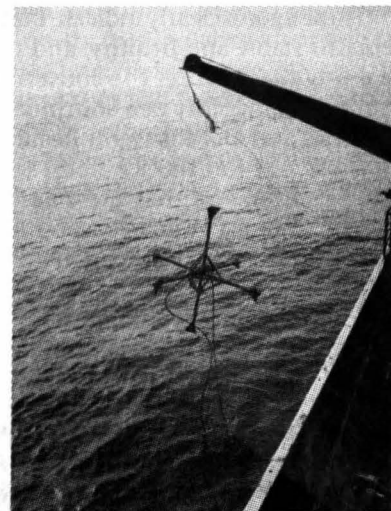
### SEA SHEPHERD "SPIKES" OCEAN NEAR NEWFOUNDLAND

In April, the *Sea Shepherd* Conservation Society's flagship, the *Farley Mowat*, deployed 16 net rippers off the coast of Newfoundland in an effort to thwart the remaining drag trawlers scouring the bottom of the depleted Tail of the Grand Banks fishery.

Each net ripper weighs about 1,500 pounds, is secured to the ocean floor with two anchors and bears 18 blades with which to thrash any trawling net that comes across it. *Sea Shepherd* has documented and encrypted the Global Positioning System coordinates of the net rippers, which it affectionately refers to as "aquatic caltrops."

*Sea Shepherd* Captain Paul Watson explained the need for such an action, saying, "These banks once crawled with draggers working the bottom like maggots eating a corpse. Now that the fish have been diminished, the number of scavenger draggers has dwindled, but they still come to pick the bones of the Tail of the Banks and when they do, we hope they find our little gifts."

In recent years, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has stated its intention to stop foreign trawlers from catching protected species outside Canadian waters. However, its actions have failed to significantly affect trawler activity. *Sea Shepherd* hopes that the net rippers will prove more effective and convince the DFO to adopt a similar approach.



# IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT HUNTER



photo by Robert Keziew/Greenpeace

Robert Hunter en route to Amchitka to stop nuclear testing in the 1970s

BY CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

On May 2, my lifelong friend and teacher Robert Hunter died of prostate cancer. He was one of the most inspiring and visionary environmentalists of our time.

There are many of us who could be called co-founders of Greenpeace, yet Bob was *the* founding father of the Greenpeace Foundation.

Like veterans of a long war, we have all kept aware of each other for three-and-a-half decades. Some of us have remained friends, and some of us are now sworn enemies. But most of us will forever hold a special place in our hearts for Bob.

In 1974, Bob took the embers of what we began with the 1971 voyage to Amchitka, Alaska, opposing nuclear testing, and he fanned the dying sparks into the flames that gave birth to what is today the international Greenpeace movement.

The fact is that if there had been no Robert Hunter, there would not be a Greenpeace organization today. It would simply be a footnote in the history books from the early '70s.

In March 1976, Bob and I stood on the heaving ice floes off the coast of Labrador as a large sealing ship bore down upon us. The ice cracked and split beneath our feet as I said to Bob, "When it splits, I'll jump to the left and you to the right."

Bob looked straight ahead and calmly said, "I'm not going anywhere."

And he meant it. Because he stayed, I stayed, and we brought that seal-killing ship to a dead stop. It was not the first time that Bob and I had faced

death together, and it would not be the last.

Bob participated in numerous campaigns with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. His last campaign with us was off the coast of Washington in 1998 and 1999, opposing the killing of whales.

Bob was a courageous man, and that courage was present until the end. I had a hard time appreciating the seriousness of his illness throughout the last year, because he was always so upbeat and positive every time I spoke with him.

Robert Hunter leaves behind a legacy. He not only had an idea, he nurtured it and saw it grow to become an international powerhouse within the global environmental community.

Bob was many things: journalist and author; philosopher and activist; television host and media critic; artist and poet; husband and father; friend to the whales and to nature.

It was my great privilege to have been his friend for 35 years, to have sailed with him on Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd campaigns, to have spent time with him at the pub and to have known him.

In 2000, *Time* listed us together as environmental heroes of the 20th century. We were not, however, equals. He was the teacher, and I the student. I learned a great deal from him.

With his passing, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society loses one of the most valued members of our advisory board. Greenpeace has lost the very foundation of its organization, and the world has lost an environmental icon.

*Captain Paul Watson is a founding director of the Greenpeace Foundation.*

## Mary Dann, Western Shoshone Activist, Passes Away

On April 22, Mary Dann, a Western Shoshone grandmother in her 80s and a lifelong activist, died from an accident while working on her farm in Crescent Valley, Newe Sogobia (Nevada). "She died as she would have wanted: with her boots on and [with] hay in her pocket," said Patricia Paul, Mary's niece.

Mary and her sister Carrie formed a powerful and inspiring pair. For more than four decades, the two served as the most outspoken advocates of Western Shoshone land rights and sovereignty. During that time, they consistently led their community in the fight against the voracious nuclear, mining and ranching interests that have tried to rob the Western Shoshone Nation of millions of acres of land, while poisoning and destroying the rest. The Danns' charisma and uncompromising assertion of indigenous sovereignty attracted many activists to the cause and led to the creation of the Western Shoshone Defense Project in 1991.

After her sister's passing, Carrie Dann said, "Mary believed in living her life for the protection of her family... the sacred (the land, the air, the water, the sun) and for the future generations.

"We must remember that Mary stood proud, strong, dignified and respectful against all types of racial discrimination, [including] desecration of her spiritual ways by the [Bureau of Land Management] and Department of the Interior.... She stood up against the mining industry, the nuclear industry, the energy industry. Mary never took no for an answer; she stood her ground for what she believed in and for the Truth. I will continue to do this, even with my sister gone.

"We must always remember the future generations and protect the sacred things so that the little ones coming behind us will be OK. The struggle will go on."

# “WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?”

## Mountain Justice Summer Kicks Off in Appalachia

BY JOHN JOHNSON AND OSKAR PAWPAW

Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) hit the ground running during the last week of May in the beautiful and biodiverse mountains of West Virginia. Inspired by years of labor and environmental struggles, MJS seeks to add energy to the growing anti-mountaintop removal movement in Appalachia.

Mountaintop removal is an extreme form of coal mining that involves blasting the tops off of ancient mountains, burying freshwater streams with rubble and flattening the world's most biologically diverse temperate forest (see *EF!* November-December 2004). MJS now includes activists from around the country, but it was initiated by Appalachian coalfield residents, student activists, longtime anti-mountaintop removal activists and folks affiliated with *Katūah Earth First!*

The Summer started with the usual activist training camp near the wild and scenic New River, at the historic Appalachian Folk Life Center in southern West Virginia. There were workshops on nonviolent direct action, Appalachian cultural sensitivity, media, camping skills, legal issues and more. Workshop attendance was near 100 percent. One outcome of the cultural sensitivity workshop was a “cuss jar,” which raised a whopping \$70 for the campaign—folks were encouraged to put a quarter in the jar every time they said a word that they wouldn't say in front of a friend's grandmother. The camp wasn't all hard work, however, as we enjoyed great food, fun and games, and a wonderful mixture of old coal miner hymns and classic *EF!* songs around the campfire.

Halfway through the camp, on May 26, everyone caravanned down to the Coal River Valley to support our friends in Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW). The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

(WVDEP) was hosting an informal public hearing concerning a Massey Energy coal preparation and cleaning facility near Sundial, West Virginia.

WVDEP is considering Massey's application to construct a second loading silo next to one that sits 150 feet from Marsh Fork Elementary School. It is also considering the renewal of Massey's permit to operate a 2.8-billion-gallon, toxic-sludge holding pond behind a flimsy earthen dam,

coal trucks, polluted water and damage from blasting from a variety of mining techniques for many years. Students and teachers at Marsh Fork Elementary school are being diagnosed with cancer and suffering from unexplained headaches and fatigue. Yet in spite of residents' protests, WVDEP approved Massey's permit to operate a new, 1,849-acre mountaintop removal mine beside the waste facility above the school in 2004.



Photo courtesy: *Katūah Earth First!*

*Wouldn't you want this in your backyard? This coal loading silo is 150 feet from an elementary school.*

only 400 yards from school grounds. Residents contend that the dam is unsafe, citing WVDEP reports and firsthand accounts from some of the men who built it. If the dam fails, billions of gallons of toxic waste could come raging down the narrow river valley, wiping out the school and everything else in its path.

Massey's facility uses hazardous chemicals to wash and bind the coal so that it doesn't spill during transportation. Citizens of the Coal River Valley have been dealing with unsafe

More than 120 folks attended the May 26 hearing and made impassioned pleas to shut down the coal prep facility, stop mountaintop removal mining and clean up the toxic mess behind the school. WVDEP bureaucrats sat stone-faced as locals accused them of betrayal, negligence and corruption. No one spoke in favor of granting the permits.

Two days before, the same day as the Massey stockholders' meeting in New York City, Coal River activists had organized a 50-person rally

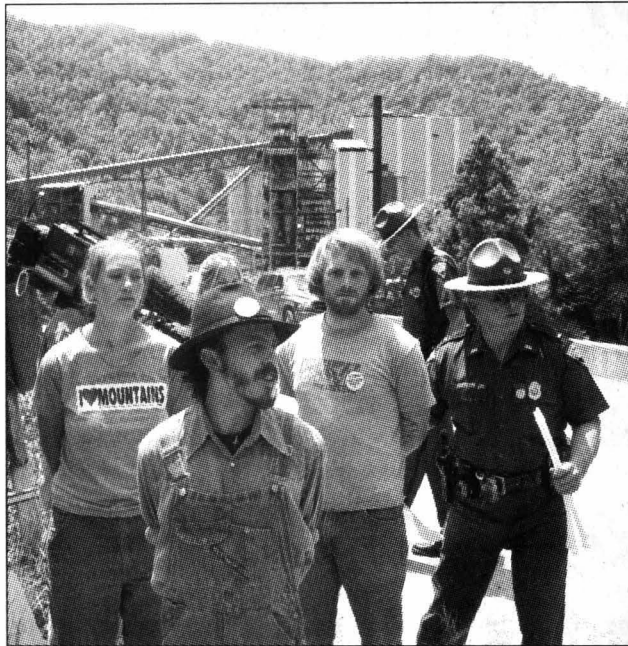


photo courtesy Katuah Earth First!

Activists are arrested trying to deliver demands to King Coal.

at the coal prep facility. Two local grassroots organizers, Bo Webb and Goldman Environmental Prize winner Judy Bonds, walked across the bridge to present a list of demands to Massey Energy. The residents demanded that the preparation plant be shut down and that the school be cleaned up, or that a new, safe school be built in their community. They also demanded that Massey shut down all its mountaintop removal sites. Webb and Bonds were denied access and arrested after they refused to leave the property without an answer from the company.

Then, on May 31, 150 Coal River residents and their allies from MJS and across West Virginia marched on the coal facility for a spirited protest. After an opening prayer from Christians for the Mountains, one of the coalfield residents declared that her community was "drawing a line in the sand." Other residents called Massey Energy "terrorists," who poison children for profit. The MJS coalfield acoustic trio led rousing renditions of "Amazing Grace" and "This Land is Your Land." Finally, some of the locals demanded to meet with Massey officials, while the crowd sang an old coal union standard, "Which Side Are You On?"

This time, the activists were stopped by West Virginia state police at the bridge that accesses the facility across the Coal River, and three grandmothers were arrested for trespassing. Small

groups of MJS activists, including some Earth First!ers, then attempted to deliver the community's demands as an act of solidarity. They were also arrested. Feeling empowered and inspired, locals from the crowd spontaneously joined in the civil disobedience. A total of 16 people were arrested, transported to police headquarters, cited and released.

The same day, two MJS activists delivered coalfield residents' demands to the front door of Massey's corporate headquarters in Rich-

mond, Virginia. They arrived in their Sunday best, video camera in hand, and asked to speak with Chief Executive Officer Don Blankenship. After many exchanges with the receptionist, they were left stranded in the foyer until an exasperated corporate attorney came down to see them. He reluctantly took the list of demands, but refused to talk about it or to sing "Amazing Grace" in memory of the poisoned children. The activists were promptly kicked out of the building.

In a state dominated by the coal industry, the media coverage after these events was amazing. The media called out the corporate giants in King Coal, accurately portrayed the issue and even adopted some of our rhetoric. One of the reporters summed it up well: "One warning, boys—this is going to be all Summer!"

For more information, contact Katuah Earth First! River Faction, POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996; [katuah@riseup.net](mailto:katuah@riseup.net); [www.mountainjusticesummer.org](http://www.mountainjusticesummer.org).

*John Johnson is an activist with Katuah Earth First! and Mountain Justice Summer who is deeply in love with the wild lands of Appalachia. He is very thankful for the folks who have come to help defend his homeland and dethrone King Coal.*

*Oskar Pawpaw, one of the few surviving members of Opossum Kingdom, has escaped from the asylum in Tucson that doubles as the EF! Journal office and is loose in the hills of Appalachia.*

## BARE BONES

### Ozone Layer Thinnest on Record

In April, Cambridge University announced that the ozone layer over the Arctic had thinned to the lowest level since records began 40 years ago. Scientists found the data surprising, because the ozone layer was expected to recover after the 1999 Montréal protocol phased out the use of chlorofluorocarbons. However, an increase in Winter stratospheric cloud cover because of global climate change has offset any gains, creating an environment friendlier to ozone-depleting chemical reactions.

A fragile ozone layer allows more ultraviolet radiation through the atmosphere, causing increases in skin cancer, decreased photosynthesis in plants and damage to plankton DNA. Phytoplankton are essential to the global carbon cycle, because they store large amounts of carbon in the ocean.

### Park Service Reverses on Mojave Guzzlers

Sportsmen lost out when the National Park Service abruptly decided not to install artificial water systems ("guzzlers") in California's Mojave National Preserve on April 5.

While Mary Martin, superintendent of the Mojave National Preserve, did not support the guzzlers, her original decision was reversed by Paul Hoffman, then-deputy assistant secretary of the interior for fish, wildlife and parks. Hoffman ordered Martin to install the guzzlers, stating that the water would enhance "coyote and varmint hunting."

The Center for Biological Diversity and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility filed a federal lawsuit claiming that the guzzlers violated National Park Service policy and would harm native wildlife.

# Are We Luddites or



BY WOLVERINE

From 1811 to 1816, the Luddite movement of the British working class systematically destroyed textile machines, mills and factories that were threatening the social fabric of individual craftsmanship and self-sufficiency on the commons (fields, forests and wetlands used for growing crops, gathering firewood, pasturing domestic animals, fishing and hunting).

The Luddites cost the industrial wage slave system about £1.5 million—more than \$50 million today—in direct damage and in the costs of security, counter-insurgency and prosecuting Luddite cases. They accomplished this in only 15 months, with more than 13 percent of that economic loss resulting from direct property damage alone.

The Luddites also brought about an increase in wages, Poor Law rates and food allowances, the closing of at least one factory and the generation of a National Association for Relief of the Manufacturing and Laboring Poor. They slowed down the adoption of new machinery and stopped the hosiery industry from following the cotton and wool trades' wholesale change from cottage to factory. The Luddite movement led to broadened parliamentary representation, electoral modifications and economic reform through unionism and workplace improvements.

It is true that the Luddites were seeking systemic change in order to keep their identity and way of life, not the renewed reform that spelled the death of radicalism. The industrial future, with all its squalor, privation and abandonment of skilled craftsmanship, was not averted. That's a challenge that remains for us to complete, and now the stakes

## Cynical Consumers?

are even higher. Nonetheless, tangible improvements were made in democratic participation and in people's lives through Luddite resistance. It is noteworthy that the political scramble to establish these gains was brought about through insurrectionary sabotage, not through reformist lobbying.

### Lessons of the Luddites

The Luddite movement challenged the supposed primacy of technology over people's needs with a strength and persistence that puts to shame most activists' ready acceptance of any ecologically and socially destructive invention that offers comfort and convenience—or even just amusement or popularity. The Luddites forced a broad spectrum of society to consider significant questions that are barely even debated today, such as: Who would determine the technology of production (and now communication)? By what criteria would they decide? How would the consequences be judged? The Luddites took charge of their own self-governance by acting to resist destructive technological change.

