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Operation Backfire Sentencing · No Olympics · Fun with Diesel Engines · Secession

# Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal  
Lughnasadh July-August 2007



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# Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

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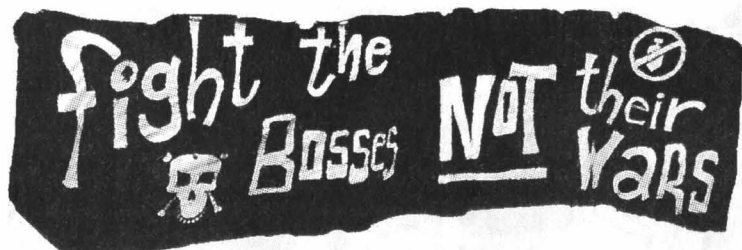
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This issue marks the end of an era. Beginning with the next issue, the *Journal* will return to the tabloid format that we all knew and loved for 21 years. It's been fun making the magazine, but the costs are just too high (see *EF!J* May-June 2007). We look forward to experimenting with the new format and finding new ways to make the *Journal* better than ever. Thanks for your support!

—*EF! Journal* Editorial Collective



# our hirstory and us

As I travel around the world and this fair country of ours, I keep encountering awesome projects. I can't help asking myself, though: Where are the people who came before us? I wonder why, as a movement, we fail to take into account our hirstory. There is very little in the radical movement that has been around for a long time. We are constantly creating new things: new zines, new communities and new groups. At 27 years, the *Journal* is ancient in radical news. Recently, I was talking to a friend who once ran a much-appreciated magazine. He was lamenting the movement and its lack of support for his publication. The magazine had been around for eight years and included lots of important stories, while at the same time giving support to other publications. However, it was forced to fold. There is always room for new things—when we do not sustain old things. If we look at the list of projects that have folded in the past year, we will be astounded at how much hard and good work has ended.

When I was in the UK, I was impressed by Freedom Press, which is the world's oldest anarchist publisher. There is nothing remaining in the US that resembles it. We don't, as a whole, look back to anarchists or radicals of the past. Which of us has looked into what the mutualists, or any other anarchist movement, have done and what we can gain from them?

Often, I think we fail as a community to see our hirstory and embrace it. We reinvent the wheel. We classify ourselves as different from those who came before, and we think we know better. We say we are the most inclusive, the most understanding, the most respectful and so on, which fails to acknowledge the importance of previous individuals and groups.

Classification can cause many problems. A friend was sitting in a class with a group of students, listening to a trans person talk about hir experience. Afterwards, everyone was trying to classify hir by hir gender, sexuality and body. The person ze *was* didn't matter; only what ze *had* been. People wanted to understand the situation through classification, but something was lost as a result: hir individuality.

There is something very basic within us that desires classification. When we encounter new things, we want to have some category to place it in so that we might better understand it. I really believe that this is something to be fought. If we say, as a movement, that we value diversity, then we should not try to categorize and define that diversity.

Certainly, the Earth First! RRRs may look different today than they did 15 years ago, but the people from then aren't totally gone. One of the things that I see when people send notes to the *Journal* is that there is a wide demographic that supports us. There are older folks who have been involved with EF! since the beginning and those who just really believe in the cause. From coast to coast and everywhere in the middle, there are people who support the cause, and they don't all look the same. Earth First! has a long hirstory, full of diverse people who have been defending the Earth without compromise for nearly 28 years.

—STAR

For Shawn Wilbur and those others who know who they are.



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*Earth First!* is a forum for the no-compromise environmental movement. Responsibility rests with the individual authors and correspondents. The contents do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of this magazine, the Earth First! movement, local Earth First! groups or individual Earth First!ers.

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.

Submission deadlines are the first of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. 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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# Adventures with King Coal's Lackeys in the Tennessee Legal System

BY COURT JESTER

Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) was already rocking hard in June 2005, when folks learned that National Coal Corporation (NCC) was having a public shareholders and board meeting at a hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. NCC was also busy ripping up Zeb Mountain in Campbell County, and it was gearing up to strip-mine other sites in Tennessee and Kentucky. With a bunch of Earth Firsters lurking around, you can guess what happened next. The mountain-huggers went to the NCC shareholders meeting to educate the shareholders about the destructive nature of strip mining and to demand an end to this practice.

Things got exciting when folks let their passion for the mountains really show. More than 30 activists assembled in the parking lot across the street from the shareholders meeting. Many were in colorful critter costumes and wielding dangerous instruments of political action, including drums, trumpets, whistles and a bullhorn. They crowded into the hallway outside the meeting room and began to make some noise in defense of the beautiful and diverse Appalachian mountains, forests, rivers, critters and folks. A few people had missed the memo about this being a nonviolent protest and tried to shove their way into the boardroom.

The goon at the door, who turned out to be Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Walker—assigned to the ever-important Homeland Security division—proceeded to manhandle and choke a few protesters, and then complained that *he* had been assaulted. A couple of media-activist types recorded the protest on video. Three

protesters were arrested while standing outside the hotel giving out leaflets and holding signs.

It was obvious to all involved that at least one arrest was very targeted: Prominent Katúah Earth Firster John Johnson, who was there with his bullhorn, was nabbed after being fingered by Walker. Another person was vindictively arrested after asking Walker—who was wearing one of those “What Would Jesus Do?” bracelets while choking demonstrators—how Jesus would deal with the protesters. The third arrest appeared to be random or a case of mistaken identity.

The three mountain-huggers were initially charged with four felonies and a misdemeanor, although this would later be changed to five misdemeanors and a felony (burglary). They were labeled dangerous “ecoterrorists” and locked in the maximum security division of the Knox County jail. The anti-mountaintop removal movement and its supporters were very generous in donating enough money to get the three out on bail, and the “NCC 3” (come on, all good political cases need a cool number moniker!) are very grateful to all who helped free them from the clutches of the Man.

At the preliminary hearing in July 2005, Walker lied enough to make President Bush look honest. He arrived with his three-ring binder loaded with Internet posts about Earth First! and MJS. He tried to claim that Katúah Earth Firsters were a bunch of known “ecoterrorists” who were under investigation by the local Joint Terrorism Task Force. This alleged investigation concerned a bomb that had supposedly been planted in the suburban mailbox of

*continued on next page*



Video stills: protesters enter the Holiday Inn (top); protesters at the meeting room door (second from top); Deputy Tom Walker choking a protester (bottom two)

video by mountainmabel

# The jurors understood that the cop had lied, that the state had overstated its case and that the protest hadn't gone exactly as planned.

*continued from previous page*

NCC's then-CEO John Nix. It's funny that the incident was never in the media and that known activists were never questioned about this supposed event.

One of the defendants' attorneys accused the Knox County Sheriff's Office of acting as paid thugs for their "corporate overlords" at NCC; the judge responded by telling everyone to stick to the facts and refusing to dismiss the case.

By the time the trial rolled around this April, the defendants had seen some of the "evidence" against them—a combination of arrest reports, incident reports, FBI articles and Internet reports about Katuah Earth First!, MJS and other organizations. Then it turned out that some of the defense attorneys were not ready for the trial, so Johnson's case was separated, and he and his ass-whipper of an attorney were left to go it alone.

The trial was anything but routine. First, Johnson's attorney, Mike Whalen, successfully moved to prohibit any mention of "ecoterrorism" and the alleged bomb incident. Whalen was also granted a motion that limited the state's ability to force Johnson to give names on the witness stand.

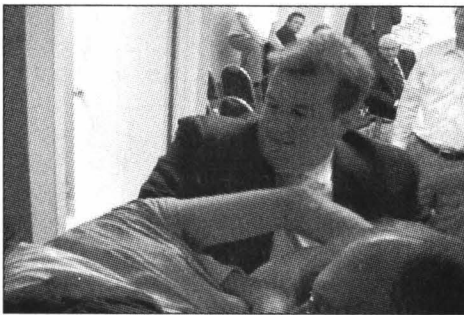
The assistant district attorney let his two fresh-faced law-school interns handle the prosecution, and they immediately set the tone for the trial by trying to paint Johnson as a dangerous leader of a group of impressionable young college students. The state argued that Johnson was responsible for other people's actions at the protest, an argument that the judge instructed the jury to ignore. Activists' videos clearly showed that Johnson did not hit Walker or enter the boardroom, as the deputy had claimed in his complaint of assault and burglary. The state tried to prove its case by

showing the videos frame by frame, but it only looked like Johnson's bullhorn was in front of Walker's head as the deputy grappled with another protester. Whalen succeeded in getting the deputy to testify that he did not identify himself as a law enforcement officer. He also got NCC's attorney to testify that he never saw Johnson enter the boardroom or strike the deputy.

After having to watch the dang videos yet again, the jury was finally allowed to deliberate. It was out for about three hours. When the jury came back and the judge got ready to read the verdict, the foreman—a big, burly fellow with suspenders—winked at Johnson. The judge read not guilty verdicts to the charges of assault, offensive touching, burglary and aggravated criminal trespass. Johnson was found guilty of disorderly conduct and interfering with a meeting, two minor misdemeanors. Later, three of the jurors came out into the hallway to shake Johnson's hand and wish him good luck. The jurors understood that the cop had lied, that the state had overstated its case and that the protest hadn't gone exactly as planned.

Johnson returned to court for sentencing on May 18, only to learn that the judge was going to delay the sentencing until July 12. The prosecutor had whined that he did not have enough time to review Johnson's "presentencing investigation" and had tried to claim that Johnson had been convicted of violent felonies in New York City during the 2004 Republican National Convention. The judge laughed in his face but granted the delay in sentencing anyway.

Stay tuned for updates. Legal fees, fines and court costs are likely to be high. Please send money to help. For more information, feel free to contact John Johnson at [johnjef@bledsoe.net](mailto:johnjef@bledsoe.net).



Video stills: National Coal Company CEO John Nix shoving protesters (top two); John Johnson getting arrested (bottom two)

# DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS

Dear *Earth First!*,

Before I start this letter, let me introduce myself. My name is Danny Camacho, and I am a maximum security California state prisoner. I recently read an article in your magazine called, "Federal Prison 101" (see *EF!* May-June 2007). As I read the article, I felt very sad because Peter Young's article does not accurately portray prisons. I understand this was his experience, and I commend him for acting on his convictions that put him in prison. However, I have spent a total of 15 years on the wrong side of a cell door, and I have been involved in prison stabbings, riots and getting beat by prison guards. The image he portrays is not the true reality of prisons. Only the low-level prisoners have any experience even close to his. I am a vegetarian and—I can only speak for California state prisons—it would be almost impossible to be on a vegan diet. We have no salad bar or anything like tofu.

It is my opinion that Young was irresponsible in the way he wrote his article. What if a young man reads his article and takes for granted that there are not a lot of violent prisons. If he acts on his convictions thinking all prisons are soft, he could wind up in a state prison getting stabbed to death on a prison yard. I have seen many people who do not belong in prison who are eaten alive by the many wolves and killers housed in some of these prisons. I hope that no one is influenced to act on the basis that prisons are like Summer camp.

I know you wrote a disclaimer, but please put a

small article or put this letter in your next issue so people know that there are very real dangers to prison.

Thank you very much,  
—DANNY CAMACHO

Dear SFB,

While reading about the *Earth First!* Round River Rendezvous and wishing I could attend, I noticed the planned workshops included "tree climbing and blockades, mental health, Confronting Oppression Within, hide tanning...." Whoa! Are we describing the further degradation of a murdered someone's skin? I thought we—you, me, the animals, the ELF and the ALF—were all in this together. Correct me if I'm wrong.

—PAULA

P.S. If you are planning a workshop in what my mother meant when she would say, "I'm gonna tan your hide," well that's entirely your business.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from (a humble peon representing) the CrimethInc. ex-Workers' Collective. Thanks so much for running a review of Filastine's CD *Burn It* (see *EF!* May-June 2007). We share your high opinion of the music.

We have just one concern. You list the CD as having been released by Soot Records, which an earlier edition of it was, but the particular version of it you review—the one that is a Green Scare benefit (for which \$5 from each sale goes directly to defendants) and that includes a 12-page booklet of information about government repression—was released by CrimethInc., not Soot.

To our knowledge, the Soot version does not include the booklet (which we designed) nor is it a Green Scare benefit. It's somewhat unusual that the *EF!* reviewer described the CD as possessing all these attributes, yet listed it as released by the label that had produced the other version. However, the Green Scare benefit version is available through [www.crimethinc.com](http://www.crimethinc.com).

While I have this opportunity, I'd like to plug another Green Scare benefit from another CrimethInc. cell, a children's book entitled *The Secret World of Terijian* detailing the adventures of two youngsters discovering the joy of ecodefense. It's available for \$6 from CrimethInc. Northstar, POB 40338, St. Paul, MN 55104.

Thanks for all the important work you do.

—CRIMETHINC.

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Donny's characterization of *EF!*'s "fourth wave" in the "Thoughts on a Changing *Earth First!*" editorial bothers me for a couple of reasons (see *EF!* May-June 2007).

Let me say, right off the bat, that I don't agree with his analysis. We're certainly in a period of transition, with lots of folks dropping the *EF!* name and seeking new approaches, but I think it's too early to tell what will come from this. Nevertheless, I find the implications of his argument disturbing.

Donny defines the fourth wave of *EF!* as characterized by challenging oppression within the movement. Now, *Earth First!* is defined rather broadly (which is why the occurrence of three or more

distinct "waves" has been possible). But at the end of the day, there is a definition: *EF!* is a biocentric direct-action movement; no more, no less. This structure has its strengths and its weaknesses.

Previous waves of *EF!* have argued over what it means to put the Earth first. For example, a more anarchist-influenced wave would insist that the Earth cannot be saved without eliminating the state, while a prior wave might disagree. But what Donny seems to be suggesting is something else entirely: that "making *EF!* circles safe spaces for those involved" should be our new focus.

To me, this smacks of a New-Agey abandonment of external struggle in favor of internal enlightenment. "We give up," it seems to say. "We can't save the planet. But let's go deal with our own shit, and then maybe the Earth will get saved as a result."

To get from the world that we've got to the world that we want, we're going to have to work on struggles both external and internal. There's no doubt about that. But we need to do both. And it's dangerous to confuse them or to assume that they're the same thing.

Sitting around and talking about our shit, writing anti-oppression policies and "calling out" sexual offenders are not biocentric direct action, nor do they lead to it. Yes, we must confront oppression within—but if the new wave of *EF!* is all about something that is not biocentric direct action, then that's the same as saying that *EF!* has finally died.

—BEN PACHANO



# A Challenge Worth Meeting

## OPERATION BACKFIRE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED

BY DN

The June 5 sentencing hearing for Jonathan Paul was supposed to mark the end of the Operation Backfire prosecutions in the federal District of Oregon. Eighteen months after the first series of arrests, the government's most aggressive crackdown on ecosabotage finally seemed to be drawing to a close (see *EF!* September-October 2006). However, due to a dispute over Judge Ann Aiken's application of the sentencing guidelines, Paul's sentencing has been delayed until July 3 (Aiken initially handed down a sentence of 51 months).

The other nine defendants in the District of Oregon cases have now been sentenced (see sidebar). These hearings have been taxing for the friends, families and communities of those charged. In sections of the broader environmental movement, the sentencing of these defendants has sparked not only debate and concern, but also renewed commitment, a greater level of preparedness and an increasingly serious attitude toward government repression. In September, when Briana Waters goes to trial in the Western District of Washington for a single federal charge of arson, she will have a vigorous legal defense.

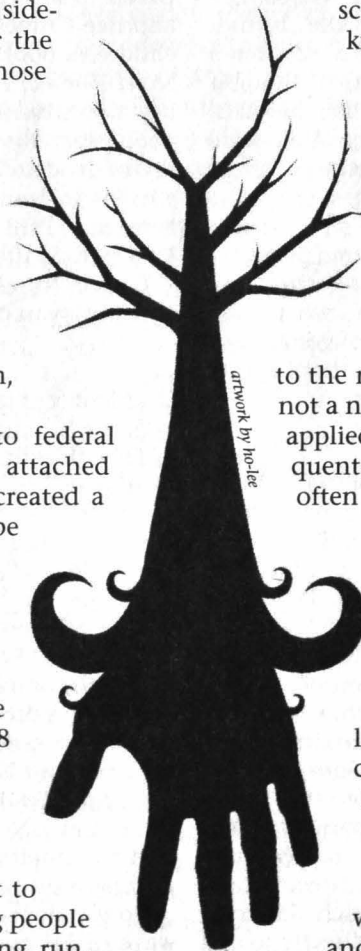
With many defendants now headed to federal prison with a "terrorism enhancement" attached to their sentences, the government has created a dangerous precedent that is certain to be used against other activists. Yet the government would be wrong to declare victory against radical environmentalists. In the future, politically motivated arrests and grand jury subpoenas will meet with firmer opposition as a result of the organizing undertaken during the past 18 months. Those in and around Earth First! have not gone away; instead, many have deepened their practice and recommitted to the long haul. Perhaps the government performed a service—albeit at a great cost to individuals—by educating and radicalizing people through its repressive actions. In the long run, Operation Backfire might be remembered as a galvanizing experience and not just a simple tragedy.

The terrorism enhancement hearing on May 15, and the sentencing hearings that took place between May 22 and

June 5, all provided insight into the government's intentions and strategies when dealing with political dissidents. On May 15, prosecutors argued that terrorism enhancements should be added to the defendants' sentences in accordance with the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Assistant US Attorney Stephen Peifer contended that ecosabotage and eco-arson are comparable to past acts of terrorism committed by the Ku Klux Klan, white supremacists and abortion-clinic bombers. Defense lawyers presented strong arguments against this analogy and against the imposition of the terrorism enhancement, which could lead to the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) sending the defendants to scarring maximum security facilities. Aiken acknowledged that she had no control over the BOP, which could make wrong decisions based on the terrorism enhancements.

Six days later, Aiken issued a written ruling stating that if there was "clear and convincing evidence" that a specified crime "involved or was intended to promote an enumerated offense intended to influence, affect or retaliate against government conduct," then the terrorism enhancement could apply. According to the memorandum, "substantial risk of injury" is not a necessary criterion for the enhancement to be applied. A majority of those sentenced in the subsequent weeks received the terrorism enhancement, often due to the contents of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) communiqués—one statement from 2001 referred to Jeff "Free" Luers' then-upcoming sentencing for arson, and another from the same year asserted that pending anti-environmentalist legislation "will not stop us."

Aiken bemoaned criticisms that she was labeling the defendants as "terrorists." According to her, she had done no such thing. Doublethink and hypocrisy were central themes throughout the sentencing hearings, as Aiken laid down the law. At some points, she appeared to be out of touch with reality. Noncooperating defendant and avid reader Nathan Block was scolded for *not* reading. Government informant Stanislas Meyerhoff was described as intelligent, honorable and worthy of a reduced sentence. In contrast, other defendants' refusal to name names seemed to be treated as a punishable



offense. While some of the finer points of the sentencing hearings may be lost on people who are unfamiliar with the intrigue and gossip of Pacific Northwest radicalism, the broader picture of judicial vacuity seeped into even mainstream coverage of the cases.

Aiken was the bumper-sticker judge or, in the words of *EF!*er and frequent *Counterpunch* contributor Michael Donnelly, “the soccer mom judge.” Her worldview appeared to be as two-dimensional as the bumper stickers she quoted during the hearings (for example, cooperating defendant Kevin Tubbs was reproached because he sought change with sabotage instead of “random acts of kindness”). A staunch believer in what she considers to be the “participatory democracy” of the US, Aiken could not grasp why many people feel marginalized by such a system. No matter how common such frustrating feelings are to those who maintain grassroots efforts in the face of big bucks, vested interests and expansive public-relations operations, Aiken simply could not and would not relate. While this is to be expected—one’s perspective depends on one’s position and day-to-day roles—it also gives context to some of the more bizarre statements that Aiken made during sentencing.

charitable activism. In the government’s campaign against extremism, dissident perspectives are treated as interchangeable—hence comparisons between the defendants and the murderous Klan (see page 12). The defendants certainly didn’t get the same treatment as ordinary firebugs, even though apolitical arsonists pose a greater threat to human life than the ELF, which scrupulously prepares its actions so as not to injure any living being. Instead, the defendants were assumed to be worse than someone who burns a tenement in an insurance scam, because the financial motive of such a person is readily understandable in this profit-driven culture, while the defendants’ principles are not.

“Actions speak louder than words,” Aiken was fond of stating, as she lectured the defendants who had refused to cooperate with the government. She then proceeded to punish the defendants’ words, including communiqués, other materials that expressed a defiant attitude and even McGowan’s tame support website. The actual arsons for which the defendants were being sentenced drifted in and out of focus. Pie-throwing was portrayed by federal prosecutors as something almost as ghastly as arson.



On May 15, activists dropped banners above Interstate 5, in Seattle, Washington, to show solidarity with the Operation Backfire defendants.

If we are to believe federal prosecutors and the judge, “these are not political cases.” The defendants’ crimes are those of hubris, narcissism and nihilism. The refusal of defendants to “come to the table” for constructive dialogue about the environment or the suffering of animals was, at best, the immaturity of “young folks” or, at worst, a celebration of violence for its own sake. Especially during the sentencing hearings for Block, Joyanna Zacher and Daniel McGowan, anarchism was portrayed as the fundamental “crime” that lurked behind all of their other crimes. Anarchism was defined not as an ideal (however utopian) but as pure violence, destruction and, by extension, terror. Aiken’s conflation of such terms allowed her to rule in a “nonpolitical” manner against a political ethos.

Aiken’s argument, inasmuch as it proved comprehensible, was against “extremism,” meaning any dissent outside of bipartisan politics, nongovernmental organizations or

Aiken’s behavior during the hearings clarified exactly what sort of “participatory democracy” she was defending; she rarely interrupted the federal prosecutors but constantly cut off other voices. (One exception was her decision to suspend Paul’s sentencing until further arguments could be heard—because Aiken realized that she could be in legal trouble if she did not. Another exception was when Aiken compelled Block and Zacher to speak, since she knew that they would not apologize and that she could use this “failure” to justify their long sentences.) Given some capacity for critical self-examination, Aiken might have understood that the same sense of a rigged game that prevailed in her court is exactly what moves many environmentalists “away from the table” of polite discourse with megapolluters. No such revelation took place. Instead, the government provided a lesson about how real shifts in perception and social change may occur.

