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Earth First!

Eostar March-April 2008

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LAKOTA FREEDOM DELEGATION

Declares Withdrawal from All US Treaties

BY ES

On December 19, the Lakota Freedom Delegation presented a document to the US State Department, announcing Lakota withdrawal from all treaties with the US. The delegation does not speak for the Bureau of Indian Affairs-recognized Lakota governments, but rather tries to represent what the Lakota people want.

The document also reasserts the Lakota people's right to an area that spreads over much of the states of Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming, as affirmed in the broken treaties.

The declaration preamble reads:

We, as the freedom-loving Lakotah People, are the predecessor sovereign of Dakota Territory, as evidenced by the treaties with the United States government, including but not limited to the

Treaty of 1851 and the Treaty of 1868 at Fort Laramie.

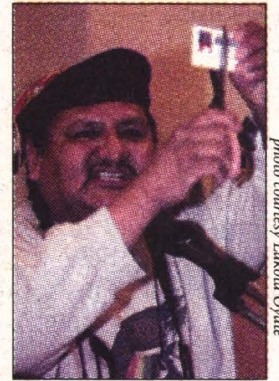
Lakotah formally and unilaterally withdraws from all agreements and treaties imposed by the United States government on the Lakotah People.

Lakotah, and the population therein, have waited for at least 155 years for the United States of America to adhere to the provisions of the above-referenced treaties. The continuing violations of these treaties' terms have resulted in the near annihilation of our people physically, spiritually and culturally. Lakotah rejects the United States' termination by appropriation policy from 1871 to the present.

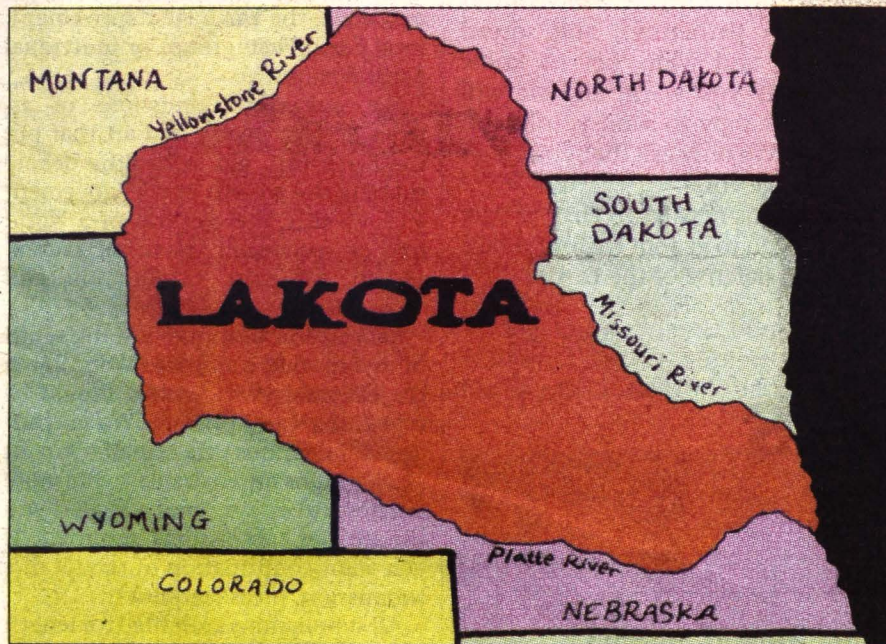
In addition, the evidence of gross violations of the above-referenced treaties is listed herein. Lakotah encourages the United States of America, through its government, to enter into dialogue with Lakotah regarding the boundaries, the land and the resources therein.

Should the United States and its subordinate governments choose not to act in good faith concerning the rebirth of our nation, we hereby advise the United States government that Lakotah will begin to administer liens against real estate transactions within the five-state area of Lakotah.

Lakotah, through its government, appointed the following representatives



Canupa Gluha Mani cuts up his driver's licence at a press conference.



A map of the sovereign Lakota people's land

to withdraw from all the treaties with the United States of America, based on the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties entered into force in 1980 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007:

Teghiya Kte Canupa, heretofore known as Gary Rowland;

Canupa Gluha Mani, heretofore known as Duane Martin, Sr.;

Oyate Wacinyapin, heretofore known as Russell Means;

Mni Yuha Najin Win, heretofore known as Phyllis Young.

Two members of this delegation agreed to be interviewed by the *Earth First! Journal* to explain a

continued on page 22

STUMPTOWN EF! BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO NW NATURAL

BY STUMPTOWN EF!

Blockading a building is still easy. Certainly, there is plenty of work that goes into it: materials to gather, deployment and escape to be planned. You need to prepare press releases and legal support, and you need to get as many people as possible together without tipping off the authorities.

But blockading a building is still easy.

On January 22, Stumptown Earth First!, in coalition with Cascadia Rising Tide, dropped off more than 60 Christmas trees in front of the doors of NW Natural, a company in Portland, Oregon, that is threatening to clearcut thousands of acres to build new pipelines for liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The trees were in place (stacked nearly to the top of the doors!) and the rental truck was away



NW Natural is blockaded by old Christmas trees. The company would cut thousands of acres of old growth to build its liquid natural gas pipeline.

before the first police arrived on the scene. This was at lunchtime, downtown, a few blocks away from the police station. A bright Winter sun was out, and a curious crowd began to gather. We leafleted and spoke to people about the issue.

A representative from NW Natural eventually came out and talked to our spokesperson, feeding her lie after lie. "You have to get your facts straight,"

tower) that proclaimed, "There's Nothing 'Green' About Clearcuts; No New Pipelines for Liquefied Natural Gas." Although they were unpleasantly arrested upon their descent—one of them was thrown against the window of a nearby coffee shop—both were released with minor charges in a matter of hours (and who wouldn't be proud to have "criminal mischief" on their record?).

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Eostar March-April 2008

Reintroducing... the Earth First! Primer!

In the Summer of 1999, I encountered my first piece of Earth First! propaganda. I was already committed to doing my part to halt the destruction of this Earth, but I didn't know how to go about that or where to plug in.

I'd gone door to door with Clean Water Action and helped out in other campaigns spearheaded by nonprofits, but none of that felt right. None of that felt like enough.

Then, I stumbled across this Earth First! propaganda. I knew immediately that Earth First! was what I'd been searching for. It wasn't that somebody new came along and turned me on to this; I was simply exposed to these new, inspiring words. These words encouraged me to find my local Earth First! group and become involved with it. If there wasn't a group in my area, it was suggested that I start one. Well, I did!

That first group didn't last more than a month or so, but when I returned to my home city in the Fall, I tried again. This one took off. The DC Area Earth First! Collective was active for a good while. I'm really proud of what we accomplished, and I'm still friends with many of the people I threw down with back then.

Since I've been working at the *Earth First! Journal*, I've found that first issue of the *Journal* that I remember reading. I was surprised to discover that it didn't include any language encouraging me to find or start an EF! group. I'd always assumed that it was the *Journal* that was that first piece of propaganda I had found. Now, I was left wondering where that stark encouragement had come from. It wasn't until we started reworking the primer that I discovered that *that* was what had gotten it all going for me. Someone must have given me a copy of the 1998 primer. It was essentially a lodestone, showing me the way to enact what I hadn't quite developed words for.

This is more or less the purpose of the primer in the first place. The primer—possibly more than the *Journal*—is the essential tabling item. It explains to newcomers what Earth First! is, what we do, and why and how we do it. It spells out how to take those jumbled sentiments and urges, and craft them into finely honed tools to defend the Earth (and have fun while doing it!).

For this printing of the primer, we've assembled what we feel are the most powerful elements of primers

that have been printed in the past, and we brought our ideas before other EF!ers at the Organizers' Conference. Hopefully, this will allow each of us to get the most out of this crucially important organizing tool.

The primer clearly illustrates the urgency of the Earth's situation and what we can do about it. Forming an Earth First! group, doing direct actions and connecting with others who are doing similar work are all accessibly addressed. For this latest primer, we've also put in a section about the responsibility each of us has in challenging oppression in our groups and our movement.

So, check out the new primer in the center of this issue. We have thousands more available at the *Journal*. They will also be available in Spanish. We encourage you to table with them, give them out at actions or gatherings, and spread them far and wide. Let us know how many you want, and we will be super happy to send you lots of bundles. We only ask that you cover the postage costs.

I hope this new Earth First! primer inspires you to get out there and take action in defense of the Earth!

—DONNY

Earth First!

Eostar

March 1, 2008

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

Submission deadlines are the tenth 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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Please direct all correspondence to:

Earth First!

PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702

(520) 620-6900

collective@earthfirstjournal.org

www.earthfirstjournal.org

Editorial Collective: Donny, Joanna, Josh, Sophia, xTIM COMPOSTx

Poetry Editor: Dennis Fritzing

Volunteers: Andrew, Burdock, Buttercup,

Gabe, Lenny, Maggie, Micah, Nell, Ol'

Two Eye, Øskar, Rachella, Read Between

the Bars, Rebecca, trouble!

Front Cover: Vaughn Barker

Back Cover: Alberto Cesar Araujo

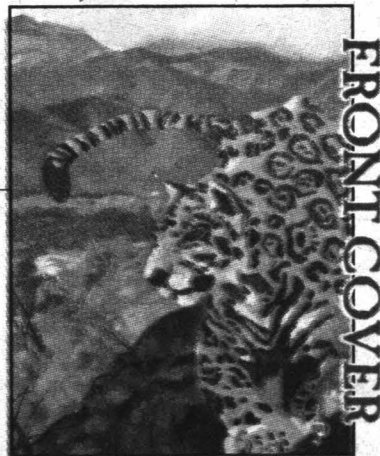
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A jaguar prowls the San Pedro River Valley.

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WAR ON THE COAST

Resistance to Development in British Columbia

BY THE THREE BANDITOS

Spaet Mountain is located 12 miles north of Victoria on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, in traditional Lekwungen (Songhees/Esquimalt) indigenous territory. Long before Victoria existed, Coast Salish people (of which the Lekwungen are considered a part) regarded Spaet Mountain and other sites in the area as sacred. In 2001, the Bear Mountain Corporation bought title to the land from the Tsartlip Band Council (the "official" government of one of the many Coast Salish bands in the area).

The Bear Mountain region is a part of the current development boom happening all around British Columbia that is associated with a thriving economy and the upcoming Olympics in 2010 (see *EF!* July-August 2007). The whole area seems to be following the typical white settler mentality of "Earth first, and we will pave the rest later." Bear Mountain Resorts has already begun building its massive complex, which includes a golf course, spa, restaurants, businesses, condos and mansions for the super rich. In 2005, Bear Mountain Resort pre-sold \$140 million worth of condos in one day and expects to sell \$1.8 billion in real estate in the next 10 years. The chief investors are a mix of current and former professional hockey players—a truly Canadian situation.

In November 2006, Songhees activist Cheryl Bryce discovered the partial destruction of Spaet Cave on Bear Mountain. In order to protect the site, meetings were held with developers, and the option of government protection was explored. Unsurprisingly, these talks led nowhere. The government stood firmly behind the Bear Mountain Corporation. Len Barrie—the primary investor in and CEO of the Bear Mountain Corporation, as well as former hockey player and über-rich asshole—stated in a press conference that: first, no cave exists; second, if the cave did exist, it would be turned into a tourist attraction and the water pumped out for the golf course; and third, on his property, he will blow up or bulldoze whatever he likes.

In order to stop developers from further destroying the cave, Songhees and Tsartlip members organized a pre-dawn blockade on November 16, 2006, stopping work around the cave for several days. The next day, the Bear Mountain Corporation served \$1-million lawsuits to Songhees and Tsartlip members. It then initiated injunctions to authorize the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to arrest protesters and to ban Cheryl Bryce from setting foot on the mountain.