We should be aware enough of Luddite and other history by now to recognize that:

- Technology is not neutral.
- That which benefits corporations is usually not good for people or the environment.
- New technology does not necessarily lead to a net increase in jobs or wealth over the broader population. In fact, it often has the opposite effect.

• Many technological developments are antithetical to real democracy and community, disconnecting us from each other and the common good.

• New technology tends to increase the stress and pace of modern life, as well as increasing ecologically unsustainable consumerism.

As a Luddite pamphleteer put it, "Unrestrained technology demoralizes society and substitutes idleness for industry, want for competence, immorality for virtue... and unless restrained, will ere long involve this country in every horror and calamity attending the bursting of all bonds that hold society together." Although some of our values and our sense of "virtue" may be different now, this warning is still relevant to the perils of unrestrained modern technology, such as nanotechnology, genetic engineering, surveillance systems, military robots and yes, personal conveniences like SUVs, disposable everything, home computers and cell phones. Kirkpatrick Sale, author of *Rebels Against the Future: The Luddites and Their War on the Industrial Revolution*, points out that "the simple, overarching fact is that technology always has consequences, far-reaching consequences, usually more so than anyone can predict at the time."

### Toward a Neo-Luddite Manifesto

We're well overdue to start critically investigating new technologies at the onset of their development. By the time they are introduced to the market, technological developments are usually far more difficult to reverse.

In her "Notes Toward a Neo-Luddite Manifesto," psychologist Chellis Glendinning articulates three principles that should spur useful critiques of new technologies:

- "Opposition to technologies that emanate from a worldview that sees rationality as the key to human potential, material acquisition as the key to human fulfillment and technological development as the key to social progress.

- "Recognition that, since all technologies are political, [those] created by a mass technological society inevitably are those that serve the perpetuation of that society and its goals of efficiency, production, marketing and products.

- "Establishment of a critique of technology by fully examining its sociological context, economic ramifications, and political meanings... from the perspective not only of human use, but of its impact on other living beings, natural systems and the environment."

Glendinning envisions a future that would include the dismantling of nuclear, chemical, genetic, electromagnetic, television and computer technologies. Conversely, it would include the creation of new technologies by those who would use and be affected by them. These technologies would promote "political freedom, economic justice and ecological balance" and would be community-based, decentralized, organic and cooperative. It may sound like a lot of work, but it should be obvious that it is *necessary* work. It's always been easier to prevent damage than to restore ecological and cultural integrity after destruction.

For instance, how will we ever be able to end corporate rule and war-mongering as long as the public is addicted to corporate and imperialistic propaganda on television? How will we reverse the long-term ecological effects of unnaturally high levels of electromagnetic radiation without ending the development of the technology that emits it? When will environmental activists put the planet and each other's health over the convenience and pseudo-social stimulation of cell phone use? If we

don't, we can't expect others in society to abandon Nature- and health-destroying technologies, which are simply the logical outcomes of the same "corporate profit first" mentality behind cell phones.

We would not be alone in our resistance. Claude Alvares, an East Indian-born journalist and farmer, notes the growing Luddite response of the Third World to "the dual oppression of science and development." Third World resistance rejects the "scientific rationality" of the West and opposes the "further colonization of popular consciousness." Are we going to leave



artwork by Asante Riverwind

those most oppressed by these technologies to fight them alone?

Charles Cobb, an economist with the Society for a Human Economy, observes that, "Neo-Luddites are concerned about the way in which dependence on technology changes the character of an entire society.... They are asking us to reflect on the entire configuration of modern technology instead of isolated pieces of it." I'm opting to join the neo-Luddites. How about you?

*Wolverine lives with no electricity, except for a phone and a truck, and does not own or commonly use a computer or cell phone. Wolverine has been an active part of the Earth First! movement since 1984 and has been a full-time activist since 1980.*

## BARE BONES

### EU Bans US Biotech Import

On April 15, the European Union (EU) imposed a ban on all US shipments of corn gluten animal feed due to concerns that one batch was contaminated with genetically modified organisms. EU officials said that the move was necessary to uphold EU law and maintain consumer confidence, although the decision is likely to cost the US millions of dollars.

The brouhaha began when Swiss agrochemical company Syngenta accidentally sold a batch of Bt10 genetically modified corn to the US. Bt10 corn contains a gene for herbicide tolerance and a synthetic variant of an insecticide-producing gene. There is no effective way to test for Bt10. Syngenta was fined \$375,000.

### Court Blocks Massive Montana Mine

Thanks to a federal district court ruling against the Revett Silver Company in April, Montana grizzly bears and threatened bull trout will no longer have to tolerate deafening explosions and wastewater in their creeks. The National Resources Defense Council, Earthjustice and other groups filed a lawsuit against the mining company, alleging that its massive copper and silver mine would have destroyed the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, home to one of the last five grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states.

The Bush administration-approved Rock Creek Project planned to tunnel 900 feet beneath the wilderness area to extract 10,000 tons of minerals over the next 35 years. More than three million gallons of wastewater would have been dumped into the clear mountain streams where bull trout spawn and rear their young.

# Talking More and Saying Less

BY SAM AND SPROCKET

*"Like a drunken engineer on a streamlined train, plunging through the darkness at 100 miles an hour, we have been going past the danger signals without realizing that our speed, which springs from our technology, only increases our danger and will make more fatal the crash."*

—LEWIS MUMFORD, *ART AND TECHNICS*

We are all passengers on this train, and the crash is upon us. Sometimes it seems so obvious that we hardly find it worth mentioning. Polar ice melting, destroying arctic ecosystems? Yep. Foreign populations being bombed in the name of the oil industry? Too bad. Cell phones causing cancer? Yeah, so what? This is the bizarre ethos of our culture: Never before has so much information been available, and never has so little been done relative to the immensity of the dangers we face.



The cell phone plays right into our numbed inaction, saturating our lives with easy information in a way that television or the Internet never could. As communication becomes steadily more convenient, we necessarily de-emphasize the quality of that communication. This allows the most inane conversations to take place. You've probably heard it all before—on the bus, in the grocery store, in any crowd: "Yeah, I'm on my way; I'll be there in 10 minutes. What? No, I'm on the bus. What? I don't know, I think

we just passed Market Street—hang on, I got another call."

Society is talking more and saying less. In the same way that dense urban areas make us feel isolated—alone in a sea of faces—cell phones give us one more excuse to not acknowledge other flesh-and-blood human beings. American culture is already awash in automation—machines that keep us from interacting with one another in meaningful ways—pay-at-the-pump; ATMs; self-service checkout; private automobiles. All in the name of convenience, these objects isolate us and inure us to a world in which machines dominate our every interaction. Cell phones extend the reach of these machines into our most private moments. Self-determination disappears, as everyone is now "on call," available to work at a moment's notice. Gone are spontaneity and chance, random interactions with

## Frontlines

### Greenpeace Halts British SUV Plant

A Range Rover assembly line in Solihull, England, was brought to a halt by 35 Greenpeace activists on May 16. After using emergency shut-down buttons to stop the production line, activists disguised as contractors used handcuffs and chains to secure themselves to vehicles and robots as others strung yellow "Climate Crime Scene" tape across the unfinished gas guzzlers. A flag reading "Climate Criminals" was also run up the company flagpole. Fifteen of the protesters were arrested.

The Range Rover SUV comes with a super-charged V8 engine that gets 12 miles per gallon in urban driving, which is less than a Model T from the 1920s.

The action marked the first time that an SUV assembly line has ever been shut down by protesters.

### Biotech Construction Site Pranked

Workers arriving at the construction site of Scripps' new biotech facility were met by locked gates and newly planted orange trees on April 1. Prankster activists sent out fake press releases outlining the biotech

giant's intentions to abandon work on a controversial facility on the edge of the Florida Everglades (see *EF!* March-April 2005).

The scene made a perfect photo opportunity, as workers lined up for 45 minutes waiting to cut the lock and enter the site. Banners had been hung reading, "Dear Noble Opponents, Biotech over the Environment? What were we thinking? We are fools. Signed, Scripps," and "You win, you can have your county back."

In the hoax press release, "Scripps" stated that "we will not be using the Mecca site for the Scripps Institute and hope the county will abandon its plans for any biotechnology research center or residential development on what we have come to see as environmentally sensitive lands."

### UK ALF Double Whammy

In response to the UK's banning of a major World Day for Lab Animals demonstration, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) resorted to its tried-and-true, direct-action tactics. On April 24, the ALF entered a sheep research

strangers, or the glimmer of hope that something unpredictable and *interesting* might happen to you today.

Face-to-face conversations take a back seat with the ring of a mobile phone. People walk in crowds next to each other, less than an arm's length apart, each with a different, far-off voice talking into their ear. So many decry the "rat race" and the stress of our fast-paced society, but rarely do they recognize the components that make this such a dog-eat-dog world. Even rarer are those who have the courage to resist them.

While individual users will continue to reap the "benefits" of their new devices—easier access to jobs, help in bad situations, general social approval—they will never be held responsible for the harmful consequences. No one blames individual users for the visual and literal cancer of thousands of cell-phone towers. No one blames them for the deterioration of our ability to communicate. No one is blamed when our car is broken down on the side of

the interstate, and no one will help us because we are expected to have a cell phone. These are seen as unavoidable societal ills with no clear cause and no apparent solution.

How we reached this point should be no mystery; the introduction of new technologies follows a predictable

Perhaps the managerial classes come to expect it of their subordinates. The behavior of society changes to fit the device. Soon, those who don't have it are considered deviant. This process is happening faster and faster; what was unknown five or 10 years ago becomes absolutely essential today, with the cell phone being the most potent recent example.

Yet there exists an oppositional current in the US that remains skeptical of technology and the values it promotes—look no further than the legend of John Henry or the *Matrix* films. As much as Americans might pride themselves on living in the "most advanced nation in the world," the Man vs. Machine idea is very much alive, and it transcends the



pattern. At first, there is resentment at the device's potential harmful effects on society, or because it may simply be unnecessary. Then, with a tech-savvy avant-garde embracing the latest gadget and an overwhelming marketing/media blitz, the device spreads.

political spectrum. Tapping into older traditions of our culture and modern resentments against the latest technological insults may be the beginnings of a new Luddism. Smashing the cell phone and all it stands for would be a great start.

facility at the University of Nottingham's Sutton Bonnington campus. Originally intent on liberating the lambs, the ALF re-evaluated its goals after protective mothers and agile lambs thwarted its plans. Instead, the ALF flooded rooms, broke equipment, opened freezers and destroyed paperwork in an adjacent lab. After an alarm sounded, the ALF fled the site.

Two weeks later, on May 5, the ALF vandalized the White Rose incineration complex, whose clients include vivisection labs like Covance and Whickham, and formerly Huntingdon Life Sciences.

The complex was vandalized while employees were still on site. After gaining access by cutting a hole in the fence, activists crept under the noses of workers to spray-paint messages and slash the tires of every vehicle, pouring paint stripper on the more expensive ones. "Let the audacity of this action remind the vivisection community of our determination to end their vile trade," said the ALF in a communiqué.

### ALF Liberates 21 Mice in Louisiana

The ALF broke into a biology research lab at Louisiana State University, freeing mice and vandalizing the building on April 22. After gaining access to the building through a vent in a side door, the ALF rescued 21

mice, smashed aquariums and windows, glued door locks and spray-painted ALF slogans throughout the building. The mice were inspected by a veterinarian and taken to new homes.

"The cold solitude of the cage and the deafening silence of sterile, windowless laboratory rooms on the top floor of a building, with no chance to interact in the outside world or with one another is torture enough," read the ALF communiqué. "Add to that the despicable cruelty of those human beings who've shown no compassion for the screams from animals in their never-ending, painful experiments, and you can see where our sadness, and our anger, comes from."

### Greenpeace "Cracks" Dutch Reactor

Greenpeace activists scaled the dome of a nuclear reactor in the Netherlands on May 18, painting a giant black crack down one side. Dressed in nuclear waste drum costumes, about 30 protesters climbed over a fence to gain access to the reactor dome.

"The [Dutch] government must invest more in reliable energy sources such as solar, wind and biomass that do not change the climate," Greenpeace said in a statement after the action. The group cited concerns of safety and waste disposal as reasons to shut down the plant.



# Your Mobile Phone is

*"Strange that science, which in the old days seemed harmless, should have evolved into a nightmare that causes everyone to tremble."*

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

BY SPROCKET

The past few decades have been a time of unprecedented technological development, increasingly altering the way we live, work and communicate. The widespread use of the mobile phone is perhaps the most visible symbol of this technological revolution.

An estimated 57 percent of Americans use cellular phones. By the end of the year, worldwide cell phone usage is expected to reach two billion subscribers (roughly one third of the planet's population), making cell phone subscribers more common than landline users. At the same time, this technology has given rise to important questions about its possible long-term health consequences. Unfortunately, most people are either unaware of the consequences or are unsure how to navigate the conflicting evidence on the issue. Others are simply tired of hearing about things that give them cancer.

## Wireless Technology Research and George Carlo

Admittedly, the body of evidence contributing to the debate is enormous and daunting—more than 6,000 scientific studies have been conducted on the subject since 1993. Mobile phones first became available to the public in the mid-1980s.

In response to a widely publicized court case involving a Florida woman who died in 1992 from a brain tumor allegedly caused by cell phone use, the Cellular Telephone Industry Association (CTIA) set up the Wireless Technology Research (WTR) program in 1993. This program was an attempt by the wireless industry to recoup its losses and quell public fear after the lawsuit caused a sharp decline in company stocks. WTR, which employed a board of hand-picked scientists and industry representatives, was funded to the tune of \$27 million to "identify and solve any problems concerning consumers' health that could arise from the use of these phones."

In February 1999, WTR director Dr. George Carlo—who had previously maintained that mobile phones were safe—stunned the industry during a presentation to the annual CTIA convention. Specifically, Carlo reported that:

- The rate of death from brain cancer was higher among handheld cell phone users than among those who used a hands-free option, such as a headset or earpiece.

- The risk of acoustic neuroma, a benign tumor of the auditory nerve, was 50 percent higher in people who reported using cell phones for six years or more.

- The risk of neuro-epithelial tumors on the outside of the brain was more than doubled in cell phone users when compared to non-users.

Carlo stated that "appropriate steps have not been taken to protect consumers." In his subsequent book, *Cell Phones: Invisible Hazards in the Wireless Age*, Carlo continued to expose such health risks, as well as the tricks that the global wireless industry uses to confuse the science and distort the evidence.

## The Danish Mobile Phone Study

The WTR's findings were a startling blow to cell phone manufacturers, but phone sales continued to grow nonetheless. The industry got a big public relations boost in February 2001, when international media reported on a study led by Danish scientist Christoffer Johansen.

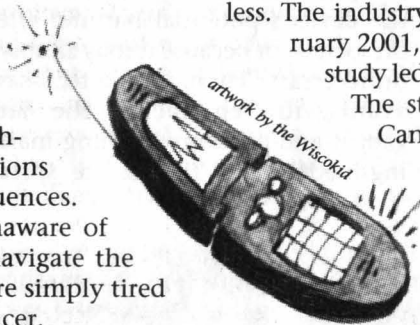
The study, entitled "Cellular Telephones and Cancer—a Nationwide Cohort Study in Denmark," declared that mobile phone users were no more likely than anyone else to suffer brain or nervous system cancers. Within days, the industry-funded study was being promoted around the world as final proof that mobile phones were safe to use.

While the Denmark study included more than 420,000 subjects, only a few thousand had used mobile phones for more than 10 years, while the majority of those studied had only used them for approximately three years. In fact, Johansen cautioned that the study might "have too few heavy users to exclude with confidence a carcinogenic effect on brain tissue following intensive, prolonged use." Leading scientists recognize that many brain tumors have a latency period of at least 10 years. Of course, very few, if any, of these details were publicized by the international media, which was eager to give mobile phones a clean bill of health.

## Animal Test Results

Yet the evidence against cell phones neither began nor ended with the WTR study. Though inhumane and sickening, animal tests have strongly indicated that exposure to the microwave radiation emitted by cell phones is damaging to living beings.