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During McGowan's sentencing, Assistant US Attorney Peifer discussed treespiking and cited an unusual authority concerning its hazards: the late Judi Bari. A noted EF! organizer, Bari did indeed argue against the use of this tactic, although her objections were primarily based on the diminishing effectiveness of treespiking and the potential for broader alliances with labor. Bari was also known as a vociferous opponent of government policy, as well as a defender of redwood forests, environmental sustainability and human freedom. Moreover, a 2002 civil ruling regarding law enforcement's violation of Bari's civil rights supported the hypothesis of FBI participation in the 1990 car bombing that nearly killed her. For these reasons, Bari was an unlikely posthumous witness for the government. Yet Bari's newfound respectability and authority tells us everything about the relationship between "extremism" and what may become the norm. Those who push the limits also define what is acceptable. When faced with treespiking elves, the government will sing the praises of a former enemy (Bari, no doubt, would not be returning the government's favor).

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the ELF showed very few manners as they made their points—it was time to act for the Earth and its animals, and to demonstrate a "no compromise" attitude while doing so. The ALF and ELF philosophy—as well as the broader environmental movement—survives today. Despite the harsh sentences received by the Oregon defendants, it's not going to disappear any time soon.

The defendants—or at least those who refused to inform on others—deserve firm support, not as idols or heroes but as real people. Blind cheerleading seems as unfair and unhelpful as blanket condemnation. It is important to note—without moralizing or judgment—that even the noncooperating defendants have expressed some regret over their actions or disillusionment with the milieu that once inspired them. Regret or disillusionment is no reason to give up hope or to cut people off (being an informant is another matter). Rather, it is a reason to assess what has happened so that we can fight harder and better in the future. Strategies and tactics, such as covert action or arson, may be reevaluated, and we may see a move to either more "populist" or more "extreme" positions (although we'll probably see both). But the most important thing is that we're still out there, creating the sort of change

Perhaps the government performed a service—albeit at a great cost to individuals—by educating and radicalizing people through its repressive actions. In the long run, Operation Backfire might be remembered as a galvanizing experience and not just a simple tragedy.

that rarely comes about merely through a certain judge's idea of "democracy."

Some great people are going to prison at a time when we need them the most. Even Aiken admits that what happens over the next eight years will be crucial in determining the extent of climate change, although she sees the law-and-order politics of the elite as more important than such peripheral concerns. Aiken's rulings are—consciously or not—an attempt to further entrench economic damage as terrorism in the public mind and to trivialize animals and ecosystems at the expense of profit margins. We should write the defendants; we should support them; we

should pay attention to what they say even if we don't take leadership from them.

It's possible that the government has lost further credibility through Operation Backfire, but that does not mean that we'll automatically benefit from the result. Wishful thinking is no substitute for effort. In the spirit of the late Brad Will, let's subvert the bumper-sticker slogan and together be the trouble we want to see in the world.

For more information, visit [www.cldc.org](http://www.cldc.org); [www.greenscare.org](http://www.greenscare.org).

*DN lives in Portland, Oregon. He does his best to transform a sad and stupid society.*

## Operation Backfire Prisoners

### Cooperating Defendants

- Chelsea Gerlach: nine years
- Stanislas Meyerhoff: 13 years
- Suzanne Savoie: four years, three months
- Kendall Tankersley: three years, 10 months
- Darren Thurston: three years, one month
- Kevin Tubbs: 12 years, seven months

### Noncooperating Defendants

- Nathan Block, #36359-086, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA; [supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com](mailto:supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com): seven years, eight months
- Daniel McGowan, [www.supportdaniel.org](http://www.supportdaniel.org): seven years
- Jonathan Paul, [friendsofjonathanpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofjonathanpaul@yahoo.com): sentencing delayed until July 3 (initial sentence of four years, three months in dispute)
- Joyanna Zacher, [supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com](mailto:supportersofnathanandjoyanna@gmail.com): seven years, eight months
- Briana Waters, [www.supportbriana.org](http://www.supportbriana.org): trial is scheduled to begin in Washington, on September 17

*Editors' note: Some of the defendants' new prison addresses are not available as of press time. For updated information, visit [www.ecoprisoners.org](http://www.ecoprisoners.org) or contact the defendants' personal support groups.*

# blast from the past

Litha 2002 *Earth First! Journal*



## EVOLUTION OF THE OFFENSIVE

### Using Everything We've Got!

BY LESLIE JAMES PICKERING

More than any other event in my life, the actions of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) have been the most eye-opening, inspirational and empowering. The actions of the ELF have restored a hope in me that had otherwise been beaten into submission by the oppressive cycle of daily life within contemporary American civilization....

From the onset, the direct actions of the ELF were causing millions in damage to corporations and government agencies that were profiting from destroying the Earth. The actions and existence of the ELF created an enormous wave of attention across the US as authorities fruitlessly scrambled for evidence against it, often barely beginning one investigation before the ELF would strike again.

I have been privileged to be in the position of spokesperson for the North American Earth Liberation Front Press Office (NAELFPO) since the Spring of 2000. The press office has been referred to by the media as a "clearinghouse" for the anonymous communiqués of the ELF. For me personally, it has been an opportunity to publicly speak my belief in direct action and to help the movement gain the public's attention and support....

As I see it, the ELF is a loose network of clandestine guerrilla groups that are part of a larger movement struggling for global revolutionary change. The tactics that they engage in, which many consider nonviolent sabotage, are a direct result of their analysis of the oppression they struggle against and the level of activity they perceive to be effective within the particular context of their actions....

Any dictionary will tell you that violence is, more or less, any act that aggressively harms or threatens harm to anyone or anything. Therefore, if actions are truly non-violent, they will fail to even threaten harm to anything, which I certainly do not consider to be the case with the ELF. The entire intention of the ELF is to bring about liberation through engaging in effective acts of sabotage against oppressive institutions. To not even threaten harm to these institutions would therefore be failure....

Why is it that when it comes to clearly violent struggle outside the borders of the US, such as that waged by the

Zapatistas in Chiapas, Mexico, the majority of liberals are quick to lend their ideological support, while those same liberals adamantly condemn the actions of the ELF and ALF here within the borders of such a powerful and oppressive government? Revolutionary change has never been achieved through reformist activity and is certainly not going to be handed to us on a silver platter by the US government....

I recognize that all forms of institutional oppression flow from the same source: the institution. Therefore, I am not an environmentalist, I am not an activist, I'm not a reformist or any form of liberal. I am a revolutionary. I advocate the return of all power to the hands of the people by any means necessary on a global scale. I see anything short of this as failure and therefore disastrous....

Nonviolence, economic sabotage and armed propaganda are tactics, not strategies, not gospel and certainly not the only effective actions to be taken as part of a successful revolutionary movement.

Like the tools of a toolbox, each has a specific use and specific results. Depending on the job you have, you choose a tool (or a set of tools) from your toolbox. You don't choose only the tools that fit most comfortably in your hand or that are the prettiest, you choose the ones that'll get the job done. Sometimes these tools do fit comfortably in your hands, but most of the time they give you blisters. No matter what, though, at the end of the day, the objective

is always to have the job completed. It's idiotic to shun the sledgehammer when you're working to knock down a wall....

I officially resign from my role with the NAELFPO, but I am by no means silencing myself. I intend to continue with increasing effort to struggle for revolutionary change without being bound to any dogmatic atmospheres of opinions.

Long live the Earth Liberation Front! Long Live the Animal Liberation Front! Down with this insane system that plagues the Earth and its peoples! Revolution is liberation!

For the full text of Leslie James Pickering's article, see EF!J June-July 2002. Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 27-year set for \$500.



artwork by Darius

# Operation Achilles

## BRITISH POLICE BITE AT SHAC'S HEELS

BY MAX GASTONE

On May 1, police in the UK, Holland and Belgium conducted a series of 28 raids, arresting 15 men and 18 women. The majority of the raids and of the 12 people subsequently charged were in the UK. Of those arrested, nine were eventually charged with conspiracy to blackmail. Three others—Gregg Avery, Natasha Avery and Heather Nicholson—were charged with blackmail and are in prison awaiting trial. The series of raids and arrests, code-named “Operation Achilles,” was focused on the campaign against animal-testing company Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) and, in particular, on anti-vivisection group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), which the three activists on remand helped found.

Nicholson and the Averys lost a recent appeal to be released on bail and do not have another chance at freedom until September. Given the British courts’ slowness when it comes to animal rights cases, it is unlikely that there will be a trial this year. The other nine defendants have had their draconian bail conditions (including no contact with any other activists) lifted, but they remain under some restrictions. Without a doubt, the arrests had a strong political motivation, but it remains to be seen how this will manifest if and when the cases go to trial.

### Operation Achilles

Operation Achilles was a massive undertaking that involved 700 officers in the UK alone. This was only 200 short of the 900 used in a recent operation—said to be the biggest of its kind in the UK—against a suspected Islamic terrorist plot involving fertilizer bombs.

From the beginning, it was obvious that Operation Achilles was as much

about disruption and public relations as about making arrests. The National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit (NETCU), a police organization that focuses on animal rights groups, issued press releases about the raids before most had even taken place. Embedded camera crews accompanied law enforcement on raids at key addresses. Over the last few years, the pharmaceutical industry has been demanding action in the face of repeated failures to break SHAC and similar groups. Operation Achilles was an ideal chance to demonstrate that the government is “winning” the war on SHAC.

A key feature of the NETCU press releases and media reports was their focus on the money and equipment being seized. A NETCU press release from the day of the raid claimed up to \$197,000 in seized property. There were other claims of investigations into money laundering. During a raid in Worcestershire, the police took only computers and phones, and strangely ignored all the paperwork.

On the more bizarre side, some of the locations raided were animal sanctuaries and rescue centers. At a swan rescue shelter, six officers simply wandered around, poking their noses about half-heartedly. At Freshfields, near Liverpool, it was a different story: The place was sealed off, and staff and animals were mistreated. The police allowed four dogs to run away, and one worker who was trying to check up on the animals had his collarbone broken for his efforts. Animals at the shelter were not fed or attended to all day. It is not clear why sanctuaries were included in the raids.



artwork by Fallyn

### Targeting SHAC

In the UK, blackmail consists of “making threats with menaces.” In this case, the accused are charged with being members of SHAC. Some are charged with being leading members of the fictional “SHAC Management Team,” which is combined with the allegation that SHAC threatened companies with noisy demonstrations at their offices unless they severed ties with HLS. That most of these demonstrations happen through liaison with the local police does not appear to matter. One young woman is charged with answering the phones for SHAC and taking messages; another man is charged with attending lawful protests organized by SHAC. Others are alleged to have made threatening phone calls to HLS.

The targeting of SHAC is not new. SHAC has long been a thorn in the side of the government and various industries. It has conducted high-profile campaigns against HLS and all those who do business with the company. This has included going

after some of the biggest pharmaceutical and banking companies, and in many cases winning. The response to such success has been a series of state-sponsored operations designed to break the campaign, so far without any great success. When Nicholson and the Averys previously served six months in prison in 2001, for publishing inciting material, big business prematurely heralded the downfall of SHAC.

As arresting high-profile campaigners did not have much effect, the police moved on to the tactic of hampering the campaign as much as possible. On the legal front, police and companies have conspired to take out civil injunctions—which rely on evidence of illegal activity—to declare all protest a form of harassment and thus to justify heavy restrictions on the right to protest, which is otherwise guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights. This has given the police greater powers of arrest and the ability to inflict stiffer prison sentences on protesters. Breaking the terms of an injunction could result in up to five years in prison, despite a person not actually doing anything otherwise illegal.

Most of these injunctions are currently interim (until approved at a trial). The first, which was filed by HLS itself, only came to trial this past March, after four years of procrastination by HLS's lawyers. Though the injunction was granted, it was done in terms more favorable to the protesters than HLS desired, including permitting limited use of bullhorns. It was not the success that HLS had been hoping for.

The second strand of police repression involves harassing protests, information stalls and activists who

are leafleting, to the point that these things are next to impossible. The aim is to get SHAC out of the public eye. This has had mixed results: SHAC now follows the law to the letter, organizing protests with the police in advance (limiting their power for disruption) and applying for permits to collect money.

However, this is not the high-profile policing that the government's friends in big pharmaceuticals and the banking world were demanding, and it has not stopped lawful protests outside company offices. A few years ago, Daniel Vasella—CEO of Novartis, one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies—declared the UK to be more hostile to animal testing than anywhere else in the world. To change that perception, the government needs to provide hard evidence that it is defeating SHAC. However, despite the raids, SHAC has continued to function with only a small hiccup. People have stepped in to fill the breach, and the protests continue. The recent raids have not stopped the international protests against HLS and associated companies, since the campaign is now truly global.

The repression of SHAC has been there from the beginning. It is not unexpected and is accepted as being the price of success. One reason for our ongoing strength is that there is a strong sense of solidarity and professionalism within the animal rights movement in the UK. To date, SHAC and similar groups have not been hit by snitches; there have been known attempts to infiltrate, but none appear to have gotten particularly far or to have done much damage before they were exposed. The police reported that they had used bugs and secret video in Operation Achilles.

Well, we had assumed that was happening anyway.

Last year, three people received 12 years each for blackmail of the Hall family during the Newchurch guinea pig farm campaign. These are among the highest sentences of their kind and unusual for the UK. Because of new offenses created in the last two years, Mark Taylor has a four-year sentence for several office occupations. Yet, this does not seem to deter protests. Underground activists appear to remain prepared to carry out illegal activities, if reports are anything to go by. Campaigners remain committed to protecting their right to carry out protests. If anything, it is our expectation of repression and our ability to oppose it that has kept the campaign against SHAC—and the radical anti-vivisection movement as a whole—strong and surviving in what has become a war of attrition.

For more information, visit [www.shac.net](http://www.shac.net); Vegan Prisoner Support Group, [www.vpsg.org](http://www.vpsg.org).

*Max Gastone is a legal representative of Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty.*

## Operation Achilles Prisoners

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK.

•Natasha Avery, VM4846, and Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK.

## Day of Protest in Solidarity with British SHAC Prisoners

On May 6, animal rights activists in New York City converged in a show of solidarity with the prisoners of the UK's Operation Achilles. They demonstrated outside the homes of five individuals who do business with the notorious animal-testing lab Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS): Paul Bennett, senior vice president and chief economist at the New York Stock Exchange; Sandra Holleran, vice president of human resources at the pharmaceutical corporation Bristol-Myers Squibb; John

Guttilla, HLS's accountant; and Lisa Shapiro and Gaspare Abbate of pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline.

The demonstrators received the overwhelming support of passers-by, who were shocked to discover the atrocities conducted inside HLS. The home demonstrations served to remind HLS's business associates that animal rights activists in the US and the UK won't be silenced by intimidation and repression. The fight to shut down HLS continues....

# Extreme Confusion

## Why Do Civil Rights Watchdog Groups Care About the Earth Liberation Front?

BY JOSH

When federal prosecutors recently likened the Operation Backfire defendants to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), lawyers for the defense were quick to register their shock and disgust (see page 6). Daniel McGowan's attorney, Amanda Lee, appropriately condemned the comparison as "appalling," "historically inaccurate" and "an insult to African-Americans."

Although many animal rights and environmental activists seem startled by the prosecution's analogy, it is merely the most visible and recent example of a growing tendency to conflate the Earth and animal liberation movements with racist hate groups. What's most disturbing is that among the parties responsible for this trend are two of the nation's largest and most prominent civil rights watchdog groups: the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

How did these organizations—which were founded with the express purpose of combating anti-Semitism and white supremacy, and which have enjoyed the strong support of liberals and progressives for decades—develop such a keen interest in the Earth and animal liberation movements? The answer lies in a disappointing, disturbing and largely unknown history of neoconservative political agendas, adherence to a centrist/extremist model of society, unethical and illegal intelligence-gathering activities, cooperation with law enforcement, poor journalism and fear-mongering.

### The Anti-Defamation League

Founded in 1913, the ADL's original mission of combating anti-Semitic slander and libel quickly expanded to include civil rights advocacy. During the 1930s, the ADL initiated the practice for which it has become best known: the monitoring of racist and fascist groups through research and covert intelligence gathering.

Previously a somewhat liberal organization, the ADL began to undergo a marked shift toward a neoconservative political orientation during the 1970s, which resulted in new alliances with the religious and political right, as well as increased cooperation with law enforcement.

Additionally, the ADL adopted centrist/extremist theory, a neoconservative social model that clumps together *all* dissidents from the political right and left—regardless of their diverse and often conflicting agendas—and dismisses them as psychologically unstable people deserving of marginalization and imprisonment.

The disturbing results of the ADL's blind commitment to centrist/extremist theory came to light in 1993, when a police investigation revealed that the ADL had assembled (perhaps illegally) files on thousands of Arab-American, anti-war, anti-apartheid, civil rights, environmental, labor and social justice groups, including ACT UP, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Indian Movement, Food Not Bombs, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Greenpeace and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Although criminal charges were (miraculously) never filed, the scandal harmed the ADL's reputation and drew attention to its increasingly reactionary and paranoid suspicion of progressives and radicals.

Given this troubling history, it is not at all surprising that the "Extremism in America" section of the ADL's website currently lists "ecoterrorism" alongside racist and fascist groups like the KKK, the National Socialist Movement and the World Church of the Creator. Moreover, the ADL's profiles of Earth First!, the Earth Lib-

eration Front (ELF), the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) are littered with unqualified references to "terrorism" and "extremism," as well as assurances that these nonviolent movements will inevitably (and intentionally) begin taking lives.

The examples that the ADL offers to confirm this charge are problematic at best and deliberately misleading at worst. For instance, the ADL states that in 1999, "a British reporter who had infiltrated the ALF the year before with a hidden camera... was abducted by a number of men. They branded the letters 'ALF' on his back."

What the ADL doesn't say is that, according to the British magazine *Green Anarchist*, this reporter had made similar claims before, like when he said that he'd been kidnapped and shot in the leg by ELFers. The idea that two separate movements employed new, unprecedented and never-repeated tactics of kidnapping and torture against

the same person is simply too far-fetched to be true. Apparently, the police found Hall's story unconvincing and promptly abandoned their criminal investigation. In treating this highly suspicious incident as proven fact, the ADL has failed to uphold its mission of assembling "accurate, detailed, unassailable information" and disseminating its findings through responsible and ethical journalism.

### The Southern Poverty Law Center

The SPLC has followed a similar path from legitimate anti-racist work to the demonization of radical dissent. The SPLC was founded by Morris Dees and Joe Levin in 1971, as a small law firm focusing on civil rights cases. During the 1980s, the SPLC was catapulted into the national spotlight by a series of legal victories that bankrupted KKK and neo-Nazi groups. It quickly became one of the most visible and best funded anti-racist watchdog groups in the US.

Like the ADL, the SPLC has attracted significant controversy. In 2000, *Harper's Magazine* published an article by Ken Silverstein—the magazine's award-winning Washington Editor—alleging that the SPLC greatly overstates the threat posed by hate groups in order to raise more money.

"In 1986," Silverstein wrote, "the SPLC's entire legal staff quit in protest of Dees' refusal to address issues—such as homelessness, voter registration and affirmative action—that they considered far more pertinent to poor minorities, if far less marketable to affluent benefactors, than fighting the KKK."

Another similarity to the ADL is the SPLC's Intelligence Project, which gathers information on a variety of "extremist" groups and publishes its findings in the quarterly *Intelligence Report*. While typically focused on white supremacists, the *Report* began covering the anti-globalization, animal rights and radical environmental movements following the 1999 World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in Seattle, Washington. Although the *Report* has generally avoided the "ecoterrorism" label in favor of "ecoradicalism," it has undermined this sober restraint through a campaign of innuendo, conjecture, misinformation and fear-mongering that makes the ADL look amateurish by comparison.

In the Winter 2000 edition of the *Report*, for example, the SPLC concluded that the WTO protests signaled a coming alliance between right-wing and left-wing

opponents of globalization, including neo-Nazis, the Nation of Islam and Earth First!. This charge was repeated in the Summer 2001 *Report*, which flung numerous outlandish accusations at the ELF in the hope that one might stick. The SPLC charged that "the ELF's use of underground violence strongly resembles ex-Klansman Louis Beam's concept of 'leaderless resistance,'" as if this shared organizational structure is proof of a common racist ideology. Never mind the fact that leaderless resistance was actually developed by a US intelligence officer as a strategy for combating communist "extremists."

The same *Report* also stated that "the ELF recently set this year's 'International Day of Action' for April 19—a mythic date for the anti-government right. It was that day in 1993, when about 80 Branch Davidian cult members died in a fire in Waco, Texas.... It is also the day that Timothy McVeigh blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, killing 168." The *Report* ignored that the ELF chose the date for its proximity to Earth Day (April 22, 2001), and it did not even consider the possibility that the relation to Waco and Oklahoma City was a coincidence. Maybe the ELF picked April 19 because it's the anniversary of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising—a significant event in the history of Jewish liberation and the fight against fascism. This explanation is as likely as any other.

Dozens of similar articles in the *Intelligence Report* make it clear that the SPLC advances conjecture as fact and coincidence as conspiracy, while excluding any information that might undermine its desired conclusion that the ELF is on the verge of allying itself with violent racists.

### Disturbing Implications

If the ADL and the SPLC were small organizations on the margins of popular discourse and public policy, there would be little need for concern. However, both groups are large, particularly the ADL, which has 30 regional and three international offices. The ADL and the SPLC are also incredibly well-funded, with total annual revenues of more than \$50 million and \$30 million, respectively. Finally, and perhaps most disturbingly, both organizations enjoy significant influence with politicians, law enforcement and the public at large.



artwork by Brian Bowes (brianbowesart.com)

continued on next page



In 2002, a US congressional questionnaire sent to former ELF spokesperson Craig Rosebraugh quoted the SPLC's charges of a growing alliance between the ELF and the racist, fascist right. It then asked, "How do you feel about the ELF being compared to the KKK? Is this an accurate comparison? Do you feel a kinship of cause with 'racists and fascists,' as the SPLC contends?" (For the record, Rosebraugh brusquely answered, "A) That is ridiculous and insulting. I would expect the SPLC to have more intelligence than that. B) No. C) No.") These and other absurd allegations are frequently adopted as fact by lawmakers and law enforcement, resulting in policies and investigations based on ADL and SPLC propaganda. It is entirely possible—even likely—that the federal prosecution's recent comparison of the ELF to the KKK was inspired by these organizations' reports.