Eventually, negotiations began between representatives of the local

band councils, the Canadian government and the developers. However, many in the indigenous communities did not even know they were taking place. By December 1, it was clear that the band council chiefs had sold out. In exchange for approximately \$8 million toward infrastructure, involvement in a potential casino and a "sacred site display" in the residential area of the development, they agreed to forego all future claims and abandon Spaet Cave. As a final act of disrespect, the Bear Mountain Corporation pumped the water out of the sacred cave and filled it with old tires and tree stumps from the now-destroyed surroundings.

Cultural Importance

As well as being on Lekwungen territory, the proposed Spencer Road interchange—the current site of a treesit—directly affects the watershed used by the Tsartlip Nation. Near the path of the interchange is a large, vibrant Garry oak ecosystem, with a bountiful supply of common and great camas. The highly poisonous death camas has been systematically removed by the Lekwungen to avoid accidental poisoning. On Vancouver Island, camas is limited to the southern tip. It is the symbol for a land that was once

cave contains. It is part of a large karst (limestone) system that cleans and drains water into the Goldstream River watershed, now one of the few salmon runs in the Victoria area. Without clean, cool water flowing into the Goldstream River, salmon die, indigenous spirit dies and forests die of starvation from not receiving the salmon carcasses that once fed them.

Recent Situation and Struggle

The first platform of the Spencer Road treesit was set up in April 2007, which was well before work on the interchange was slated to begin. Citing safety concerns, workers from the city of Langford attempted to seal off access to the cave on May 31. Camp members successfully stopped the work crew from entering the forest, and shortly thereafter, a tripod was erected above the entrance to the cave.

Over the Summer, the number of campers and visitors fluctuated anywhere from three to 25 people. The Summer and early Fall were very quiet at the sit. There were semiregular visits by the Langford Municipal Bylaw officers, who were coming by to make their presence known and to collect information for the RCMP.

two public rallies held in Langford. There were several occasions where campers forced surveyor teams to leave. Most of the stakes and ribbons that surveyors placed have since been removed from the forest. Due to the increase in unfriendly visits and constant harassment by law enforcement, a barricade was constructed at the entrance to the forest. Logs and stones were removed from the forest and placed at the entrance, and a trench the width of the road was dug. Shortly after the barricade was erected, the RCMP came and almost drove into the trench. Campers started heading back into the forest with the police pursuing them. A spotlight was turned on and temporarily blinded the police, who eventually gave up due to the "dangerous" terrain and their inability to see. One ground-crew member was detained, but no one was arrested.

On December 15, the Bear Mountain Corporation office in Langford was "festively decorated" by unknown people. A communiqué stated that the vandalism was in solidarity with the treesitters, but "even more so, [it was] in solidarity with all those resisting ecological destruction [and] resisting the continued colonization of Coast Salish territories and all the indigenous territories across Turtle Island."

In the new year, things have slowed down a bit, but we are expecting them to pick up again relatively soon. We are still in need of help and support. We especially need people to commit to stay for longer periods of time, and we can always use more rope, cable and climbing equipment. Solidarity actions are encouraged; these kinds of developments are happening everywhere.

Those living under the colonial oppression of the Canadian and British Columbian governments are finding more and more that the genocidal, ecocidal tendencies of these entities are leading to golf courses, ski resorts and weekend getaways for the rich. In Sutikalh, the St'át'imc are fighting the Sun Peaks Corporation. So, too, are the Secwepemc in Skwel'kwé'welt. Warriors of many nations are fighting the 2010 Olympics. In Jordan River, in the Comox Valley, the Earth is under attack. There is a war on the coast, and it is only just beginning.

For more information, visit www.firstnations.de; www.treesit.blogspot.com; www.spencerspond.ca.

The Three Banditos are locals who have been involved with the treesit since its early days.



Bear Mountain treesit site

strong but is now a suburban wasteland of yuppie condos—a land that will die if hockey players and developers have their way.

Down the hill from the Garry oaks is a land of cedars, and it is easy enough to spot many culturally modified trees (trees that have either had planks or bark strips removed from them in traditional Coast Salish fashion). With the death of the cedars comes the death of traditional clothing, canoe making, basketry, housing and much more.

Another issue that has been brought to the forefront in this struggle is Langford Lake Cave. Several Lekwungen elders have stepped forward and stated that this cave was traditionally used by their families, only to be ignored. But it is not only cultural significance that this

In November, the city of Langford announced that construction would commence on the interchange on December 7, but the date was later changed to December 1. Then, camp members hoisted three new platforms into the trees. Near the entrance of the woods, a large tipi was erected to provide shelter to ground crew and visitors. Everything was well-prepared for December 1: All platforms were stocked and occupied, and someone was prepared to enter the cave and lock down. Nothing happened that day, but things started picking up by mid-December, with daily unfriendly visits from law officers and the RCMP, who were attempting to collect information for a court injunction.

Over the holiday season, the sit saw a lot of action, including

photo courtesy www.treesit.blogspot.com

Dear Shit fer Brains...

Dear People,

A few months ago, you ran a piece about how it was that Morris Dees and the Southern Poverty Law Center had become a center-right appendage of the government, even enthusiastically labeling and chasing "ecoterrorists" along with the worst money-grubbing Nazis out there (see *EF!J* July-August 2007). (Huh?!?) I was over this. A while ago, Dees was working intensively on domestic terrorism—specifically against blacks. They made some federal friends doing the same things. He wanted to grow and have more influence; they wanted more legitimacy with those liberals out there, rapidly swinging right right off the edge of the world and into the abyss.

This is how Dees got the money. He applies for the grant. They say, "Hey Morris, could you spread some lies about Waco, Texas, for us?" "Sure," says Dees and gets his \$30 million.

Other greedy, mealy-mouthed liberals have done the same thing, too. Alex Jones, yuppie hero that he is, was jest bitchin' and a-railin' about how those durned anarchists occupied a building and lived in it (the horror)! Before the World Trade Organization protests, you shoulda heard the yuppie pigs, the Democrats and the unions whining about that one (oh, the horror!). Our poor, seamless, perfect, fascist, yuppie delusion of perfection has been shattered, and reality threatens once again.

Fuck Morris Dees, fuck liberals, fuck Democrats and fuck yuppies. I am a-gonna get old and wear out, but I will always be an anarcho-socialist, because the alternative is always so much worse. *Fuck them.*

—LYLE COURTSAL

Amerikkka: fascist authoritarian culture masquerading as democracy. (Something's missing: freedom.)

Dear SFB,

This is in response to the letter by "anonymous" in your most recent issue wherein he (and yes, I am assuming you are a "he" by your expressed views) wrote, "I'm concerned... about the recent trend toward feminist editors.... Exclude men and you'll lose strength" (see *EF!J* January-February 2008).

First off, if you had done your research into feminist theory, you would be well-aware that feminism isn't about excluding men. It's about sharing equal power with men. As a person socialized as a man with ingrained male privilege, you most likely have no idea

what it is like to be raised and to live as a woman in this society, and honestly, it is not my responsibility to "help" you understand. I suggest reading *Egalia's Daughters: A Satire on the Sexes*. Petronius's experience, although it may seem ridiculous as you read it, is very much what it is like.

And secondly, the correlation with how women and the environment are treated within mainstream industrial society are one and the same. The Earth is seen as something that provides for us, to be "used," "tamed," "controlled" and "raped," as are women. We will not win the fight to save species and environments without defeating the system that oppresses women, indigenous communities, people of color and, yes, you too.

Anonymous, I am sorry that you feel so threatened by feminism and women's desire to have equal power, live without fear and be powerful agents of change within the Earth First! movement. I wish you well with that.

Keep lovin', keep fightin'.

Your ecofeminist editor of last issue,

—FELICIA FOX

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hi ya "wild earth" org oxymoron toxic waste bag techno-fascist liars!!

Take me off your mailing list, if I'm on it.

Sincerely,

—DAVID G. PEARSON

Dear SFB,

If the movement is to gain real traction, we must stop bickering and do things that experienced activists like Allapattah and Daniel McGowan tell us. I think of old-timers as tribal elders.

From Daniel's article, I quote, "We must think of long-term actions that promote ecological sanity in society." And from Allapattah: "It may involve some less thrilling 'paper wrenching'" (see *EF!J* January-February 2008).

It seems as though Daniel and Allapattah had the same dream. A famous person once said, "You will never achieve your goal until you actually see it." Allapattah visualized many important goals for the movement, such as: rewild the continent, avert species extinction, defend the wild and oppose industrial expansion.

A few months ago, I submitted an article for publication in the *EF!J* suggesting the use of politics! For many *EF!J*ers, getting involved in "the system" makes them cringe, but again I quote Daniel: "There are other ways of effecting change, although they may not give you the instant gratification."



In the article, I suggest a political tactic—a necessary one, if we're to progress to any large-scale effectiveness. If you come upon a bulldozer bearing down on an old-growth forest, would not the most effective tactic be to *take over the driver's seat*? Then, to turn the machine around and *drive it over the cliff*?

Isn't that what multinational corporations have done with the people's government?

The repressive terrorist law can be changed. We can promote ecological sanity. I urge *EF!J*ers to jump onto your local political system and monkeywrench it with green ideas and fresh, wild activists!

Again from Daniel: "In this way, we can move the conversation forward on how to resist ecological destruction in a serious way without losing our friends to prison."

—HARRY HELMET III

To Whom It May Concern,

Should mountain climbing be banned, not only because of the danger to human life (especially during the Winter months), but also because of the fact that the mountain is being defaced?

Sincerely,

—ROBERT DAWSON

Hello Good People,

I found lots of food for thought in your Brigid issue, especially the articles by Allapattah and Atlatl. In each case, we were given a cogent analysis of our situation, followed by thoughts as to how we might respond and what kind of actions need to be taken. Their conclusions follow closely those of Derrick Jensen's in *Endgame*: that working on symptomatic manifestations of the problem, an issue at a time, won't cut it. We also need to get at the root cause of the pathology that is destroying our Earth.

For Allapattah, it involves blocking the expansion of globalized infrastructure, and he offers some unusual thoughts on this (e.g., paperwrenching). Atlatl identifies the developing global economic system as the root cause, and the question he poses can lead to insight as to how to disable it. Jensen identifies the problem more grandly as "civilization" and,

the petty squabbles put aside to benefit the whales, for instance? The problem is, in my opinion, that Sea Shepherd had the potential to disrupt Greenpeace's media spectacle of painting the side of whaling boats with slogans and such. (Of course, these photos of the whales, whaling boats and Greenpeace's zodiacs are all so integral to Greenpeace's fundraising, which seems to be the main unspoken reason for noncooperation.)

Second, Greenpeace has either remained silent or made horrible comments to the media regarding Operation Backfire indictments. Executive Director John Pascantando, in particular, made it clear that our actions were abhorred by his group. (The quotes are in a 2005

CounterPunch article by Michael Donnelly—easily searchable online.)

I can understand if Greenpeace has tactical differences of opinion—that's fine. But to add

fuel to the fire by admonishing our choice of tactics and attempting to pretend that most of my co-defendants and I [don't] have long histories in the aboveground environmental movement is offensive. Greenpeace should be silent or spin the questions back on the issues if it can't express solidarity with other activists.

That said, I hope people lend their support to Sea Shepherd's campaigns. Greenpeace crew members: You can always leak the coordinates of the Japanese whaling fleet this year!

—DANIEL MCGOWAN

—ARDEN BUCK

Ona MOVE!

My revolutionary best to all at Earth First! and to all who struggle for freedom and justice everywhere and for *all life!* In solidarity, and on all levels, we must see to what we can do to bring about the *complete elimination* of this rotten reform world system for the good of *all life!* To all engaged in the work for life/freedom/justice, thank you! Now all take care and stay strong! Enjoy life!