One such study, led by Leif G. Salford (department of neurosurgery, Lund University, Sweden) in 2003, found serious neuronal damage in the brains of rats following exposure to microwave radiation from a cell phone—at radiation levels comparable to what people would experience during normal



# Killing You

use. Damage to nerve cells was observed in several places within the brain, including the cortex, hippocampus and basal ganglia (the areas of the brain that control memory, movement and sensation). The authors of the study expressed concern that "after some decades of often daily use, a whole generation of cell phone users may suffer negative effects, perhaps as early as middle age."

More supporting results come from Henry Lai in the department of bioengineering at the University of Washington-Seattle. Lai has documented biological effects of radiation absorption on laboratory rodents, including damage to DNA and decreases in cell division after exposure.

These are just two of many studies suggesting that exposure to the radiation emitted by cell phones is not as safe as the telecommunications industry would have us believe.

## Market-Driven Society

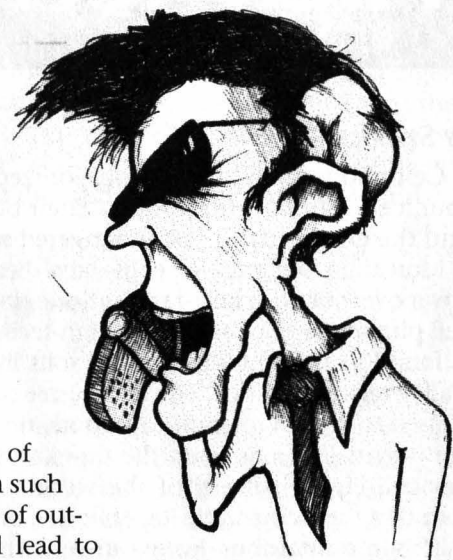
All of this information raises the question: Why aren't cell-phone users cautioned? Why aren't cell phones simply taken off the shelves and the companies that manufacture them shut down? Robert Kane, a former Motorola engineer and author of *Cellular Telephone Russian Roulette*, explains, "More testing has been done that indicates biological damage [from cell phones] than with other products that have been removed from the marketplace. But this is an economy-driven society, and the device is not going to be taken out of the hands of the public."

Invariably, most battles over major public health issues in the last few decades (e.g., asbestos, pesticides, dioxin, PCBs and cigarettes) have involved public health activists insisting that government regulators take a "precautionary approach," while the industries concerned lobby for the strict application of "scientific proof" before restrictive measures are imposed. The corporations know that "scientific" proof is virtually unobtainable until the damage has been done, and that lifelong cumulative harm will take another generation to document. They know that the "strict application of sound science" will keep them off the hook for years to come. The fight to expose the health risks of cell phones is following this same pattern.

Further frustrating any attempts to slow or stop the telecommunications industry are the opinion-manipulating skills developed by corporate lobbyists, polling companies and public relations consultants. These groups are aided and abetted by scientists who are sometimes overtly corrupt, but are more often simply co-opted by the system of research funding and control.

As Cornell University's Joseph Hotchkiss puts it, "A host of techniques exist for manipulating research... to produce studies whose conclusions fit their sponsor's predetermined interests. These techniques include adjusting the time of a study (so that toxic effects do not have time to emerge), subtle manipulations of target and control groups or dosage

HI FRANK.....  
OH YEAH... HELLO? HEY...  
NO, MY DOCTOR ISN'T  
SURE WHAT IT IS YET...  
HELLO?... FRANK?... HEY,  
OH YEAH, ITS DEFINITELY  
WEIRD, AND I STILL  
CAN'T SEE VERY WELL..  
I... CAN YOU HEAR ME?  
FRANK? CAN YOU HEAR  
ME NOW?



artwork by Breakfast

levels, and subjective interpretations of complex data. Often such methods stop short of outright fraud but still lead to predictable results. Usually associations that sponsor research have a fairly good idea what the outcome will be, or they wouldn't fund it."

## More than Just Cancer

With technology advancing much more rapidly than our ability to study its possible health hazards, it is entirely reasonable to be concerned about the more subtle ways that we are affected. An increasing number of people believe that continued exposure to electromagnetic fields has a deleterious effect on the fragile systems of the human body. According to Roger Coghill, director of the UK-based Coghill Research Labs, "We use mobile phones by holding them against our brain, the most sensitive organ in our bodies. Our heartbeats are mediated by electric fields; our energy... is synthesized using electric fields and our body's endogenous electric fields are uniquely protective of the immune system. All of these processes are perturbed by mobile-phone- and related radiations. Damage to DNA, permeability of the blood/brain barrier, immune system dysfunction and adverse effects on key enzymes are becoming commonplace findings by researchers in this field."

The evidence speaks for itself. We have been handed yet another technological marvel for everyday use by yet another greedy industry. That industry will do anything and everything to maintain its profit margin—even if it means lying outright about how our bodies and minds are affected. Have we learned nothing from the tobacco lawsuits, from pesticides and nuclear radiation? Every time a new technology is developed, we are assured by specialists and experts that we have nothing to worry about. And every time, we eventually discover that we were lied to.

When are we going to stop devouring every new, high-tech toy that they throw at us, and start asking: Do I really need this? Is it really worth the risk?

When will we decide that we have put enough of their poison into our bodies? Cell phones are where I draw the line.

*Sprocket lives in Tucson, Arizona, where in a last-ditch effort to quell the tide of encroaching technology, he waits until he gets home to make phone calls.*

# High-Tech Genocide

BY SPROCKET

Cell phones may have revolutionized the way we communicate, but in central Africa, their biggest legacy is war and the extermination of endangered species.

More than four million people have died in central Africa in a war over coltan, a heat-resistant mineral ore widely used in cell phones, laptops and other high-tech electronics. Coltan is found in three-billion-year-old soils like those in the Rift Valley region of Africa. The tantalum extracted from the ore is used to make tantalum capacitors, tiny components that are essential in managing the flow of current in electronic devices. Eighty percent of the world's coltan reserves are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

This mountainous jungle area is the battleground of what has been grimly dubbed "Africa's First World War," pitting Congolese forces against those of six neighboring countries and numerous armed factions. The victims are mostly civilians; starvation and disease have killed hundreds of thousands, and the fighting has displaced two



Rebel armies in the Democratic Republic of Congo are fighting over coltan, a mineral essential to cell-phone circuits.

million people from their homes. Often dismissed as "just an ethnic war," the conflict is actually a battle over the natural resources that are sought by foreign corporations—diamonds, tin, copper, gold and—most of all—coltan. At stake for the heavily armed militias and governments is a cut of the high-tech boom of the 1990s, in which the price of coltan skyrocketed to nearly \$300 per pound.

The war started in 1998 when Congolese rebel forces, backed by Rwanda and Uganda, seized the eastern DRC and moved into strategic mining areas, attacking villages along the way. The Rwandan army was soon making an estimated \$20 million a month from coltan mining.

Today, the fighting rages on despite peace treaties signed in Summer 2002. The peace process was initiated after the assassination of DRC President Laurent Kabila in January 2001, and following mounting pressure from South Africa. But while foreign troops have officially withdrawn from the DRC, internal factions remain at war.

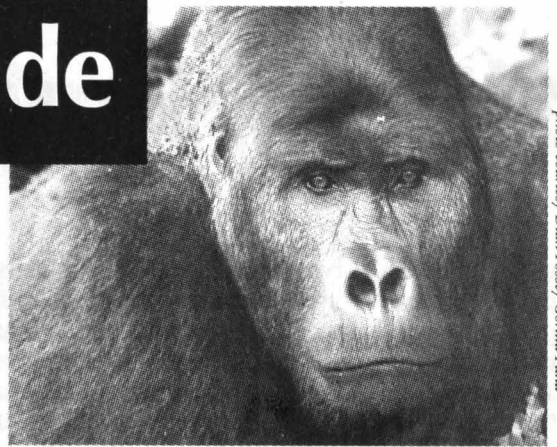


photo courtesy Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

The war in central Africa is driving the eastern lowland gorilla to extinction.

## Digging for "Black Gold"

Coltan has also transformed the DRC in more subtle ways. Farmers displaced from their lands have little option but to join coltan-mining brigades. Mined much like gold, coltan is found by digging large pits in riverbeds, with miners scraping away at the dirt to get to the coltan below.

Reports of rampant human-rights abuses pour out of the rebel-controlled mining region, where there is also a huge market for prostitution. An estimated two million people in the DRC are HIV-infected. Local men, women and children are forced into mining, fighting and sex work, or they are threatened with torture, rape and murder.

The coltan makes its way out of the mines to "trading posts," which are taxed or controlled by the rebels. Foreign traders then buy the mineral and ship it abroad, mostly through Rwanda.

All of it ends up being bought by just three companies—Cabot, Inc. of the US, Germany's HC Starc and China's Ningxia—which are the only firms with the capability to turn coltan into the coveted tantalum powder. The "magic powder" is then sold to Nokia, Motorola, Compaq, Sony and other manufacturers for use in cell phones and other products.

On a side note, Sam Bodman, former CEO of Cabot, was appointed in December to serve as President Bush's Secretary of Energy. Under Bodman's leadership from 1987 until 2000, Cabot was one of the largest polluters in the US, accounting for 60,000 tons of airborne toxic emissions annually.

## Ecological Effects of the War

The main coltan mining area within the DRC contains the Kahuzi Biega National Park (KBNP), home of the critically endangered eastern lowland gorilla. Deforestation from mining has destroyed much of the gorilla's habitat, and the poverty caused by the displacement of the local human populations has led to gorillas being killed and sold as "bush meat" to the miners and rebel armies that control the area.

The KBNP population of eastern lowland gorillas, along with the population in the adjacent Kasese forests, represented 86 percent of the subspecies' total population prior to the civil war. According to a report released by the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund and the Born Free Foundation in May 2001, the population of eastern lowland gorillas in KBNP has plummeted from an estimated 8,000 in 1991 to less than 1,000 individuals in the year 2000, an 85 percent crash in only nine years. The report continues: "The indications are that the biodiversity of the Kahuzi Biega region has been seriously, if not irreparably,

damaged.... If further procrastination and bureaucratic delays prevent effective and timely action, the world will have stood by and watched as the magnificent eastern lowland gorilla becomes the first great ape to be driven to extinction—a victim of war, human greed and high technology."

## Making the Connection

Somehow, it's not surprising that this information isn't included in the instruction manual that comes with your

cell phone. Perhaps mobile phones should be outfitted with stickers that read: "Warning! This device was created with raw materials from central Africa. These materials are rare, non-renewable, were sold to fund a bloody civil war and have caused the virtual elimination of endangered species. Have a nice day." People need to realize that there is a direct link between the gadgets that make their lives more "convenient" and the frightening reality of the violence, turmoil and destruction that plague our world.

# CELL-PHONE DEVASTATION

BY SPROCKET

The production and disposal of cell phones exacts a severe environmental cost. As wireless technology becomes more widespread, the Earth pays the price.

A cell phone is basically a handheld computer with an antenna, microphone, speaker and battery. These various components are soldered onto a main circuit board, which contains several tiny computer chips, including the digital signal processor, the microprocessor, the ROM and flash memory chips, and the radio frequency amplifiers.

These components require complex, environmentally costly manufacturing. According to the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, the production of just a single silicon computer chip requires:

- 3,200 cubic feet of bulk gases
- 22 cubic feet of toxic, corrosive and volatile gases
- 2,275 gallons of de-ionized water (a suspected liver, gastrointestinal and neurological toxin)
- 20 pounds of assorted chemicals
- 285 kilowatt hours of electricity (enough to power a modest US home for one month)

It also produces 25 pounds of highly corrosive sodium hydroxide, 2,840 gallons of wastewater and seven pounds of miscellaneous hazardous wastes. In addition, computer chip production leaves behind a laundry list of air- and waste-stream pollutants, such as arsenic, lead, chromium,

acid fumes and volatile organic compounds. It's no secret that the pollutants in wastewater eventually end up in wells, reservoirs, watersheds and marine ecosystems, where they are detrimental to human and nonhuman life alike. Many of these toxic compounds are found on the EPA's list of "persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic chemicals," and they can cause a range of adverse human health effects, including reproductive and developmental problems, cancer and damage to the nervous system.

To add to the problem of high-tech industrial manufacturing, there is the issue of used cell phone disposal. An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-funded report from February 2004 concluded that cellular phones alone are expected to make up 65,000 tons of landfill waste in 2005.

Why so much waste? Calling plans are often packaged with a free or low-cost cell phone, which makes keeping your current phone economically disadvantageous. Therefore, many cell phones

are thrown out even before becoming technologically obsolete. According to a 2002 article in *BusinessWeek Online*, this trend, coupled with an ever-increasing number of features—such as email and Internet access, 3D games, video cameras, and music and movie downloads—leads consumers to get new phones approximately every 18 months.

Not only does this use landfill space, it also means that the lead, arsenic, bromated flame-retardants and other hazardous substances contained in mobile phones have another chance to enter the environment. As the cell phones sit in landfills, rainwater leaches these chemicals and heavy metals into the water table and soil.

Other silent killers are the cellular towers, transmitting the signals that make wireless communication possible. According to an August 2002 press release by the American Bird Conservancy and Forest Conservation Council, the number of birds killed annually by accidental collisions with such towers may be as high as 40 million. More than 40,000 communications towers standing taller than 200 feet are found in the US, and this number will likely double in the next 10 years.

We are killing ourselves and poisoning life on the planet—all for the sake of convenience. We are giving our children a world of poison so that we can know where they are at all times. We are contaminating the soil that grows our food so that we won't have to make another trip to the grocery store. Let's put an end to this madness. Let's bury this high-tech industry instead of its hazardous waste.



artwork by Steve Baracus

CASSANDRA & COYOTE

Cassandra records her love  
poems to nature  
She has learned  
not to write  
but to listen & transcribe  
The swamp creatures dance  
to the beat of her music  
They have such a wild time together  
The frightened bird  
caught in a hurricane  
is found & cared for in her lines  
It's hard to believe how her poetry works  
because it bypasses belief  
She knows that it's only  
what's lived that's real

The vivisectionists have tranquilized  
Coyote with their darts  
& carried him off  
to where he'll never see the moon again  
They can't wait to dissect & dismember  
each tiny piece  
They don't know  
the kind of wildness  
they're dealing with  
If Coyote can only hold out until morning  
That's when Cassandra  
is weaving healing in words

As the dawn is breaking  
Coyote is reassembled  
Ready to rise & shine  
from the dead  
wilder than ever  
He escapes with the first bird song  
as Cassandra records  
what she hears faithfully  
Most everybody these days doesn't believe  
there's any power left in poetry  
but she keeps working anyway

—Steve Toth

IN THE WILD

In lives nested with my life  
I've lived in places wilder  
Than these thoroughly permanent grey  
Chicago suburbs.  
As I arrange those memories  
I try to be grateful without being greedy:  
Living near the wild  
Is a rare and great privilege.

But even here there are still  
Wild moments to discover.  
On my nine-mile winter darkness bike ride  
I think,  
"This isn't quite like being in Yellowstone,  
"Not the same kind of place  
"But in the same kind of spirit."  
The darkness holds my bicycle  
Close to its secret heart  
Where bison breathe winter air  
With simple resistance.