Additionally, there is evidence to suggest that both the ADL and the SPLC have a history of conducting covert investigations using surveillance and infiltration tactics that law enforcement is generally barred from employing without a warrant. The organizations then provide this information to the police and the FBI, effectively circumventing constitutional rights of privacy and assembly. The result is that these private watchdog groups are increasingly complicit in classically fascist systems of government surveillance and control. Apparently, the ADL and the SPLC oppose fascism when it is promoted by private individuals but condone it when practiced by the state, which is precisely when it is most dangerous.

The general public is also susceptible to the assertions of the ADL and the SPLC. Media reports on the Earth and animal liberation movements frequently quote these esteemed watchdog groups, whose statements are uncritically presented as expert commentary. To a populace that knows very little about the radical environmental and animal rights movements, the fact that the ADL and the SPLC are being quoted would seem to imply that there is an anti-Semitic, racist or fascist component to these movements.

By advancing this kind of innuendo, the ADL and the SPLC cheapen oppression and transform it into a kind of rhetorical capital that can be wielded for political gain. By painting the radical environmental and animal rights movements as a bunch of Nordic youths waiting to be Nazified, these organizations effectively marginalize and delegitimize the radical Jews and people of color who are actively working for the liberation of animals and the Earth. Perhaps more than anything, this shows how low the ADL and the SPLC have sunk.

## Conclusions

Obviously, the ADL's and the SPLC's focus on the Earth and animal liberation movements needs to be challenged, but this must be done carefully. Speaking and writing against the ADL and the SPLC is a delicate undertaking, especially since both organizations are generally perceived as unassailable warriors in the fight against oppression. We must always be clear that our problem is not with combating anti-Semitism, racism

and fascism, but with doing so in a manipulative and unethical fashion in order to advance a repressive, neo-conservative agenda.

Additionally, we must be careful not to accidentally align ourselves with white supremacists. When researching the dark side of these organizations, pay close attention to what your sources are. Many websites "exposing" the ADL and the SPLC are operated by KKK and neo-Nazi groups. If your source refers to "the Jew Morris Dees" or cites the ADL as part of the "world-wide Jewish conspiracy," you should look elsewhere for information.

As a final word of caution, it is my strong belief that direct action *must* be avoided. Home demonstrations and property damage will not work against the ADL or the SPLC. These organizations' employees have endured death threats and physical violence from neo-Nazis and the KKK. They won't be swayed by animal rights and environmental activists. Besides, this kind of approach

**To a populace that knows very little about the radical environmental and animal rights movements, the fact that the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center are treated as experts on "ecoterrorism" would seem to imply that there is an anti-Semitic, racist or fascist component to these movements.**

would prove suicidal from both a law enforcement and public relations perspective. If action is to be taken, it should be restricted to peaceful demonstrations at relevant public events.

Effective opposition to unethical practices of the ADL and the SPLC must necessarily focus on the general public. Both organizations depend upon direct mail fundraising campaigns that tend to target liberals and progressives, who are largely unaware of these organizations' dirty dealings. Mainstream animal rights and environmental activists, as well as sympathetic liberals and progressives, are likely to respond positively to a reasonable critique of these organizations.

Finally, Jewish animal rights and environmental activists—like myself—who are deeply disturbed by the ADL's activities should discuss this with family, friends and members of our community. The involvement of a vocal contingent of anti-racist organizers, Jewish activists and activist people of color would go a long way toward legitimizing a challenge of the ADL and the SPLC, and it would help assure that these efforts retain the nuanced and cautious tone that they will require to be successful. Ultimately, exposing the reactionary and repressive nature of the ADL and the SPLC is not just about defending the Earth and animal liberation movements. It is about creating legitimate methods of challenging institutionalized oppression wherever it appears.

*Josh is really hoping that someone out there knows how to make a good vegan matzoh brei.*

# The Nancy and Ra

## Saying Goodbye to *No Compromise*

BY PETER YOUNG

With its first issue debuting the month I got involved with animal rights activism and its last delivered to my prison cell just months ago, *No Compromise* has been a consistent presence on an ever-changing landscape. For activists of the last decade, *No Compromise* was there. It was there for advice on media relations for our protests. It was there for answers on handling civil disobedience-related court cases. And it was there for direction when some decided that all else had failed and took their activism into the night.

*No Compromise* joined a roster of militant mid-90s animal liberationist print media, including *Underground*, *Militant Vegan* and the UK's *Arkangel*, to provide not just coverage of actions but an entire culture of animal liberation. With its own lexicon, personalities and innovative philosophy, *No Compromise* was more than a magazine; it was a culture of its own making.

Where did those years go? For *No Compromise*, they went to coverage of what humans were doing for animals and confronting the rest of us with the guilt of our inaction. For those few who took its message to heart, these years went to embodying its unstated tenet of, "If not you, who? If not now, when?" *No Compromise* is gone, not forgotten, and in its mission, never finished.

One impact of *No Compromise* was the reminder that we were a part of something bigger. Its coverage of daylight raids on vivisection breeders and nighttime raids of vivisection labs gave the sense that our movement was advancing toward nothing short of a vegan revolution in our time. *No Compromise* came to life during a period when it felt like things were jumping off, and because of its pages,

many of us decided that we were going to be a part of the struggle.

There can be no retrospective of *No Compromise* without commenting on the people who made the news that filled it. A review of the one-time *No Compromise* all-stars can be both inspiring and disheartening. Many who once adorned its pages as heroes are now the broken and the despised. *No Compromise's* original visionary defected before going on to denounce illegal actions and stating that animals are better left in cages. Many named in its

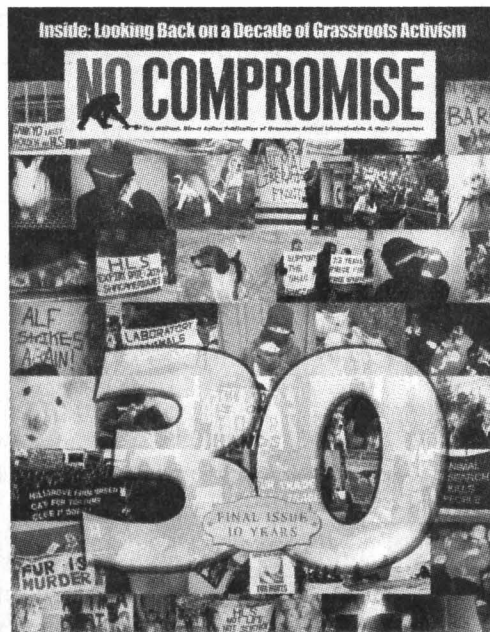
animals more than a decade later, deserve our endless respect as reminders that there is no expiration date on our obligation to help.

The *No Compromise* project was a success, were we to measure it by longevity, consistency or impact: Longevity in its 10-year run; consistency in its unwavering emphasis on security culture, its endorsement of actions for the animals irrespective of legality and its support for prisoners; and impact in that, for a span of many years, few grassroots animal right activists could say they had not received either inspiration or direct guidance from *No Compromise's* pages.

Reviewing back issues, I can see now how many ideas applied to my activism were *No Compromise's* and not my own. The nights spent behind Seattle-area slaughterhouses, seeking discarded corpses—corpses that both a local McDonald's and the media would find waiting for them in a drive thru the next morning as a reminder of the suffering behind meat consumption—was a tactic lifted directly from the Fall 1996 issue. A "Fur-Free Friday" banner-hang off Nordstrom's roof—I read it in *No Compromise* first. And speaking for the anonymous few, I am confident that *No Compromise* was a spark behind many of the last decade's sabotaged trucks and emptied cages.

The only final issue I'd hoped to see from *No Compromise* was the one declaring victory—the final slaughterhouse collapsing on the last vivisector. Let's not wish for one more decade of *No Compromise* but a world where it is unnecessary. And if this is not the world of tomorrow, let it not be for lack of trying.

*Peter Young was recently released from federal prison after serving two years for releasing and conspiracy to release mink from several fur farms in the Midwest. He lives in Los Angeles, California.*



pages and behind the anonymous actions that it covered have moved on to become all varieties of apostates, informants and carnivores. Even the woman who gave me my first issue of *No Compromise* has since decided that animals make better meals and fashion accessories than subjects of our battles and tears. Yet, there are people from those early issues who never grew comfortable or decided that they had "done their part." Those people, who continue to be a line of defense for the

# 2007 COUNTDOWN 2010 SHUTDOWN

## No Olympics on Stolen Land!

BY ZIG-ZAG

*What causes opponents to come of their own accord is the prospect of gain. What discourages opponents from coming is the prospect of harm.*

—Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

So far, 2007 has been a difficult year for the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC). In its own words, the past few months have been “frustrating,” “disappointing” and “unfortunate.” During this time, VANOC had hoped to gain positive publicity and promotion for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Instead, militant direct actions and protests became the primary news stories related to the Olympics.

It all began on February 12, with the unveiling of a three-year Olympic countdown clock (donated by Omega, the “official timekeeper” for the 2010 Olympics) at the Vancouver Art Gallery, with live coverage on CTV (the official TV network for the games). Just as the event began, a masked native stormed the stage and grabbed the mic, shouting, “Fuck 2010! Fuck your corporate circus!” before being arrested. Protesters, including members of the Native Youth Movement (NYM), the Anti-Poverty Committee (APC), the Downtown Eastside Residents’ Association (DERA) and others, pushed up against police lines and threw eggs and paint bombs at police, the stage and a jumbo-sized TV screen. Government and corporate officials had to shout into the mics to be heard over the noisy protesters, seven of whom were arrested.

On February 23, at a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new Olympic curling venue, security measures and protesters were again the main story. Scores of police and crowd-control fencing were used to keep protesters away from officials and media.

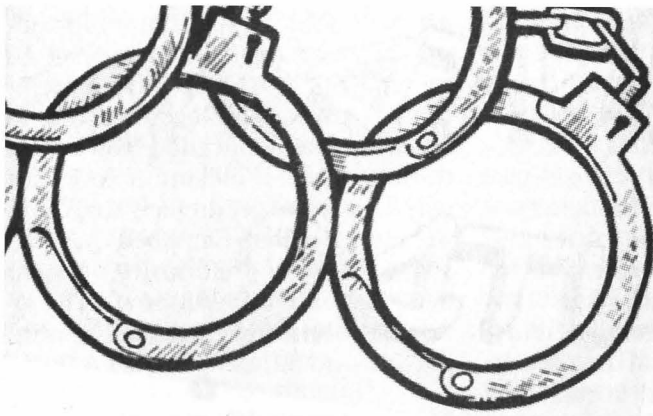
The next day, Harriet Nahanee, a native elder, passed away in a Vancouver hospital shortly after serving a 14-day jail term. She had been convicted of contempt of court for participating in a 2006 blockade of the Sea-to-Sky Highway, which is being expanded in preparation for the Olympics. This blockade at Eagleridge Bluffs in North Vancouver was the first anti-Olympics direct action to occur. In July 2006, shortly after the blockade was dismantled by police, construction equipment along the highway was vandalized, causing over \$50,000 in damage.

Then on March 6, the massive Olympic flag that flew at City Hall was stolen, just as a delegation of International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials arrived for an inspection of VANOC’s work. Days later, as the IOC tour ended, the Native Warrior Society

(NWS) released a communiqué claiming responsibility for the theft. The statement included a photograph of three masked persons, with a warrior flag and photo of Nahanee, standing in front of the giant 16-foot-by-25-foot Olympic flag. The communiqué cited Nahanee’s death and opposition to the Olympics as their motivations.

On March 12, VANOC held another big Countdown 2010 event: a flag lighting ceremony at City Hall. Some 200 protesters passed through police checkpoints and searches to





disrupt the event with yelling, whistles and air horns. As many as 100 cops—including riot police, an Emergency Response Team, mounted police and a helicopter patrol—were used at a cost of more than \$30,000 (according to police). Once again, the heavy security presence and the protesters were the main story. At the same time, the 2010 countdown clock in downtown Vancouver was spraypainted with a “Free Betty” stencil—a reference to Betty Krawczyk, a 78-year-old environmentalist sentenced to 10

months in prison for her part in the 2006 Eagleridge Bluffs blockade. The vandal was later arrested, as he did not attempt to conceal his identity.

On March 29, Vancouver police raided DERA’s offices while allegedly searching for the stolen Olympic flag, despite the fact that DERA has no connection to the NWS. The cops claimed that they had received a tip from a “reliable” source. After an hour, they left empty-handed.

On May 16, the APC organized a protest at VANOC’s headquarters,

which are located in an East Vancouver industrial area. Despite a small turnout of about 35 protesters (due to the time of day and remote location), they were met by crowd-control fencing all around the building site and more than 70 cops, including riot police, dog squads and a police helicopter. During the protest, APC member David Cunningham announced that the committee’s new campaign would consist of evicting VANOC offices and that the APC had the home addresses of VANOC members. This caused a controversy in the media and among government

*continued on next page*

## BARE BONES

### Vivisection Lab Pays PETA

On April 30, Covance—a notorious animal testing company—finally paid People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Europe \$290,000 to cover legal fees. A British court had ordered Covance to pay that sum in 2005, after striking down Covance’s lawsuit against PETA. In 2005, PETA USA documented extreme abuse at Covance’s animal lab in Vienna, Virginia. The undercover footage showed workers beating, choking and taunting monkeys.

Covance then sought an injunction against PETA Europe to prevent it from showing the footage. A judge in the UK dismissed the suit, saying that Covance had “fostered a misleading impression. PETA is entitled to correct it publicly.” Covance’s payment marks the end of the case but not PETA’s efforts to shut down the lab.

### Ban on Horse Slaughter Reinstated

On April 26, House Resolution 249 restored a federal ban on the commercial slaughter of wild, free-roaming horses and burros. The bill also prohibits the export of live horses to be slaughtered elsewhere.

On May 25, Cavel International, a Belgian horsemeat plant in Illinois, filed a lawsuit claiming that the bill is unconstitutional. A federal judge ruled on June 1, that Cavel can continue operations while the suit is considered.

Originally passed in 1971, the ban was overturned by a rider bill in 2004. Since then, 100,000 horses per year have been sent to slaughterhouses and their meat has been exported to Belgium, France, Italy and Japan, where horsemeat is a delicacy.



“Warrior Twins”

artwork by Michelle Cook

*continued from previous page*

officials. Vancouver police said they would investigate, while the chief of police announced that VANOC board members would receive special police protection.

Then on May 19, Cunningham went out to meet with a supposed journalist and instead found a group of police. He was arrested and charged with "uttering threats." This dirty trick has been widely condemned by the media.

True to the group's promise, three members of the APC gained entry to the provincial premier's downtown Vancouver office on May 22 and threw furniture and office equipment into the hallway. The target of the action was Ken Dobell, a VANOC official and adviser to the premier. As one protester was led away in handcuffs, she stated to the media: "We evicted their office like they've evicted thousands of people from the Downtown Eastside, except these people still have a place to sleep tonight."

## The 2010 Winter Games

The 2010 Winter Olympics are to be held in Vancouver and Whistler on February 12-27, 2010. Contrary to government propaganda about the economic and social benefits of the games, the Olympics are a very real threat to native peoples, the urban poor (many of whom are native), the environment, civil liberties and basic human rights.

While cutting social services such as health care and education, the conservative provincial government is at the same time providing billions of dollars to construction companies and other Olympics-related industries. The capitalists are making millions, while the poor are literally dying in the urban and reservation ghettos.

In the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, one of Canada's poorest neighborhoods, more than 500 units of low-income housing have already

been lost since Vancouver won the Olympic bid in 2003. Hundreds of people have been evicted as landlords upgrade their hotels for Olympic tourists. Along with evictions, Vancouver police and City Hall have begun criminalizing the poor through Project Civil City, which aims to clean up Vancouver's streets in preparation for the games—primarily through "law-and-order" measures to combat homelessness, panhandling and drug use. In May, the city appointed former British Columbia Attorney General Geoff Plant as commissioner of Project Civil City, reinforcing the view that the program is based on more policing.



Members of the Native Warrior Society in front of a stolen Olympic flag

For the Olympics themselves, some 10,000 police and soldiers are to be deployed. In March, Vancouver police unveiled plans to have two armored vehicles by 2010. Despite being promoted as the "Green Olympics," large tracts of land have been destroyed for the expansion or construction of highways, roads, ski resorts and Olympic venues. Billions of dollars of public money are also being spent on new bridges, port facilities and railways, as well as urban transit. Most of this work is intended to improve transportation and other infrastructure in preparation for the games. Some of it forms part of a larger strategy aimed at capitalizing on the Olympics and related tourism and trade.

All this expansion of transport infrastructure is meant to facilitate

greater resource exploitation, including ski resorts, mines, logging, natural gas and oil. Since 2003, the provincial government has been working to speed up the application process for these industries, making it easier for corporations to get projects approved. Premier Gordon Campbell has described these as "reforms to open up every sector of our economy." The result has been huge increases in mining, gas and oil, as well as ski resorts.

## Native Opposition to the Olympics

Since 2000, the main native struggles in British Columbia's interior have been against the construction and expansion of mountain ski resorts. At Sun Peaks (Skwel'kwew'welt) ski resort near Kamloops, more than 70 people—mostly Secwepemc youth and elders—have been arrested for blocking roads, occupying buildings and establishing protection camps as part of the campaign against a massive \$294-million expansion of the resort.

At Melvin Creek, just north of Mt. Currie, the St'at'imc have established the Sutikalh camp to stop a planned \$530-million ski resort

(see *EF!* September-October 2005). The camp was first set up in May 2000, and continues to be occupied to this day. It has served as a rallying point for community resistance to the resort, which also forced many chiefs and councilors to publicly oppose it as well. Numerous other ski resort developments and expansions are also planned or are now underway, including Valemount, Revelstoke, Blue Mountain, Invermere, Merritt and Kelowna.

This sharp increase in resort development is largely due to government promotion of the industry, including the establishment of a Ski Resort Task Force in 2004. The task force was largely composed of members of the resort industry, and its primary goal was to increase ski resort development in British Columbia.

The group released a Resort Strategy and Action Plan in 2004, which made clear the connection between the industry's rapid growth and the 2010 Olympics: "The Resort Strategy links to the Spirit of 2010 Tourism Strategy and the International Trade and Investment to 2010 Strategy. All these strategies are designed to grow tourism throughout the province, maximize opportunities created by hosting 2010, and attract national and international investment."

Recent indigenous struggles have also confronted oil and gas development, as well as large-scale mining. Since 2005, the Tahltan in northern British Columbia have organized several blockades and office occupations, and arrests of elders and other community members have occurred.

To counter charges of racism and to better exploit native culture, Olympic organizers have spent millions of dollars to buy off indigenous peoples, especially band councils. Prior to Vancouver winning the bid in 2003, the Squamish and Mt. Currie/Lil'wat band councils were given more than \$20 million, including money for a new cultural center in Whistler. Along with this, the Four Host First Nations Society was established in 2004, composed of the Squamish, Lil'wat, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam band councils. Aboriginal organizations and youth groups in Vancouver have also been given Olympic money. All of this is intended to silence native opposition to the Olympics.

### Stolen Native Land

British Columbia is unique in Canada, in that most of the province is unceded, non-surrendered indigenous territory. According to the Royal Proclamation of 1763, which is still part of British and Canadian law, sovereign indigenous territories needed to be legally surrendered to the crown prior to any trade or settlement. In accordance with this, the UK and later Canada carried out a series of treaties in their westward expansion across the prairies.

However, they never completed the treaty process in British Columbia. Today, most of the province remains unceded sovereign native land, which neither the Canadian nor the British Columbian governments have

the legal or moral authority to govern. With current attempts to legalize the prior theft of native land and to extinguish native title and rights through a modern treaty process, the ongoing dispossession of indigenous peoples from their lands continues. This constitutes an act of genocide. As the NYM has correctly pointed out, the 2010 Olympics are a concern to all indigenous peoples in British Columbia. The NYM has also drawn a parallel between the games and the invasion of prospectors in the mid-1800s: "Although the 2010 Olympics are planned to take place in only St'at'imc and Squamish territories, the negative effects of these games will carry out onto other indigenous territories of the area, and the aftermath of this will create an invasion not seen since the Gold Rush."

### Anti-Colonial and Anti-Capitalist Convergence

Anti-Olympic organizers in Vancouver—including indigenous, anti-poverty and housing groups—are calling for an Anti-Colonial and Anti-Capitalist Convergence in February 2010. Anti-colonial because the games are occurring on land stolen from indigenous peoples, and anti-capitalist



because the Olympics are in the interests of the corporate elites. Additional themes will include "No Social Cleansing" and "No Eco-Destruction." The purpose of the convergence will be to confront the Olympics and turn them into a disaster for the rich and powerful! So mark your calendars, start your Olympic training now, and we'll see you in 2010!

For more information, visit [www.no2010.com](http://www.no2010.com).

## BARE BONES

### Victory Over Victoria's Secret

On December 2, Limited Brands, parent company of lingerie chain Victoria's Secret, agreed to stop using paper pulp from endangered Canadian forests for its catalogs. For more than two years, environmentalists have been fighting the company's destruction of Alberta's boreal forests and British Columbia's temperate rainforests—both crucial habitat for endangered caribou. The boreal region of Canada is currently being logged at two acres per minute. Paper production accounts for 50 percent of the logging.

During the campaign, activists held more than 750 storefront demonstrations, crashed Limited Brands' shareholders meeting, locked down at its Manhattan office, dropped banners, engaged in door-to-door education in the CEO's neighborhood and launched [www.victoriadirtysecret.org](http://www.victoriadirtysecret.org), a website exposing the company's practices.

### Dye From Jeans Pollutes Mexican Rivers

On May 2, *Reuters* revealed that industrial laundries, which dye jeans for export, are dumping dye, bleach and detergents into rivers in Tehuacán, Mexico. Waste water from the denim laundries mixes with municipal sewage and is discharged untreated into a river that is used for irrigation by farmers in the downstream village of San Diego Chalma.

Locals complain that the chemicals make their skin itch, irritate their throats and poison their crops. Health authorities have instructed farmers not to plant tomatoes and root vegetables due to the risk of contamination. However, they still allow the farming of corn, which is sold locally and in Mexico City.