Ona MOVE!

In solidarity,

—PHIL AFRICA

Dear Shit fer Brains,

I think somebody needs to call the wahmbulance for Daniel McGowan, griping about the hardships of his newfound status as a "political prisoner." He ought to start by taking a good look around at the other prisoners who surround him "1,200 miles away from home," just to see how damned lucky he is to have the kind of support that many people would dream of—some inmates get *no* mail, have *no* visits. In fact, some are continents away from home.

More importantly, take a moment to look back at history: Only 25-30 years ago, radicals were being sentenced to life (or so many decades that it was essentially so) for actions not that far off from what we've done. Now, look back 100 or 1,000 years and

consider the price our forebears paid for their resistance, and you'll see they paid with their lives—either by execution or death on the battlefield. Seven years? Yeah, it's a drag to go to prison, but that is the price some will have to pay as a result of the weakness and treachery of others. I, for one, only have to remember what my situation was six or eight months ago: locked down 22 hours every day, only an hour outside each week where I couldn't even see the sky without a cage above me, in order to count my blessings to be in a place that is somewhat tolerable. I have coffee and chamomile tea, for fucksake. My ancestors would've been chained to the wall at Newgate Prison with rats crawling all over them!

The loss of freedom is indeed a small price to pay for the liberation and utter joy I've experienced in my life—most will never live a fraction of it. Eighteen months ago, the enemy told me that I'd be spending my life in prison—35 to life, or life plus 1,000 years. I want to remind folks of that fact in light of the seven years, eight months I am now serving. 'Tis a far better life to pay with a few extra (eight or 33) months in captivity than to sacrifice one's honor—something that may never be regained.

No apologies in defense of Mother Earth.

—SADIE

Dear SFB,

Please cancel my free prisoner subscription to the *EF!* Journal, as I have been finding it to be cruel and unusual punishment lately. Whatever happened to biocentrism? Not only do I not give a shit about feminism, fags or transies, but I'm fed up with seeing Daniel McGowan's self-aggrandizing liberal diatribes in every issue. Last I checked, your support page for prisoners had 41 of us listed—yet besides the occasional letter or article by a few of the other high-profile men, Daniel is disproportionately represented in your pages. I have no further desire to contribute beyond this last letter, after the *Journal* wanted to edit the

joint statement written by my husband [Nathan "Exile" Block] and I—and when it was published, it was littered with mistakes (see *EF!* September-October 2007). In county jail, I was glad to read the *Journal* again, after not seeing it for a while—mostly invigorated by the international news and action reports. But lately, every time I've received it, it has only served to ruin the rest of my day—and I really have a lot better things to read and think about rather than stewing over how my actions are represented in your pages.

I am not an "activist." I don't think I ever was. Arsonist, yes—even terrorist. I can embrace those terms, though I prefer the proper spelling of "terra-ist." I took these actions, putting my life and freedom at risk, but that is a measly sacrifice compared to the lives of all the nonhuman beings who are being destroyed at *at least* the same rate as they were in 2001. There seems to be far too much emphasis on the Al Gore-level hype on "global climate change" and not enough on biocentrism and direct action: the belief that *any* authority that mediates or controls your life counter to your will is an illegitimate authority, and the best way to deal with that is to oppose, resist and actively fight against that authority.

Arson did not cease to be a viable tactic after the last one I participated in—or after I was arrested and imprisoned, for that matter. More shit *should* burn, and there are enough targets out there, with more being built every day. Arson is not "wrong." The arsons I was involved in were not wrong or based on "faulty research" or ideology, and those who condemn such actions align themselves on the side counter to liberation, ultimately championing "reason" as a remedy. One note on Romania, the most oft-dissed action related to "Operations Backfire": I have no one to answer to for that besides Free and my own conscience. Period. In

particular, people (former comrades included) can blab all the day long about what is "right" and "wrong" for the "movement"—but there is no movement, only flame.

It is deeply disappointing to see my co-defendants speaking from a position of weakness, now that they are living in a cage. I find it just as pathetic to see my co-defendant disavowing arson, whining and apologizing, as it was to see

Letters to the editors: keep them to 300 words or less

others lying about sex abuse to get lighter sentences and sympathy from feminists within the environmental community. Each and every day is a battle to overcome the constraints that society and civilization try to bind us with, and of course, in prison, the structures are only more acute.

There seems to also be a prevailing attitude that defendants should do whatever they can to get a lighter sentence—whether that means informing on others, apologizing or crying to the judge, with the Santa Cruz 2 often quoted as predecessors (used as examples by both McGowan and Darren Thurston, ironically.) Look more closely at this now, and it reeks of a materialist outlook—the idea that it's OK to fuck over any and all, as long as you come out on top or, in this case, with the least amount of time. Whatever happened to integrity? To meaning what you say or do, and *standing by it*—no matter how many years have passed, no matter what the consequences may be? I could never have foreseen that all those I had known (or thought I had known) as badasses, would turn out to be weaklings and traitors—all the more absurd in light of how transparent the enemy truly is. Yes, county jail and prison suck, but those of us who were forced to remain in captivity were not tortured or deprived of much beyond vegetarian meals—a far cry from the tales of hot lights,

starvation and waterboarding that abound these days.

I am where I am today, indeed *who* I am today, because of what I believe in. I carry on the torch of my forebears who fought for millennia against tyranny and civilization. The enemy may cage my body for a few years, but my spirit and resolve to battle the very essence of all that destroys the Earth and its living beings will live on eternally. Like the little match girl of Hans Christian Andersen's fable, only in the flames was I able to glimpse the visage of my ancestors beckoning to

me—the green fire tangible as the hated symbols exploded in destructive rapture, transformed finally into something beautiful to behold.

No apologies in defense of the wild!

—SADIE (ALIAS JOYANNA ZACHER)

Dear SFB,

No Josh, it does not "sound good" at all (see *EF!* January-February 2008). Earth First! is an environmental group, not a support group. We come together to focus on threats to wilderness, biodiversity, roadless areas, forests, deserts, oceans, global climate, etc., not gender issues. Yes, gender issues are important, and I'm glad people fight gender discrimination. However, that is not why we are involved with Earth First!. We are here to put the Earth first, not our gender, not ourselves, but the Earth... first.

The planet needs our help *now*, however we choose to identify ourselves. So, welcome to *EF!*, gender benders! Now, let's get to work!

—JIM FLYNN

Dear SFB,

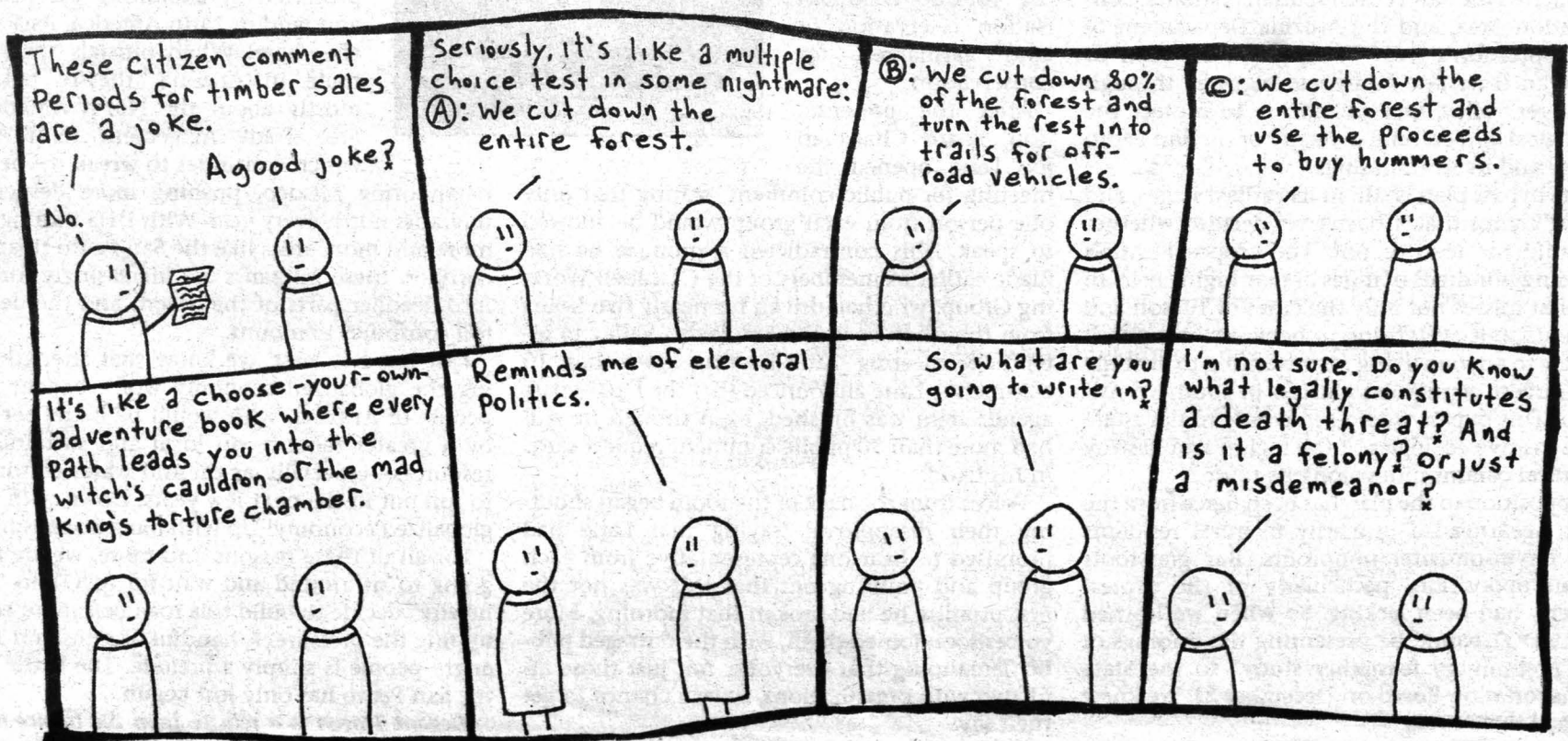
Yes, thank you, Josh; well-written editorial last issue. I was enraged when I read Michael Donnelly's assessment of *EF!*. Why do people think that an effort to deepen and widen our understanding of liberation and oppression suddenly means that we're "more concerned" about one fucked-up aspect of our society (gender oppression) over

another (Earth oppression). To me, the more we understand the faces of oppression, the better equipped we are at liberating our Earth. It's a false division that the needs of the Earth are different and more important than the needs of people. Biocentrism actually means that our view of how the Earth should be treated parallels how humans should be treated, because humans are not separate from nature. Keeping us feeling safe and dignified is just as important as the "natural world" or eco-defense, as Donnelly calls it. He's hardly embraced the depth of biocentrism or understood that we're fighting for a balanced ecosystem, not one that is dominated by humans—or particular kinds of humans (in this case, gender-conforming). There is an important connection between the way society treats marginalized people and the way it treats the Earth.

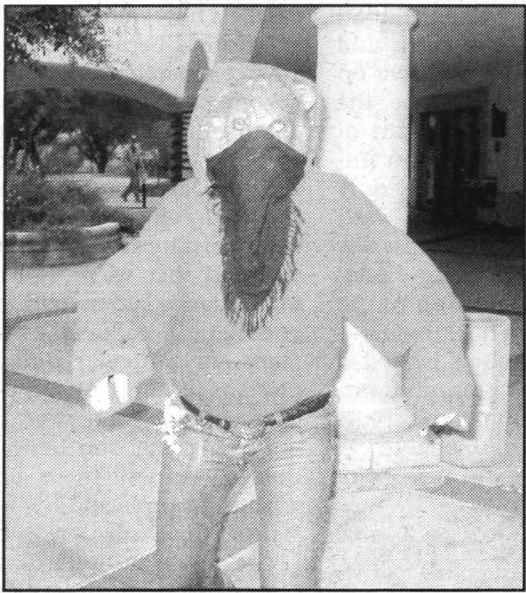
The more Earth First! explores that and understands how that connection works the stronger we'll be. Our movement will not be revolutionary if we refuse to look at ourselves and root out the internalized racism, sexism and homophobia that we have all been exposed to. Not looking at how people-on-people oppression affects our behavior and organizing keeps us from broadening our movement, our impact, our sustainability and our credibility.