—Jenny McBride



SEND POEMS TO: WARRIOR POETS SOCIETY, POB 14501, BERKELEY, CA 94712-5501

## IVORY BILL WOODPECKER

The ivory billed woodpecker is alive  
spirit of river bottom bayous  
ghost of the cypress swamp

extinct for 50, 60, 70 years  
or so we thought

the ivory bill is alive  
spotted first by a kayaker:  
he pulled his paddle from the water  
and leaned back  
to drift a bit  
in the still, February morning

and the big bird swooped in front of him  
landed on a snag  
craned its neck in herky-jerky rhythm  
and flew off

enough to see  
the distinct white-black wings  
the straight flight through the trees  
the large light bill

the ivory bill is alive  
some small scrap population  
along Arkansas rivers,  
the Cache and the White  
in the wet woods along the lower Mississippi

amid the welter of gone and going species  
birds crustaceans insects spiders salamanders  
orchids sandworts meadow voles milkweed butterflies  
amid the flood of dead and dying creatures  
the tsunami of extinction  
triggered by the earthquake of us

the ivory bill is alive  
such a beauty too  
huge crested woody woodpecker head  
bill like a scimitar  
made to shatter wood  
bold black and white art-deco wings  
crimson cap

this is a bird schoolkids will love  
grandmas, truckdrivers, mailmen, movie stars  
this is a bird America can love  
unlike the willow flycatcher  
or the spotted owl  
this big bird has charisma

thank you ivory bill  
for the dollars already flooding this project  
for the happy ending and new beginning  
for a feel-good news feature that might do good  
save some swamp woods  
raise awareness  
let the people into the conservation story  
help us stand some ground  
against our ripping ravaging resource consumption

thanks, Nature Conservancy  
quietly buying habitat for years  
acre by acre  
where the woodpecker was rumored  
thanks ornithologists  
bird men and women  
who wept when they spotted the ivory bill  
after lifetimes of hope  
thanks volunteers, donors, scientists  
searching for nest holes in the trees  
measuring scars on bark  
installing recorders in the swamp  
to catch the distinct double drum  
of an ivory bill drilling a trunk

thanks to the paddler  
who put down his paddle  
and leaned back in his boat  
and looked at the dawn bayou  
taking in the quiet waters  
the ancient, patient cypress trees  
being there, aware,  
ready to receive

when the ivory billed woodpecker  
winging straight through the groves  
of thousand year old trees  
flew a beeline into the twenty-first century.

—Jane McGarry  
Paonia, Colorado; April 28, 2005

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# blast from the past

Lughnasadh 2000 *Earth First! Journal*



## LIFE OUT ON A LEDGE: *A Trip to the City After Eagle Creek*

BY WATCHDOG

*"Apparently, these are World Trade Organization people who are looking for something to do."*

—GARY LARSEN, MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR

At 4 a.m. on July 7, 2000, about 50 federal agents stormed the road blockades at Eagle Creek. Armed and camouflaged agents pinned activists to the ground and enforced an unconstitutional closure that included several square miles of the timber sale area. Within an hour, only four activists remained—two in suspended road-blocking pods and two in nearby treesits.

The Freddieys then proceeded, through bureaucratic recklessness and frightening ignorance, to endanger the lives of the women in the pods by disabling and moving support lines and, among other things, repeatedly running over an active anchor line with all-terrain vehicles. A US Forest Service (USFS)-imposed media blackout attempted to keep this dangerous behavior away from the eyes of the public. Cherry-pickers were able to move in after support lines were disengaged. Two courageous women in the pods remained, with nooses around their necks, no harnesses or safety lines, and only pencil-thin ropes between them and the pavement, 50 feet below. Felda, the activist in the pod called Road Ghost, was pulled into a cherry-picker basket by the rope noose around her neck. Pitch, the 17-year-old woman in the Low-Rider pod, held off agents alone for three hours, dangling by a U-lock and a single line. After 12 hours of struggle, the Cascadia Forest Alliance (CFA) road-blocks that had protected the Eagle Creek watershed for over a month were no more. The Freddieys had won, right?

Wrong. You see, the USFS sees the world through an industrial-reductionist-military paradigm, which informs its judgment and behavior—from "forest management" to dealing with legitimate citizen protest. The Freddieys thought that they had solved the pesky activist problem by arresting a few people and destroying basecamps. These tactics are not only dangerous; they are ineffective. Though we were surprised by their ignorance and recklessness, we had planned for a raid. Their inability to comprehend the power of the people, of real grassroots activism, left them unprepared for what happened next.

Within hours, a crowd gathered at the USFS Region Six Headquarters in downtown Portland, Oregon, for a rally in

support of the road-blocking activists and the cancellation of the Eagle Creek Timber Sales. Calls in support of the activists poured in to the USFS, elected officials and bureaucrats within the Department of Agriculture. In the middle of the rally, one inspired activist, Tre, free-climbed the USFS building and pronounced that he would

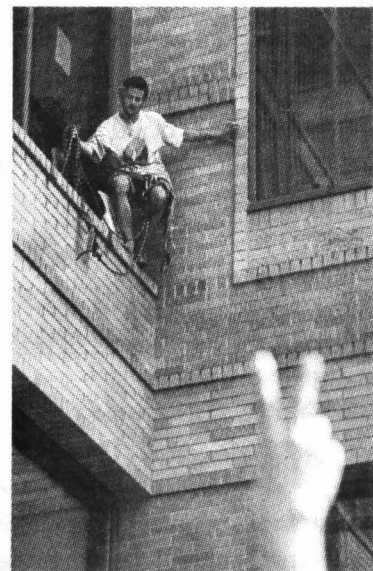
not come down until the sales were canceled. Supporters threw a rope to him, with which he pulled up basic supplies. He slept that night, unsecured, on a nine-inch-wide ledge 30 feet above the cement entrance to the building.

Suddenly, a new action had been established, but this one was within easy reach of the urban news media and hundreds of thousands of metro citizens. The USFS had not crushed our resistance, it had only stirred the hornet's nest of genuine public objection to the sales and the national timber sale program.

Two days later, another CFA activist, Ginny, began a hunger strike at the building entrance. This, combined with the ledge-sit, became a truly awesome public outreach vehicle. Media-savvy CFA activists had daily interviews on radio, television and in print. National media, including *USA Today*, the *New York Times* and television stations ran pictures and stories. *Portland Business Journal* ran a sympathetic, 12-page story on Eagle Creek. Hundreds of concerned and curious citizens visited the action site to learn more and lend support. Two massive rallies took place that shut down the block around the action. Before it could say "forest health," the USFS had become the big loser.

*For the rest of the Eagle Creek story, check out the Lughnasadh 2000 issue of the Earth First! Journal. Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for five dollars each. Order our near-complete, 25-year set for \$500.*

*Editors' Note: Tre Arrow is currently in custody in Canada, facing extradition for his alleged participation in arson on logging and sand and gravel vehicles in the US.*



*Tre Arrow on the ledge of the US Forest Service building in Portland, Oregon*

photo courtesy EF! archives

# Students or Ecoterrorists?

## ExxonMobil Intimidates Environmental Justice Investigators in Louisiana

BY CARRIE WALLS

On May 18, John Lewis, deputy assistant director of the FBI's counterterrorism division, told a Senate committee that "investigating and preventing ecoterrorism is one of the FBI's highest domestic priorities." If this perception of the environmental movement as terrorism becomes commonplace, what will the effects be on the ground? In March, Willie Fontenot and Antioch New England students found out.

It only took two minutes for a March 16 field trip by Antioch's "Environmental Justice in the Mississippi Delta" class to turn into a breach of homeland security and for students, professors and a local guide to become suspected ecoterrorists. In East Baton Rouge, Louisiana—an area known as "Cancer Alley" due to the 150 oil refineries and petrochemical facilities that call it home—the group allegedly committed a crime by photographing an ExxonMobil chemical facility from a public sidewalk.

Fontenot, the community liaison officer for the state attorney general's office, took the group on a "toxic tour" so that they could see, first-hand, the chemical facilities and their effects on local neighborhoods. The students asked if they could photograph the ExxonMobil facility. Fontenot agreed that this was OK, as long as the students stayed on the sidewalk.

Within two minutes, several police officers drove up. Visibly angry, an officer claimed that the students were breaking the law and that he needed to collect identification for a suspicious person report. When Antioch Professor Abigail Abrash-Walton asked where the information would go, the officer became even more agitated. He yelled that he was going to call in "homeland security" and detain everyone "all night" if the group did not comply with his orders. When Abrash-Walton repeated her question, the officer turned to his colleagues and said, "They are refusing to cooperate." At that point, the police called additional plant security.

Police and security vehicles surrounded the students' van. The newly arrived security guards and uniformed officers—who were actually off-duty cops working for ExxonMobil—gathered the students' identification documents. The head of ExxonMobil security finally arrived, and an off-duty officer told him that three of the students had trespassed on company property. Fontenot explained to the officers that he knew that taking photographs of industrial facilities was perfectly legal and that no one had trespassed. Ninety minutes after the first photo was

taken, security finally told the group that they were free to go, but that they would be reported to the Department of Homeland Security for "suspicious activity."

The next day, Fontenot was put on administrative leave. The attorney general's office also warned him that if he led a previously scheduled "toxic tour" for another class the following week, he would be arrested. Apparently, one of the off-duty police officers had filed a complaint with the attorney general's office, alleging that Fontenot had refused to cooperate with him.

On April 4, Fontenot was interrogated by his supervisors and given a choice: He could either retire and clear

out his office that day, or he could fight the complaint in an internal hearing and likely lose both his job and retirement benefits. Recently diagnosed with cancer and legally blind, Fontenot reluctantly chose the retirement option.

For 27 years, Fontenot had worked to help more than 400 grassroots environmental groups in Louisiana stand up to polluting industries and unresponsive government agencies in defense of the land, their homes and their health. He is considered by many to be the grandfather of the environmental justice movement in Louisiana.

Antioch's Environmental Advocacy and Organizing Program and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network quickly launched a campaign to expose ExxonMobil's abuse of power and get Fontenot his job back. Letters of support for Fontenot soon piled up in the attorney general's office from around the country.

In the face of public outcry, Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr. met with Fontenot on April 27. In that meeting, Foti asked several questions, denied personal involvement in the decision to force Fontenot to retire and floated some hypothetical ideas about bringing him back.

This is significant progress in just two months, but there is still work to be done. Willie Fontenot must be rehired and the Environmental Citizen Protection Program of the attorney general's office must be strengthened. Law enforcement officials and corporate security guards cannot be allowed to intimidate academics, journalists and community members.

To support Fontenot, contact the attorney general's assistant, Kris Wartelle, [wartellek@crt.state.la.us](mailto:wartellek@crt.state.la.us). Please send a copy to Lieutenant Mitch Landrieu, [ltgov@crt.state.la.us](mailto:ltgov@crt.state.la.us).

Carrie Walls is pursuing a master's degree in environmental studies at Antioch New England Graduate School. She was a participant in the Louisiana field studies trip and survived to tell the story.



Terrorism? Students were threatened with arrest for taking this picture of a chemical facility.

photo by Stephen C. Kowal



# ALF Donates Animal Abuser's Money to Charities

On April 17, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) took credit for an action on Long Island, New York, against Charles Ryan, chief patent counsel for Forest Laboratories. Forest Laboratories is best known for producing Celexa, a controversial anti-depressant drug that has been linked to increased suicidal thoughts and behavior amongst child and adolescent users. As if killing children weren't enough, Forest Laboratories also contracts out its toxicity tests to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), a notorious vivisection lab.

According to the ALF's communiqué, activists followed Ryan's wife to her workplace, broke into her car and removed credit cards, financial documents and personal papers. Using these resources, the ALF donated \$20,000 of the Ryans' money to environmental and humanitarian charities, posted their financial and personal information on the Internet and threatened further action unless Forest Laboratories severs all ties with HLS.

The communiqué is excerpted below:

Our adventure begins after we followed [Charles Ryan's] wife Maria to Stony Brook University, where she left her Mercedes unlocked and unattended.

We always wondered what the seats of an ill CLK felt like, so we decided to sit inside. Rummaging around the car, we found some interesting items and decided it was time for a spending spree. We took out traveler's checks from Chuck and Maria's Capital One credit card... and we made grants to the following charities:

- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center—\$5,000
- Help Iraqis/Global Exchange—\$5,000
- Save the Manatee Club—\$4,000
- Global Greengrants Fund, Tsunami Relief—\$6,000 (This was a matching grant from Verizon Wireless, so \$12,000 was sent).

That's when we thought back to the CLK and the two other cars Chuck and Maria own, and went to Geico Insurance. With Chuck's policy number, address and mother's maiden name, it was real easy to take full control of Chuck and Maria's auto insurance. Chuck, with the click of a mouse, we can off your insurance, and you will get \$0 when we set fire to your car, which, by the way, begs for it each time Maria parks it at the Oyster Bay train station....

If we find out [that] a dime of [the] money granted to those charities was taken back, we will stipe you bare and burn your shit. This is *our* insurance policy.

Chuck, you and Forest Laboratories can begin to make things right by making a public statement that Forest Labs will no longer have a customer contract with HLS. We assume that by this point in the letter you can see that we are not playing games.



## Monkey Kennel Scrapped After ALF Raid

On the night of April 26, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) vandalized PeonyLand—a plant nursery in Richlandtown, Pennsylvania, and the site of a proposed primate research kennel. According to the nursery's owner, Michael Hsu, the facility would receive monkeys from a supplier in Beijing, China, and house as many as 500 animals at a time before shipping them to research laboratories. Hsu, who currently processes the monkeys at an undisclosed location, hoped that the new facility would streamline operations and expand his participation in the primate research industry.

The ALF trashed several greenhouses, uprooted or poisoned more than 1,000 rare Chinese tree peonies, spray-painted Hsu's house and barn, and poured paint stripper on two vehicles. In a communiqué, the ALF pledged further acts of vandalism unless Hsu scrapped the facility.

"Drop your plans for a primate prison, or we will make your life a living hell. If you continue to go forward with your plans, we will destroy your business and we will destroy your lives.... We are watching you."

Hsu apparently got the message. On June 1, he announced that he would not build the kennel after all, although he denied that the ALF action had influenced his decision in any way. According to Hsu, it was a simple zoning technicality that derailed his plans, not the tens of thousands of dollars in damage inflicted by the ALF.

Nevertheless, Hsu states that he will continue to import, process and ship monkeys from a secret location.

For more information, contact Michael Hsu, 475 Church Rd, Richlandtown, PA 18955; (215) 536-9388; michaelhsu@peonyland.com; www.peonyland.com.

# Earth First!

## Hurls Civil Disobedience into the Treetops

BY RON HUBER

Born out of frustration at the failure of road blockades to defend ancient forests for more than an hour or two, treesitting became an essential part of the EFler's toolbox 20 years ago, in 1985. Here's how it happened.

In the early 1980s, the Corvallis, Oregon-based Cathedral Forest Action Group (CFAG) began to apply nonviolent, civil-disobedience tactics to protect the Willamette National Forest's ancient Douglas-fir stands from the devastating clearcuttery of the Reagan Administration.

The group's tactics included debates, public forums, logging-road blockades and setting up a "witness camp," whose visitors were taken to observe ancient forest ecosystems and freshly killed tree remains.

CFAG's blockades attempted to halt further roadbuilding into the Santiam forest in western Oregon, as well as to stop loggers from entering the Santiam via the already-existing spaghetti of taxpayer-funded roads. Most of CFAG's actions were well-orchestrated, peaceful sit-ins across logging roads, carried out in the hope of bringing the destruction of those forests into public view. One memorable blockade featured CFAG organizer Brian Heath holding a solitary sit-in atop a crate of explosives that was about to be used to blast a roadway through a ridge! But getting busted and banned from the forest for a year after spending no more than an hour "defending" it was not very cost-effective.

Were it not for the treespiking occurring with random precision, courtesy of the Bonnie Abbzug Feminist Garden Club, the pace of clearcutting within the Santiam region would have scarcely been slowed at all. This spawned an

activists' brainstorming session 'round a campfire one smoky night. It was here that the treesit was born, a tactic that now occupies an important place in the toolbox of Earth activism.

Sitting around the campfire, I asked if anyone had any skills that might be of use to us. Mikal Jakubal, down from Wenatchee, Washington, described his extensive rock-climbing experience, but then he shrugged and said, "We're not protecting cliffs."

"But couldn't you...." I said, exhaling and goggling at an idea that had just struck me, "Couldn't you 'rock climb' your way up a tree? Hold the sit-in up there?"

The Earth First!ers contemplated the notion.

"I mean, killing trees with people in them would be bad PR for the Willies [Willamette Industries], not to mention get 'em murder raps. They wouldn't do it."

Jakubal jumped to his feet, shouting, "Yeah! Yeah! I can do it!... I *will* do it!" Within minutes, he was jotting down a list of the supplies he'd need to pull it off and setting plans for a speedy recon of the Santiam to locate his soon-to-be-host tree....