# Secession

## The True Bioregional Way

BY KIRKPATRICK SALE

One of the central tenets of bioregionalism is *scale*, specifically *human* scale. The reason is that loving and caring for a place on the Earth—which is what bioregionalism is all about—can happen only when the human community knows and becomes part of the natural systems and seasons of the region around it, and that inevitably means a limited scale. It is simply humanly impossible to understand and commune with the whole Earth or with a continent or, in fact, with anything larger than the natural region one lives in. And any attempt to do so—though Lord knows it is tried often enough—is futile.

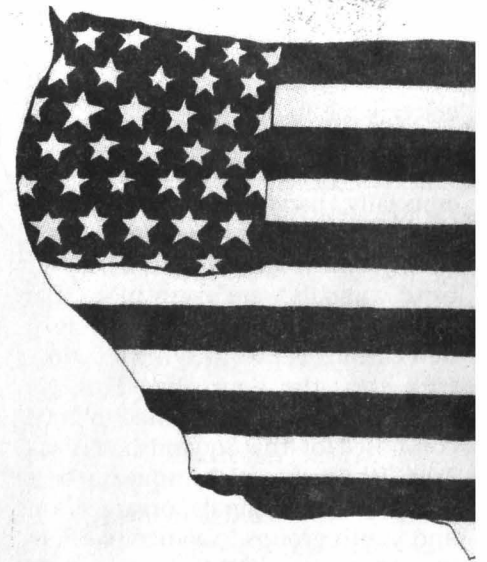
That is one important reason to think about secession. Yes, I said secession: the breaking up of large nations into smaller independent political entities that run their own affairs, have their own governments, operate their own economies and control their own environments on a bioregional scale. It's a word that scares people even now, and most of the time it conjures up ideas of treason, illegality, racism or just plain futility.

But it really is as American as, well, the Declaration of Independence, which states that "it is the right of the people to alter or abolish [wrongful government], and to institute new government in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness." As American as the war that followed from that—not a revolutionary war at all but a secessionist one, since the colonists had no intention of taking over the British

government, only of separating from it to run their own governments as they saw fit. As American, in fact, as the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, Tennessee from North Carolina, and West Virginia from Virginia, all of which were done in an orderly and peaceful fashion.

There is a myriad of reasons to contemplate secession these days. On the one hand, it frees a territory from the incompetent, corrupt, militaristic and illegal government in Washington, DC, as well as the empire that Washington has created to spread its corporate owners around the world. At the same time, it provides a scale of decision-making that allows something close to true democracy (representation that truly reflects a constituency's wishes); a scale of trade and commerce that allows full employment, healthy food, nontoxic material goods and a sound currency free of the volatile and perilous dollar; a scale of administration that replaces the bloated federal bureaucracy with smaller, more efficient and responsive operations; in short, a scale of human affairs at which—as the success of countless small nations has shown—people have control over the decisions that affect their lives and the institutions that serve and protect them.

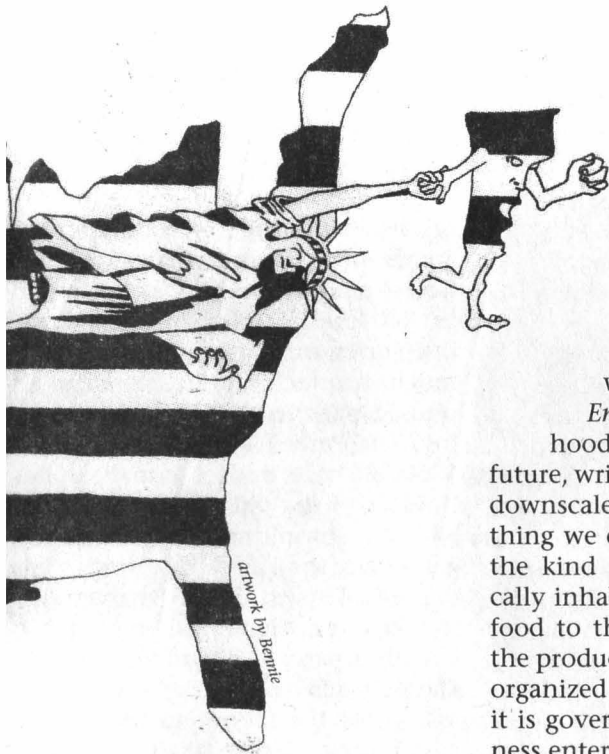
And a scale at which they can be intimately aware of their environment, understand its limits and fragilities, attend to its needs, provide restoration and maintenance, keep human interference to a minimum, draw up and enforce regulations about environmental health and well-being, and



in general know how to live in harmony with its species and systems. A scale at which a society can develop a bioregional *sensibility*.

But there's more. A secessionist state must necessarily become more self-sufficient, doing and making things for itself that once came from outside. It therefore would have to depend upon its regional resources in a new way—and be forced to take care of them in a new way, for survival's sake, even if it didn't have a bioregional sensibility. And this in turn would free a society from much of its low-quality, often dangerous, needlessly expensive and environmentally burdensome imports, and at the same time encourage local and healthy alternatives:

*A secessionist state must necessarily become more self-sufficient.... It therefore would have to depend on its regional resources in a new way—and be forced to take care of them in a new way.*



escaped the entangling disasters that would befall the nation as a whole, a secessionist state would be free and able to withstand or ameliorate most of the succeeding crises.

James Howard Kunstler, whose recent book *The Long Emergency* is about the likelihood of just such a calamitous future, writes that it "will require us to downscale and rescale virtually everything we do and how we do it, from the kind of communities we physically inhabit to the way we grow our food to the way we work and trade the products of our work.... Anything organized on the large scale, whether it is government or a corporate business enterprise such as Wal-Mart, will wither as the cheap energy props that support bigness fall away." And then a small independent state makes a lot of sense. Survival sense.

That is why there is a secessionist movement in North America and why it has been growing in the last few years. For it offers not only an escape, an alternative to the deadly national Leviathan, but a vision of societies bringing out the best of human abilities within the best of environmental scales—and that is the real hope of the future.

*Kirkpatrick Sale is the director of the Middlebury Institute ("for the study of separatism, secession and self-determination") and the author most recently of After Eden: The Evolution of Human Domination.*

community-supported agriculture, neighborhood gardens and farmers' markets instead of toxic spinach from California and poisoned dog food from China; recycling centers and manufacturers using and reusing regional resources instead of depending on imported materials; short-haul transportation, bicycles and battery-operated vehicles operating on a limited scale instead of oil from Riyadh and gas-guzzlers from Detroit.

Which in turn provides an alternative economic and social framework that would not only be viable in a time of crisis—which climate heating, peak oil and resource exhaustion are likely to bring in the near future—but would be positively thriving. Having

## BARE BONES

### US Military Tramples Australia's Ecosystem

In May and June, 14,000 US troops and more than 12,000 Australian personnel participated in Operation Talisman Sabre, Australia's largest military exercise to date. A US vice admiral told an Australian newspaper, "You have to have places to drop bombs; you have to have places to shoot live weapons, places to fly planes that make noise, places where you can actually test and exercise your capabilities."

Project Censored reports that "the US military generates 750,000 tons of toxic waste material annually, more than the five largest chemical companies in the US combined." Since 9/11, the US military—which is already one of the world's worst polluters—has sought to exempt itself from *all* US environmental laws.

### Roundup Ready Alfalfa Banned

On May 3, a federal judge ruled that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2005 approval of Monsanto's and Forage Genetics' genetically engineered (GE) Roundup Ready alfalfa was illegal. He asked the USDA to ban further planting of the seeds until it conducts a full environmental impact statement. The ruling requires Forage Genetics to disclose the locations of all existing Roundup Ready alfalfa plots to the USDA and to the public.

The ruling is the result of a lawsuit brought against the USDA by the Center for Food Safety, which argued that the crop could harm the environment and contaminate non-GE alfalfa. The judge noted that contamination of natural and organic alfalfa has already occurred and that such contamination is "irreparable environmental harm."



# Defending New York City's Community Gardens

• GREEN ISLANDS IN A CONCRETE SEA •

BY JESSI JETPACK AND ARESH JAVADI

On Cinco de Mayo, a colorful parade of gardeners, community members and bicyclists from Time's Up! visited many of the thriving, endangered, destroyed and evicted community gardens in East Harlem, New York City. The parade ended with a barbecue and renaming ceremony at the new 116th Street Block Association Community Garden—now called the "Carolina Community Garden."

Community gardeners and activists continue to fight for the protection of New York City's community gardens. Land-grabbing real estate practices are at a peak in a city where community gardens are the last bastion of cheap land.

The gardeners of Nueva Esperanza, a 19-year-old East Harlem garden, were evicted from their garden on April 15, after a yearlong encampment to save it from luxury real estate developers (see *EF!* January-February 2007). When police came to evict the garden, one member of the encampment climbed a willow tree to prevent bulldozers from wrecking the garden. The impromptu treesit lasted an hour and a half. The encampment member came down after the city agencies agreed to meet and discuss alternative sites for Nueva Esperanza. Although the gardeners and general public are now locked out, the garden is still intact.

Nueva Esperanza was one of 21 active East Harlem community gardens slated for destruction. At the present moment, Harlem United Gardeners (HUG) has succeeded in negotiating a permanent site for one of the threatened gardens to move to and may succeed in saving an adjacent garden. Nueva Esperanza and the Garden Beautiful have both been evicted but are working toward finding suitable relocation sites.

The New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development has given preliminary rights to real estate developers for 11 of the remaining 18 gardens. One of the developers, Loewen Group, was given permission to conduct preliminary ground tests on five community gardens, with the stipulation that it return everything to its original state.



*Sowing seeds in Nueva Esperanza before the eviction*

The developer proceeded to completely destroy one of these five gardens, and it was starting to demolish another one when the police arrived and made the workers stop. By the time the chainsaw was halted, Pueblo Unido Community Garden had lost a nine-year-old peach tree, a seven-year-old apricot tree, a six-year-old white pine, an eight-year-old Atlantis tree, a two-year-old apple tree, four seven-year-old rose bushes, a *casita*, a large tool shed, four planting beds, two wooden benches, a barbecue pit, a kids' basketball hoop and children's toys, in addition to sweat and love.

This action was so clearly illegal that all the concerned city agencies

and government officials met with the gardeners and agreed to preserve Pueblo Unido, La Cueva and the 110th Street Block Association garden, and possibly a fourth. The developer has agreed to replace all killed and destroyed items, as well as erect new iron gate fences and provide water and electric utilities for the gardens.

On another front of the community garden struggle, one garden in the South Bronx is under threat of eviction from... the Parks Department! In 2004, El Flamboyán, a very active community garden, agreed with much heartache to relocate to an unused park to allow for new housing. The Parks Department allocated \$350,000 of its budget to make up for the loss of the old garden site. Now, without consulting the community gardeners, the Parks Department has drafted plans to use all that money to take out El Flamboyán and replace it with a park. The gardeners and El Flamboyán's community support are asking for the money to go to their community garden, as it was originally intended. There is a community bulldozer watch, and they have called in the state attorney general to address this illegal action by the Parks Department.

There is much a-brewin'! Gardeners are organizing both in their neighborhoods to defend against developers and citywide to preserve and enhance community gardens. Moreover, they are working to create a New York State Office of Community Gardens to open up fallow state lands and create more community gardens.

For more information, contact More Gardens! Coalition, 376 E 162nd St #2, Bronx, NY 10451; (718) 585-2109; aresh@moregardens.org; www.moregardens.org.

*Jessi and Aresh are garden activists with the More Gardens! Coalition.*

Photo by Philipp Reissmann/Time's Up!

# Frontlines

## Everglades Earth First! Protests Development

On March 14, Everglades Earth First! descended on the county courthouse in West Palm Beach, Florida, to protest the proposed construction of a 100,000-home development and a natural-gas-burning power plant. While protesters held signs, handed out informational flyers and shouted slogans like, "No to urban sprawl," two EF!ers scaled a nearby building. Having reached the roof, one locked down to a billboard. The two were eventually removed and arrested by firefighters and police, who charged both with trespassing and one with resisting arrest.

## Vivisector's House Vandalized

In April, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) targeted a vacant home owned by Audie Leventhal, a neurobiologist at the University of Utah. The ALF glued all of the house's locks, smashed the front window, spray-painted animal-rights slogans on the Jacuzzi and poured a salt solution on the front lawn to kill the grass.

In a communiqué, the ALF stated, "Audie is a ruthlessly violent alcoholic. This is a man who has sewn kittens' eyelids shut. This is a man who has experimented on conscious primates. This is a man who has beaten his wife within inches of her life.... Audie can rest assured that we will be back."

## Canadian Seal Hunter's Boat Burned

A boat belonging to seal-hunter Ben Gould burned and sank on April 13, in Port au Choix, Newfoundland, Canada. The boat had recently returned from a seal hunt on the northern Atlantic ice, had been restocked and was preparing to sail again.

Although the fire has not been claimed, Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society points out, "It is obvious that the vessel was a target of opportunity. Boats just don't catch fire in the middle of the night by accident... This event is nothing if not good news for the seals. Many lives will be spared because of this sinking."

This year, the Canadian government supported the hunting of 275,000 seal pups, despite the fact that record warm weather inhibited the formation of sea ice and decimated seal nurseries.

## Peruvian Anti-Mining Protesters Blockade Roads

Farmers in Piura, a state in northern Peru, blockaded major mine-access roads on the night of May 2, demanding the suspension of mining in the state's alpine forests and plateaus. They also demanded the creation of a no-mining and protected habitat zone for the endangered mountain tapir.

On May 4, police unsuccessfully attacked the blockades and fought with protesters, resulting in hundreds of injuries. The demonstrators took a public prosecutor hostage and later freed him in exchange for the release of their imprisoned comrades.

The protests were a response to increased mining efforts by the UK's Monterrico Metals, which enjoys the strong support of the Peruvian government.

## Banner Drop for Operation Backfire Defendants

On the afternoon of May 15, activists suspended three banners from an overpass above Interstate 5 in Seattle, Washington. The banners read: "The State is the Real Terrorist—No Green Scare," "No Green Scare—Fight the State," and "Stop the Eco-Roundup—Rebel Solidarity." The action was undertaken in solidarity with the Operation Backfire defendants, who were in court that day for a terrorism enhancement hearing (see page 6).



Everglades EF! billboard lockdown

## Norwich Rising Tide Holds Mock Press Conference

On May 15, the fictitious Coalition for Roads and Progress (CRAP) held a press conference in Norwich, England, in order to voice its unanimous support for the proposed Northern Distributor Road (NDR). The fake press conference was the first action by Norwich Rising Tide, a local chapter of the international climate change network.

Surrounded by supporters with signs reading, "Build the NDR: Concrete Is Freedom!" and "Spend More Time in Your Car," Dr. Seymour Rhodes testified to the health risks posed by walking or cycling versus the benefits of air pollution. The developer, I. Sellmore, explained that the NDR will create an industrial paradise, while Councilor Theresa Gone vowed that the NDR—like all other British road projects—will be completed on time and on budget.

## Australian Forest Defenders Block Logging

A dozen forest defenders assembled a treesit on May 21, in order to block logging in Tasmania's Weld Valley. The emergency treesit was initiated after the notorious logging corporation Gunns Ltd. began felling 200-year-old eucalyptus trees along the border of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area (see *EF!* May-June 2007).

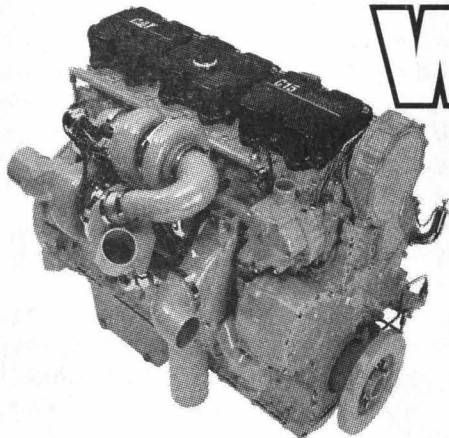
The loggers were predictably unhappy about the action, and one threatened three female activists with a knife and tried to cut the treesit's safety line. Although some of the activists were arrested that afternoon, they had successfully stopped that day's logging, and others remained behind to continue the action.

# Fun

# With

# Diesel

# Engines



BY HAYDUKE

*Disclaimer: Neither the author nor the Journal, nor any of our friends, family, neighbors, lovers or pets, necessarily encourage anyone to do the things discussed below, and the contents should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment. We do not encourage anyone to hurt our precious, giant, Earth-destroying machines. Please stay at home and buy the largest TV you can put on credit at the local Mall-Wart or rental center.*

There is a bumper sticker that states, "Without trucking, America stops"—a pleasant thought for you anarchists out there, right? But if you analyze the statement further, you see an unintended solution to exploitative practices. Some will argue that property destruction accomplishes nothing. I feel that it accomplishes more than arguing.

To truly cripple an engine or vehicle, you must know how it is repaired—its inner workings and its weak points. If you have no idea what something is, research it. Why carry multiple tools into the field when a few will get the job done, and why risk your ass and personal freedom by having the wrong tool or not really causing any damage?

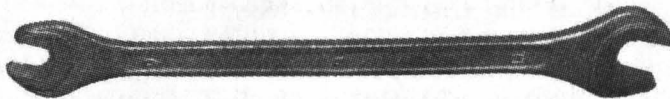
There is a contingent of folks who are quite happy with hammer-and-chisel sabotage, and that definitely has its place. But what hammer will work? Where do you strike for the most damage? What will shut a vehicle down? Where can you use your bolt cutters for the best result?

The engine is the heart of the beast, the favored target and often the most protected part of any piece of machinery. The internal combustion engine is a highly complex piece of engineering. Most engines are designed with extremely small tolerances—we're talking thousandths of an inch—before major damage occurs. Their proper functioning depends on everything staying within specification. Engines contain hundreds to thousands of moving parts. The designers of these machines usually put the most vulnerable and expensive parts of their engines within easy reach of almost everyone.

A word of caution: The modern engine contains harmful chemicals that can poison wildlife, waterways and soil. Handle with care.

## Air Filter

Engines need clean air to breathe. This is why engineers added air filters. Without the filter, debris could enter the engine and severely damage it. There are sensors that will tell the computer how much air is entering the system or if the filter is clogged. There is nothing currently installed that will give any indication that the filter has been removed or that debris was placed behind the filter. Removing the filter will cause the most damage, easily costing thousands of dollars, and running an engine without a filter will void the engine warranty.

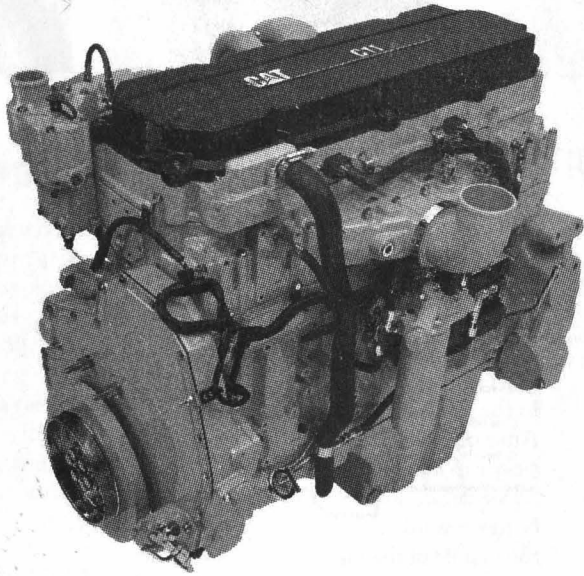


As for adding debris, large pebbles will destroy the turbo blades and shut the equipment down quickly, but they do less damage to the engine. For the most bang for your time, fine sand or dirt is, by far, the best.

What it takes to remove an air filter: Usually, air filters found in the engine compartment have two to four clips holding the filter lid on. I recommend a flathead screwdriver to pop the clips. Remember that the clips are under tension and can hit your fingers when released (don't leave DNA evidence; it hurts). If the filter is external, like those big silver cans you see on semis, the nuts that hold the filter in are almost always 9/16 inch.

Heavy equipment often has two filters, a large white filter and a smaller one inside. Removing the smaller one, adding debris and replacing the large filter will still cause a good deal of damage and get past even the most anal operator.

Note: 9/16 inch is also the size of the battery cable bolts on damn near every semi or large piece of equipment.



## Oil

Engines need oil to move. Without clean oil, parts rub and get hot. If the engine gets hot enough, the moving parts stop moving and become locked together. In the shop, we call these engines "boat anchors." Unless you have some large containers, it is not smart to drain the oil. Tractor-trailers and mid-sized heavy equipment can contain 11 or more gallons of oil. Why dump that much oil into the environment when adding items to the oil is so much easier?

Adding bleach will destroy the oil's ability to lubricate, and the engine will seize up very quickly. Water does not compress and can damage numerous areas in the engine, and it is often available on site.

If one were to go to a lot of trouble, hydraulic oil is not meant to be used as a lubricant in engines. The engine oil could be drained, replaced with hydraulic fluid, and the engine oil used to top off the hydraulic tank. To my knowledge, this has never been attempted, but it would certainly void the warranty for the engine and possibly for the hydraulic systems as well.

Fun fact: Caterpillar extended-life coolant will turn oil into play dough at approximately a 50/50 mix. This mix is really only practical on smaller engines. However, because Caterpillar tests the oil at every oil change, the presence of any antifreeze in the oil will probably cause the machine to be taken out of service and brought in for repair. Simply remove a little antifreeze and add it to the engine.

In some instances, carrying fluids or empty containers is impractical. If you are hiking, a small bag of brass, magnetic metal or copper filings added to the oil will cause very little damage, but it will indicate, when the vehicle is serviced, that something major has started to fail, causing expensive repairs.

Dry-flake mashed potatoes or rice will cook and expand in hot oil.

What it takes to gain access: The oil fill is almost always on the driver's (left) side of the engine. For smaller engines, the fill cap will be on the valve cover just as in most

cars on the road today. There are exceptions for certain large-equipment types. The oil drain is typically on the right-hand side of the engine at the bottom of the sump, the lowest part of the pan. It is a pain in the ass to wrench a drain plug free unless you have a large cheater bar. And, unless you can contain more than 10 gallons of oil, leave the pan alone. To save itself from damage, any engine built after the mid-1980s will shut off when the "low oil" sensor is triggered.