Fighting against oppression against people is biocentrism; it's just looking at another piece of the interconnected and beautiful whole that is our Earth. As Judi Bari said, "It's about time for the ecology movement (and I'm not just talking about Earth First! here) to stop considering itself as separate from the social justice movement. The same power that manifests itself as resource extraction in the countryside manifests itself as racism, classism and human exploitation in the city. The ecology movement must recognize that we are just one front in a long, proud, history of resistance." Let's continue the work that Judi Bari started, and keep fighting!

—ROCKDOVE



San Pedro Wild: public disrupts meeting on I-10 bypass



A lion attends the I-10 meeting to say, "No!"

photos by Cascabel

BY ELEGANT TROGON

Southern Arizona is a land of transitions—just past the westernmost edge of the great American prairie, the southern edge of the Rocky Mountains and the northern edge of the Sierra Madre. Here in the subtropics, species from both temperate and tropical regions mingle. South and east of Tucson, the desert peters out into the wetter Sonoran-Chihuahuan grasslands. Above it all rise the Sky Islands, oases of water and forest amid a sea of desert and grass.

Through this region, the San Pedro River runs: the last wild, undammed river in the desert Southwest. From its headwaters in the Mexican state of Sonora, it flows north across an artificial, politically contentious line 140 miles to the Gila River, then west to the Colorado.

This combination of climate and habitat regions—plus a concentration of precious, life-giving water—has served to make the San Pedro watershed one of Earth's most diverse ecosystems. More than half of all birds in the US—400 species—either live in or migrate through the river basin. The watershed has the second-highest diversity of land mammals on the planet.

Clearly, what this area needs is another interstate highway, right?

Nope, we locals don't think so, either! Which is why San Pedro Wild joined more than 100 other angry area residents to pack the room and disrupt a meeting of the Arizona State Transportation Board on December 21.

San Pedro Wild formed in response to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) insane and ongoing construction of a border wall across the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, and the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) equally mad plan to route an Interstate 10 bypass highway through the river valley. Our mission is to protect the biological and cultural diversity of the San Pedro Valley and its surroundings.

The bypass plan is still in its earliest stages, and ADOT claims that it hasn't yet decided whether to build the road or not. The proposal entails building hundreds of miles of new highway in an arc that misses not only the cities of Tucson and Phoenix, but everything in between—making it useless to anyone living in or wanting to visit the two largest population clusters in southern Arizona. This bypass would serve only to devastate the sensitive ecologies of the region and destroy the rural communities along its route.

Opposition to the plan has been fierce from the start, spearheaded primarily by rural residents and environmental nonprofits. But grassroots urban opposition, particularly of the protest variety, had been lacking. So when we learned that ADOT would be presenting the findings of its "preliminary feasibility study" to the State Transportation Board on December 21, we knew we had to be there.

Because ADOT's plans are still in an early stage, and since we didn't have a lot of advance notice,

we decided not to get too ambitious with our inaugural protest. A few people with signs, we figured, would be enough to send the message that a new element of opposition had entered the fight. Since media coverage would be great, too—especially if we could get some more radical sound bites out to the general public—we issued a press release and made follow-up calls to reporters. To make sure that our physical presence would be imposing, even if only a couple of people showed up, we secured several large puppets.

When 13 of us arrived at the meeting early on a Friday morning, we were thrilled to see more than 100 other anti-road folks waiting outside. Amusingly enough, because the mainstream newspaper story about the morning's events didn't bother to clearly distinguish between the protesters holding signs and everyone else who had come to oppose the road, it made it sound like there were 130 protesters gathered outside! When was the last time the corporate media *inflated* our numbers by 10 times?

The moment our puppets arrived, the cops rode over on their motorcycles and insisted on searching them for bombs. This absurd situation became even more comical when it turned out that their bomb-sniffing dog had already been sent home for the day, and the cops had to pat at the puppets by hand. After this token repression was completed—doubtless just to remind us who was in charge—we were allowed to get on with our protest. As the doors to the meeting opened, people filed by us and cheered our signs, including "I-10 Bypass = Death" (in the arms of a giant Death figure) and a banner reading "Roads and Walls No! Wild Rivers Yes!"

But the real drama of the day took place inside the meeting, not out in the welcome but frustrating Winter drizzle.

The meeting opened with ADOT's presentation of the study's findings. Even the agency's own officials and consulting firm acknowledged that a bypass wouldn't offer much traffic relief and would traverse sensitive lands, and that "opposition" or "strong opposition" had been expressed to all four proposed routes. While the three routes through the San Pedro Valley have garnered the most controversy, ADOT noted that even the fourth route would have to pass through either the Tohono O'odham Nation reservation or land earmarked for conservation.

After the presentation, Board Chairman Joe Lane opened the meeting for public comment, stating that only one person from each group would be allowed to speak. This contradicted a promise he had made earlier to members of the Cascabel Working Group, who had driven for nearly two hours from their homes in the San Pedro Valley to attend the meeting. After hearing fewer than 10 comments, Lane announced that the I-10 bypass agenda item was finished, even though he still had more than 50 public comment request cards in his hand.

Voices from the back of the room began shouting their disapproval, saying that Lane had promised to hear one representative from each group and pointing out that this was not the first promise he had broken that morning. More voices soon joined them, with the outraged public demanding that everyone, not just those affiliated with organizations, have a chance to get their say.

"But you're all saying the same thing," Lane responded petulantly.

"And you need to hear it!"

Lane said that his decision was final, pointing to the back door "for those who don't like it."

"Why don't you go out it then, and leave us to have our own meeting?"

The yelling escalated, and 100 people joined in with rhythmic clapping. For several minutes, we kept the meeting in a state of disorder, then shouted a few last warnings as we filed out the door.

"See you next time!" we said, and, "You're not going to build this road!"

No matter where an I-10 bypass is placed, the harm it causes would go far beyond its immediate damage to local communities and ecologies.

One of ADOT's stated motivations for the bypass is to "serve the expected rapid... land development" in southeast Arizona, but it's far more likely that the road is intended to *enable* development. By punching through and degrading currently protected areas and increasing the accessibility of relatively remote regions, the bypass would open vast tracts of land to developers. It's no coincidence that the board member who proposed the bypass, Si Schorr, is a powerful local real estate lawyer.

ADOT's major aim, however, is probably to allow the ever-increasing volume of truck freight to skip the severe traffic in the Tucson and Phoenix metro areas. As ADOT presenter Dale Buskirk noted several times, I-10 is a "major [national] trade corridor." At a public meeting in November, Buskirk said that having I-10 as the only route across Arizona puts the economy "in jeopardy," as a single accident, downed bridge or other traffic blockage can shut down trade for days.

This explanation makes far more sense than any of ADOT's lines about reducing traffic for residents. The US Department of Transportation recently named I-10 one of its six "Corridors of the Future," highways earmarked for a surge in federal funding to increase their capacity to deal with heavy truck traffic.

"The trade and tourism corridors are becoming so congested that they are having an effect on our economy," US Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said in Tucson, in September.

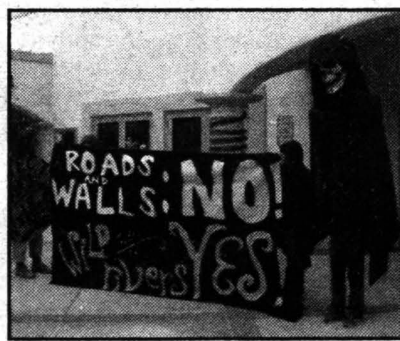
We certainly don't want to enable the government to move more trade produced by exploiting the people and land of Latin America, Asia and elsewhere! When officials speak of trade in Arizona, they're talking mostly about the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)—which continues to wreak havoc on

neighboring Mexico, pushing more desperate migrants north every year. With DHS walling off more and more areas like the San Pedro riparian corridor, these migrants are increasingly forced into deadlier parts of the desert, and the death toll continues to mount.

Last but not least, we know that strengthening the globalized economy won't benefit the people of Arizona, who would be better served by a greater reliance on local and sustainable resources—especially as oil and water continue to run out in the next few years. Down with the globalized economy! Up with bioregionalism!

For all of these reasons and more, we are not going to sit around and wait for ADOT to "officially" decide to build this road before we keep upping the pressure. A handful of signs and 100 angry people is simply a prelude. The battle for the San Pedro has only just begun.

Elegant Trogon is a refugee from the tropics now living in the North American West. Or is it the other way around?



U.S. gives up on the *Jaguar*

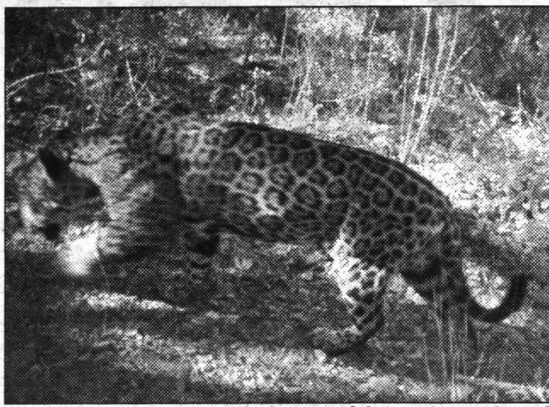
BY LAUREL AND KEVIN

For the first time in the history of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has officially decided against the recovery of an endangered species. A decision signed in January by USFWS Director Dale Hall ends the development of a recovery plan for the jaguar, North America's largest cat and an elusive feline resident of the southwestern deserts. The decision demolishes any effort to aid the recovery of the jaguar in all of its US habitat.

"This is a jaguar death sentence," said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity.

To justify this death sentence, the USFWS claims that the jaguar's historic and current range lies entirely outside of the US. However, this claim is widely accepted to be false. Verified reports indicate a historic breeding population far north of the border. A female jaguar with kittens was killed near the Grand Canyon at the turn of the last century, and the last confirmed female jaguar in the US was shot in the White Mountains of Arizona in 1963. Reports of sightings and shootings dropped off sharply in the 1970s, as landowners began to fear consequences from the newly passed ESA.

Jaguars are currently being photographed by motion-activated cameras in the mountains of southern Arizona. Individuals can be identified by the distinctive markings on their coats, proving that the jaguars



A jaguar caught by one of the motion-activated cameras in southern Arizona.

in the US are established residents rather than occasional transients. The USFWS decision states that "regular or intermittent use of the borderlands area by wide-ranging males" is not reason enough to enact a recovery plan. Given the secretive habits of the cats and the limited area of study, it seems impossible to know whether the Arizona jaguars are limited to males or if there is a healthy breeding population.

The decision also states, "Actions taken within the US are likely to benefit a small number of individual jaguars peripheral to the species, with little potential to effect recovery of the species as whole." This goes against the experience of other species with ranges that cross

international borders, including grizzly bears and Mexican gray wolves, both of which have benefited from recovery plans within the US.

The claim that the jaguar would not benefit from a recovery plan comes at a time when the jaguar's habitat is threatened as never before. Conservation efforts south of the US border have not been enough to stop the species' decline. In addition, the forces of climate change are sending many species into the northern parts of their ranges and beyond—a survival route that could become unavailable to the jaguar if its northern habitat is walled off.