The van full of activists rocketed across Pyramid Creek bridge, headlights yawing wildly. It was after 4 a.m.; the tension and fatigue were palpable in the close air of the van as Leo roared us up the road.

*Can't the Freddie's see the lights?* I felt a cold, hard knot of tension in my gut. We were almost to the closure

*continued on next page*



*continued from previous page*

area. What if they had chained the road shut? What if we rounded a turn on this dusty loggers' road and came upon a great army of Freddie's and Willie's, spotlights flickering on, drawn guns waving.... But the road was open, the empty, soft blush of false dawn teasing the eastern horizon.

Onward, past Pyramid Creek; no Feds; past the restriction sign; no Freds; and suddenly we were at the dropoff spot. We plunged to a halt. The rear doors swung open into the pre-dawn darkness, and we tumbled into the swirling dust of our sudden stop.

A rush of relief. We've outfoxed the Freddie's!

And with our stupid flashlights, visible for miles, no doubt—the others can't seem to live without the damned things!—we ambled slowly down the road, me frantic with worry, still assuming that Freds might come popping out of the woodwork.

Finally, a quarter mile down the spur road, we saw a pile of trees, cut into lengths and stripped of their branches. We stumbled along the spur to the stumpland. And stumpland it was. Dozens of acres were denuded of trees, but the fringe of the forest was still there. Mike Jakubal, soon

to be "Doug Fir," picked out his tree slowly and with a bit of difficulty, and we assembled around it. There was no sign of the loggers or their trucks, only some sleepy birdcalls. Mike stared at his tree and climbed into his harness.

Every so often, we could hear low truck noises in the deeps of the forest—coming this way? We couldn't tell. Time kicked fitfully by, while my stomach tightened into a ball of worry.

Doug Fir slowly wrapped himself in climbing gear, while I scanned all available horizons, my paranoia radar flickering from fatigue. Mike Roselle took an appropriate measure: He dozed, stretched out with his head pillowed comfortably on the slope of a stump. With his beard and long woolen overcoat, he looked like General Grant in repose on the battlefield after Gettysburg or some similar atrocity.

"Any last words?," I asked Jakubal.

"Oh, shit!" he replied with a laugh. Then....

*Tink! Tink, tink, tink, tink!* Doug Fir pounded home the first nail, seven feet up the trunk of a fine, aged Douglas fir, sending an electric shock through us all. The nail sank in three quarters of its length. Doug placed the first loop of his climbing harness onto it, then stepped aboard his "Jacob's Ladder." The nail bent. With a frown, he studied the situation, then thunked the nail in deeper, until he

could only barely hang his ladder on board, and found that the nail held. Relief!

Still, he switched to the spike-sized nails—8.5 inches long and as deadly looking as bayonets. Standing in his ladder, eight feet off the ground, he sank the next spike in.

This one held perfectly, with not a trace of bending. He slung his ladder higher, bootstrapping his way up in the growing light. He was starting to get really up there; he had me belay him so that he wouldn't come tumbling to the ground should a foot slip or a spike give way.

Nightmare! Doug Fir's wooden-shafted hammer broke! Luckily, we'd brought a spare. He continued to pound his way up the tree.

Still no sign of log trucks or Freddie's. We milled about somewhat aimlessly and watched Doug Fir climb.

Finally, after 45 minutes, he was up! He slung his connectors to the massive branch of this mighty tree and we cheered our newfound hero in his perch. He pulled his gear up (two stout climber's bags, large enough to hold a week or more of supplies), and this tree was safe! There wasn't a logger around who could cut the tree down in the view of so many witnesses, including a *Portland Alliance* reporter willing to risk arrest to document this action.

Then we heard a dull rumble behind us as a big, white crummy bus brought the first loggers of the day. Our mood was buoyant, infectiously happy. Roselle bellowed a laugh, and the loggers knew we were there—but they had no inkling yet that Doug Fir was up in a Doug fir.

We ringed the tree, just in case, and after 20 minutes the loggers approached. Doug Fir unrolled his banner—"Don't Cut Us

Down!"—and a crummy that had been driving downhill through the clearcut desolation skidded to a halt. From the cloud of dust that enveloped the bus, out rang a volley of amazed and dumbfounded curses. The crummy turned around and raced back uphill. We waited.

Ten minutes later, a pair of nervous loggers in pie-pan aluminum helmets walked uncertainly over to us. We were chuckling and cracked a joke at them, and they swiftly relaxed, breaking into grins as they peered up at Doug Fir. As we bantered with them, time flew. Different Willie's came by, loggers and managerial types, to gawk and snap photographs.

Nonviolence preparation enabled the blockaders to make our first contact with the tree fellers calm, relaxed and jovial. What began with the shouted curse from a distant incoming logger became a joking discussion with several of them



*Cathedral Forest Action Group activists and Earth First!ers group-hug an ancient tree in the Santiam area of the Willamette National Forest in June 1985.*

*photo courtesy Ron Huber*

about climbing techniques. Both sides refrained from threats or cutting remarks.

The arrival, several hours later, of US Forest Service rangers Slagowski, Christiansen and Jones changed the dynamic. All eight of the blockaders on the ground were issued federal citations for "being in a closed area."

Mike Jakubal, high in the tree, disclosed "Doug Fir" as his name and was not cited; none of the Freddie's would climb the tree to give him a citation!

Next came Linn County deputy sheriffs Dave Freeman and Dale Thurman. Freeman asked the blockaders to disperse. All but two refused. The deputies then arrested the rest of us on charges of criminal trespass. The six arrested blockaders were driven out of the forest, ticketed and released.

Willamette Industries officials then directed the loggers to cut the stand of trees around the occupied one. Doug Fir spent the day and early evening watching trees fall around him.

After sunset, Doug quietly lowered himself to the ground to inspect the freshly killed stumpland around his tree. He remained on the ground for more than an hour and was busted at 7:30 p.m. by Slagowski, who got between him and the tree.

After being held for several hours, Jakubal was released in Sweet Home, Oregon. When he reappeared at the EF! Sanctuary Camp at around midnight, there were cries of disbelief—"Go back up, Mike!"—and dismay that he'd been dry-gulched by Slagowski.

The following morning, the tree was cut down, smashing Jakubal's platform full of supplies and equipment.

Despite the Wright Brothers-like brevity of Jakubal's first-ever Earth First! treesit, the tactic was validated—so long as one never leaves a tree human-free!

*Ron Huber, EF! class of '85, is presently a fish-hugger defending the saltwater-breathing majority from hominid rapacity in the 23-million-acre, wild Atlantis that stretches from Penobscot Bay's eelgrass meadows to the coral-forested canyons of the Georges Bank plateau.*

# Back to the Trees

BY RON HUBER

In the 20 years since that quiet morning in 1985, when Mike Jakubal pounded his way up a Douglas fir, Earth First!ers have occupied hundreds of trees around the planet. Our tactics have been refined, as have the Freddie counter-measures of noise and spotlighting, plus hired climber goons assaulting, binding and torturing nonviolent treesitters. Some incautious tree elves have discovered too late the terrible impartiality of the law of gravity. Is the cost of treesitting becoming higher than its forest-defending benefits?

No! To occupy a wild canopy community at risk, to unite one's survival to it, is a powerful act. It can be undertaken on short notice in reaction to an imminent forest kill, or strategically, following lengthy planning. Unsurprisingly, given *Homo sapiens'* arboreal ancestry, living for a time as part of a canopy community seems to trigger a rewilding reflex that forever changes a person's relationship with Nature. Virtually all of the 1985 Millennium Grove crew, long scattered throughout the continent, continue to labor unceasingly to protect the Earth in one way or another—as do countless other Earth First!ers who have spent some days and nights in a tree.

Don't know how? There are many skilled treesitters out there ready to teach you the way back to the trees and how to live safely in that very different but very natural canopy environment. Whether fending off deforesters or spending a tranquil week in an unthreatened canopy, expect a powerful, Life-reconnecting experience. Do it!

## Violence Escalates in Southern Mexico

On May 19, a party of gunmen ambushed Mexican environmental leader and *campesino* (peasant farmer) Albertano Peñalosa Dominguez and his four sons as they returned to their home in the community of Banco Nuevo in the southern state of Guerrero. Two of Peñalosa's sons—Armando, age 20, and Adatuel, age nine—were killed, while he and his other sons were severely wounded.

"I ran [outside] and saw they were shooting at the truck," said Reyna Mojica, Peñalosa's wife. "I opened the door of the car, and there was my older son. He was dead, torn apart. My little son of nine years was there, too. The same, with his face unrecognizable." While Peñalosa's other sons traveled to the nearest town for medical treatment, Peñalosa remained in his home community for fear of being arrested or assassinated should he leave it.

Peñalosa is a co-founder of the Organization of Environmentalist *Campesinos* of the Sierra Petatlán (OCESP), which is best known for its successful, direct-action

campaign against Boise Cascade in the 1990s. Excessive and illegal logging destroyed nearly 40 percent of the Sierra Petatlán's forests before OCESP forced Boise Cascade to leave the region.

In response to OCESP's repeated successes against the illegal logging industry, local businessmen and political bosses instigated a campaign of repression against the organization and its members. In November, warrants were issued for the arrest of Peñalosa and 14 other OCESP leaders, including Amnesty International prisoner of conscience Felipe Arreaga Sánchez, on trumped-up murder charges (see *EF!* May-June 2005).

For more information on how you can help pressure the Mexican government to protect environmental activists, contact Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, [tlachinollan\\_internacional@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:tlachinollan_internacional@yahoo.com.mx); [www.tlachinollan.org](http://www.tlachinollan.org); or Amnesty International, [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org).

# Wolves



## A pissed off, Mother-Nature's-got-yer-back wolf to a group of langur monkeys in Pune, India,

for letting an elite army officers' academy know exactly how the natives feel about the military presence in their home. The monkeys have been disrupting training exercises, attacking cadets, vandalizing equipment and ripping up plants, leading National Defense Academy officials to admit that they have no idea how to handle the situation. Military officials are calling for the tranquilization, sterilization and re-release of the monkeys, which has angered local forestry officials. "The area originally belongs to animals, and the academy will have to live in harmony with [them]," said forest officer Vishwas Bhadale.

A steady shooting, car-culture-rejecting wolf to John McGivney of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida, for pumping five rounds from a .380 caliber, semiautomatic handgun into the hood of his car. After McGivney dispatched the aging, 1994 Chrysler LeBaron in the parking lot of his apartment complex on April 15, the property manager asked him what he was doing. "I'm putting my car out of its misery," McGivney replied. Although he was arrested on a misdemeanor for discharging a firearm in public and had to post \$100 bail, McGivney doesn't regret his actions. Saying that the car had "outlived its usefulness," McGivney added, "It was worth every damn minute in that jail.... I think every guy in the universe has wanted to do [that]."

A double-talking, greenwashing, eco-sinning poodle to World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia for hiring Greg Bourne as its new CEO in September. When Bourne wasn't working as an adviser to former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or peddling his services to US corporations, he worked for the multinational oil company BP Amoco—culminating

in his appointment as regional president after 36 years with the company. Perhaps it was this track record that led Robert Purves, President of WWF Australia, to remark that "Greg has demonstrated a strong passion for sustainability and environmental issues."

Bourne, for his part, denies that his new job is some sort of atonement for past sins: "A lot of people have said that to me, about this decision being something about giving back. I say, 'I have never taken away.' We all do what we do."

A pusillanimous, image-obsessed poodle to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society for removing Dr. Jerry Vlasak from its board

Vlasak "a man who saves lives every day and one of the most compassionate men that I know," Vlasak was still forced off the board in keeping with Sea Shepherd's policy that nonviolence is not to be compromised by action or suggestion.

A progress-worshipping, collateral-damage-excusing poodle to a new wave of pro-nuclear-power environmentalists for claiming that

nuclear energy is the one true path toward reversing the greenhouse effect. These industry-friendly ideas are being pushed by people such as

Whole Earth Catalog founder Stewart Brand, Gaia theorist James Lovelock and Greenpeace co-founder Patrick Moore (who now runs commercial fish farms and shills for Big Timber, claiming that ancient forest clearcutting in British Columbia is sustainable).

Brand made waves in May by claiming that within the next decade, the environmental movement will change its mind about nuclear power. According to Brand, "The environmental movement has a quasi-religious aversion to nuclear energy." He also said that if nuclear power is overlooked in the quest for alternative energy, it will be "to the great detriment of the world's atmospheric health. Everything depends on getting new and better nuclear technology designed and built."

These "environmentalists" aren't just manipulating the public with their concealed assumption that everybody is on board for an industrialized, production-oriented future; they have also paved the way for politicians such as British Prime Minister Tony Blair to publicly state their opposition to lifestyle changes as a means to reduce carbon emissions, when large-scale increases in nuclear power offer a "green" alternative.

and



of directors on April 21. Vlasak, a trauma surgeon and outspoken animal rights activist, was present on the Sea Shepherd's Farley Mowat during its Spring campaign against the Canadian seal hunt. During an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation following the campaign, Vlasak was asked if he thought that sealers were in the same league as vivisectioners. He replied, "Yeah, I think they're all abhorrent. The threat of violence would be another way to stop them, and I would be behind that threat."

Although Sea Shepherd Captain and Board Member Paul Watson has called



# Poodles

# RHETORIC OR REVOLUTION?

BY ATLATL

*Heartcheck* by Jeff "Free" Luers and "Rob los Ricos" Thaxton, 36-page zine, 2005.

"In five minutes, a man is gonna walk through your door and kill you and your family. You do not have time to escape. You can fight back, or you can die. You have the advantage. You know he is coming; you know what door. You can win this fight.

"No, this is not the segue into a debate about nonviolence. If you are still stuck in that debate, you are not only reading the wrong zine, you are wasting valuable time."

So opens *Heartcheck*, the recently published zine by political prisoners Jeff "Free" Luers and "Rob los Ricos" Thaxton. With its title taken from a prison term meaning "put up or shut up," *Heartcheck* is a rousing call to revolution by "two individuals doing time for actions [that] others only talk about."

The zine begins with an introduction by the authors and a brief but powerful overview of the Earth's ecological crisis. "We are not running out of time; we are out of time," Free says, setting the tone for the rest of the zine. What follows is a collection of loosely connected essays in no particular order, making *Heartcheck* perfect for browsing but perhaps a little jarring as a cover-to-cover read.

Free and Rob are potent writers, and they direct their words like scalpels to the "cowardly... insurrectionary zinesters" of the US anarchist scene.

The authors starkly contrast American summit-hopping and militant rhetoric with anarchist riots and bombings in Europe, the ongoing (and successful) anarchic uprising in Kabylia, Algeria, and the no-holds-barred sabotage campaigns of Stop Huntingdon Animal

community building and risk that it entails—a far cry from the instant gratification of the mass action! In case you somehow manage to miss this point, the zine closes with articles about physical fitness, martial arts, and military tactics and formations.

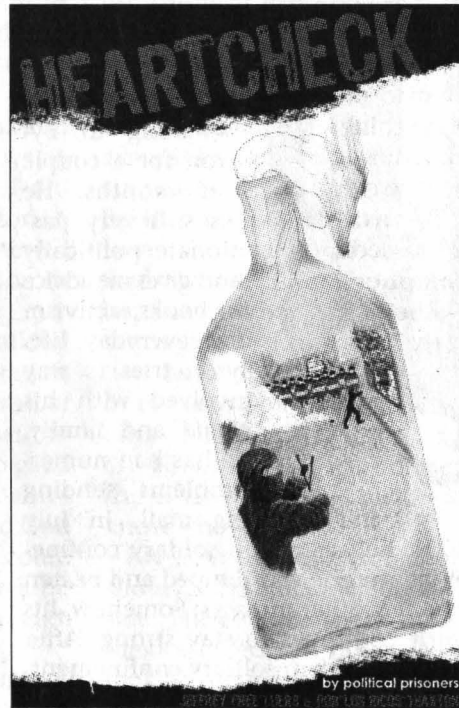
*Heartcheck's* layout and graphics are simple and unpretentious, free of the grainy images and awkward angles that make so many other zines a headache to read. Free and Rob don't care about impressing you with their artistic skills; they want their words to inspire you to action. That said, the cover art is downright beautiful, and I particularly like the crossed hammer-and-wrench symbols by the page numbers! Physically, the zine is durable and well put-together.