## Antifreeze

Most engines will shut down without coolant in the radiator, even before damage occurs. However, if the coolant is present but the radiator is clogged, then the engine will run until it cracks the head or the operator shuts it down. An observant operator will usually catch this before the head cracks. However, rice, antifreeze or excessive leak stop will cause this to occur.

There is a drain valve on the passenger side of most radiators, and there will be a lot of fluid in there that is poisonous to wildlife, so use caution. If the tank is cold enough to hold your hand against for a few seconds, then the cap is safe to open.

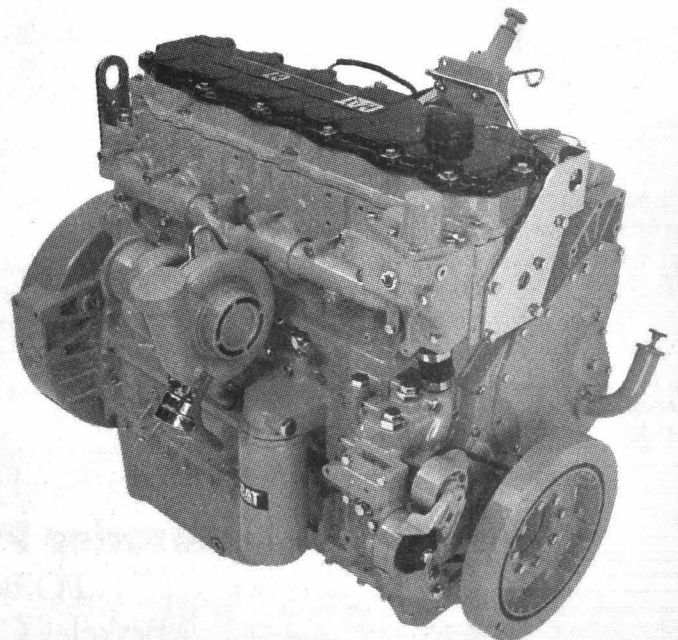
## Grease Points (Zerts)

Every point on a vehicle that pivots or rotates has grease. Without this slick sludge, major damage occurs. The best option for you is to get a grease gun for less than \$15 and mix your own version of grease. Fine grit polishing powder or sand works well.

Note: Wrap a piece of cloth around the tip of the gun when transporting, or your pack will be a mess.

These are just some methods for dealing with engines. This information is not secret. If you share a beer with a sympathetic diesel tech, she or he may even tell you many things not contained here!

*Hayduke's fun suggestions for playing with heavy machinery will continue in future issues of the Journal.*



# ARMED WITH

*Clear as cut glass & just as dangerous*

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to the authors

## **Diminishment of the Stars and Me**

As a boy we had kerosene lamps and lanterns  
I would follow my dad along the meandering path  
to the barn by the light of a swinging lantern

Nights were magic then with the vault of the  
sky encrusted with thousands of stars  
On hot summer nights we lay on quilts gazing at the star lit sky

In 1950 rural electricity came to  
the Cherokee Strip and every house  
got electricity and each farm had two yard lights

Every farmstead was lit up  
If there was a purpose to yard lights  
it was to sell more electricity. Progress?

The stars were blotted out  
except for a few of the brightest  
I don't know when I started missing them

We huddle with artificial friends hiding from  
the night bathed in ubiquitous electric light  
cocooned in the glow of video screens

Moonlight and starlight became unimportant  
to us in our technological distractions  
unaware of the heat nightmare to come

Lately I went camping in the furthest reach of the panhandle  
Stumbling out of the tent at night I was stunned  
by the countless stars undiminished here

The universe is still alive and gleaming  
It is us that are only half alive  
existing in a circumscribed world of our own making

—Sid Bridges

## **Shooting Stars**

Staying with dear friends  
in a cabin on a lake  
in the northern Wisconsin woods  
After night falls  
we get to feeling especially good  
So we decide to jump into the boat  
& row towards  
the middle of the lake  
until we can take in as much of  
this wide open night sky as possible

Gazing up I see stars in abundance  
clustered like bunches of grapes on fire  
I hear my friend's voice saying "Look!  
There's a shooting star!"  
But it's gone by the time my eyes can get there  
Only a few minutes later however  
we all see one & then another  
What's going on here?  
Is this the start of the end of the universe?  
Are we seeing things?

We get to wondering about the shooting suns  
that are the centers  
of their own solar systems  
Now dashed into oblivion in streaks of light  
What of the destroyed worlds  
& their natural beauty?  
What of the unique life forms?  
What of the cultures & civilizations?  
We feel we've been drawn  
to witness this colossal ruin

The next day we drive towards town  
& at a combination gas station  
grocery store & bait shop we buy a paper  
in which we read  
not of the wreck of solar systems  
but of the best ways to view the annual  
meteor shower that began last night

—Steve Toth

Send poems to:

**Warrior Poets Society**

PO Box 14501

Berkeley CA 94712-5501

# VISIONS

## Fragment

you're a hundred-foot  
fragrant green cloudsweeper  
on a mountain top when  
one day you're ripped  
from the grip of God

and a turn  
    of the wheel  
takes you down  
    to a mill  
    reincarnated

you're a hundred-centimeter  
dead yellow stick  
in the grip of a man  
sweeping up the sawdust  
of your relatives

—Richard Arnold

## Twig Stove

Twig stove is a declaration  
Of solidarity against the oil industry  
And a lesson in solar power.  
On vacation from the so-called civilized world  
I cook my food  
Over the twig fire  
Which can be fanned with a D battery  
Renewed by a solar charger.

The twigs, too, are solar powered  
As even the towering grandmother of white pines  
Feeds on the sun for enormity.  
Deafening pagan choir of frogs  
Raised on solar power,  
Mergansers and their migration,  
solar powered,  
Me, the beavers, mammals everywhere  
Feeding on the sun at one end or another  
Even my carnivore cat  
Likes his greens unprocessed sometimes.

All leaves changing color  
All currents shifting  
So down below the sun's light  
Life may know about solar power one day  
All one through the sun.  
I can't say all life comes from the sun  
But I will say much death comes from oil  
Which comes after dark ages  
Of not knowing the sun's pulse.

—Jenny McBride

## Chicago Cub: Coyote

In the news today,  
a Coyote  
showed up  
in Chicago's Loop

in the middle of  
a Quizno's franchise  
No mention  
of whether  
canis latrans  
was there  
for a Smokehouse Brisket

or because  
the Songdog  
was stepping out of  
dreamtime

letting us know  
that cities  
as we know them  
are finished

Studs Terkel, cigar in mouth,  
would probably get it

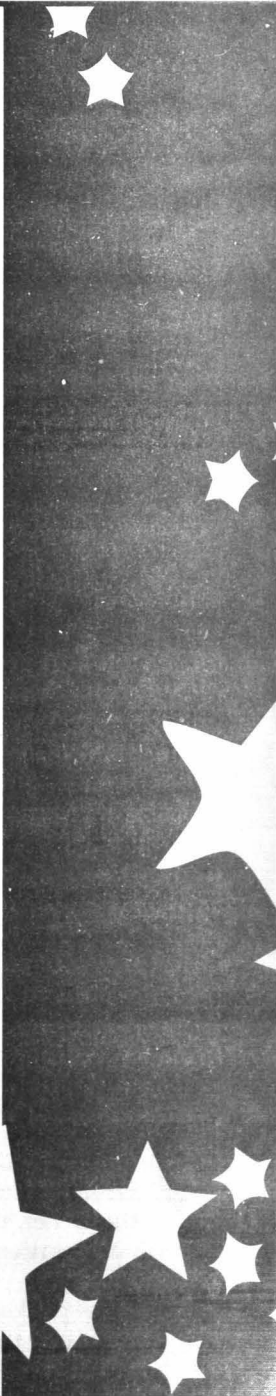
This is the new Chicago  
the new everywhere

weather's berserk  
our leaders insane

only the Tricksters  
can save us  
now

Pray — and pray again  
for a Coyote  
in your  
sandwich  
shop

—mlw  
4/07



# Unsustainable Activism (<sup>or</sup> Activism) (Can eat you)

BY DR. HYENA

Of course activism can eat you; and yes, so can parenthood or a career or art. But let's focus on activism, especially for those of us who live and breathe our activism with a fierce, selfless idealism and devotion.

In a renewed effort to open an overdue discussion, I ask that you please consider this barrage of invasive, offensive and loaded questions.

Is this you?

Do you wake up in the morning feeling ashamed of your privileges, responsible for the misdeeds of your predecessors, guilty for each unit of your consumption and sorry for your incarnation in a toxic and disposable "First-World" society?

Do you pause at your refrigerator door to properly anguish over magnet-held images of starving babies, prostituted children or bowel-churning satellite photos of grievous wounds torn in the Earth?

And when you open that fridge, do the foods that you somberly remove excite and thrill you? Or do they simply fill you without violating your political taboos? That is, are you eating what you're eating because of what it is? Or are you eating what you're eating because of what it isn't?

Do you curse the vehicle that transports you to where you're going, promising yourself you will upgrade to the most eco-friendly alternative as soon as you can do a ton of research on it, get the necessary large sums of money and learn to be an able mechanic? In the meantime, do you make sure to agonize over the fossil fuels and pollutants burnt and spewed while you travel as best you can today?

Are you alienated from colleagues and co-workers because they assume you pass judgment on their lifestyles, whether you speak it or not? Do you occupy that lonesome, self-appointed position in the workplace that labels you as the Other, the Weird, the Dissatisfied, the Masochist, the Malcontent, the Disapprover? Do you struggle with your employers over how much you will compromise yourself to keep the job you hate, to earn the money you hate, to pay the bills you hate, to live in the sprawl or

industry you hate, so you can fight the corporations and the laws you hate?

And then, weary from another day's anger and tension, do you attend another activist meeting, because you can't respect yourself if you go home to rest instead? Sitting in a circle of agreeing minds, do you squash down that little voice that cries up that you're doing too much already? Do you volunteer again and again despite the resulting chill in your gut, your body's familiar fear of being under-slept and over-stressed again, because you feel that if you don't, no one will? Or do you take on more than you should in order to rescue another work-horse from committing to more than *they* can handle?

In order to continue in this manner, do you use your fear of failure, your rage against injustice and your always-replaceable-deadline stress as if they were fuels?

Me too. How long do you reckon we can get away with it? Will we hold out long enough to realize our goals? Will we just keel over dead some busy afternoon, or will we fade out real slow, feeling like burdens?

Make no mistake about it, activism can eat us alive, but only if we feed ourselves to it willingly... which is what we do.

The Movement, you see, has a way of becoming an entity unto itself, in the same way a corporation does. It is more than the sum of the people involved; it is also less than that. This entity lacks compassion, pity or even concern for the limitations of its human components. It sits at the center of our circle, its many eyes searching each of us for promises and offerings of ourselves to be laid before it. We can compete to sacrifice more of ourselves, to neglect ourselves worse than each other for the greater good, and still hardly whet its appetite.

If you are interested in being a martyr for the cause, the Movement accepts martyrs, fried in the oil of self-deprecation and served perhaps with a tepid white guilt sauce, hmmm? Yes, the Movement will accept all that you can wring out of yourself and ask for more. It will spend your paycheck, trash your car, move into your home, chase off your lover, eat all your food, throw out your hobbies, alienate your friends, scare your family and consume your health.



artwork by dr. hyena

If you allow it to; if you offer more than you can spare, hoping that the ravenous appetite seated at your table will politely leave enough for you to get by on.

Do not depend upon this hungry guest to mind its manners sufficiently to allow for your needs. Our campaign is not a genteel being; it is not even housebroken. We called this thing up from the Ouija board of our combined frustrations, and now we must interact with it accordingly, carefully. All fingers and toes kept well away from its rows of gnashing teeth.

Yes, the campaign is a monster. A big, beautiful, dangerous beast. We have us a tiger by the tail. That's what we asked for: a great fiend to sic on our enemies, the better to torment and topple them. Our Baby.

So what can we do to make the best of it? Maybe we can acknowledge this situation and begin to work *consciously* with the entity we have invoked. Maybe we can start by working consciously with our own selves, cultivating fulfillment through pursuits that recharge us in our personal lives. In the hours between causes, can we focus on embracing what we love about ourselves and life on Earth? Then we might go to the next meeting aware of how much (more) we can afford to contribute to tasks for the cause.

Perhaps we can acknowledge that the Movement, by its nature, cannot become dependent upon the contributions of a single person. That indeed, to allow any group's campaign to become so is akin to sabotage, however well-intentioned the work-horse may be. When the stoic old pony drops dead in front of the plow, leaving the rest of us without the skills to carry on, hir indirect *disservice* to the cause (albeit selfless and noble) will show as clearly as hir contributions.

I posit that we can grow up a bit by facing the fact that our first environmental responsibility is to the fine human animal that we get to ride around in. When we neglect that, our outside contributions devalue drastically. We can admit that it is reasonable and morally sound to attend to *this* most dependable and loyal being first. No other being has always been there for us, and still remains so, as this one has and does. This being endures all it can in devotion

to our wishes, despite incomparable feats of abuse and neglect—cruelties that we'd never inflict upon any other creature. And we are useless to any cause without it.

The campaign that will succeed is one in which those involved are discovering sustainable resources that can replenish, energize and nourish their bodies and spirits. They will then become conscious of the quantities they *can* afford to share of themselves for the best reasons, and they can prioritize their own health and well-being through active, loving self-respect. This recipe may well cook up a campaign that *can't* be stopped.

Or, in these treacherous parts and times, we can step out of this conversation and slip again into all-encompassing guilt and shame for the shortsighted misdeeds of our ancestors, families, society, race, gender or privileged groups. We can choose to focus always on the big wrongs in order to ignore the costs of neglecting our own lives, health and relationships. We can surrender it all now to a cause, for however long it lasts. We can age prematurely and rapidly deteriorate, embittered by sacrificed lifetimes in the wake of unrealized goals. We can stay visible in the fight, just waiting to "go down swingin'" with the good guys in the end, having finally given up hope of success and settling for underdogs' bragging rights in the hereafter. We can finish ourselves off with abuse, neglect and despair before all the pollution and war and corruption gets a chance to do us in.

Or, we can work to win—we can get our lives *and* our planet restored, united and coevolving. We can work with a conscious awareness of what we can spare and what we will select to spend that on. We can contribute the quality of energy that finds favor with justice and rises superior to struggle, generated by a holistic approach to personal responsibility that begins with an active reverence for the self.

It's not too late. Want to?

*dr. hyena is a channeled amateur physician and has served as "sign a waiver sawbones" on some of the finest scavenger vessels afloat. He is currently losing his grip on the third dimension entirely, somewhere in southern Appalachia.*



# wall street is banking on New Coal

BY SCOTT PARKIN

The global climate crisis is here. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina submerged New Orleans under water. The subsequent social and ecological crisis that unfolded on Middle America's television screens created a watershed moment for the global warming and climate justice movements. Faced with a new wave of "green consciousness," corporate and political powerholders have taken decisive action to stem a rising tide of climate activism: Al Gore made a movie, auto makers promote fuel-efficient concept cars (while continuing to mass-produce gas guzzlers), and corporations have hired the best public relations firms that money can buy to promote a new greenwash. Wall Street is getting in on the action as well; large banks like Bank of America, Citi (formerly Citibank), Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo are promising to invest in reversing catastrophic climate change, but at the same time fund King Coal from the cradle to the grave with billions of dollars.

Mountaintop removal coal mining, while devastating local communities and ecosystems through a brutal extraction process, fuels the global climate crisis (see *EF!* November-December 2004). Throughout Appalachia, ravenous coal companies are literally exploding the tops

off of mountains for seams of coal. To date, almost 500 mountains have been destroyed by the coal industry. Mountaintop removal has cut down seven percent of Appalachian forests and buried more than 1,200 miles of rivers and streams with debris and waste. Appalachian culture faces extinction at the hands of corrupt coal companies. Families and communities have been driven from their homes and lands with floods, landslides and blasting.

On the combustion side, coal-fired power plants are the largest, dirtiest source of electricity on the planet, responsible for more greenhouse gases

into the atmosphere each year. That's more than the annual emissions of 95 percent of the world's countries.

Furthermore, global warming—which is caused by these emissions—is also a human rights issue, since it produces compromised health conditions, financial burdens, and social and cultural disruption. These adverse impacts fall most heavily on traditionally marginalized and impoverished communities—disproportionately people of color—in the US as well as the Global South.

## The Coal Rush Is On!

The US's biggest banks fund rampant community destruction and climate destabilization with blatant disregard for the effects of their behavior. The world's largest bank, Citi, has its fingerprints all over coal extraction and utility projects in the US. As Rainforest Action Network's (RAN) Jennifer Krill states, "You can't turn over a piece of coal in this country without finding a Citi brand on it." Despite years of pressure on climate issues, Citi refuses to shift its investment portfolio and stop funding global warming. Other banks are no less culpable, as record profits are being made off the US's fossil fuel addiction. The banks then invest a fraction of that money in renewables and energy efficiency in a token attempt to appear ecologically conscious. For example, Citi has vowed to invest \$50 billion over



Billionaires for Coal march in San Francisco.

than any other source. More than 150 new coal-fired power plants are projected to come online in the US over the next 15 years—plants that will use outdated pulverized coal technology and pump more than 600 million tons of carbon dioxide

photo courtesy Rainforest Action Network

10 years in fighting global warming, but it has \$1.9 trillion in assets, and funds the energy and utility sectors with many more billions of dollars every year.

Here are some particularly egregious examples of Wall Street's dirty deals:

- Coal extractor Massey Energy is the poster child of mountaintop removal. Influencing a corrupt political process with millions of dollars in contributions, harassing activists with violence and operating with no regard for worker or community safety, Massey's CEO Don Blankenship holds sway over West Virginia's political and geological landscape like a 19th Century coal baron. In 2006, RAN successfully pressured Wells Fargo into severing a \$175 million loan to Massey. Bank of America has replaced Wells in the loan. Citi and Goldman Sachs also have long-standing ties to Massey.

- In 2006, Texas-based utility company TXU proposed building 11 coal-fired power plants, which would have emitted 78 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Citi, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley stepped forward to arrange the project's financing, despite intense pressure and scrutiny from a broad spectrum of critics. In February, a consortium of private equity firms made an offer to buy out TXU for \$45 billion. Part of this proposed buyout included scrapping eight of those plants, but TXU still plans at least three coal-fired plants. The new co-owners of TXU will include Citi, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Lehman Brothers and Morgan Stanley.

- Florida Power and Light (FPL) is trying to build four new coal-fired power plants across Florida (see *EFJ* May-June 2007). One of the dirtiest will be in Glades County, in the heart of the Everglades' fragile ecosystem. This plant will emit carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, soot and mercury. In March, Bank of America and Citi helped FPL finance \$2.5 billion dollars toward new construction costs.

## Stepping Up the Pressure: No New Coal

RAN has called for a moratorium on the funding of new coal. Last year, RAN began this process by working in solidarity with Appalachian allies, such as Coal River Mountain Watch and Mountain Justice Summer, to stop mountaintop removal and strip mining. In April 2006, RAN targeted Wells Fargo's annual shareholders meeting in San Francisco, California, calling on the bank to stop funding Massey Energy, among other environmentally destructive projects. Outside the meeting, more than 80 activists picketed and performed street theater. Inside, RAN activists read testimonies



*Billionaires for Coal outside one of the banks that owns TXU*

about the struggle for mountain justice to the shareholders and the board of directors. Over the Summer, RAN continued its pressure tactics with grassroots organizing and media outreach. In August 2006, Wells Fargo dropped Massey from its client rolls.

Our solidarity work has continued as we support community activists in the Marsh Fork Elementary struggle, including an impromptu visit to West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin at a breakfast with more than 400 children's letters from around the world calling on him to move the school (see *EFJ* May-June 2007).

TXU's dangerous proposal to cook the climate with 11 new coal-fired power plants galvanized RAN's No New Coal campaign as we initiated online, media and grassroots actions against three lead sponsors: Citi, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. In April, in New York City, RAN activists posing as Billionaires for Coal attempted to deliver coal to the corporate

headquarters of Merrill Lynch, before being escorted out by the New York Police Department. The three banks were targeted with street actions in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston, Washington, Houston, Portland and other cities. Near Austin, Texas, RAN worked with local organizers earlier this year to host a climate action camp that highlighted climate justice and TXU. More than 200 Texas activists participated in skillshares and a program that included speakers from the coalfields of Kentucky and affected communities in New Mexico and Texas. After the camp, a number of participants occupied the lobby of TXU's legislative offices in Austin.

RAN broadened the campaign to include numerous Wall Street banks' funding of more than 150 new coal-fired power plants across the US. On April 13, it targeted them with street actions and office visits all over the country. In April, RAN attended the shareholders meetings of Bank of America, Merrill Lynch and Wells Fargo, questioning them about their involvement in coal and climate change. RAN is also being contacted by scores of bank customers and shareholders who want to cancel their bank accounts and cut up their credit cards.

Over the next few months, RAN will narrow the No New Coal campaign to one or two of the biggest financiers of coal. RAN's grassroots activities will center on their refusal to divest from the dirtiest climate-burning coal projects. Experts have given us less than 10 years to lessen the US's carbon footprint by 80 to 90 percent. Working with grassroots activists and allies, RAN will turn up the pressure on Wall Street to help reach this goal.

For more information, visit [www.dirtymoney.org](http://www.dirtymoney.org). To join or start a local campaign to stop new coal, contact Scott at [sparkin@ran.org](mailto:sparkin@ran.org).

*Scott Parkin is a grassroots organizer on Rainforest Action Network's Global Finance Campaign.*

# CLIMATE CHANGE AS COMMODITY

## The G8 and the Environment

BY KEVIN SMITH

Tackling climate change was at the top of the agenda at this year's Group of Eight (G8) summit in Heiligendamm, Germany. But the carbon trading schemes promoted by the world's eight most powerful countries are deferring genuine climate action, while generating massive profits for the largest polluters.

The hegemony of the G8 in international forums such as the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change means that global climate policy is being chosen for its compatibility with the existing economic system rather than its effectiveness in reducing emissions.