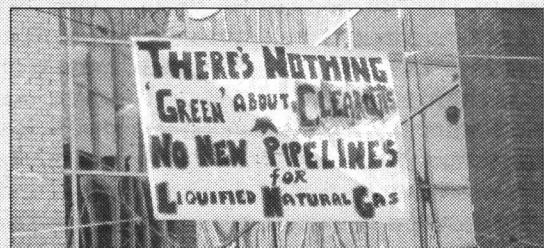
Construction of a militarized wall along the entire border is in the process of disturbing jaguar habitat and dividing the population that now travels from one side to the other. The 2005 Real ID Act allows Homeland Security to suspend any US law, including the ESA, in order to construct the border wall (see *EF!* January-February 2007). The Real ID Act has already been invoked to justify building the wall through the San Pedro and Tijuana riparian areas. The same policy would apply to jaguar habitat designated in a recovery plan, but not without

a major showdown over the beautiful and much-admired predators. By abandoning the jaguar recovery plan, the USFWS is attempting to avoid a public relations nightmare that could threaten the Real ID act itself. Until the agency is held accountable, fragmentation of jaguar habitat by the border wall, housing developments and other threats is likely to continue, while conservation planning will be crippled.

Kevin has lived in the Sonoran Desert for more than a quarter century and loves all its plants and animals, except buffel grass and that one plant whose seedpods stick to your socks and crumble into itchy bits when you try to take them off. Laurel's home range is the Siskiyou, where the rivers flow year-round.

Photo courtesy Emil McCain, Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project/Jaguar Conservation Team.

Stumptown EF! Says No to NW Natural



Stumptown EF!'s banner drop across from NW Natural

continued from page 1

Shortly before the arrests were made, the police were overheard consulting with the representative from NW Natural, asking what the company wanted done with us. The police are the lackeys of the corporations; there is no objective "law" that they adhere to, only the interests of the wealthy. Once again, this is no surprise.

The Palomar pipeline, the Oregon LNG pipeline and the Pacific Connector, which total more than 600 miles of pipe, will cross thousands of rivers and wetlands and will require wide clearcut construction corridors through public lands, including roadless areas and old-growth forests.

The Palomar pipeline project is proposed to connect NorthernStar's Bradwood Landing terminal, near the mouth of the Columbia River, to the Transcanada pipeline, which begins in earnest in Alberta. In addition, it is positioned to snake through Mount Hood National Forest, cutting across late successional reserves, and would border proposed wilderness areas.

The Pacific Connector, attached to the Jordan Cove proposal in Coos County, demands a 95-foot clearcut construction corridor through Rogue River National Forest, Yamath National Forest and Umpqua National Forest.

We did this action to let NW Nasty know what they're in for if they continue to invest in LNG. The Christmas trees may have been chipped within a few hours of our departure, but we'll be back. We cannot allow these corporations to dredge the rivers, level the forests or promote the false hope that an imported fossil fuel could ever be sustainable.

For more information, contact Stumptown EF!, stumptownef@riseup.net.

EARTH FIRST! ANTI-COAL CAROLERS DISRUPT CHARLOTTESVILLE BANK OF AMERICA

BY BLUE RIDGE EF!

On December 18, activists with Blue Ridge Earth First! (BREF!) gathered at the Bank of America branch in downtown Charlottesville, Virginia, to tell bank management to "Divest From Coal, invest in Clean Energy." As carolers sang coal-themed versions of Christmas classics, such as "I'm Having Nightmares of a Coal Christmas" to the tune of "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," Santa delivered a sack of coal to the bank, checking off the naughtiest corporation on his list.

Santa later disclosed, "It's Bank of America's bad habit of funding climate change and destructive coal mining that earned it its lump of coal today."

BREF! encouraged citizens to close their accounts in protest until Bank of America stops investing billions of dollars in companies such as Massey Energy, Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, which practice mountaintop removal. This form of coal mining demolishes mountains for their coal and then dumps the refuse in streambeds, polluting the water. Additionally, coal-fired electric plants—despite claims of "clean" coal—emit greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. Bank of America has made headlines for hollow pledges to support environmentally sustainable businesses and address global climate change.

After the bank management asked them to leave, the carolers reassembled in front of the main entrance to continue caroling while other Earth First! volunteers distributed fliers to passersby. About 30 minutes later, "Global Warming Crime Scene" tape was wrapped around the entrance, and the protesters dispersed.

BREF!'s Charlottesville street theater came on the heels of international climate talks in Bali, Indonesia, where the US government was



BREF! carols outside the Charlottesville Bank of America.

accused of attempting to sink productive negotiations. Meanwhile, after a threatened Republican filibuster, the US Senate recently stripped a congressional bill of clean energy investments funded by the elimination of tax breaks for fossil fuels. Here in Virginia, criticism mounts regarding Dominion's proposed coal-fired plant, which received a hearing before the State Corporation Commission on January 8. BREF! distributed information at the protest, asking the public to attend this hearing and support resolutions opposing the plant in the Virginia General Assembly. One such local resolution is currently before the Charlottesville City Council, with Blacksburg having already passed its own resolution on December 11, and others pending in Arlington County and Alexandria.

Earth First!'s holiday festivities are part of a campaign organized nationally by Rainforest Action Network, Mountain Justice Summer and a coalition of grassroots organizations. This caroling followed a similar event at another Bank of America on December 15, a November 30 University of Virginia student die-in at the bank's University Avenue location and an August 31 banner drop

at Virginia Tech, in conjunction with BREF! demonstrations in Blacksburg and Harrisonburg.

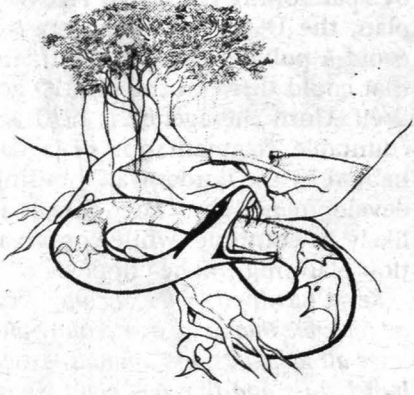
For more info, contact Blue Ridge Earth First!, blueridgeef@yahoo.com.

Blue Ridge Earth First! is composed of individuals from throughout the mountains and piedmont of Virginia who are organizing and taking action to defend our ecosystems and communities from the assaults of polluting and destructive industries.

The System Is Still a House of Cards

A Revised Strategy From

ROOT FORCE



BY THE ROOT FORCE COLLECTIVE

"[Traffic] congestion is one of the single largest threats to America's economic prosperity and way of life."

—US Department of Transportation, "Corridors of the Future Program"

"Rather than acting piecemeal in defense of the last remaining wild places or spending time and energy on random symbolic actions, we should identify and assess strategic campaigns that are capable of blocking the expansion of globalized infrastructure."

—Allapattah, "Evolving EF! II" (EF!) January-February 2008)

If you've seen a presentation or read an article by Root Force or Roadblock EF!, you've heard the argument: The US economy depends upon imports from Latin America to keep functioning, and those imports simply can't happen without infrastructure. Without electricity, transportation and telecommunications, there is no globalized trade. Even more exciting is the fact that existing infrastructure is simply insufficient to maintain the US economy at its current rate of increasing consumption.

"We're going to run out of [highway] capacity pretty quick, and that is going to put a grinding halt on productivity, profitability and our way of life," said Janet Kavinsky, director of transportation infrastructure at the US Chamber of Commerce, in August.

Unless the infrastructure of trade can be expanded, the US will very soon find itself hit by a resource shortage. And, if we can be so bold as to quote ourselves, "without a constant influx of cheap labor and raw materials from around the world, the lights would go out, the factories would shut down and the system would collapse." That's always been the goal of Root Force. Sounds great, right?

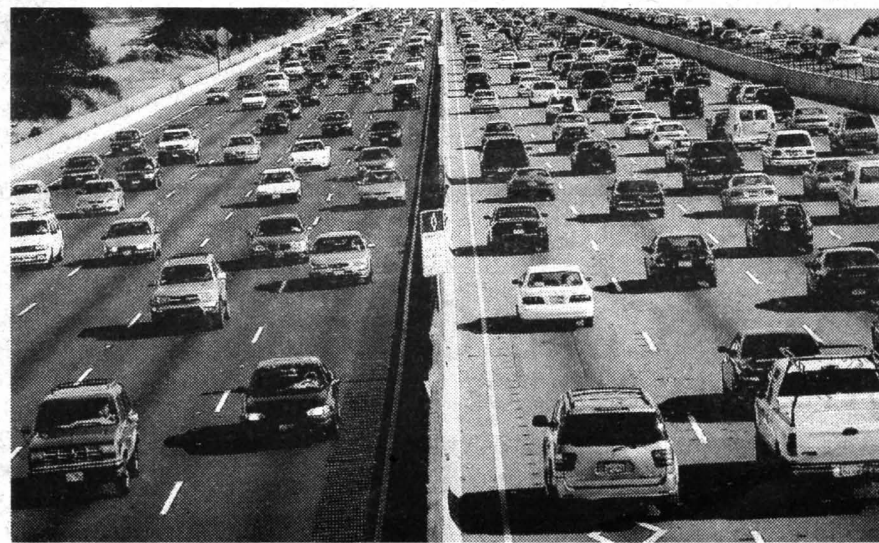
But the devil is in the details. So, after a year and a half of targeting two specific Latin American infrastructure projects and a long process of discussion, reflection and consultation, we have decided to shift the focus of the Root Force campaign. Part of this change entails creating a broader place within Root Force for autonomous anti-infrastructure organizing in the US, while maintaining the emphasis on Latin American solidarity.

This meshes well with the call put out by Allapattah in "Evolving EF! II," and we invite EF!ers to become a part of a wider anti-infrastructure movement that Root Force, along with many others, is in the process of creating.

A Strategic Reassessment

For those who aren't familiar with Root Force, our initial strategy involved encouraging people to take direct action against the companies involved in two specific infrastructure projects—La Parota Dam in Mexico, and the Anillo Periférico Highway in El Salvador—with the goal of driving companies away from those projects and forcing their cancellation.

In October, after a year of road shows, presentations and other efforts at encouraging this strategy, we decided to conduct an in-depth analysis of the campaign. What had we accomplished in one year? What were the strengths and weaknesses of our campaign strategy to date?



The clearest positive change to come from Root Force and allied efforts (like the fight against I-69) has been a sharp upswing in anti-infrastructure analysis and rhetoric over the past year and a half, particularly in radical environmental circles. In addition, we have repeatedly heard that Root Force's articulation of a strategy designed to take down the system is both inspiring and empowering.

But the effectiveness of the campaign has been hampered by two serious shortcomings. First, in spite of our efforts to disseminate contact information for the companies involved in La Parota and the Anillo Periférico, not much action against those targets has taken place. Without a lot more action, there is no way to generate enough pressure to have an effect on these companies, let alone on the projects themselves.

The second problem has been the difficulty of getting up-to-date information from our allies in Mexico and El Salvador. This makes it hard to know what is happening with the projects on the ground and if the companies involved are changing.

So, based on feedback from supporters and our own internal discussions, we have come up with the following plan to refocus and restructure Root Force.

The New Root Force

The core of Root Force is an emphasis on strategic direct action against the expansion of global trade infrastructure. For a variety of logistical reasons, we have found it difficult to focus direct action against projects not happening in the US. Therefore, we are broadening our emphasis from La Parota and the Anillo Periférico to global trade infrastructure in general. We will no longer disseminate contact information about the companies involved in these two projects, based on the ineffectiveness of this strategy to date.

We are not giving up on the struggles against La Parota and the Anillo Periférico, and information

4. Facilitate connections and information-sharing between groups and campaigns that are working against infrastructure. Toward this goal, we will have a regularly updated section on the front page of our website that people can read for action reports, news stories, analysis and campaign updates related to the struggle against infrastructure expansion.