*Heartcheck* costs \$7, including postage, with discounts for bulk orders. The proceeds go to benefit Free and Rob, so order a couple dozen copies today. Use them for tabling and fundraising, or just for handing around town.

Take note: This zine may offend some of your friends and cause serious awkwardness in your scene. Frankly, I hope that it does.

*Heartcheck* is available from the *EF! Journal* for \$7. For discounted bulk orders, contact Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440; [freefreenow@mutualaid.org](mailto:freefreenow@mutualaid.org); [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org).

*Atlatl will see you in the field, or he won't see you at all.*



Cruelty and the Earth Liberation Front. They level a much-needed, brutally honest critique of the ineffective tactics that US radicals have fetishized in recent years.

Again and again, Free and Rob remind us that it's time for real revolution, with all the hard work,

## Snitch Billy Cottrell Sentenced to Eight Years

On April 18, eco-activist-turned-snitch Billy Cottrell was sentenced to more than eight years in prison for his role in an August 2003, Earth Liberation Front action targeting SUVs in California's San Gabriel Valley. During his trial, Cottrell implicated two activists, Michie Oe and Tyler Johnson, testifying that he merely spray-painted the vehicles and that the others were solely responsible for the arsons (see *EF!J* January-February 2005). Oe and Johnson are now being sought by authorities.

If Cottrell was expecting a "get out of jail free card" in exchange for his traitorous testimony, he was surely disappointed. US District Judge R. Gary Klausner first

sentenced Cottrell to the mandatory minimum of five years. He then tacked on an additional three years and four months, stating that the arsons were intended to "influence or coerce a civilian population" and therefore qualified as terrorism under the USA PATRIOT Act. In addition to this custodial sentence, Cottrell was ordered to pay \$3.5 million in restitution—one million dollars more than the vehicles were worth!

Eight years is a long time, especially when your support group has dissolved and the activist community has disavowed you. It just goes to show: Snitching will get you nowhere....

# Byron Chubbuck

## ROBIN THE HOOD

artwork by Michelle Cook



BY ROBERT PAULSON

Byron Shane "Oso Blanco" Chubbuck robbed 14 banks in 1998 and 1999 to help fund indigenous and *colonia* (community) peoples and the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Chiapas, Mexico. The FBI nicknamed him "Robin the Hood" for his endeavors. Not only did he never brandish a firearm, Byron was courteous to tellers and other staff during the robberies. After he was captured, Byron escaped from a prison van in December 2000, and he began robbing banks again. Later shot by police and FBI agents, Byron was recaptured in 2001. He is currently serving an 80-year sentence.

I have been writing to Byron for a couple of months. He is still very passionate politically and gives me advice on books, activism and everyday life. Byron tries to stay involved with his *colonia* and family, but he has had numerous problems sending and receiving mail. In July

2004, he was put in solitary confinement after he was jumped and beaten by a few other inmates. Somehow, his spirit continues to stay strong. After almost a year in solitary confinement, the warden finally released Byron back into the general prison population. He believes that this is due to letters and email messages sent by his supporters.

The warden never did give a reason, but Byron believes that he remained in "the hold" for so long because the administration does not like him, due to his being "a New Mexico Alien Class Character, a sovereign"—an indigenous man.

Byron is currently looking to raise a minimal amount of funds for common law help in filing challenges to the ridiculous, 80-year prison term handed to him in a fraudulent federal court. He writes, "I got a letter from a defense project at Kansas University. They are studying *Blakely v. Washington*. They wanted to review my case. But they since claim that they are unable to help me after learning that I'm a political case!"

If you would like to send Byron some reading material (he is constantly educating himself), it must be sent directly from Amazon.com or the publisher.

Send letters to Byron Shane Chubbuck®, #07909051, POB 1000, Leavenworth, Kansas, North America (Byron requests that people always spell out the state name and put "North America" in place of the zip code. It is very important for Byron to not be associated with zip codes, as his copyright sovereign name is his own).

*Robert Paulson is back from the after-life and living in Florida. He encourages everyone to just pick out and support one prisoner at a time. The experience will change you.*

## Activist Gets Six Months for Making "Threats" in Court

On April 29, British animal rights activist Keith Mann was sentenced to six months in jail for contempt of court. Mann, who was on trial for a December 2003 raid of Wickham Laboratories in Hampshire, had just been convicted of conspiracy to burgle and sentenced to 230 hours of community service.

On his way out of the courtroom, Mann turned to one of the lab directors, Chris Bishop, and said, "Your trouble is only just beginning. You will need to look under your bed." In response, Judge Richard Price reconvened the court and handed Mann the custodial sentence for contempt.

On December 13, 2003, several hundred mice were liberated from Wickham Laboratories, in a raid claimed by the Animal Liberation Front.

Mann was previously sentenced in 1994 to 14 years in prison for arson, possessing explosives, escaping from custody and other charges stemming from his role in an anti-meat campaign. This was the second longest sentence given to an animal rights activist to date. He was released in 1998.

Send letters to Keith Mann, KJ9365, HMP The Weare, Rotherham Rd, Castle Town DT5 1PZ, England.

# FROM A LETTER...

BY OSO BLANCO

Prayer is a true voice power, yet I believe that many organized religions have misled the masses about prayer. Once, when I was on escape in Mexico, I had no money, no food or water. I was at a big store begging for pesos and a Christian taxicab driver came up to me and asked if I was a believer—a Christian. I said yes, but I did not have time to go into complex stories. He asked if I needed help to go anywhere. I said yes—to the Central Autobus Station in Juarez. He agreed to help me.

I had been awake for four days, walking 24 hours a day. We drove to the bus station talking. When we got there, I gave him all of the pesos I had begged, about 30. He said to me, "But Blanco, how are you going to get a ticket to Chihuahua?" I looked at him and I said, "I'm going in that bus station, and God is going to provide a ticket for me." I could have said the Great Spirit or Great Creator, but he would understand just who I said. And I said goodbye.

I walked into that place, as I had many, many times before. I walked over and sat down with some Mormon Elders. I talked with them for a few minutes, and one young 19-year-old, Elder Sholes from Arizona, asked me, "Do you need me to buy you a ticket, Blanco?" Yes, I said. Twenty minutes after walking into that bus station, I was on the Panamerican going south.

I got into Chihuahua at 3 a.m. or so. No money, no food, no water, homeless, praying every step of the way. All I had was willpower, vision and the heart of a spider warrior—a soldier from my *colonia*. I made a last begging attempt for a five peso coin. A lady gave one to me and I got on the city bus to my old *colonia*. I went to my brother-in-law, Chema. He was shocked to see me. I told him that I had escaped from the *federales*. He took me in. He called over my Indian friend Shasha. She took my bloody feet and cut off the dead, infected skin and soaked them in hot salt water. And she prayed for me. I healed.

We killed a chicken and a rabbit. We made good food and had some beer, and everyone was amazed that I had gotten away

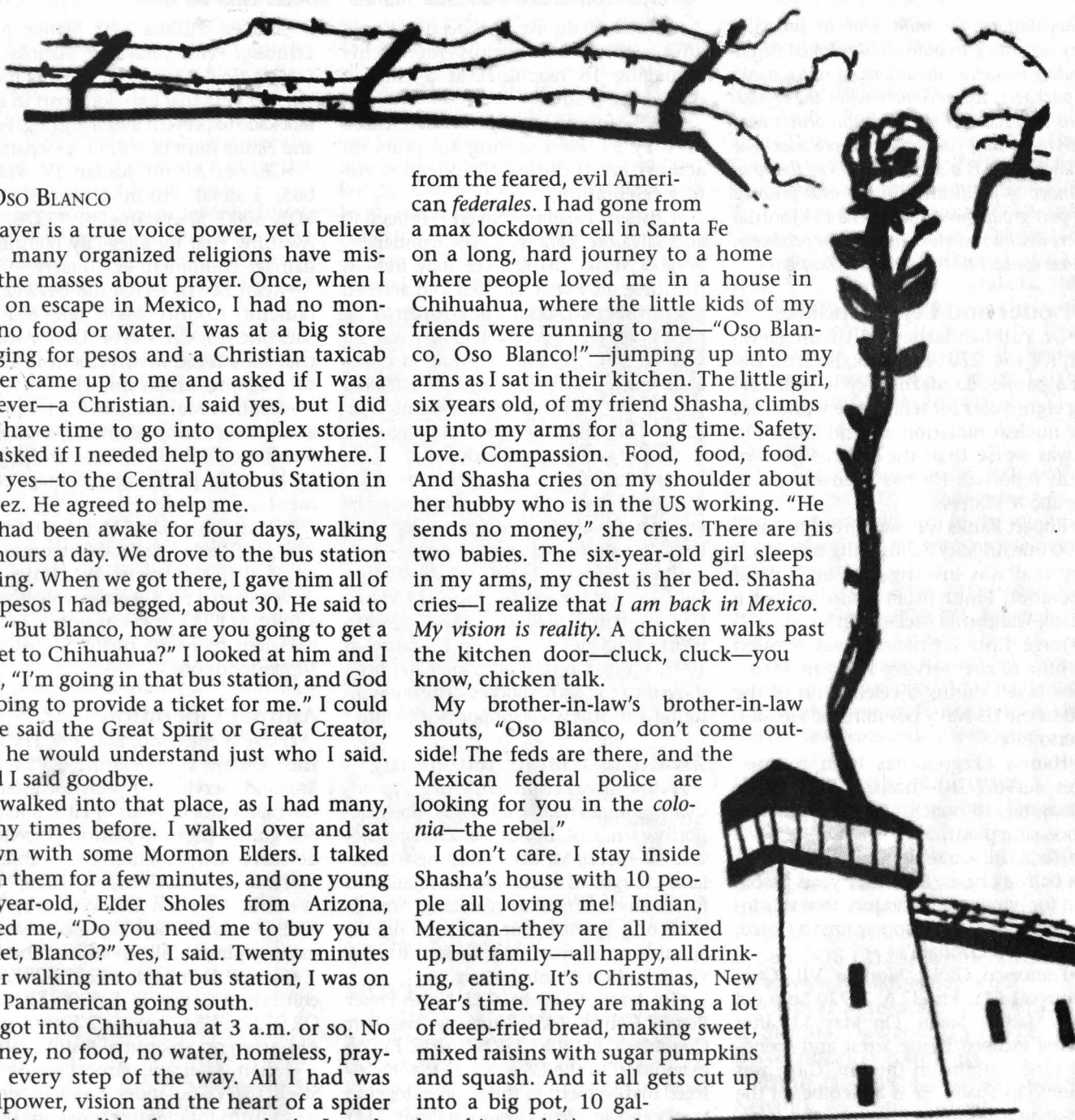
from the feared, evil American *federales*. I had gone from a max lockdown cell in Santa Fe on a long, hard journey to a home where people loved me in a house in Chihuahua, where the little kids of my friends were running to me—"Oso Blanco, Oso Blanco!"—jumping up into my arms as I sat in their kitchen. The little girl, six years old, of my friend Shasha, climbs up into my arms for a long time. Safety. Love. Compassion. Food, food, food. And Shasha cries on my shoulder about her hubby who is in the US working. "He sends no money," she cries. There are his two babies. The six-year-old girl sleeps in my arms, my chest is her bed. Shasha cries—I realize that *I am back in Mexico*. *My vision is reality*. A chicken walks past the kitchen door—cluck, cluck—you know, chicken talk.

My brother-in-law's brother-in-law shouts, "Oso Blanco, don't come outside! The feds are there, and the Mexican federal police are looking for you in the *colonia*—the rebel."

I don't care. I stay inside Shasha's house with 10 people all loving me! Indian, Mexican—they are all mixed up, but family—all happy, all drinking, eating. It's Christmas, New Year's time. They are making a lot of deep-fried bread, making sweet, mixed raisins with sugar pumpkins and squash. And it all gets cut up into a big pot, 10 gallons big, and it's good. Tamales by the hundreds. But the love. They are poor but let me tell you, *they're rich in love and unity*. Boy, did my thoughts, vision and prayer pay off.

I came back to New Mexico three times, robbing banks, and I sent letters to a radio station to speak out about prisoner abuses and the Zapatistas. They caught me due to this repeated contact with the radio station. They got a photo of one of my co-defendants and went to his house. I had just happened to go by there to pick up a leased car, and they shot me with an AR-15 *in the back*, left armpit. The round came out the front of my chest.

So, now you have read the part of my case that got me back here in prison in Leavenworth.





# Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything that you write to a prisoner. The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. The *EF! Journal* offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.

## Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky, UI.Shugaeva, 3-1, KV.454, 220141 Minsk, Belarus. Denied parole, Bandazhevsky is still serving eight years for telling the world that the nuclear radiation around Chernobyl was worse than the Belarus government reported. He has been moved to the above address.

•Robert Banks was sentenced to pay a \$500 fine on May 26 for lying to a grand jury that was investigating an Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arson against a Chico, California McDonald's.

•Jorge Cruz Hernández was released on June 6, after serving 1.5 years for actions taken during a celebration of the end to the US Navy bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

•Hanna Ekegren has been released after serving 10 months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

•Harjit Gill was sentenced to six months at a halfway house and three years probation for lying to a grand jury that was investigating an ALF arson against a Chico, California McDonald's.

•Francesco Gioia, Modulo VII, Ctra. Comarcal 611, km 37.6, 28770 Soto del Real, Madrid, Spain. On May 11, after having escaped house arrest and spending nine months on the run, Gioia was arrested in Spain. He is a member of the eco-anarchist group *Il Silvestre* and is accused of participating in direct action and promoting sabotage. Gioia is fighting his extradition to Italy.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Holloway, London N7 0NU, England. Serving 6.5 years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage to vehicles owned by people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). She has been moved to the above address.

•Jason Hall was arrested in March and accused of aiding and abetting Joshua Demmitt and snitch Harrison David Burrows in an ALF arson on an animal testing facility. His address is not yet available.

•Daniel Hedqvist has been released after serving 10 months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

•José Montañez Sanes was released on May 29, after serving 1.5 years for actions taken during the Vieques victory celebration.

•Cristian Paladini, Saverio Pellegrino and Salvatore Signore, Casa circondariale, Borgo S.Nicola, 73100 Lecce, Italy. In May, the three men were arrested and accused of a series of actions, including damaging gas pumps in opposition to the war on Iraq, targeting Benetton in support of the Mapuche and damaging an ATM at a bank with links to an immigrant-detention facility. Though they are listed together, they must be written to separately.

•Alessio Perondi, a member of *Il Silvestre* accused of promoting sabotage and participating in direct action, has been transferred to house arrest.

•Peter Young, #223341, Dane County Jail, 115 West Doty St, Madison, WI 53703, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a series of raids on fur farms in 1997. Young has pled not guilty and been moved to the above address. For more information, visit [www.supportpeter.com](http://www.supportpeter.com).

## Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Felipe Arreaga Sánchez, Cárcel Preventiva de Zihuatenejo, Calle Paseo de la Deportiva s/n, Col. Deportiva, Zihuatenejo, Go. CP 40880, Mexico. Awaiting trial on false charges of homicide, as retaliation for his environmental organizing. Arreaga reads only Spanish, but letters in English, Spanish or German may be sent to him via [econoticias@sosbahia.org](mailto:econoticias@sosbahia.org).

•Tre Arrow, CS#05850722, North Fraser Pretrial Centre, 1451 Kingsway Ave, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1S2, Canada. Facing extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in the arson of logging trucks and an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit [www.trearrow.org](http://www.trearrow.org).

•Amanda Cerezo García, CP Alicante II, Ctra. N-330, km 66, 03400, Villena, Spain. Awaiting trial for allegedly burning a bulldozer that was being used to construct a road. She is also accused of sending a letter bomb to a neo-Nazi politician.

•William Frediani, Casa di Reclusione, Via Maiano 10, 06049 Spoleto (PG), Italy. Awaiting trial, accused of promoting sabotage and participating in direct action. Frediani is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

•Manase Furima and Matius Nasira, Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Manokwari, Jl Sabang No 4, Manokwari, Papua, Indonesia. Awaiting trial for taking part in a road blockade to prevent illegal logging. Furima and Nasira must be written to separately.