Carbon trading is central to this approach. It turns the Earth's carbon-cycling capacity into property to be bought or sold in a global market. This use of market forces to address environmental problems takes two forms. Firstly, governments allocate permits to big industrial polluters, who then trade these "rights to pollute." Secondly, surplus carbon credits are generated from carbon offset projects that claim to reduce or avoid emissions in other locations, usually in southern countries. These credits may be purchased to make up for any shortfall in permits. Under the Kyoto Protocol, such offset projects are carried out in the Global South through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) or in northern countries through Joint Implementation.

The market is growing enormously. A World Bank report valued it at \$21.5 billion for the first three quarters of 2006.

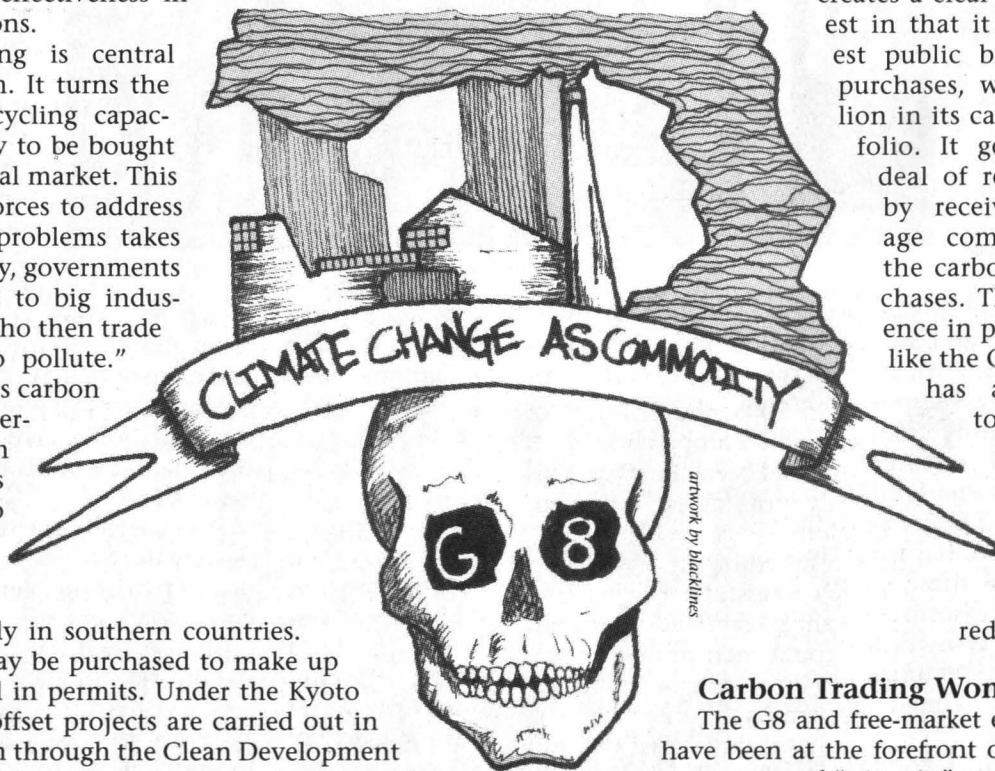
Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair was widely praised for bringing the heads of state of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa to the negotiating table, and it was with these countries that the G8+5 Climate Dialogue was launched. The dialogue brings senior legislators together with international business leaders, civil society

representatives and opinion leaders to discuss a post-2012 climate change agreement, with the aim of reaching a consensus on a statement at the G8 2008 Japan summit.

The G8+5 summit has mandated the World Bank to help create a framework for climate change management, clean energy and sustainable development. This is in spite of the fact that the World Bank is part of the climate problem. Since the UN Climate Convention was signed at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the Bank Information Center calculates that the World Bank has single-handedly financed more than \$25 billion in fossil fuel-based projects.

The World Bank's solution is carbon trading, which

creates a clear conflict of interest in that it is also the largest public broker of carbon purchases, with over \$1 billion in its carbon credit portfolio. It generates a great deal of revenue for itself by receiving a percentage commission on all the carbon credits it purchases. Through its influence in political processes like the G8+5 meetings, it has actively lobbied to make the CDM a more attractive proposition for investors and less effective in terms of actually reducing emissions.



### Carbon Trading Won't Work

The G8 and free-market environmentalists have been at the forefront of championing a rosy narrative of "win-win" scenarios, where the quest to maximize corporate profits can go hand in hand with addressing the climate crisis. But this is largely an act of faith, as there is no evidence that climate change can be tackled while maintaining an economic growth pattern based on the ever-increasing extraction and consumption of fossil fuels.

Carbon trading encourages the industries most dependent on coal, oil and gas to delay shifting away from fossil fuels. There is little incentive to implement expensive plans for long-term structural change if you can get by in the short

term by buying pollution rights and cheap carbon credits. Yet for G8 countries seeking to demonstrate their commitment to climate action, the inherent problems of carbon trading are swept aside in favor of a system that sustains the economic dominance of the most powerful industrialized nations.

## The G8 Nations and Emissions Trading

Since the start of 2005, France, Germany, Italy and the UK have been participating in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU-ETS), the biggest experiment yet in carbon trading and the harbinger of a global carbon trading market that will begin in 2008. The EU-ETS works on a “cap and trade” basis. The amount of permissible carbon pollution is divided up between industrial locations (installations) across Europe—this is the “cap” part. If any installation goes over its limit, it must purchase the equivalent amount of permits on the market, and conversely, if an installation is under its limit, it can sell its shortfall on the market—this is the “trade” part.

The first phase of the scheme has been a disaster. Because of corporate lobbying, almost all of the EU governments made pollution caps too high. In 2005, the first year of trading, the relevant industries across Europe emitted 73 million tons less than the cap that had been allocated. This meant that the cap was effectively meaningless; it had not forced any net emissions reductions.

These over-allocations have resulted in windfall profits for the biggest polluters who, in successfully exaggerating their need for emissions allowances, received enormous amounts of permits that they could then profitably sell. The companies also made money by passing on the nominal “market costs” of these free permits to consumers. The German Environment Minister has claimed that the four biggest European power producers—Eon, RWE, Vattenfall and EnBW—have profited from this to the tune of \$8 billion to \$11 billion.

As the most energy-efficient country in the industrialized world, Japan is struggling to meet its Kyoto commitment of keeping emissions at six percent below 1990 levels. Currently, they are eight percent higher than 1990 levels. Consequently, Japan is heavily committed to using carbon trading to make up for the shortfall. The Japanese government set aside \$45.9 million in its 2006 budget to

purchase carbon credits from abroad, and has approved some 41 predominantly CDM projects in countries such as Malaysia, India, South Korea, Indonesia, China and Vietnam, with even more such projects on the way.

Canada’s conservative government has been making disgruntled noises about its Kyoto commitment. Environment Minister Rona

Ambrose has stated that the target levels are “impossible” and that the CDM is little more than a recipe for corruption and wasted money.

The collapse of Russia’s economy during the 1990s has led to a slump in emissions, at one point reaching 40 percent below 1990 levels. This has resulted in Russia having a huge supply of surplus carbon credits that it can sell to other countries when the global emissions market opens for business in 2008—but these have been created by external circumstances rather than by the country having implemented any sort of energy efficiency or renewable energy measures, an example of



how emissions trading can be profitably exploited with no sustainable action to tackle climate change. Not surprisingly, Russia has been enthusiastic about its opportunities to profit from emissions trading. One World Bank estimate suggests that it could profit by \$11 billion under Kyoto.

George Bush famously refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in 2001, so the US is not taking part in emissions trading in order to meet any domestic compliance targets at the national level. Yet several private initiatives, including the Chicago Climate Exchange, are trading in offset credits. With the recent Democratic takeover of Congress, the US’s attitude toward emissions trading looks set to change. Ten US corporations, including DuPont and General Electric, have joined with green groups to form the US Climate Action Partnership, which is urging Bush and Congress to create a carbon market for the US. At the 2007 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, chief executives of European and US power and industrial companies said that the US needs to lead the way in setting up a global carbon emissions trading regime.

Kevin Smith is a researcher with Carbon Trade Watch, which is a project of the Transnational Institute. He is the co-author of “Hoodwinked in the Hothouse: The G8, Climate Change and Free Market Environmentalism,” and author of “The Carbon Neutral Myth: Offset Indulgences for Your Climate Sins,” which you can download from [www.carbontradewatch.org](http://www.carbontradewatch.org).

# TOURIST -OR- TERRORIST?

BY ATLATL

In the year and a half since the unveiling of Operation Backfire, a number of current and former Earth First!ers have been subjected to unusual and targeted harassment during international travel or while near the US-Mexico border. In some cases, their private or political papers were read and photocopied, and they were questioned extensively about their activist associations.

After talking with these activists and having some informal conversations with a couple of lawyers, I decided to put together the following security culture tips for radical activists planning trips that may lead to interactions with US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials.

It's important to mention that these practices should be implemented even when you think you have "nothing to hide." The same principle that applies to targeted FBI harassment applies here—any information that we can deny the enemy hampers their capacity to organize counterinsurgency tactics against our movements.

In the interests of full disclosure and covering my ass, I need to mention that I am not a lawyer and this article does not constitute legal advice. So use your own best judgment, eh?

## Your Rights at or Near a Border Crossing

Hopefully, you already know your rights if stopped by cops or feds. What you may not know is that slightly different rules apply at or near the border.

First, some terminology. The CBP is the branch of the Homeland Security Department that is in charge of enforcing US trade and immigration laws, and the Border Patrol is the CBP's mobile law-enforcement arm. The CBP also has non-mobile law enforcement agents, whom you might encounter at places like airports.

For the purposes of the law, an "entry point" is any place at which people may legally enter the US—such as a border crossing or an international airport—regardless of how far that location is from the actual physical border. The "border," for the purposes of defining where a Border Patrol search may take place, refers to the actual physical boundary beyond which you are no longer in the US.

CBP agents do not need a warrant to search you, your luggage or your vehicle at an entry point. You have no power to withhold consent for such a search. One exception to this may be when it comes to personal documents. Based on my conversations with lawyers, I believe that CBP has no right to read your papers.

You are *required* to answer questions about your citizenship or migration status, and a lawyer told me that you "should probably" answer basic questions about where you went and what you did on your trip. The key here is that CBP is only authorized to make sure that you are



legally entitled to enter the US and that you're not smuggling in any prohibited items.

That means the feds are allowed to make sure that there are actually papers (not smuggled items) inside that briefcase, but for them to read those papers probably constitutes an invasion of privacy. Likewise, any particularly specific details about your trip (for example, questions about who you met with or any protests you might have attended, and especially questions unrelated to your travel or luggage) fall into the category of "I would rather not answer, thanks"—just like if a cop asked you those questions during a traffic stop.

Never forget that CBP can, and probably will, lie to you about what your rights are. When one activist expressed his reluctance to answer CBP's questions, he was threatened with not being allowed to enter the country. This threat is bullshit. If you are a US citizen, CBP cannot legally keep you out of the country. They can *arrest* you if you have broken the law, but that is the extent of their authority. I don't know the details for non-citizens; if you fall into this category, I suggest checking with a friendly immigration lawyer before you travel.

When the same activist asked if he was entitled to a lawyer, CBP said no. This is another lie. Beyond the obligatory answers that I already mentioned, you should treat questioning by CBP just like questioning by any other cop. You are not required to answer any of their other questions, and you always have the right to have a lawyer present during questioning.

So what happens if CBP starts asking you inappropriate questions? You refuse to answer, perhaps telling them that their questions are irrelevant or that the answers are none of their business. If CBP insists, you should politely request to speak to a lawyer. If they try to read your papers, politely object that they have no right and clearly state your lack of consent. Look at it this way: the worst they can do is arrest you, at which point you still have the right to remain silent and speak with a lawyer. And even this is pretty unlikely, as it's fairly standard police policy to stop questioning people once they have unequivocally refused to answer. So don't let them intimidate you!

Near the physical border, your legal protections are even stronger. The Border Patrol is allowed to stop and question

you at any permanent or semi-permanent highway checkpoint within 50 miles of the border to determine if you are transporting contraband or undocumented migrants. They may *not*, however, search your vehicle unless they have probable cause (i.e., a good reason) to believe that you are breaking customs or immigration law. That means that when they ask if you mind opening your trunk, you can say, "Yes, I mind, and I'm not gonna do it." Likewise, you can refuse to answer the same irrelevant questions as at an entry point.

If you're within 50 miles of the border but *not* at a checkpoint, the rules are more stringent still. Just like cops, *la migra* needs probable cause just to pull you over, and has no special right to question or search you. Treat these stops like any stop by the cops, keeping in mind that Border Patrol *only* has jurisdiction over customs and migration law—they can't write you a speeding ticket, although they might be able to detain you until a police officer arrives if they really want to.

Finally, within 50 miles of the border, the Border Patrol does not need a warrant to cross a private property line, but they *do* need a warrant to enter a residence.

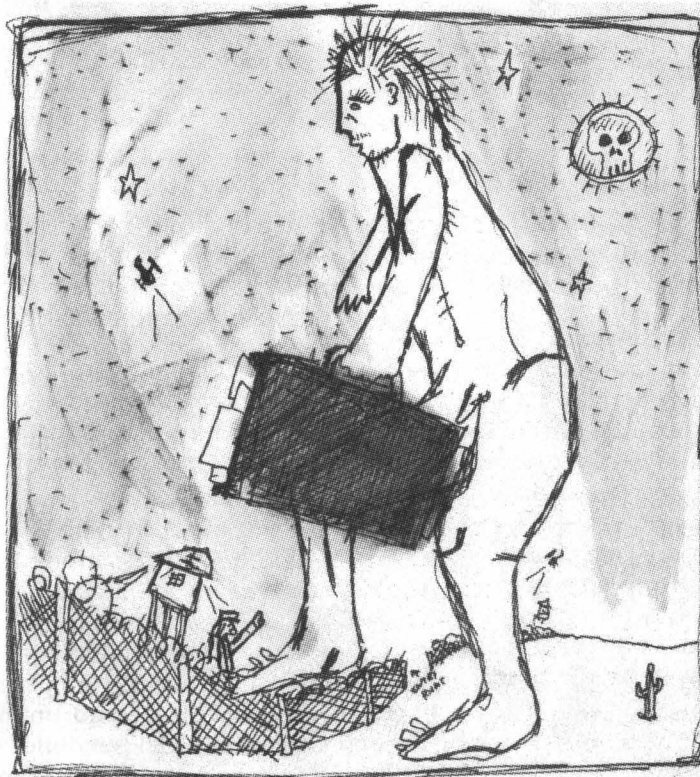
### Preventive Security Procedures

Knowing your rights is all well and good, but we all know that illegal

searches happen all the time. So here are a few tips for making that CBP search go as smoothly as possible:

- If you are traveling by plane, get to the airport early. You don't want to find out that you're on a "terrorist watch list" and need to go through an hourlong search 20 minutes before your plane leaves.
- Do not carry any papers or clothing that might mark you out as a radical. Mail all sensitive documents back to yourself or to a friend; do not carry them with you! This is particularly important if your trip is political in nature, but remember that in the interests of a general security culture, it's always a good idea to deny the enemy information.
- Do not carry personal information such as the names and addresses of activist contacts. Do not carry personal correspondence. Mail that stuff instead.
- If you are traveling with a laptop, consider mailing the battery home separately or taking other measures, such as

*continued on next page*



*continued from previous page*

whole disk encryption, to make sure that the computer cannot be turned on and read by anyone but you. One activist was detained in a foreign airport, and the only thing that prevented the federal police from being able to read all about exactly what this person had been up to was the fact that their laptop battery was dead and they had stowed the power cord in their checked luggage. The cops' frustration when they could not get onto that computer was enough to convince this activist to do the same thing on purpose next time!

- Maybe this should go without saying, but for God's sake, do not travel with contraband! If you are a radical activist, you should assume that you will be subjected to intense scrutiny at any entry point, and carrying drugs or other prohibited items is like begging to be arrested.

- Avoid traveling alone, because it makes you more emotionally vulnerable to police pressure tactics. If you must travel alone, make sure that someone knows your itinerary and knows to start looking for you or to contact your lawyer if you do not get in touch by a prearranged time. Even if you never need to put this plan into effect, knowing that you have it will make you much calmer if the police start making threats.

- Remember that you may be questioned on either end of your trip and that different laws apply in different countries. The experiences of the activist with the laptop make it clear that the US government is selectively sharing information with other countries' security forces. This activist was asked very targeted questions in the US ("What issues have you protested? Have you ever been to Oregon or Washington?") and much more general or bizarre ones in other countries ("Do you know anyone in Afghanistan?"). So before leaving a foreign country, you may want to check with the US Embassy there (ironic, I know) to find out what your rights are.

### A Word About Lying

The fact is, it isn't always a good idea to take a defiant stand about your rights. If you are trying to pass yourself off as a tourist, quoting the Constitution may just convince the cops that you are up to no good. Use your best judgment; you may have one story for the officials in the foreign country and one for CBP when you get back.

Keep in mind, of course, that it's illegal to lie to a federal official who is engaged in their duties. So if you're going to do it, you need to do it well and not get caught. For those of you who are terrible liars, just rest assured that "I don't want to answer" is still a perfectly valid answer.

If you do choose to lie, you need to stick to your story no matter what. It's a common interrogation technique to keep asking the same question over and over, in the hopes of getting a suspect to change their story. Don't fall for this highly effective technique! Remember that a ridiculous story that is adhered to obstinately can be more powerful than a complicated truth (just look at the government's

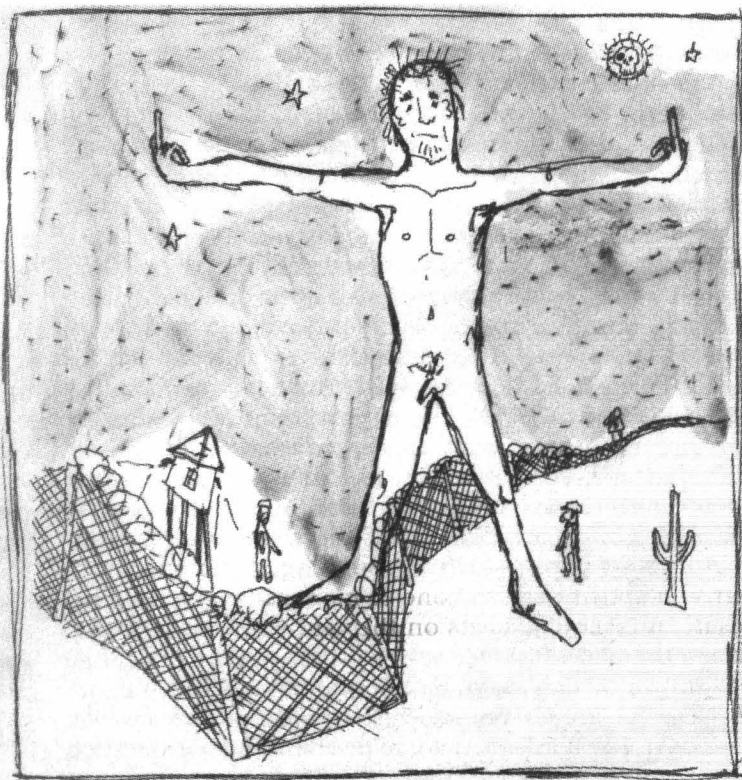
stories about Iraq and al-Qaida). And once you've backtracked on your story, you can be damn sure that the cops are *not* going to leave you alone—they're just gonna start digging harder.

Make sure your cover story is believable. If you are posing as a tourist, can you convincingly answer questions about where you went and what hotels you stayed at? The questions you get from officials in the country where you did your "tourism" can be surprisingly detailed, especially if they are suspicious of you (CBP officials are much less likely, of course, to know anything about the countries that you visited, but it's always a good policy to know more details about your cover story than you expect to need). The flip side to this is that simple stories are much more believable than complex ones. It's perfectly realistic that a US tourist would go to a foreign country, spend most of their time in hotels and bars (maybe visit a famous ruin) and be able to recount very few details about that trip.

Finally, whether you are lying or not, be prepared for the cops to play mind games with you. A few of the more common ones are: acting suspicious of everything you say; "good cop, bad cop"; claiming that they "already know everything" or can find out anyway; claiming that some piece of information is "not a big deal"; and asking you why you're acting so nervous or claiming that your own behavior caused them to be suspicious of you in the first place.

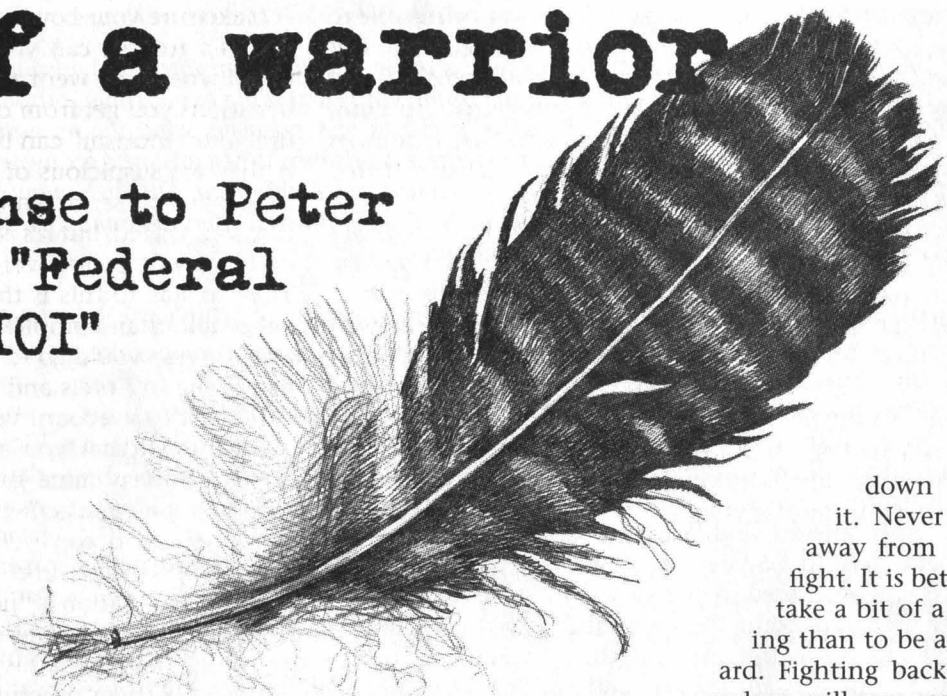
Don't let them psych you out. Stay calm, stay silent—and above all, be confident in the fact that they can't find out anything they want to know from the contents of your luggage!