To keep the concept of "infrastructure" from becoming too abstract, we will continue to use La Parota and the Anillo Periférico as examples of infrastructure projects in Latin America. Within the US, we will focus on the six interstate highways that the Department of Transportation (DOT) has designated as "Corridors of the Future." One of them is I-69, and the others are I-5, I-10, I-15, I-70 and I-95. The DOT has identified congestion on these roads as a major threat to trade and "the American way of life," so it's pouring tons of federal resources into expanding them. This includes not only widening existing roads, but also building entirely new roads and bridges.

Get Involved

Of course, the best way to get involved is still to take direct action! If you don't already know of an evil highway or power plant planned for your back yard, contact us, and we'll see if we can hook you up with a campaign near you. If you are already working on such a campaign, contact us to be placed in our directory.

Are you interested in getting more resources to help you organize your own anti-infrastructure campaign? Are you interested in giving a presentation about how infrastructure is a weak point of the system? Want to combine the two by forming a Root Force affiliate group? Get in touch!

We are always looking for musicians and artists who want to put awesome anti-infrastructure propaganda into the public domain (and on our website); researchers; translators; and, of course, monetary donors. You can make checks out to "Root Force" or donate on our website via Paypal.

Everything we have said about the system is still true. It is destroying everything that we love and killing the very planet we depend upon for life. Defending ourselves against it is not enough—we must identify the weak points and attack.

It is still a house of cards. A strong enough push in the right places can bring the whole thing crashing down. Let's push!

For more information, contact Root Force, POB 1302, Tucson, AZ 85702; rootforce@riseup.net; www.rootforce.org.

The Place Is Called

Wahallich

BY MIKE ROBE

Karl Marx once said, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, then as farce." There is little farce and a numberless repetition of tragedies in the history of the engagement between Euro-American colonizers and the indigenous people of Turtle Island. The *dramatis personae* of these tragedies vary little: government and corporations bent on the expansion of territory, technological culture and profit; indigenous people subject to the policy of "divide and conquer"; and relatively poor and powerless whites on the border of Indian land with all manner of motives, interests and sympathies.

The latest and nearest performance of this tragedy here in California's Great Central Valley is at Jesse Morrow Mountain, a beautiful and powerful foothill mountain about 15 miles east of Fresno. Nearly a decade ago, Readymix Corporation (RMC) Pacific, a subsidiary of the UK's RMC Group, purchased a part of Jesse Morrow Mountain and proposed to mine it. Three years ago, Cemex Corporation, headquartered in Mexico City, completed its \$5.8-billion acquisition of RMC. Thus, Cemex became the world's largest provider of cement, ready-mix concrete and other materials, operating in more than 50 countries and producing 97 million tons of cement annually. Cemex is now petitioning Fresno County to grant it a 100-year conditional-use permit to mine the mountain, removing two million tons of aggregate per year and reducing the height of the mountain by 400 feet. The project, which would include blasting and aggregate processing, would operate 24 hours, 315 days a year and would require approximately 900 daily truck trips. It would also consume 150,000 gallons of water every day. On site, Cemex wants to construct 70-foot-high storage silos and storage capacity for 61,000 gallons of oil, gasoline and diesel fuel.

Jesse Morrow Mountain stands at the heart of the traditional lands of the Choinumni, a band of the foothill Yokuts people, who have lived in the area for millennia. The real name of Jesse Morrow Mountain is Wahallich, which translates from the Choinumni language as "Crying Mountain." Traditional Choinumni elder Angie Osborne explains that this name refers to a spring on the southwest side of the mountain. The Choinumni would camp near the spring to gather deer grass and white root for baskets. Late at night, they would sometimes hear what sounded like the desperate wailing of infants from somewhere near the spring. Anyone who entered the spring, lured by these cries, would become ill. Others say that Wahallich refers to the rivulets that run down the sides of the mountain during very rainy years. One thing is certain: Wahallich continues to be held as a powerfully sacred landform by the Choinumni.

The Choinumni people, like other first nations in the Central Valley, lived sustainably in one of the most ecologically diverse, beautiful and verdant places anywhere on Mother Earth. After just a century and a half of "civilization," the rivers are gone and, with them, the salmon. The grasslands are also gone, and with them, the pronghorn antelope, the tule elk and the wolves. The wetlands are gone, and with them, the migratory birds and waterfowl that were once so numerous that they darkened the skies upon taking flight. Even the most powerful of all the local animal relations, the grizzly bear—the symbol of California's flag—was driven out of the valley, foothills and mountains, long ago. As the great Lakota healer Lame Deer once said concerning

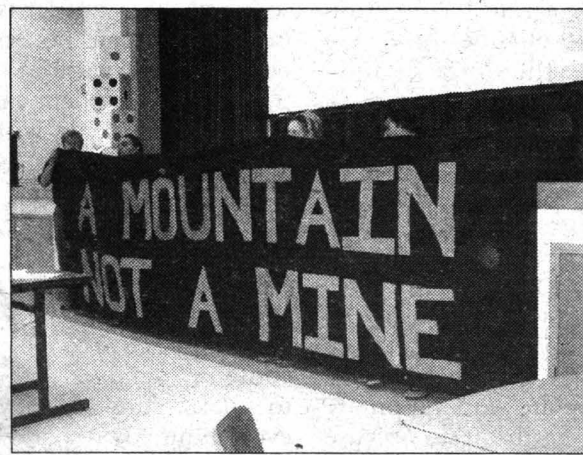
the near extinction of the bald eagle, "A people are in a bad way once they start killing off their own symbols."

As neighbors of the Choinumni people and as citizens of this valley, we need to decide what this valley and these foothills and mountains mean to us. What is Wahallich? Is it a mountain? Is it the center of a people's world? Is it a ceremonial center? Is it a habitat of kit foxes, coyotes, hawks and eagles? Is it a stunningly beautiful landscape of wildflowers? Is it one of our largest, longest and most notable foothill mountains?

Or, is it a "resource"? Is it a mine? Is it a pit from which to haul aggregate? Is it a necessary concession to this curious blindness we suffer from called "progress"? Will it continue to give life and sacred power, or will it become a cipher in the noise, pollution and blight of sprawl? (For those lacking faith, a few years back an RMC official went to Wahallich to check on "company land" and was bitten by a wild pig. Take that!)

During a public scoping meeting for a proposed project at Sanger High School, more than 150 people from all walks of life stood together in opposition to Cemex/RMC. Representatives from Greystone, a consulting firm hired by the county but paid by Cemex/RMC, presented the elements of the project and an overview of matters to be taken up in the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The response was an emphatic "No": no to RMC, no to the project, and no to tearing up a mountain and a community for the profit of a multinational corporation. It was one of the most extraordinary political unions I have ever witnessed: ranchers and Earth First!ers to conservative Republicans and immigration-rights activists. A winemaker/bed and breakfast owner promoting agri-tourism stood with a lady who grows hay; suburbanites stood with traditional indigenous people.

When Fresno RANCOR and Sierra Nevada Earth First! activists disrupted Greystone's presentation by carrying onto the auditorium stage a giant black and green banner reading, "A Mountain, Not a Mine," the whole crowd erupted in sustained applause. It's true that the most hardcore, conservative, free-market Republicans



Fresno RANCOR and Sierra Nevada EF! at Greystone's meeting

will become instant environmentalists when the methodical destruction of the Earth comes to his backyard. However, what's happening with Wahallich is more than a not-in-my-backyard phenomenon. Fresno is beginning to wake up to what it means to be the colonized rather than the colonizer.

The story of "First World" governments and corporations moving in to monopolize the "natural resources" of "Third World" countries is as old as capitalism. Many people naively wonder why "we" continue to extend loans to countries that can never pay those loans back, but that is

precisely the point. Mired in debt, these countries fuel global capitalism by providing a steady supply of cheap resources and cheap labor.

By this capitalist logic, Fresno has what powerful multinationals and corporate builders need: cheap land and cheap "resources." From the perspective of multinationals, Fresno looks much the same as rainforest tracts on the islands of Sulawesi and Maluku, Anapu Para in Brazil, or Chiapas, Mexico. By the same logic, Fresnoans are forced to stand in resistance for their land in much the same way as the people in Indonesia, the Amazon and the Lacandon jungle. The only real hope is that all of these movements will coalesce into a struggle against corporate capitalism, for the restoration of land, rivers, and the plant and animal nations and for a rejuvenation of life.

Cemex/RMC proudly boasts that it will provide the necessary "aggregate" for the next 100 years of growth in this area, but the Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain—both "conservative" and "liberal"—are beginning to wonder whether 100 more years of unchecked suburban sprawl is really what this valley needs. Except for a few isolated islands scattered here and there in our valley—in places like Wahallich, for instance—the last 100 years has seen one of the most vibrant, fertile, magical natural places on Earth converted into a vast agribusiness suburban wasteland. What would 100 more years of global capitalist expropriation bring? Friends of the mountain are saying the same thing as the Zapatistas: *ya basta!*

According to an email from RMC Pacific President Eric Woodhouse, Greystone hired two California State University (CSU) anthropologists to begin the cultural studies portion of the EIR. However, Osborne reported that no contact was made with the traditional Choinumni regarding studies of sacred and cultural sites on Wahallich. This is in violation of the practices and procedures recommended by the California Native Heritage Commission. The problem was compounded when the CSU anthropologists failed to carry out the appropriate cultural studies to determine whether Wahallich constitutes a sacred indigenous site. After complaints lodged by the Choinumni and further public meetings, Greystone was removed as the consultant for the project, and the entire cultural studies portion of the report was thrown out.

In the next few months, the fate of Wahallich will be decided. The new Cemex/RMC consultant will present the EIR sometime this Spring. Public comments will be followed by a vote of the Fresno County Planning Commission and, if that passes, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors. At each stage, we must aggressively resist the machinations of Cemex. Please join in a decisive last stand against the destruction of Wahallich. The history of European-indigenous relations has been tragic, and the future remains unwritten.

Many groups and individuals are working to stop this project. If you live in the area and if you can help us, please do! For more information, contact Friends of Jesse Morrow Mountain, (559) 494-3319; info@jessemorrowmountain.org; www.jessemorrowmountain.org. We are in regular contact with the Choinumni and they ask everyone to join together to stop this desecration. Contact Sierra Nevada Earth First! at www.sierranevadaearthfirst.org; Collective for Arts, Freedom, and Ecology at www.cafefresno.org.

Healthy MikeRobes are multiplying to fight off the cancer!



Sexual Safety Within Our Movement

BY JOANNA

As I roll out my sleeping bag in yet another unfamiliar place, I'm happy and excited to start working on the campaign. Aside from my commitment to putting the Earth first, I don't know much about the campaign I'll be working on yet. But I look forward to immersing myself in the issue, learning from my new bunk/tent/platform mates, and sharing home and work responsibilities.

So much of Earth First! work is done in this kind of community space, where activists create a shared unity of committed volunteers, some old and some new to both the specific issue and the movement. Getting involved in a campaign where you live and work together is one of the most radicalizing experiences for many, myself included. It brings my vague sense that something is going horribly wrong with the world into a constructive and supportive home of like-minded role models and friends. I want to live and breathe my understanding of the Earth, and that's hard to do when you're all alone. So, to all the campaigns out there that leave some beds open and have a revolving set of volunteers, I thank you. You have inspired many lifelong activists to defend the Earth.

Yet these spaces are not exempt from societal problems, and so many of them tend to develop a nasty history of periodic instances of sexual violence. In every shared campaign space I've worked in, a fellow activist has related to me an incident of sexual violence. This is

not just a few campaigns where a rapist decided to volunteer for a week to take advantage of our open hearts and minds. Sexual violence can't easily be checked at the door. It is a powerful societal reality that needs to be accounted for in any self-defined space. This isn't a warning or a call to suspect all volunteers who come to do good work—this is true. Sexual violence happens just like physical violence, and a prepared campaign space has the right first-aid kit to deal with the shit our society poisons us with. For many, a campaign space is a safe haven from the toxic world outside—from the food we eat, to the songs we sing, to the fact that we don't have to look at a television. We can't waste the potential for it to be a safe haven from sexual violence as well, just because we don't think it happens, don't want to admit it or think we've all washed ourselves of the violent, racist patriarchy.