•Charles Arthur Jordan IV, #68163-065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly planning to damage equipment at a quarry.

•Ryan Lewis, #4101338 8W312, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in ELF arsons against urban sprawl.

•Stephen Marshall, #68511-065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly planning to damage equipment at a quarry.

•Christopher "Dirt" McIntosh, #30512-013, FDC Seatac, Federal Detention Center, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a joint ALF/ELF arson against a McDonald's. For more information, visit [www.supportchris.org](http://www.supportchris.org).

## Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Rye Hill, Onley, Warwickshire CV23 8AN, England. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, liberating 600 guinea pigs and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Paul Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Wealstun, Walton Rd, Wetherby LS23 7AZ, England. Serving 2.5 years for making phone calls to animal abusers.

•Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, Federal Prison Camp, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving 2.5 years for an ALF arson on an animal testing facility.

•Johan Jaatinen, Anstalten Skenas, SE-610 31 Vikbolandet, Sweden. Serving six months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

## Ecodefense

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 27 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility powerlines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard. Camenisch reads French, German, Spanish and Italian fluently. He can also read some English.

•Angela Marie Cesario, #66522-065, Federal Prison Camp Dublin, 5675 8th St, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA.

Serving three years and five months for arson of logging trucks.

•Ibai Ederra, Carcel de Pamplona, C/ San Roque Apdo 250, 31080-Iruñez Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Serving nearly five years for sabotaging machinery at the controversial Itoiz dam construction site.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. Serving 22 years and eight months for arson at a car dealership and for the attempted arson of an oil truck.

•Jeremy Rosenbloom, #66521-065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years and five months for arson of logging trucks.

•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, POB 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804, USA. Serving three years for a series of ELF actions against McDonald's, Burger King, urban sprawl, the construction industry and an SUV dealership.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving eight years and 10 months for actions violating her parole, including dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In March 2004, Woodson completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters to officials with bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money.

## Indigenous Resistance

•Byron "Oso Blanco" Chubbuck®, #07909-051, POB 1000, Leavenworth, Kansas, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault on federal agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Chiapas, Mexico.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. Peltier, an American Indian Movement activist, is serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege.

## Mapuche

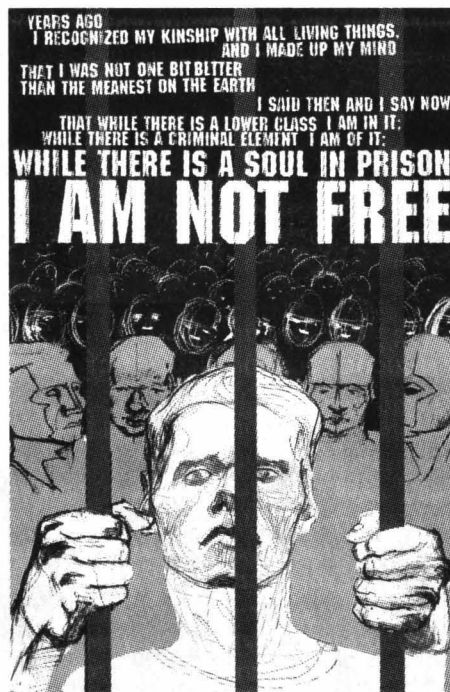
*The indigenous Mapuche people in Chile are fighting to defend their forests from multinational companies (see EFiJ November-December 2004). Although many of the Mapuche prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately.*

•Aniceto Norin Catrinal and Pascual Pichun Paillalao, Carcel de Traiguén—Coronel Gregorio Urrutia N 129, Traiguén, IX Región, Chile. Mapuche lonkos

(chiefs) serving five years for intimidation and "terrorist arson."

•Víctor Ancalaf Llaue, Complejo Penitenciario El Manzano Concepción—Dirección, Camino a Penco N 450 Casilla 70, Chile. Mapuche leader serving five years for "terrorist arson."

•Jaime Huenchullan Cayul, Juan Carlos Huenulao Tricauko, Florencio Jaime Marileo Saravia, José Patricio Marileo Saravia, Jose Nain Curamil and Patricia Troncoso Robles, Centro Detención Penitenciaria Pedro Aguirre—Cerde N 80 y Los Confines s/n°, Angol, IX Región, Chile. Huenchullan and Huenulao are awaiting trial, accused of "terrorist arson." Troconso



and the Marileos are serving 10 years for "terrorist arson." Nain, a Mapuche leader, is serving five years for arson.

## MOVE

*The "MOVE 9," members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30 to 100 years each. Although many of the MOVE prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately.*

•Debbie Simms Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Simms Africa, #AM4975, SCI Grateford, POB 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244, USA.

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17931, USA.

•William Phillips Africa, #AM4984, and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas,

Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981.

## Political Prisoners

•Robert "Rob Los Ricos" Thaxton, #12112716, MCCC, 4005 Aumsville Hwy, Salem, OR 97301, USA. Serving a seven-year mandatory minimum sentence for throwing a rock at a cop at a 1999 Reclaim the Streets action in Eugene, Oregon.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before she was given a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

## Vieques

*Actions taken during a May 2003 celebration of the end of US military maneuvers on Vieques, Puerto Rico, led to the conviction of several activists for conspiracy to destroy federal property.*

•José Pérez González, #21519-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving five years.

•José Vélez Acosta, #23883-069, Federal Correctional Complex, US Penitentiary, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521-1033, USA. Serving two years and nine months.

## Prisoner Support Groups

•Anarchist Black Cross Network, [www.anarchistblackcross.org](http://www.anarchistblackcross.org).

•Books through Bars, 4722 Baltimore Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143, USA; [www.booksthroughbars.org](http://www.booksthroughbars.org).

•Break the Chains Prisoner Support Group, POB 12122, Eugene, OR 97440, USA; [www.breakthechains.net](http://www.breakthechains.net).

•Critical Resistance, 1904 Franklin St, Ste 504, Oakland, CA 94612, USA; [www.criticalresistance.org](http://www.criticalresistance.org).

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, [www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk).

•Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440, USA; [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org).

•Prison Activist Resource Center, POB 339, Berkeley, CA 94701, USA; [www.prisonactivist.org](http://www.prisonactivist.org).

•Prison Book Program, 1306 Hancock St, Ste 100, c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore, Quincy, MA 02169, USA; [www.prisonbookprogram.org](http://www.prisonbookprogram.org).

•Prison Moratorium Project, 388 Atlantic Ave, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11217, USA; [www.nomoreprisons.org](http://www.nomoreprisons.org).

# Ask an EF! Lawyer

## He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

I've heard about the Northern California jury verdict on April 28, awarding eight activists one dollar each after Eureka police and Humboldt County sheriff deputies swabbed the insides of their eyelids with pepper spray. Is it a victory for activists to win the case but not receive any money?

—EYES BURNIN' FROM INJUSTICE

Dear Burnin' Eyes,

Torture is the "intentional infliction... of severe physical pain or suffering... directed against persons in the offender's custody or physical control," according to the United Nations Convention on Torture.

On October 16, 1997, peaceful forest activists went to the offices of Scotia Lumber and US Representative Frank Riggs to protest a deal that would have allowed more logging of old-growth redwood forest. The cops and sheriff deputies came, looked at the folks and realized that the protesters had already won—the activists had locked down securely, and it would take hours to remove them. In desperation, the cops and sheriffs decided to try something that no law enforcement agency in the US had yet been so cruel as to do. They forcibly peeled back the protesters' eyelids, including those of two young girls, and swabbed the inside of their eyelids with pepper spray. Although the activists barely made a sound, a video of the process clearly shows that the pain they went through was more than excruciating. The activists later sued the sheriffs and cops for using excessive force (see page 3).

Fast forward to April 28. After two previous inconclusive trials and appeals, the activists finally won their third trial with a unanimous jury verdict confirming that *law enforcement had used excessive force against the protesters!* Each of the eight activists was awarded one dollar in damages, and now Humboldt County will probably be required to pay more than one million dollars in attorney fees.

When determining the success of this lawsuit, we must consider what the activists wanted to achieve. As one of their lawyers, Tony Serra, eloquently told the *Associated Press*: "The plaintiffs were never in it for the money. They were in it for the principle." The protesters

laughed, hugged and thanked the jury for its decision, and with good reason.

The jury verdict concluding that law enforcement used excessive force justified what these activists had been saying, and it embarrassed their arrogant and cruel opponents (always a good thing). The verdict also struck their opponents (and others like them) with fear of future embarrassment and financial harm.

Forcing the City of Eureka and Humboldt County to pay lots of money would taint our side if that monetary award did not accompany a finding or admission of excessive force. The promise of money, without any ruling or admission that the government did any wrong, suggests, to me at least, that the lawsuit was brought primarily to make money and not for activist purposes. Also, money judgments, like other kinds of judgments,

tend to be issued against the government entity itself and not just law enforcement. A big money judgment is therefore more likely to lead to a decrease in social services than it is to lead to firing some cops or retiring some shotguns. Finally, many local governments have so much money that they do not mind paying out the bucks so long as they get to continue doing what they wish with their victims.

What these activists did here (and I include the lawyers when I say this) was nothing short of heroic. The protesters suffered greater pain for the cause than nearly all of us ever will. The lawyers worked literally for years with no guarantee of any payment, before a number of hostile judges and tribunals, while keeping alive the hope of convincing a jury to do the right thing. Their opponents were better funded and had salaried attorneys who routinely defend these types of cases. The law also favors the government.

Despite these and other obstacles, the activists succeeded in getting a verdict against taxpayer-funded torture that local governments everywhere will have to pay attention to. Now, the good guys' attorneys can force Humboldt and Eureka to pay for their well earned legal bill. Sounds like justice to me!

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stu Sugarman, c/o Walker, Warren and Watkins, 838 SW 1st Ave, Ste 500, Portland, OR 97204; quixote516@yahoo.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" in the subject line.



# On Genocide, Ecocide and Those Who Resist

BY THE EARTHBOUND COLLECTIVE

Autumn in northeastern Minnesota: the maples burst into flame-red; bull moose rut under the weight of antlers spread like hammocks; the mosquitoes and tourists wane; and the heads of ripe wild rice nod above the steam on the lakes, awaiting a hushed visit by a canoe at dawn. In late September, a remarkable group of people will come together to share food, possibilities and stories of a long and painful history of destruction. Stories of resistance.

We would like to invite you to the Earthbound Gathering, an event to bring together Native and non-Native people who share concerns about the Earth. It promises to be potent ground for building connections centered around a shared passion for Earth defense and for addressing many of the issues that can make organizing between Native and non-Native communities painful and difficult.

This gathering is sourced from the strength of relationships between Native and non-Native activists, forged in the heat of the struggle. Minneapolis' 1998 Minnehaha Free State, the longest urban land occupation in US history, drew its strength and longevity from the affinity that it created between Native, Earth First! and neighborhood people. These relationships continue to grow, and they inspire us today.

We have also seen similar coalitions and relationships fail due to ignorance, lack of cross-cultural understanding and basic disrespect. We wish to study these situations in the hopes of learning from them and to discuss cross-cultural dynamics of all kinds.

We are aware of some elements that have repeatedly prevented coalitions of this kind from forming, and we are addressing them as part of our planning. For one, Earthbound will be strictly drug- and alcohol-free. We expect everyone present to have a basic respect for each other and to strive to really listen. We would like each person who attends to

be interested in healing and mutual understanding across the lines of race and other distinctions.

At Earthbound, we seek to address the following and more: racism; cultural appropriation; white guilt; cultural genocide; the struggle for cultural identity; strong coalitions created in the past; failed coalitions and the reasons why; current resistance campaigns; forms and perspectives of struggle; ways to reconnect with each other, the Earth and ourselves; youth in activism, coalitions and culture; and traditional, Earth-based skills and crafts. Presenters on any of these topics are strongly encouraged to contact us!

Earthbound will take place from September 23-26, near Eveleth, Minnesota. It will be free to all, including food and lodging. We expect to be able to provide some travel assistance for elders, youth, families and others who may have need.

Our organizing circle presently includes young and middle-aged people of European and Native American descent. We are only a few, and we are looking to grow. Please contact us if you want to learn more, help organize, give input or criticism, present a workshop, help fundraise or get the word out, donate resources, attend or just stay informed.

We hope that an uncommon spirit of honesty and healing will animate this gathering, so that we may discover the common ground in our struggles. We believe in our hearts that we can support each other in new ways—*not only to make a new world, but also to save the old.*

For more information, contact the Earthbound Collective, POB 490, Finland, MN 55603; (800) 669-8418; earthboundcollective@hotmail.com.

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## UK EF! Summer Gathering

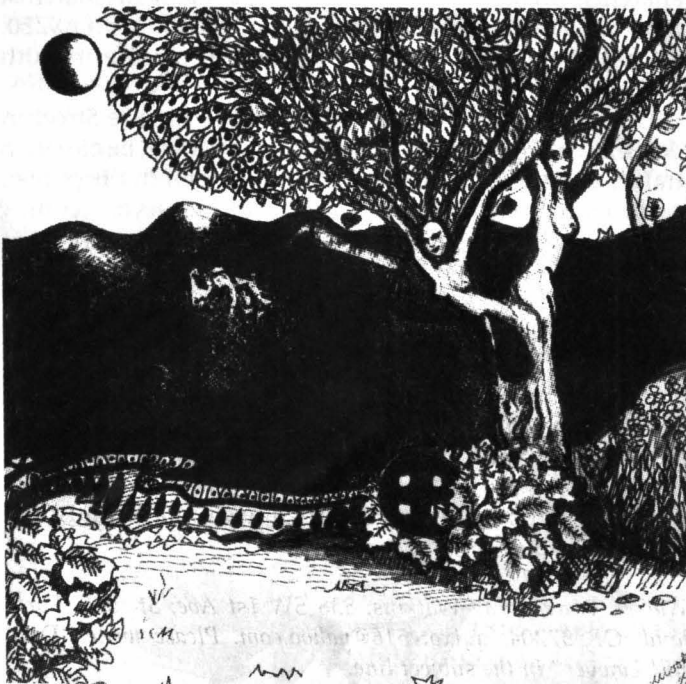
August 17-21 · Peak District National Park  
Brighton, East Sussex, England

This gathering is aimed to inspire and train all those opposed to the destruction of our planet. It will cover a large range of practical skill and struggles, including: self-defense, nanotechnology, blockade tactics, Gleneagles, G8, navigation, Iceland dams, action first aid, indigenous resistance, climbing, identification cards, road and airport expansion, primitive skills, organizing actions and campaigns, climate change, and ecological restoration.

There will be a reception tent, vegan food, a reading library, women's space and a quiet camping area.

The event is £10, not including food. You may bring your own or purchase meal tickets for £3.50 a day. Children are welcome, but there is no childcare provided. There is a strict limit on the number of dogs that are able to be on site, so please contact the organizers beforehand if you wish to bring your dog. Please do not bring cameras.

For more information, contact EF! Summer Gathering 2005, 6 Tilbury Pl, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2GY, England; 0845-355-0111; [summergathering@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:summergathering@yahoo.co.uk); [www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk](http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk).



artwork by Michelle Cook

# announce

## The Foundations of a Movement:

### An Animal Rights Conference

July 9-10 · New York City, New York

Friends of Animals' upcoming conference in New York will cover an array of issues, such as activism, diet, feminism, ecology and untangling the threads of domination. Speakers include: Vicky Crosetti, executive director of the Tennessee Valley Humane Society; Lee Hall, legal director of Friends of Animals; Peter Galvin, conservation director of the Center for Biological Diversity; and others. A vegan continental breakfast will be offered each morning.

The cost of attendance for both days is \$75. The cost for Saturday only is \$50, Sunday only costs \$35, and a two-day student admission is \$20.

For more information, contact Friends of Animals, 777 Post Rd, Ste 205, Darien, CT 06820; (203) 656-1522; [www.friendsofanimals.org](http://www.friendsofanimals.org).