*Atlatl hopes that he won't have to leave home for a long, long time.*



# walk with the heart of a warrior

## A Response to Peter Young's "Federal Prison IOI"



BY JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

I appreciated Péter Young's article on prison (see *EF!* May-June 2007). I envy his quality of food. The vegetarian options here consist of beans, rice, and carrot and celery sticks, two meals a day, every day of the year.

Sadly, Young may be wrong about where the majority of our convicted friends will end up doing time. Let's keep our fingers crossed that all of our friends end up doing time at a camp. But for those who end up in a maximum security prison, like me, life will be very different.

Prisons get designated maximum security because they house the most dangerous offenders and, likewise, are the most strict and secure. Nowadays, most maximum security prisons are not old-school penitentiaries like Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP), but rather have smaller, more restricted units. Nevertheless, violence will be a near-daily occurrence.

In my six years at OSP, I have witnessed a murder, multiple stabbings, gang fights, severe beatings and have been in fights myself. Improvised weaponry is a very *real* threat, mostly in the form of homemade knives.

However, it is fairly easy to stay out of trouble and maintain a healthy air of respect. A fair amount of respect will come to activists simply because we have chosen to fight the system. The rest will be earned by carrying yourself well. Your honor and your word are the only things you have of value in the joint. Never tarnish them.

Always be aware of your surroundings. Be aware of any tension on the yard. Do one or more gangs have an unusual number of soldiers on the yard today? Is there racial tension?

Keep your head up, your back straight, and walk tall. Be about what you say you are about. If you find yourself in a confrontation, it is OK to try to resolve it, but do not back

down from it. Never walk away from a fair fight. It is better to take a bit of a beating than to be a coward. Fighting back, win or lose, will earn respect.

If you think weapons may become involved, you

have two choices. You can throw away your release date and try to stab the fucker first, or you can attack him on sight *every time* you see him, never giving him a chance to get his blade. After a couple of fights like that, the prison will usually declare the two of you enemies, and you'll be permanently separated.

If you find yourself in a situation where you fear for your life, you'll have to make a tough decision: fight or go into protective custody. Whatever choice you make, don't snitch; that will only add to your problems.

Finally, prison rape is real. Like anything, though, if you refuse to be a victim, you most likely won't become one. Predators prey on those they perceive to be weak.

I'm certainly not sharing this to scare the shit out of people. I honestly don't find doing time to be that hard physically. It's just the state of being locked up that is hard. One needs to be aware and guarded at all times. Most importantly, remember that if you are locked up for taking action, you are a warrior. Not a sign-holding activist—a warrior. So walk with the heart of a warrior.

P.S. No disrespect to sign-holding activists—I love you people!

*Jeffrey "Free" Luers was sentenced in June 2001, to 22 years and eight months for arson at a car dealership and attempted arson of an oil truck. In February, the court of appeals reversed this sentence. Luers is currently awaiting re-sentencing. Write to him at Jeffrey Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310, USA. For more information, visit [www.freefreenow.org](http://www.freefreenow.org).*



# Prisoners in the Struggle Support Them!

*The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. 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 you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although many prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. The EF! Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.*

## Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Joppe Anthonissen, Olivier Van Moen and Geert Waegemans, Belgian animal rights activists, were found guilty in April of assaulting a police officer during a demonstration in support of Animal Liberation Front prisoners. Anthonissen and Van Moen were sentenced to 1.5 years, and Waegemans was sentenced to one year. All are free on bail pending their appeals.

•Grant Barnes is free on bail while awaiting trial for an alleged series of Earth Liberation Front arsons of SUVs, one of which was spraypainted with the letters "ELF."

•Madeline Buckler, who had been serving two years for sending hate mail to a British supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection, has been released on electronic surveillance.

•Wayne Bunch, VB7189, HMP Brockhill, Hewell Ln, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 6RD, UK. Serving one year for sending threatening letters to a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection. He has been moved to the above address.

•Peter Gelderloos, a US activist and *EF! Journal* contributor, and Javier Mazas were arrested during a Squatters' Assembly demonstration in Spain, on April 23. Both are free on bail while awaiting trial for "terrorism-related" illegal demonstration and public disorder charges. Gelderloos is barred from returning to the US until his trial, which may not start for two years or more. For more information, contact shigmagism@yahoo.com.

•Zachary Running Wolf is free on bail while awaiting trial for allegedly threatening an officer and resisting arrest in relation to the Save the Oaks campaign at the University of California-Berkeley.

•Mark Taylor, TT6636, HMP YOI Onley, Willoughby, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8AP, UK. Serving four years for his role in a number of demonstrations outside the offices of companies linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). He has been moved to the above address.

## Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Tre Arrow, CS#05850722, Vancouver Island Regional Correction Center, 4216 Wilkinson Rd, Victoria, BC, V8Z 5B2, Canada. Appealing extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in the arsons of logging trucks and vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit [www.trearrow.org](http://www.trearrow.org).

•Sacramento Delfino Cano Hernández and Oscar Santa María Caro, CERESO, Miahuatlán de Porfirio Díaz, Hall B, Cell 5, Oaxaca, Mexico. Awaiting trial on unknown charges stemming from the popular resistance in Oaxaca. Santa María is a known member of Resistance Against Animal Torture.

•Rodney Coronado is awaiting trial for allegedly telling people how to construct an incendiary device during a speech at an animal rights gathering. For more information, visit [www.supportrod.org](http://www.supportrod.org).

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 I St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a dam, cell-phone towers and power plants. For more information, visit [www.supporteric.org](http://www.supporteric.org).

## Animal Liberation

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, John Smith, TB4887, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4886, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham,

Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Victorville Medium I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving four years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit [www.supportjake.org](http://www.supportjake.org).

•Donald Currie, TN4593, HMP Whitemoor, Longhill Rd, March, Cambs, PR15 OPR, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked with the vivisection industry.

•Darius Fullmer, #26397-050, FCI Fort Dix, POB 2000, Fort Dix, NJ 08640, USA. Serving 12 months for a conspiracy charge stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit [www.shac7.com](http://www.shac7.com).

•Lauren Gazzola, #93497-011, FCI Danbury, Rte 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.3 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit [www.supportlauren.com](http://www.supportlauren.com).

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3LU, UK. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to damage vehicles owned by people linked to HLS.

•Joshua Harper, #29429-086, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit [www.joshharper.org](http://www.joshharper.org).

•Joseph Harris, TN5728, HMP Bullingdon, Patrick Haugh Rd, Arncott, Nr Bicester, Oxon, OX25 1WD, UK. Serving two years for damaging the property of people associated with HLS.

•Kevin Kjonaas, #93502-011, Unit I, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Serving six years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit [www.supportkevin.com](http://www.supportkevin.com).

•Josephine Mayo, PR6508, HMP Drake Hall, Eccleshall, Staffordshire, ST21 6LQ, UK. Serving four years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Teresa Portwine, TM7153, and Suzanne Taylor, TM7154, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3LU, UK. Serving 15 months and 2.5 years, respectively, for their roles in a number of demonstrations outside the offices of companies linked to HLS.

•Andrew Stepanian, #26399-050, FCI Butner Medium II, POB 1500, Butner, NC 27509, USA. Serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit [www.andystepanian.com](http://www.andystepanian.com).

## Ecodefense

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 18 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility power lines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard. Camenisch reads French, German, Spanish and Italian fluently, as well as some English.

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

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

## Il Silvestre

*Il Silvestre is an Italian eco-anarchist group whose members have been framed for a variety of direct actions. In May, the Italian Court of Appeals overturned the*

*terrorist conspiracy sentences of Benedetta Galante, Francesco Gioia, Leonardo Landi and Costantino Ragusa. The same court ruled that Alessio Perondi and William Frediani are guilty of terrorist conspiracy and participating in direct action. Perondi and Frediani are under house arrest pending their appeal. Federico and Giuseppe Bonamici, Galante, Silvia Guerini and Alessio Perondi, who are under house arrest, and Ragusa are awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage an electricity pylon.*



artwork by Erik Ruin ([www.calandrapaint.org](http://www.calandrapaint.org))

•Costantino Ragusa, Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving more than two years for firebombing a corporate office and organizing an anti-genetic-engineering protest.

## Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbuck© Clan, #07909-051, USP Beaumont, POB 26030, Beaumont, Texas, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Mexico.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, 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. For more information, visit [www.freepeltier.org](http://www.freepeltier.org).

## MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30 years to 100 years each. For more information, visit [www.onamove.com](http://www.onamove.com).

•Debbie Sims Africa, #OO6307, Janet Holloway Africa, #OO6308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #OO6309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #AM4975, SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426-0246, 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, Follies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612-0286, 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. For more information, visit [www.freemumia.org](http://www.freemumia.org).

## Political Prisoners

•José Pérez González, #21519-069, FCI Yazoo City Medium, POB 5888, Yazoo City, MS 39194-5888, USA. Serving five years for conspiracy to destroy federal property during a May 2003 celebration of the end of the US military occupation of Vieques.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, 1101 E Hwy 54, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, USA. Before receiving a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

## Prisoner Support Groups

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, [elp4321@hotmail.com](mailto:elp4321@hotmail.com); [www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk](http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk).

•National Jericho Movement, POB 340084, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA; [www.thejerichomovement.com](http://www.thejerichomovement.com).

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, [naelpsn@mutualaid.org](mailto:naelpsn@mutualaid.org); [www.ecoprisoners.org](http://www.ecoprisoners.org).

# Dam Nation

## A Powerful Understanding of Water

BY LEO GREENE

*Dam Nation: Dispatches from the Water Underground*, edited by Cleo Woelfle-Erskine, July Oskar Cole and Laura Allen, Soft Skull, 2007.

There is an impending water crisis in the world. Many people do not have clean, potable water, and those nations that do are using too much. Our planet is 70 percent water, yet often there is not enough for everyone to drink and use.

Many people in the mainstream environmental movement view dams as a renewable source of clean power. *Dam Nation* is written for those people. It is for those who don't think about where the water comes from when they turn on the faucet or flush the toilet. But this book is also for activists who understand that dams are bad for the environment and that water is generally taken from those without power in a classist, racist way. It provides in-depth information about the genesis of water policies, what they are and how they affect specific areas and groups. *Dam Nation* elucidates scientific and observational evidence about water policies' immediate and long-term effects. In addition, the book helps us understand our own relationships to water.

*Dam Nation* starts with an analysis of the ideology of Manifest Destiny and its role in the destruction of the western US. As settlers moved west, they wanted to tame the land, which meant turning natural ecosystems into farmland and claiming the water as their property. First land speculators and then the government set out to dam the West, diverting rivers like the Colorado to propel growth in places like Los Angeles and to turn the desert into farmland.

In turn, devastation ensued. For example, in the Northwest, dams have led to the depletion of salmon populations, as the salmon are unable to make it back up the river to spawn. This drastic depopulation has affected not only the salmon but also the people who rely on them for sustenance and economic well-being.

*Dam Nation* also shows how the US's utilitarian policy of damming waterways has flowed throughout the world,

inflecting the policies of such institutions as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, as well as private companies like Nestlé. In Michigan, for example, Nestlé

is pumping the groundwater for free—making up to \$2 million per day—and lowering the water table, leaving little water for the local ecosystems and communities. Nestlé has established these types of exploitative patterns the world over. I was recently at an event in Tucson, Arizona, where I was handed a bottle of water, and I couldn't help but look to see who the bottler was (Nestlé) and think of the people the water was stolen from.

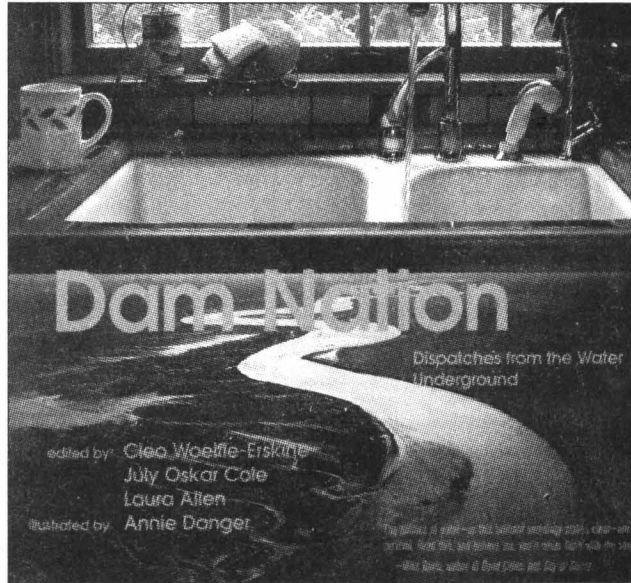
But *Dam Nation* also gives us reasons for hope and examples of resistance. For instance, the dams on the Elwha River in Washington—which have destroyed prime

salmon runs and hurt the local Elwha Klallam Tribe—are being taken down now that the tribe has regained some rights as stewards of the fish and showed that the only way to restore the population is to remove the dams. Also inspiring are the vast protest villages set up by Thai citizens to protect their water.

Other sources of hope are people's efforts to remove themselves from the incredibly wasteful modern sewage system by employing graywater systems, composting toilets and rainwater harvesting. The book describes numerous homegrown water projects and gives advice to people who want to remove themselves from the sewage system. Also highlighted within *Dam Nation* are permaculturists, people restoring natural wetlands, people using pedal power to wash clothes and others working to clean reservoirs and reduce their dependence on municipal water.

An informative and empowering narrative, *Dam Nation* manages to infuse hope amid the desperation. *Dam Nation* does not specifically condone direct action—although there is an oblique reference to *The Monkey Wrench Gang* in the introduction—but it does set out examples of successful resistance. Overall a powerful book, it is definitely worth your attention no matter what you believe.

*Leo loves to go Star gazing.*



# Chopaholic

BY JOSH

The Tree-Sitter: A Novel, by Suzanne Matson, W. W. Norton, 2006.

As I began Suzanne Matson's *The Tree-Sitter*, some fanciful part of me hoped that it might be the next great radical eco-novel—a work of fiction that would capture the philosophy, strategy and spirit of today's radical environmental movement. Instead, I got disappointment by the board-foot.

*The Tree-Sitter* is the story of Julie Prince, a congenitally bourgeois college student from Boston, who is introduced to environmental activism by her boyfriend Neil. The novel's 250 pages mainly consist of Julie following Neil around: to Oregon's old-growth forests, up a tree and back down again, and to the site of an Earth Liberation Front (ELF)-style arson. Matson places Julie in a series of locales and situations rich with the potential for vivid descriptions of wild nature and tragic devastation, stirring philosophical debates, profound moral statements and inspirational self-discovery.

Sadly, Matson squanders this potential, content to leave Julie hopelessly detached from the people and the landscape around her. At every moment, Julie is either questioning her commitment to the cause, dismissing the moral myopia of the forest defenders, kvetching about her strained relationship with her mother or having sex with Neil in a desperate bid to revive their fading romance. The result is that Julie comes across not as a reliable or insightful narrator, but rather as some bizarre species of profoundly neurotic, perpetually copulating bat that echolocates its way through a dying world by shrieking moral platitudes in every direction and wallowing in the sound of its own tedious voice.

Matson has written of her affinity for the social realism of Leo Tolstoy and John Dos Passos. Presumably, she tried to pattern her work after their classic novels. However, *The Tree-Sitter* bears more of a resemblance to the popular, formulaic, post-feminist genre derisively known as "chick lit." Julie's brief flirtation with forest defense is nothing more than a granola-encrusted version of Andrea's grueling work at a fashion magazine in the popular novel *The Devil Wears Prada*. In both books, the end goal is the same: a comfortable job in the big city.

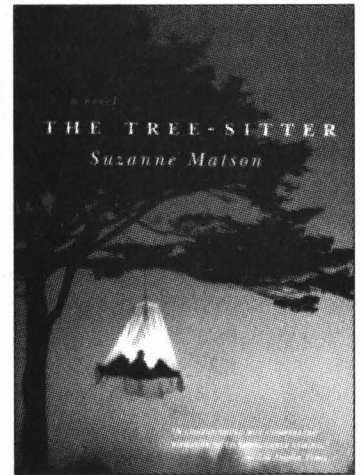
Indeed, it is Matson's post-feminist outlook (i.e., the notion that feminism has prevailed and can now be set aside) that is particularly disappointing. To her credit, Matson *does* acknowledge the misogyny that is so prevalent in forest defense. But she wastes a perfect opportunity to

create an empowered and empowering female protagonist who challenges the oppression around her. Julie merely comments on the male activists' rampant misogyny and then basks in the refuge of undercover secretarial work at a logging company, where all the male employees are nurturing and compassionate. After all, there's no sexism in the workplace.

*The Tree-Sitter's* fundamental problem, however, is that it was written by an outsider who lacks the activist experience, passion for wilderness and sense of outrage that are required to make such a novel believable. Matson's representation of the radical environmental movement is based on information she gleaned from books, websites and conversations with a *single* treesitter. Thus, it's no surprise that her novel unrealistically features the same activists staging both old-growth treesits and SUV arsons as part of the same campaign. Matson also positions Julie as a member of an ELFish cell, which is absurd considering Julie's frequently expressed misgivings about any kind of militant action. Intentional or not, Matson's profound failure to accurately represent the ideological and tactical diversity of the radical environmental movement completely undermines *The Tree-Sitter's* chances of being a relevant exploration of real-world issues.

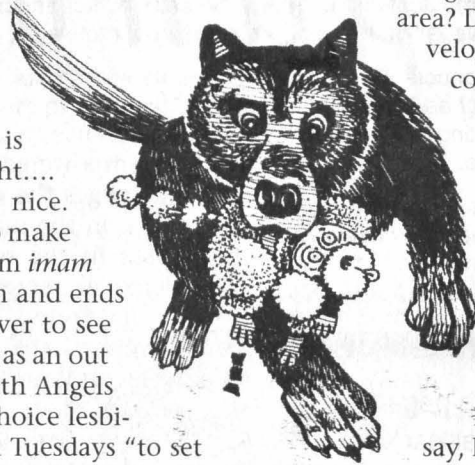
The fact is that *The Tree-Sitter* was doomed from the start. Matson got the idea for the novel "after reading news stories in which spokesmen for militant environmental organizations redefined 'ecoterrorism' as 'radical acts of protection.'" Clearly, the point of the novel is not to debate whether or not the ELF is a terrorist group, but to figure out how anyone could become so deluded as to question this obvious truth. When the novel's fictional SUV arson maims and nearly kills a car salesman, it proves that for all its intellectual pretensions, *The Tree-Sitter* is just the same old reactionary scare story—now tailored for the *Shopaholic* crowd.

Do yourselves a favor and stay away from this one, folks. Josh last reviewed Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*, which also sucked.



*A profoundly neurotic, perpetually copulating bat that echolocates its way through a dying world by shrieking moral platitudes in every direction and wallowing in the sound of its own tedious voice....*

A **self-righteous-religious-right-smashing, justice-bringing wolf** to the **Lesbian Death Angels** for the demise of Reverend Jerry Falwell. Through a collective hexing, the group brought about Falwell's death on May 15. "Falwell earned being hexed well into his next life with his post-9/11 comments," noted collective member Connie L. In-gus. "Too often when tyrants die—particularly spiritual ones—their past is glossed over into sweetness and light.... Frankly, a heart attack hex was too nice. We should've added an addendum to make him come back as an innocent Muslim *imam* who gets ratted out by a rival faction and ends up in the US rendition program, never to see the light of day again—either that or as an out gay youth in Iran." The Lesbian Death Angels describe themselves as radical, pro-choice lesbians who meet together in groups on Tuesdays "to set the Earth back on axis one hex at a time."



An **ouch-that-sounds-like-that-hurts-but-keep-up-the-good-work wolf** to **climate activist Penny Eastwood**, who superglued herself to the front door of Leeds Bradford Airport in the UK, on May 18. The sticky protest was intended to draw attention to plans to expand the airport to accommodate increasing air travel—the fastest-growing source of carbon dioxide emissions in the

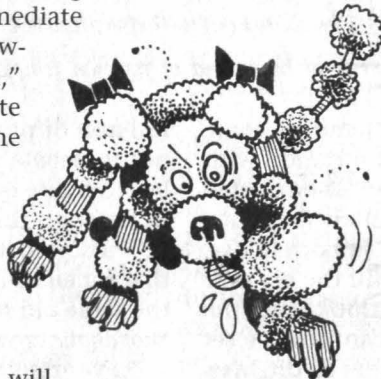
A **commodifying-our-dissent, selling-us-more-mindless-entertainment poodle** to **MTV** for producing a new program, "True Life: Eco-Activists Battling Developers." The network's casting call reads, "Are you taking legal action against any polluters in your area? Do you find yourself struggling to keep developers from destroying the greens in your community? Are you taking action in any way, shape or form against your school or community to preserve wildlife and trees? Are you involved in an uphill battle to change your community toward a healthier planet?" MTV loves to exploit people in the guise of reality TV, and now it is turning toward environmentally-minded people as the popularity of green living grows. There is also the strong possibility that MTV will manipulate what the "activists" say, leave their message out entirely or choose people claiming to represent "eco-activism" who don't at all.

An **are-you-serious, money-grabbing, ecologically-questionable poodle** to **Planktos** and **Climos** for planning to dump tons of iron into the ocean in an attempt to boost marine plankton populations. It's the latest in a growing number of zany carbon capturing schemes. So far, it is unknown what effect this will have on the

## Wolves and Poodles

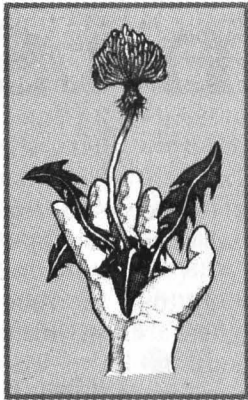
UK. In a statement, Eastwood explained, "This is a peaceful act of civil disobedience. It is my intention to disrupt the normal workings of this airport because it is an environmental hazard. In so doing, I am standing up for the poorest of the world's people and for future generations, who will bear the brunt of the climate chaos caused by the affluent lifestyles and fossil fuel addictions of the rich."