Why are we so prone to creating a sexually unsafe space, if the campaign issues we are working on are about a safer Earth? It is because our current model of sexual interaction is vague, sexist and overall unsafe. To start out, let's think about gender stereotypes. People may be committing sexual assault by doing exactly what they think they are "supposed" to be doing. For men, this can mean being a slick, silent, strong seducer; for women, it can mean acting affirming and flexible. While many of us have rejected gender roles, we shouldn't need to do this in order to feel safe.

It is very possible to read body language in such a way that it becomes a

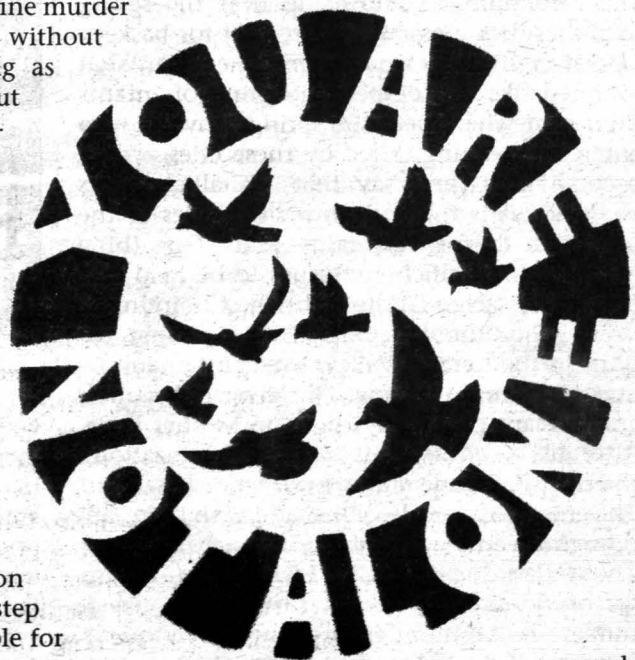
self-fulfilling prophecy that invites us to hear and see only what we want. I can think of social interactions where I read the situation differently than other participants. So, when it comes to sexual interaction, misunderstandings are bound to occur unless we use clear, respectful language, and unless there are ongoing teach-ins and discussions about how to communicate effectively.

Another dangerous and widely held belief that we learn growing up in this society is that it is a person's responsibility to set someone else's limits, that rape occurs when someone does not succeed in saying, "No." This is because "rape" is defined as sex without consent, although we don't define murder as "assisted suicide without consent" or stealing as "gift-giving without consent." It is everyone's personal and collective responsibility to practice good and active consent and to make sure everything is OK for everyone involved at every point in the process. The claim of "mixed messages" is an excuse, an after-the-fact justification for one's failure to step up and be responsible for clarifying the situation.

Making such a big and important change in the way we communicate is not simple. Even when asked, actually saying "no" when you want

to is very difficult. Good consent practices require us to actively pay attention to whether or not good communication is happening and keep learning about the subtle ways that we may unconsciously be doing things that make others feel uncomfortable. Campaigns have people from all kinds of backgrounds wanting to live and work with them, so clear communication is vital. Good consent practices are an excellent tool for everyone who wants to be sure to never sexually assault someone, and they help us take control of our choices as individuals.

The idea of verbal consent is a pretty radical idea for fixing our broken model of



artwork by the learns Project

sexual interaction, and a lot of folks are not familiar with it. Since we are not taught good consent practices

from society—just like we're not taught how to eat vegan, harvest herbs, and respect and fight for the Earth—this is an exciting opportunity for campaigns to start reversing the negative lessons we have learned about sexual interaction.

So how can we constructively address sexual violence in our shared activist spaces? There are two equally vital sides to creating a culture of consent: policy and practice. Every group should have a clear, available, sexual-violence-prevention policy that fits the parameters of its members and space. This requires honesty and some dedicated work, because most of the spaces I'm talking about have a transient set of people and aren't affiliated with an institution (like a college or business) that can hold someone accountable. These factors are not an excuse to not have a sexual violence prevention policy! If anything, it's more important for us to address these issues because we have the opportunity to think of creative, innovative solutions and dump the old sexual-harassment-law-suit response that seems to be society's brilliant solution.

Policy

Here is one activist's description of their space's sexual violence policy measures and process: "Our bottom-line policy was zero tolerance for any kind of sexual assault, meaning that if you feel like you have been assaulted, you have been—no questions asked. No one else can reinterpret that experience for you; no one else can have the last word on how you should feel. (There is a fine line between what is harassment and what is assault, that is something we struggled with a lot.)

"We had a contract with our policy clearly stated that all volunteers signed when arriving so we would have something in writing, as well as the opportunity to explain our policy to all incoming folks.

"If an incident occurs, the survivor can report the incident to the designated sexual violence awareness advocate, and the perpetrator will be asked to leave the site immediately. There is then a 72-hour holding period when the perpetrator has the option of contacting the sexual violence awareness advocate for an offsite meeting to discuss the incident and have their side of the story heard. We talked a lot about having a 'hearing board' of long-term volunteers. They would hear the case if the perpetrator really felt like they were being wronged, but we never put that together.

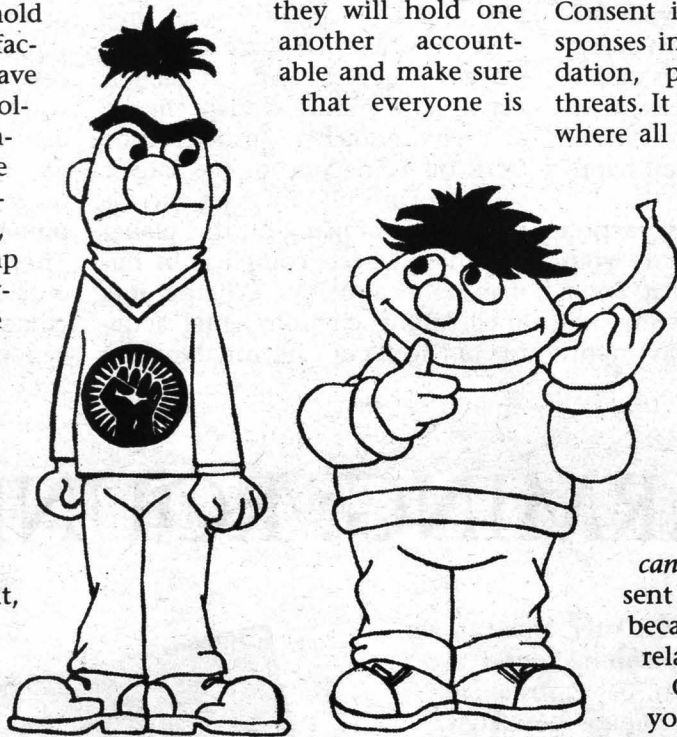
"In supporting the survivor, it's important to do whatever they want to see happen. Supporting survivors is about restoring their power of choice and their voice. For example, don't call in the police/press charges unless the survivor wants it; don't go to the hospital unless the survivor wants it. We had also set up an offsite safe space for survivors so if being in a certain space was triggering, there would be somewhere for them to stay for a few days."

These are just some ideas that are being used in one activist communal space. Every campaign has different resources and needs. If your group has a contract or orientation

already, it wouldn't be difficult to include a section about sexual violence. If you are going to say "consent," make sure to really talk about what that means, so everyone can learn more about it. You could also have a section on your website with definitions and information about sexual violence, relevant links and a copy of your contract.

Practice

Sadly, a document is just a document and won't work when it's too late and a survivor is looking for that one line on the campaign's website that says, "We don't tolerate sexual assault or rape." The most powerful part of consent is when the community decides together that they will hold one another accountable and make sure that everyone is



feeling safe and receiving space to say "yes" and space to say "no." "Deciding together" is an ongoing process, because every time a new volunteer comes in, the community changes. We all know that new community members might forget where to put things away or how the space flows, so the language of and commitment to sexual safety needs to be brought up periodically. For example, a fellow activist I was talking with said that while she hadn't had a violent sexual experience at the campaign, when sexual safety was brought up collectively, it triggered a previous experience. She was relieved to know that she was in a safe space. In fact, she was able to address that previous experience, mourn and begin to heal just because her current campaign space began to talk about sexual violence.

Another idea for putting sexual safety into practice is to create a pamphlet, teach-in or short presentation about sexual violence for incoming volunteers so everyone is on the same page. This has the added bonus of giving volunteers materials that they can take to their own communities.

Groups have also hosted men's, women's and trans' working group spaces, where people can break out and discuss the nuances of sexual violence and how it affects us all differently and seriously. Having separate working groups is not to say that men don't experience sexual violence or that this is a "women's issue." Gender caucusing is just recognizing that the stereotypes of "woman" and "man" are out there for us all to respond to. We were probably socialized into one or the other for a period of our lives, and

that means we might approach this topic differently. Since this is stereotyped as a "women's issue," it is extra meaningful for all the male-bodied people out there to verbally bring up good consent policies.

If you are a leader or a senior person in your organization, you have an even greater responsibility to bring these issues up, voice that they are important to you and practice good consent language with others. It can be very comforting for a new volunteer to see as much communication as there is physical contact, and to hear good questions like, "How do you feel?" or "Would you like a hug/piggyback ride/massage?"

So, what is consent, exactly? Consent is affirmative verbal responses in the absence of intimidation, pressure, coercion and threats. It is an ongoing discussion where all parties are autonomous and can change their minds at any time.

This means that each new level of sexual activity requires consent. Consent is the presence of "yes," not the absence of "no." Someone who is mentally incapacitated, physically helpless, drunk or drugged cannot give consent. Consent is not implied merely because you are already in a relationship.

Consent means that you are fully prepared to hear "no." While thinking about rejection might make us all a little queasy, hearing "no" is very good news. It means that you made enough safe space for the other person to say what they really felt. They were able to express themselves, which is empowering. Let that person feel proud, as you should, too. Congratulations.

We can't protect ourselves 100 percent of the time from the destructive messages and practices of our society. We shouldn't live in fear. I have gone to campaign spaces knowing that an incident of sexual violence has occurred or that it's rampant, and still had a restorative and wonderful experience. But I wish I wasn't in the position of weighing whether I'll be in a safer space while working on a campaign or in whatever community I'm leaving behind. Instead, let's ensure that activists have the opportunity to say, "The organization/community/collective/social movement that I'm a part of is one that I can trust. Whatever happens, there is an overarching structure to support my needs, keep me safe and help me strengthen my voice about issues that are silenced in other spaces. Building a culture of safety and respect, where everybody works to make sure nobody is assaulted, is a fundamental part of the work of the organization/community/collective/social movement. Therefore, I know I can give my full heart and mind to defending the Earth, with no reservations. Taking care of each other and staying strong will keep me in this movement until we liberate the Earth!"

Joanna loves learning more about radical safety, and hopes y'all do too!

BARE BONES

Belize Recognizes Mayan Land Rights

On October 18, the Supreme Court of Belize ruled in favor of Maya peoples' land rights, setting a new precedent in that country and perhaps internationally. The Maya went to court to protest oil exploration in the fragile wetland ecosystem of southern Belize.

This ruling came on the heels of, and perhaps because of, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which finally passed last fall after 20 years of negotiation. The declaration includes a clear statement of indigenous peoples' right to their traditional lands, and requires governments to obtain "free, prior and informed consent" for legislation that would affect them—including corporate ventures. The US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia were the only countries to vote against the declaration.