## Ninth Continental Bioregional Congress

July 9-17 · Earthaven Ecovillage

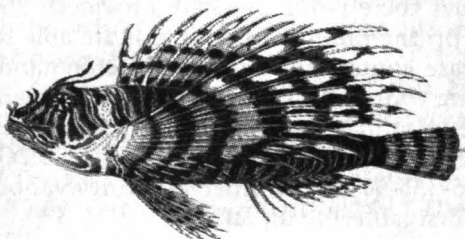
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Earthaven ecovillage, located in the beautiful Southern Appalachians, was started in 1994. At Earthaven, there is a sauna, swimming hole, hiking trails and a give-away store (donations accepted) for you to check out during your visit.

It is here that participants in the bioregional congress will gather to develop realistic and restorative ways of life for the bioregions of the continent. Events include: cultural celebrations from different bioregions, meal circles, discussions, focus circles, women and men circles, massage and yoga. On July 9, tours of Earthaven will be offered throughout the day.

Childcare will be available. No pets, drugs, weapons, bad attitudes, anti-bacterial soap or other non-biodegradable products please.

For registration information, contact Mary Armstrong, 1025 Camp Elliot Rd, Black Mountain, NC 28711, Katuah; (828) 664-0067; [biocongress2005@earthaven.org](mailto:biocongress2005@earthaven.org).



## The Crane Project

July 9-August 6 · Colorado

In remembrance of the 60th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, the Crane Project will be traveling Colorado's Uranium Trail, calling attention to this state's role in the nuclear industry and taking nonviolent direct action to put a stop to it.

The Crane Project is a grassroots coalition of communities concerned about the environmental, social and health consequences of nuclear weapons and energy.

Colorado has historically played a major role in the mining and processing of uranium, causing vast devastation of the Earth within the bioregion and to the lives and culture of the people who suffer from the production and use of nuclear weapons.

This week of action will feature a nuclear film festival, skillshares, speakers, direct action, and, on August 5 and 6, a caravan across Colorado to speak out against nuclear proliferation! Housing, food and childcare are available.

For more information, contact the Crane Project, [CraneProject2005@yahoo.com](mailto:CraneProject2005@yahoo.com); [www.thecraneproject.org](http://www.thecraneproject.org).

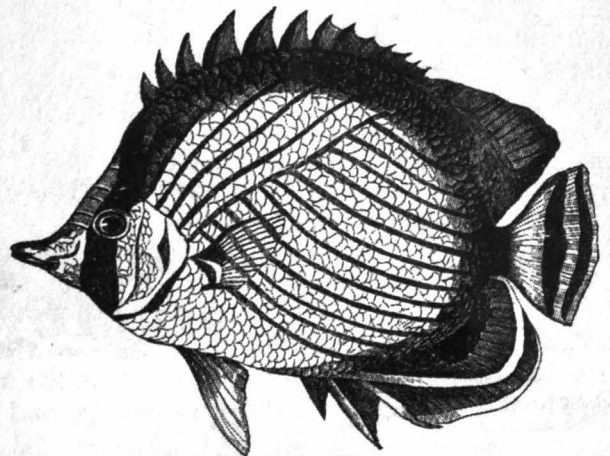
## Providence Anarchist Bookfair

July 16 · Providence, Rhode Island

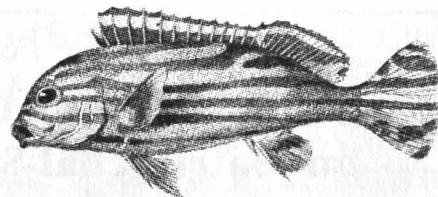
Find awesome books, zines, stickers, pamphlets and anarchist literature of all stripes at Providence's Anarchist Bookfair. The fair is being held in conjunction with AS220, a local community art space that is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

The day's events will take place at 115 Empire Street in downtown Providence. All of Empire Street will be closed to traffic, and the day-long fair is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact [sue@circleacycles.com](mailto:sue@circleacycles.com).



# ments



## Toward Carfree Cities V

July 18-21 · Budapest, Hungary

People from around the globe are invited to help make car-free cities a reality. Toward Carfree Cities V will offer a number of workshops, speakers, exhibitions, movies and, yes, even a bike ride. Discussions will center around the promotion of walking and cycling in less motorized regions, making cities pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly, raising funds and networking.

Conference attendees are also welcome to attend the World Carfree Network's annual general meeting, which takes place on July 22.

The registration price is determined by the number of days attended, whether you are a student and whether you purchase your tickets in advance.

For more info., visit [www.worldcarfree.net/conference](http://www.worldcarfree.net/conference).

## Feral Visions Against Civilization:

### Third Annual Green Anarchist Gathering

July 27-August 3 · Southern Appalachia

As we embark on the process of rewilding—of opening ourselves to the wild desires that lie latent in our hearts and bodies—we can look to each other for knowledge and inspiration. We can never live as if we weren't born into civilization's logic of control and distrust, but we do have the power to begin to de-civilize ourselves now.

A recent surge of interest in primitivist and anti-civilization ideas has supported publications, gatherings and all sorts of collaborations. The informal Black and Green Network converges to share and coordinate, cross-pollinate and inspire each other through our interactions in a wild place. The exact location will be announced one week before the gathering.

Some of the subjects focused on in the past have included anti-civilization theory, emotional recovery from civilization, radical communication, ecofeminism, nihilism, indigenous solidarity, anarcho-primitivism, symbolic culture, post/anti-leftism, insurrectionism and direct-action strategy. There have been skillshares on hide tanning, arrow-fletching, basketry, shelter building, wild foods gathering, friction fire-making and roadkill skinning.

Kids, parents and folks thinking about future parenting are encouraged to participate in kids' activities and to share experiences in raising children outside of civilization, feral parenting, teaching ecological awareness and un-schooling.

For more information, contact (866) 460-2945; [www.greenanarchy.org/feralvisions](http://www.greenanarchy.org/feralvisions).

## Twin Oaks Communities Conference

August 19-21 · Louisa, Virginia

In the works for this year's event is a panel on service-oriented communities, discussion on the creation of a healing culture in international community and a look at the role of the Communities Movement in society.

Food will be mostly potluck style, with Twin Oaks providing breakfast and a few staples such as milk, yogurt and salad. There will be workshops, sharing circles and time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings with wonderful people. Childcare is available. No pets, please.

For more information, contact Twin Oaks Community, 138 Twin Oaks Rd, Louisa, VA 23093; (540) 894-5126; [www.twinoaks.org/conference](http://www.twinoaks.org/conference).

## Reproduce and Revolt!:

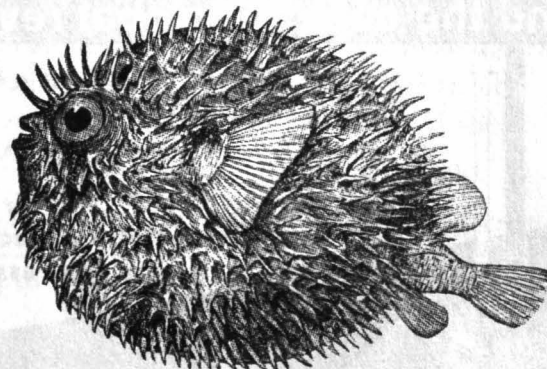
### Radical Graphics for the 21st Century

*Reproduce and Revolt!* will be a book of more than 300 new and interesting political illustrations. It is open source/anti-copyright, with easily reproduced graphics for everyone to enjoy.

Send in your submissions of radical artwork to fill the pages of *Reproduce and Revolt!* Some suggestions include: anti-authoritarianism, anti-racism, counter globalization, environment, feminism, government, health care, housing, international society, labor, media, prisons, protest, queer liberation and war. All images must be black and white, high resolution (at least 600 dpi for grayscale, 1200 dpi for line art); at least 6x6 inches; easily reproduced.

Submissions must be received by October 31. All mediums are accepted. There is no limit to the number of your submissions.

Send submissions or requests for complete entry guidelines to Josh MacPhee, R & R, POB 476971, Chicago, IL 60647; [reproduce@justseeds.org](mailto:reproduce@justseeds.org).



## SOCIETIES OF PEACE

# The Second World Congress on Matriarchal Studies

*Matriarchal societies past and present.  
Matriarchal spirituality. Matriarchal policy.*

Contrary to the common prejudice which sees matriarchies as "women's rule" these societies have real gender-egalitarian, consensus-based and peaceful traditions. Their cultural genius can give the guidelines for a better future. Please come to this groundbreaking congress which will bring together speakers from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America with a special invitation to indigenous women and men from matriarchal societies worldwide.

Center for the Study of the Gift Economy, USA and the  
International Academic HAGIA, Germany.

### SPEAKERS

Yvette Abrahams (Khoisan, South Africa), Lamu Gatusa (Mosuo, China), Heide Göttner-Abendroth (Germany), Kaarina Kailo (Finland), Barbara Mann (Bear Clan of the Ohio Seneca, North America), Joan Marler (USA), Vicki Noble (USA), Peggy Reeves Sanday (USA), Genevieve Vaughan (USA), and many others

Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2005

Texas State University San Marcos, Texas  
[www.second-congress-matriarchal-studies.com](http://www.second-congress-matriarchal-studies.com)  
(512) 444-1672



activist media project  
los angeles PRESENTS

# THIS IS WHAT FREE TRADE LOOKS LIKE

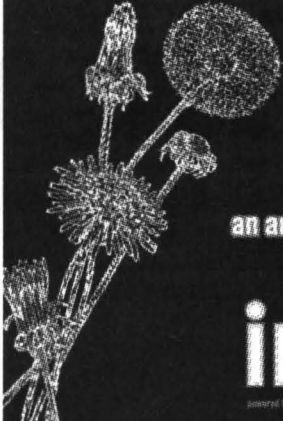
The NAFTA fraud in México, the failure of the WTO,  
and the case for global revolt.

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contains english and spanish versions  
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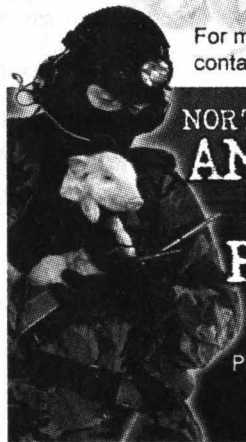
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# TYRANNY

## is Best Challenged Early

BY JEFF "FREE" LUERS

I can always tell when Spring has arrived. The air smells different, the atmosphere feels different, and I always feel the urge to rabble rouse. It is a tradition, every year around this time, for the Department of Corrections and me to butt heads. Perhaps it is a primal response to each other's existence. Whatever the reason, this year's dance has begun.

As many of you may be aware, back in 2003, I was thrown in the hole for writing a letter, published in the *Earth First! Journal*, about my experiences and beliefs (see *EF!J* July-August 2003). The timing of my isolation suspiciously coincided with the first day of protest against my sentence. For the past two years, I've been consistently questioned about my plans for the annual June Day of Action (as if I have any say in what you all do). Ever since my time in the hole, I have been denied the ability to have journalists come to interview me. That denial now appears to have been extended to include CNN.

The censorship also includes my outgoing mail, specifically my artwork. My drawing of three people in a cloud of tear gas—one woman holding a slingshot, another holding a molotov like a candle, and a man holding a brick—has been censored. The prison refuses to allow me to mail it because "it endorses and supports anarchist activity."

Not only is this restriction a violation of "law," it flies in the face of logic. The art is supposedly too dangerous to mail out, but I can keep it in the prison safely. No one ever said that you have to be smart to work here. I am already challenging this issue, but I suspect that it will be many months before the public can view the drawing.

The implications of this are not good, however. The prison may soon try to censor anything that I say or write,

claiming that it supports anarchist or Earth Liberation Front activity. Remember: If they can do it to me, they may soon do it to you.

Things are starting to go downhill fast in this country—not just the draconian laws being passed, but the increasing repression of dissent. History has shown us time and again that tyranny is best challenged early, because once established, it is at its most formidable. We must not make this mistake. We must not lose momentum or cower in fear of the state. But most important of all, *you* cannot rely on someone else to make a stand for you. Practice what you believe.

There is so much that a small group of people can accomplish, and our numbers are far from few. Recognize the power you have.

Look around your city or town; find the sources of injustice and oppression, whether they are corporations or state agencies. Challenge them, fight on your terms, try something new and use unconventional means. Above all, find a way to win.

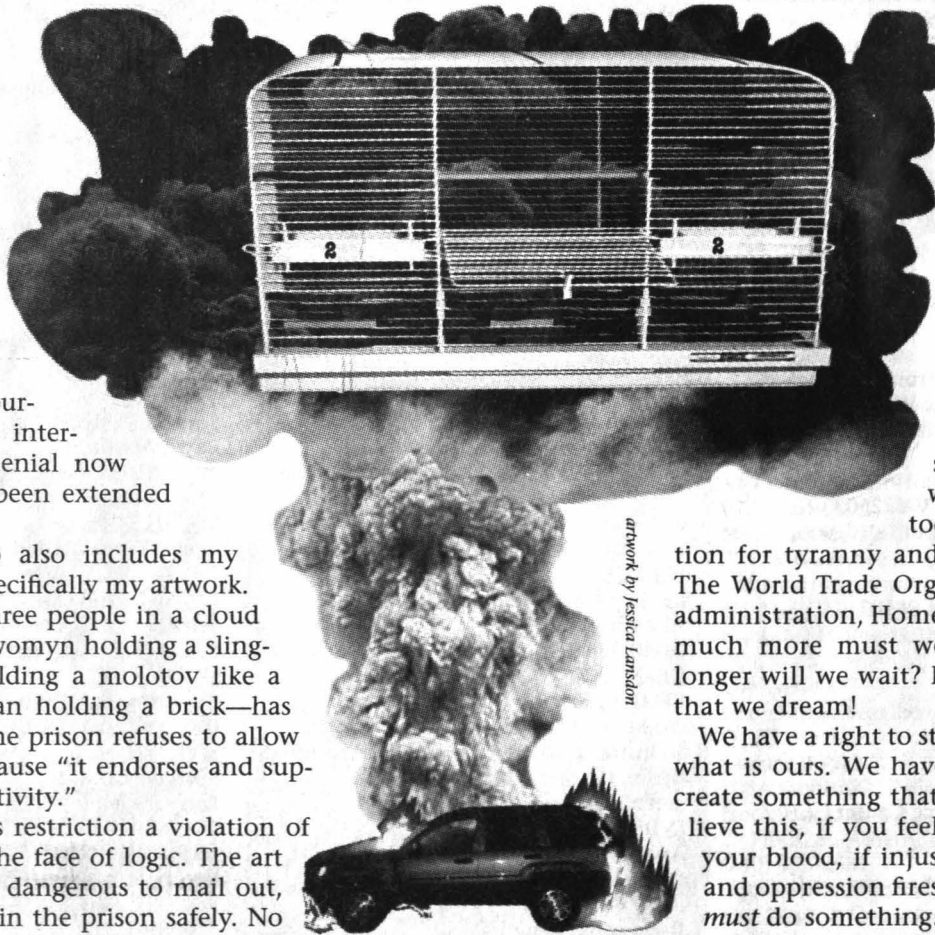
My friends, my sisters and brothers, we have been idle too long. The foundation for tyranny and oppression is laid.

The World Trade Organization, the Bush administration, Homeland Security—how much more must we take? How much longer will we wait? It is not for nothing that we dream!

We have a right to struggle and take back what is ours. We have a responsibility to create something that is better. If you believe this, if you feel freedom stirring in your blood, if injustice makes you sick and oppression fires your rage, then you *must* do something.

Inaction speaks as loudly as action, but it says something completely different.

Jeff "Free" Luers is serving a more than 22-year prison sentence for burning three SUVs at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon, in June 2000. Write to him at Jeffrey Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310.



artwork by Jessica Lamsdon

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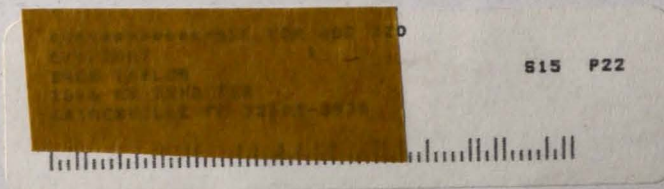


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