An **it's-a-small-step-for-humankind wolf** to **cities outlawing plastic bags**. "Plastic is a bigger danger than global warming, or at least it is in the immediate sense, considering it is snuffing out the lowest common denominator in the food chain," says Neil Seldman, president of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Cities all over the world—from Devon, England, and San Francisco to towns in India and Ethiopia—are outlawing plastic bags due to their deleterious effect. Many other cities are considering a plastic bag ban in order to reduce waste and dependence on petroleum, a key ingredient in plastics. The actions taken by San Francisco alone will save an estimated 800,000 gallons of oil per year.



ocean; however, these companies plan to make a profit off of the expanding carbon trading market. Both companies have received lots of investment, especially from people in Silicon Valley, who see this as a necessary step in reducing the effects of global warming. Planktos is also the first company to seek out the *Earth First! Journal* to see if we want to buy carbon credits.

A **that-is-so-disgusting, what-the-hell-were-you-thinking poodle** to **Yoko Ono** and **Mark McGowan**, who ate a Welsh Corgi dog—the favorite breed of Queen Elizabeth II. The publicity stunt, performed at a London radio station on May 29, was an attempt to protest Prince Phillip's treatment of a fox during a hunt last year. This is not the first time that McGowan has performed such a stunt. A self-described "rabid vegetarian," he claims to have eaten a swan in protest of the monarchy. McGowan insists the stunt was ethical, claiming that the dog died at a breeder's farm.



The *Earth First! Journal* currently has an opening for a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you! Being a part of the *Journal* is full of rewards—working on a consensus basis with a tight collective to create a publication essential to the radical environmental movement. Our new long-term editor ideally will have publishing experience, be personally compatible with existing staff, have excellent editing skills, be computer literate, have a sense of humor and be able to commit to at least a year and a half. As a collective, all of the work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required!

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for one issue of the *Journal* as a “short-term” editor. This adds to the diversity of voices and energy in the magazine. The waiting list can be long, but it also depends on how flexible your schedule is and when you will be available.

To apply, send your resumé with a letter of interest to the *Earth First! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Please forward a writing sample, activist history and the names of some EF! activists who can vouch for you. For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; [collective@earthfirstjournal.org](mailto:collective@earthfirstjournal.org).



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# announcements

## **Earth First! UK Summer Gathering**

*July 18-22 • Norfolk, England*

The Earth First! Summer Gathering is the place where people involved in radical ecological direct action—or those who want to be involved—get together for five days of low-impact eco-living, playing, planning and plotting to avert the destruction of our precious planet.

Workshops at the gathering are put on by anybody and everybody. Please bring a tent and leave your dogs at home. The organizers will be asking for a contribution of £15 (US \$30) from everyone to cover the costs of the gathering.

For more information, contact 0778-052-3385; [efgathering@aktivix.org](mailto:efgathering@aktivix.org); [www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk](http://www.earthfirstgathering.org.uk).

## **Animal Rights 2007**

*July 19-23 • Los Angeles, California*

Animal Rights 2007 will bring the animal rights movement together under the banner of liberating animals from all forms of human oppression. It is a forum for sharing knowledge, reporting on progress, discussing strategies and tactics, networking and "recharging our batteries."

The four-day program will feature nearly 100 presenters from more than 60 organizations representing all factions of the movement. Organizations sending speakers include *No Compromise*, In Defense of Animals, the SHAC 7 Support Committee, Farm Sanctuary, Rainforest Action Network, Sea Shepherd and Win Animal Rights.

The conference will also include a newcomer orientation, exhibits, videos, group workouts, strategy meetings, networking receptions, an awards banquet and entertainment by animal rights musicians.

Registration is required. For more information, contact (888) FARM-USA; [info@arconference.org](mailto:info@arconference.org); [www.arconference.org](http://www.arconference.org).

## **2007 CrimethInc. Convergence**

*July 25-29 • Athens, Ohio*

Please join CrimethInc. this Summer for the sixth annual CrimethInc. Convergence, this time in the countryside outside lovely Athens, Ohio. To attend, show up at 21 Kern Street in Athens, between noon and 10 p.m. on July 25 or 26.

Expect to find anarchist camaraderie, workshops, discussions, direct action trainings, planning for mobilizations through 2008, prisoner support projects, gift economics, subversive games, anti-capitalist survival skills, revolutionary pleasure and people creating a culture of resistance.

This event is an anti-capitalist space. There is no registration fee, and nothing will be for sale. Everyone should bring camping gear if possible.

Please bring a workshop to present, a topic for discussion, a story to tell, a song to sing, an act to perform, a movie or zine to present or something else to share. There will be space and time for everyone to do so. See you there!

For more information, contact [crimethincbooking@yahoo.com](mailto:crimethincbooking@yahoo.com); [www.crimethinc.com/convergence](http://www.crimethinc.com/convergence).

## **Feral Visions Against Civilization Fifth Annual Green Anarchist Gathering**

*July 27-August 5*

*Sierra Nevada Mountain Range*

Gather in the wild beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range of central/northern California! This gathering is for all who desire to engage in rewilding, physically and mentally. There will be discussions on self-reliance, spirituality, resistance, community building and anti-civilization theory.

Expect to share primitive/Earth-based skills, urban primitive/practical skills and DIY/self-sufficiency skills. Other skillshare topics will include mental and physical health, self-defense, wild edible and medicinal plants, industrial collapse and anything else that your wild and defiant imagination can conceive!

Gathering in wilderness, the goal is to help break down mediation between ourselves and our world, empower each other, make stronger connections with one another and our Earth, and apply our dreams and visions to our lives.

This gathering is free to all. Some food will be provided, but come mostly self-sufficient. See you in the wild!

For more information, contact [feralvisions2007@hotmail.com](mailto:feralvisions2007@hotmail.com); [www.greenanarchy.org](http://www.greenanarchy.org).

## **Convergences for Climate Action**

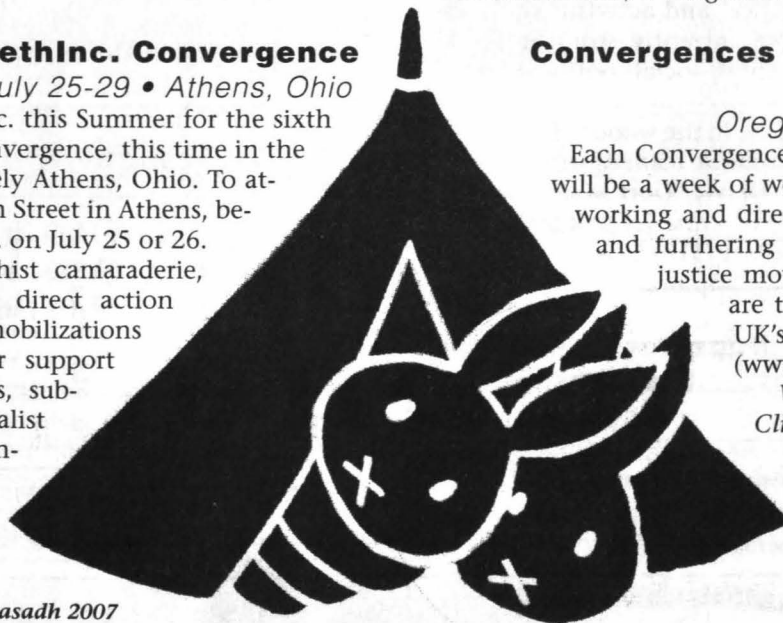
*August 8-14*

*Oregon and North Carolina*

Each Convergence for Climate Action (CCA) will be a week of workshops, strategizing, networking and direct action aimed at uniting and furthering a no-compromise climate justice movement. The convergences are timed to coincide with the UK's Camp for Climate Action ([www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk)).

*West Coast Convergence for Climate Action*

On the left coast, the CCA will be located near the mouth of the Columbia River, in or



near the city of Astoria. There, at the Washington/Oregon border, big companies are trying to build a massive liquefied natural gas terminal.

#### *Southeast Convergence for Climate Action*

The southeast CCA will be held in the western Carolinas, near Asheville, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina. This convergence will draw together the struggle against mountaintop removal coal mining and the fight against dirty coal-burning power plants.

For more information, contact [outreach@climateconvergence.org](mailto:outreach@climateconvergence.org); [www.risingtidenorthamerica.org](http://www.risingtidenorthamerica.org).



### **Free Activist Witchcamp**

*August 12-18 • Oregon*

The Free Activist Witchcamp will be a week of magic, classes, skill sharing and ritual. Teachers will share magical and healing skills, which will sustain and deepen participants' personal and political work as they grapple with patterns of oppression, build networks among diverse communities and council together on how to best become Earth cultures.

The magical tradition followed at Witchcamp honors the wild and calls for service to the Earth and the community. This Witchcamp specifically honors that call and is focused on sharing our magical and activism skills and healing with those who are currently working for all forms of justice: environmental, social, political, racial, gender and economic.

This year's Witchcamp will be in the woods of the Pacific Northwest. There will be a fantastic team of witches, healers and activists, including Delyla, Dori Midnight, Jude Elf(ord), Laura Maples, original sinnerjee and Starhawk.

For more information, contact (310) 570-3662; [andrew.paik@verizon.net](mailto:andrew.paik@verizon.net); [www.witchcamp.org](http://www.witchcamp.org).

### **Lake Superior Traditional Ways Gathering**

*August 19-24*

*Bad River Reservation, Wisconsin*

This is an annual gathering of primitive skills enthusiasts and instructors. Workshops offered will include hide tanning, bow making, tracking, cordage making,

fire-by-friction, black ash basketry, wild edible plant walks with Sam Thayer and many more.

The gathering will be held on the Bad River Indian Reservation, on the shore of Lake Superior, on a beautiful pristine beach surrounded by a vast wild country of wetlands and boreal forest. There are northern hardwoods, black ash bogs, grassy campsites, traditional wigwams and a modern ceremonial roundhouse.

This gathering can be an incredible experience and learning opportunity. The skills you will learn and the items you will make are secondary to what you *really* gain from being at this event—a step away from the everyday, great friendships, time to slow down and a deeper awareness of nature.

For more information, visit [www.traditionalways.org](http://www.traditionalways.org).

### **Twin Oaks Women's Gathering**

*August 24-26*

*Twin Oaks Community, Louisa, Virginia*

This will be the 24th year of women coming together at Twin Oaks to celebrate their connections, creativity and strength as women in all their diversity. Please share your culture and creativity!

Throughout the weekend there will be opportunities to relax, to swim in the river, and to enjoy the mud pit, sweat hut, hammocks and company of other women. There will be camping, workshops, dance, drumming, creative activities, performances, movement and ritual. Limited space will be available for sales of woman-made crafts.

The sliding-scale fee of \$40-\$140 includes camping and workshops. Twin Oaks will provide breakfast, lunch, bread, yogurt, salad and much more. Dinners will be potluck.

Bring a tent and sleeping bag. No pets, alcohol or illegal drugs, please. Consider bringing musical instruments, games and literature to share.

For more information, contact (540) 894-5126; [gathering@twinoaks.org](mailto:gathering@twinoaks.org); [www.twinoaks.org/community/women](http://www.twinoaks.org/community/women).

### **pReNC Labor Day Weekend**

*August 31-September 3*

*Twin Cities, Minnesota*

Beat the Republicans to the punch! The Republican National Convention (RNC) Welcoming Committee invites anarchists and anti-authoritarians from all over the country to come to the Minneapolis/St. Paul area to help them hone their convergence-planning skills and work with them to strategize and network for the main event in 2008.

The pReNC will be the site of some serious decision-making about goals and strategy for the 2008 RNC. The Welcoming Committee will present the work it has been doing and the ideas it has developed up to that point and hopes that you'll come prepared to do the same.

The weekend kicks off with Critical Mass on Friday and continues for the next three days with tours, workshops, skillshares, games, strategizing sessions, a street medic training, capture the flag and more.

For more information, contact [prenc@riseup.net](mailto:prenc@riseup.net); [www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/prenc](http://www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/prenc). To receive updates, email [rnc08-subscribe@lists.riseup.net](mailto:rnc08-subscribe@lists.riseup.net).



# EARTH FIRST! DIRECTORY

Find the EF! group nearest you. If you don't see one, start one!

## ARIZONA

### **Catalyst Infoshop**

109 N McCormick St, Prescott, AZ 86301  
(928) 443-8525; info@catalystinfoshop.org

### **Chuk'shon EF!**

sabthebastards@hotmail.com

### **Flagstaff Activist Network**

POB 911, Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
(928) 213-9507; info@flagstaffactivist.org

### **Phoenix EF!**

phoenixef@excite.com

### **Tucson EF!**

az\_earth\_first@hotmail.com

## CALIFORNIA

### **ACT UP! San Francisco**

1884 Market St, San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 864-6686; actupsf@hotmail.com

### **Free Mind Media**

546 Pacific Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
info@freemindmedia.org

### **Long Haul Infoshop**

3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705  
(510) 540-0751; slingshot@tao.ca

### **North Coast EF!**

POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518  
(707) 822-1513

### **Santa Cruz EF!**

cruzeff@cruzio.com

### **Sierra Nevada EF!**

935 F St, Fresno, CA 93706  
collective@sierranevadaearthfirst.org  
**smartMeme Strategy & Training Project**  
2940 16th St #216, San Francisco, CA 94103  
info@smartmeme.com

## COLORADO

### **Wilderness Study Group**

University of Colorado, Campus Box 207,  
Boulder, CO 80309  
wsg@colorado.edu

## CONNECTICUT

### **Environmental Library Fund**

25 Newtown Tpke, Weston, CT 06883  
(203) 227-2065; remyc@prodigy.net

## FLORIDA

### **Jeaga EF!**

POB 961, Lake Worth, FL 33460  
(561) 588-9666; jeagaeearthfirst@riseup.net

## INDIANA

### **Boxcar Books & Community Center**

310A S Washington St, Bloomington,  
IN 47401

(812) 339-8710; boxcar@boxcarbooks.org

### **Roadblock EF!**

roadblockef@yahoo.com

## KANSAS

### **Solidarity! Radical Library**

1109 Massachusetts St, Lawrence, KS 66044  
(785) 865-1374

## MAINE

### **Maine EF!**

POB 917, Belfast, ME 04915

maineef@yahoo.com

### **People's Free Space**

POB 4875, Portland, ME 04112  
info@peoplesfreespace.org

## MASSACHUSETTS

### **Mass Direct Action**

POB 484, Somerset, MA 02726  
massdirectaction@riseup.net

### **Rising Tide Boston**

boston@risingtidenorthamerica.org

## MINNESOTA

### **Church of Deep Ecology**

POB 16075, St Paul, MN 55116  
(800) 862-7031;

contact@churchofdeepecology.org

### **Forest Ecosystems Action Group**

2441 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405  
paarise@mtn.org

## MISSOURI

### **Confluence/Community Arts &**

### **Media Project**

3022 Cherokee St, Saint Louis, MO 63118  
mberry@riseup.net

## MONTANA

### **Buffalo Field Campaign**

POB 957, West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
(406) 646-0070; buffalo@wildrockies.org

### **Wild Rockies EF!**

(406) 961-0171; odinswyrd@yahoo.com

## NEBRASKA

### **Environmental Resource Center**

(308) 432-3458; buffalo@panhandle.net

## NEW YORK

### **Central New York EF!**

POB 35463, Syracuse, NY 13235  
(585) 802-8330; cnyearthfirst@riseup.net

### **Wetlands Activism Collective**

POB 344, New York, NY 10108  
(201) 928-2831; activism@wetlands-preserve.org

## NORTH CAROLINA

### **Katúah EF!**

POB 1485, Asheville, NC 28802

### **Uwharrie EF!**

bison12@wildmail.com

### **Rising Tide Asheville**

risingtide@mountainrebel.net

## OHIO

### **Hock-Hocking EF!**

(740) 592-2581; info@easternforestdefense.org

### **The Wire: A Community Resource Center**

21 Kern St, Athens, OH 45701  
(740) 589-5111; thewire@riseup.net

## OREGON

### **Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project**

27803 Williams Ln, Fossil, OR 97830

### **Cascadia EF!**

POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440

ef@cascadiarising.org

### **Rising Tide Cascadia**

cascadia@risingtidenorthamerica.org

### **Green Anarchy**

POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440

collective@greenanarchy.org

## PENNSYLVANIA

### **EF! Philly**

earthfirstphilly@riseup.net

### **Species Traitor/Black and Green**

POB 835, Greensburg, PA 15601

primalwar@hotmail.com

## RHODE ISLAND

### **Ocean State EF!**

oceanstate\_ef@riseup.net

## TENNESSEE

### **Three Rivers EF!**

POB 16309, Knoxville, TN 37996  
(865) 633-8483; annebonnylives@yahoo.com

## UTAH

### **Wild Wasatch EF!**

8790 W 25800 N, Portage, UT 84331  
(435) 866-2137

## VERMONT

### **Save the Corporations from Themselves**

169 Main St, Brattleboro, VT 05301  
(802) 254-4847; corpsave@sover.net

## WASHINGTON

### **The Evergreen State College**

### **Environmental Resource Center**

2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW, Cab 320,

Olympia, WA 98505

(360) 867-6784; erc@riseup.net

### **The Last Wizards**

james@lastwizards.com

## WISCONSIN

### **Madison EF!/Infoshop**

1019 Williamson St #B, Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 262-9036

## WYOMING

### **Teewinot EF!**

POB 1329, Jackson, WY 83001

(307) 690-6961; teewinotef@wildrockies.org

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## PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

### **Challenging Oppression Within**

earthfirstcow@yahoo.com

### **EF! Direct Action Fund**

POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516

(925) 376-7329

### **Rising Tide North America**

POB 16851, Asheville, NC 28816

contact@risingtidenorthamerica.org

### **Root Force**

POB 1302, Tucson, AZ 85702

info@rootforce.org

### **Warrior Poets Society**

POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712

# INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

## AUSTRALIA

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## QUAKING ASPEN

Quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) are known for their beauty. Their light green leaves change to a brilliant yellow or orange in the Autumn and rapidly flutter (quake) in even a slight breeze. Their slender white trunks tend to rise up in mystical-looking groves because their main method of reproduction is by sprouting new trunks from an underground root system. Sexual reproduction is rare. What may seem like a forest of separate aspen is probably cloned sprouts from only several original trees.

Their ability to propagate this way means that quaking aspen are well-adapted for forest fires. Even if their tops are burned, their sprouts will come up quickly from their soil-protected root system. Because their cloned sprouts grow faster than other trees' seed sprouts, because they need full sunlight to grow and because their individual stalks are short-lived, they usually represent a "successional" species—one that dominates a young or regrowing forest. They rely on periodic disturbances, like fires, to make way for their rejuvenation.

In areas where fires and other disturbances are common, quaking aspen can become a "climax" species. In south-central Utah, there is a single quaking aspen root system with 47,000 stalks that may be 10,000 years old (dating to the last ice age). It may be only several sexual generations away from its million-year-old ancestors.

# FLYING OUT OF CONTROL



BY RICHARD GEORGE

British air travel has grown so quickly in the past five years that weekend trips to Budapest or Oslo are now viewed as a right akin to freedoms of speech or assembly. One British company runs an aggressive advertising campaign reminding us that we're all entitled to "five a year"—five short vacations to destinations that we can't even find on the map. We're addicted to binge flying, and it's killing the planet.

Aviation is the fastest-growing cause of climate change. In the UK, aviation—and transport as a whole—is the only sector in which emissions are growing. Scientists have predicted that if this trend continues, we can forget about stopping climate change. By 2050, flying alone will represent 100 percent of our emissions targets under the Kyoto Protocol. We could shut every factory and turn out all the lights, and we'd still be facing ecological meltdown.

This ridiculous growth rate is fuelled by aviation's tax-free status—no duty on fuel or tickets, and "duty-free" goods at departure lounges—and relatively low infrastructural requirements. Most of the growth is in short-haul budget airlines—people going on a trip to Prague or a shopping holiday to New York City. It's the rich who are really benefiting. Twenty-five percent of the population takes 75 percent of the flights, and they fly regularly and often. People are changing their lives to accommodate cheap air travel; they are buying homes abroad and taking unnecessary business trips because it's so damn cheap to do so.

Rather than trying to minimize this threat to the climate, the British government has called for a massive expansion of the UK's airports—a new Heathrow Airport every three years. Every little regional airport is getting a makeover, with new runways, terminals and layers upon layers of tarmac blanketing the countryside. This will cost billions of dollars, which could be spent on improving sustainable transport options. Instead, we're getting locked into a lifestyle that the planet can't sustain.

For local communities, this is a nightmare. Heathrow's proposed third runway will wipe out a whole village, along with schools, parks, historical buildings and a graveyard,

not to mention ancient woodlands and wildlife (see *EF!* March-April 2006). Lydd Airport—a pathetic strip of tarmac that currently sees 5,000 passengers a year—is expanding to accommodate 500,000 passengers. It's next door to the oldest bird reserve in the UK.

The aviation industry is terrified that a growing grassroots movement could scuttle its plans to profit from the destruction of the climate. The industry claims that aviation accounts for only two percent of global emissions—a statistic so misleading that only big business could tell it with a straight face. Globally, aviation may not be the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions, but 50 percent of the world's population is lucky to have access to a bicycle. In developed nations, aviation accounts for a far greater portion of national emissions. The official government statistics claim that 13 percent of the UK's emissions come from aviation. But that's only counting flights *departing* from British airports. Including return journeys, the number is closer to 20 percent.

Always quick to spot a market, businesses have begun selling "carbon offsets," which they claim will nullify the ecological impact of your flight by paying someone else to reduce their emissions. Mostly, this consists of planting trees or swapping light bulbs in the Global South—projects that would each take 10 years to offset the amount of carbon dioxide that a single jet-setter emits in one hour. This is nonsense akin to the crew of the Titanic investing in a company that will build some lifeboats a decade after the ship hits the iceberg. By the time these projects are fully underway, we'll already be doomed.

Science has spoken. Unchecked aviation is not compatible with a sustainable, ecological way of life. No matter how many lifestyle changes you make, these are all erased when you board a plane. There is no solution, other than not flying. The question is: Can we learn this before it's too late?

For more information, visit [www.planestupid.com](http://www.planestupid.com).

*Richard George is a campaigner with Plane Stupid, a direct action organization opposing airport expansion and short-haul flights. Over the last year, Plane Stupid has shut down travel agencies, blockaded companies pushing airport expansion and occupied an airport runway.*

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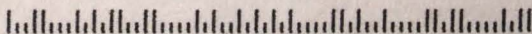
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