This is the first time the declaration has been cited in any court decision and the first time the Belize government has given these land rights to indigenous communities.

Penan Anti-Logging Leader Found Dead

Kelesau Naan, head of the community of Long Kerong in Borneo, Malaysia, and a leader in the struggle for Penan land rights, was found dead on December 17, about two-hours' walk from the village. Samling Corporation, a forestry and tree plantation company, is suspected to be behind Naan's death.

Naan had been one of the plaintiffs in a land rights claim in the village of Long Data Bila, which is struggling against the corporation. Reportedly, a Samling official recently threatened the Penan, "If you people try to stop our plans, we will kill you." Villagers announced that loggers should stay away from Long Kerong, because some residents may be seeking revenge for Naan's death.

The Penan people of Borneo have been using peaceful road blockades for more than 20 years to prevent logging in the forests.

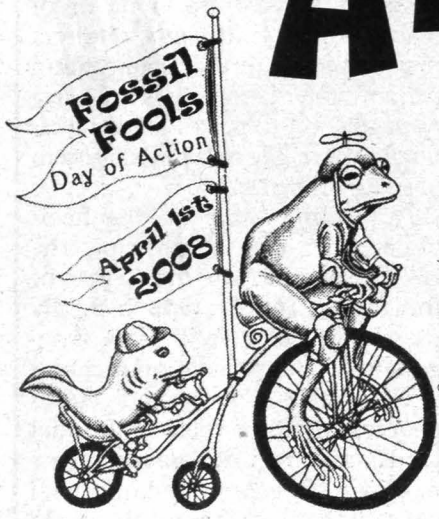
Two Sea Shepherd Activists Taken Hostage by Whalers

On January 15, two crewmembers of the Sea Shepherd ship the *Steve Irwin* were taken hostage after boarding the Japanese whaling vessel *Yushin Maru 2* to inform them of their illegal whaling activities. The two hostages, Benjamin Potts and Giles Lane, were grabbed and tied to the radar mast, but reported that they were treated well for the rest of their four days as hostages. On January 18, Potts and Lane were delivered to an Australian customs vessel and then back safely to the *Steve Irwin*.

The *Steve Irwin* had been pursuing a fleet of whaling ships and had prevented the hunt for four days before Potts and Lane boarded the *Yushin Maru 2*. The hunt was held up while the activists were held hostage. The whalers did not resume the hunt until February 6, after the Sea Shepherd vessel had to abandon the area to refuel. The Japanese whaling campaign, which started last Autumn, has a quota of nearly 1,000 whales. Due to international pressure, it dropped its quota of 50 endangered humpback whales.



APRIL 1ST GUIDE TO



BY RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA

April 1 is Fossil Fools Day! Rising Tide North America has called this day of action to make the fools who are causing climate change realize the impact that they are having on the planet, and that we aren't going to stand for it!

Anywhere you live, fossil fools are going to be engaging in destruction, the poisoning of communities and other filthy, climate-changing business. Most of us live (sometimes ignorantly) in the shadow of toxic combustion or extraction activities. Even if you don't live near these points of destruction, unless you're living off the grid, your utility company gets most of its energy from fossil fuels—and that's despite any photos of wind turbines or solar panels on its website or "green" options that it is more than happy to charge you extra for.

The first step to taking action against the fossil fools in your community is finding them! Some ideas include: new or existing coal plants, liquefied natural gas import

terminals, oil and natural gas pipelines, oil refineries, local electricity providers and mountaintop removal coal mining sites.

A Few Ideas for Fossil Foolery on April 1

One: Stop the Pumps

Gas stations are the main public face of the oil industry—and they are everywhere. They are also great places to highlight the connection between car culture, climate change and environmental justice. Aside from oil being one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases, there is not an oil company on this planet that hasn't been complicit in human rights atrocities. Whether it is Shell killing environmental activists in Nigeria or Chevron dumping

toxic waste on indigenous lands in the Amazon, there are plenty of examples of the connection between the destruction of the Earth and these companies' assaults on human rights.

Consider such tactics as blocking the entrance to a gas station, locking down to gas pumps or having a die-in in front of a gas station. It is quite easy to gain access to a roof for a banner drop with the use of an extension ladder. It should also be noted that all gas stations have safety shut-off buttons that will disable their gas pumps in case of an emergency. They are generally located on the outside of the station. If a global climate meltdown isn't an emergency, we don't know what is!

NO WAR, NO WARMING: ROUND TWO

BY TED GLICK

Early on the morning of October 22, several hundred people quietly arrived on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC (see *EF!* January-February 2008). Many of us were organized into affinity groups. There was the anti-capitalist bike bloc. There were the Iraq Veterans Against the War. There was the group of people dressed in polar bear costumes, agitating through a portable sound system. There were the young people from Students for a Democratic Society in their yellow Campus Climate Challenge T-shirts. There was the Separate Oil and State group. And there were Code Pinkers, some wearing giant bobble-heads of Cheney, Bush and Rice. Some of us blocked entrances to congressional office buildings. Some of us sat down in busy street intersections. Some rode their bikes in such a way as to slow and stop traffic, moving from location to location.

We were united behind the short but clear slogan: No War, No Warming! Our goals were to end the war for oil in Iraq and to prevent all future wars for oil and natural gas; end the addiction to oil, coal and natural gas that is driving climate disruption and leading to more wars as our ecosystems and economies are devastated; shift government resources—our tax money—away from supporting fossil fuels and toward supporting a deep- and wide-ranging, jobs-creating, clean energy revolution; rebuild communities like New Orleans that have been damaged by racism and corporate greed; centralize environmental justice; and support alternative economic models to address poverty and create millions of green jobs in a clean energy economy.

By the middle of the morning, after an hour and a half of tying up rush-hour traffic and disrupting business as usual, 68 of us had been arrested. The media, both corporate and independent, was there in force to record the actions and the arrests, and the word got out nationally that something new was developing.

It is new that a growing number of peace, justice and climate organizations are clearly recognizing the obvious connections between oil and resource wars, our fossil fuel addiction and global climate disruption. More importantly, it is new that we are acting to dramatize these connections and doing so using nonviolent direct action. We are acting to underline the urgent need for a drastic change, for a great turning, for a revolutionary transformation to a very different way of interacting with the Earth and with one another.

Three months later, No War, No Warming is planning round two of what must be a sustained, growing, developing campaign to end the Iraq War and save our deeply wounded ecosystems. Working with a broader range of organizations, we'll be taking action again on March 19, again in Washington, DC, as well as in other parts of the country. This time, the major DC actions will be at locations like the American Petroleum Institute and the Department of Energy. Other groups—primarily peace groups—will be engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience at other locations. March 19 is the fifth anniversary of the ground invasion of Iraq—the beginning of the sixth year of a war that, if our rulers have their way, may go on for decades.

There are likely to be many thousands of people taking part in these upcoming actions. We should look back on March 19, 2008, as the day that the people's movement for peace, justice and clean energy emerged strong, clear and forthright; the day that the country realized that a powerful grassroots movement had emerged to stand up to the pro-war, imperialistic, corporate interests that dominate government decision-making in Washington, DC.

There are some within the progressive movement who believe that, in a presidential election year, we need to cool it with the strong demands and strong actions, that our role is solely to get involved with election campaigns and support the best candidates. Some even argue that we should just support the Democratic Party candidates, regardless of their stands on issues or connection to people in struggle. In their view, any rocking of the political boat is too risky and could jeopardize the prospects of Democratic victories.

There is an aspect of this argument that needs to be taken into account. It is important *how* we engage in our direct actions. It's important, in particular, that our actions be nonviolent. An individual doesn't need to be a pacifist—which I am not—to appreciate that within the US, at this moment in history, creative and militant but nonviolent direct action is the best way for us to up the ante and do so in a way that prevents us from being marginalized and rendered politically ineffective.



A blockade by Students for a Democratic Society on October 22
Photo by Lisa

I believe deeply that now, right now, this year and next, is a time when nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action *have to be* central tactics used by our movements—not the only tactics, but the central ones. Such tactics, done well, motivate others to speak up, get involved or take action. They let the powers-that-be know that we're a factor, that we have to be taken into account. They build a fighting spirit into our movement and counter the "compromising" mentality that infects too many of us too often.

With the beginnings of an economic downturn/recession/depression, right now is the perfect time for dramatic actions that link peace, justice and clean energy. Our action and the messaging for it must make central the needed shift to a demilitarizing, green, clean energy economy. This is the way that, in the short-term and longer-term, we can turn around the economy. We can stimulate job creation, put money into people's pockets and advance locally-based economic development as we shift from war and fossil fuels to peace and clean energy.

It's time to send a loud-and-clear message: No War, No Warming! No business as usual! Let the will of the people be felt!

For more information on March 19 events and related actions, visit www.nowarnowarming.org; www.5yearstoomany.org.

Ted Glick is the coordinator of the US Climate Emergency Council (www.climateemergency.org) and has been active with No War, No Warming since its formation a year ago.

FOSSIL FOOLERIES

Two: Kick Corporate Research Off Your (or Anybody's) Campus

Universities, in collaboration with corporations, are developing new technologies using fossil fuel extraction and burning. Many schools in coal states have research facilities dedicated to the perpetuation of this dirty fuel, while schools in oil states like Texas focus on petroleum. Chances are that any major university will be involved in some aspect of perpetuating our addiction to fossil fuels. Capitalizing on the need for alternative energy sources, many universities are raking in big bucks setting up agrofuels research centers. Not only will agrofuels not create meaningful reductions in greenhouse gasses, they create a host of new environmental and social problems. BP's \$500-million proposed facility for the University of California-Berkeley is already meeting strong resistance.

Three: Deflate or Die

People in Sweden and France have developed a creative means of protest against gas-guzzling SUVs. They simply let the air out of the SUVs' tires, rendering them immobile. Thousands of tires have been deflated, immobilizing hundreds of vehicles, which has generated lots of media attention and awareness of global warming.



Results may vary.

The act is pretty simple and does not involve property damage. All one does is take off the valve cap, place a small pebble on top of the valve and screw the cap back on. If the pebble is placed correctly, it will press down on the air valve when you screw down the cap, thus releasing the air. To our knowledge, there is no law against releasing air from car tires, though we aren't going to guarantee that it's without risk. However, in Belgium (one of many countries where this tactic is catching on), the Justice Minister recently had to admit that there is nothing illegal about it! Make sure you leave a note on the car explaining your action.

Four: Fry the Friendly Skies

Air travel is one of the fastest growing sectors of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as one of the most extravagant-uses of fossil fuels. We need to combat air travel. Protests can be organized at airline offices, as well as airports. Many of the US's largest airports are considering major expansions, which would lead to even more airplanes polluting the air. While tight security at airports creates a number of logistical problems, it also contains some advantages—such as a tendency to overreact to any situation out of the norm, with a resulting disruption of airport business. Private airports, catering to the extremely wealthy, are also outstanding targets for action and send a clear message

that short-haul flights for the rich have got to go. Travel agencies are a great, easy place to do an action. Activists in the UK regularly U-lock closed or otherwise blockade the doors of travel agencies. Due to the danger to both airplane passengers and yourself, we discourage doing anything to interfere with airport runways.

While this is largely uncharted territory in the US, activists in Europe have been at it for years. Let's bring that trend over here!

Five: Resist Road Expansion

More roads mean more cars, plain and simple. Instead of reducing our dependency on automobiles, the government focuses on building a never-ending web of roads. New roads devastate natural ecosystems, disrupt animal migration, open up previously untouched areas to new development and encourage more cars to hit the road. Many communities are already resisting new road projects, from Arizona to Washington, DC. In Indiana, activists have mounted fierce opposition to Interstate 69, otherwise known as the NAFTA superhighway (see *EF!* November-December 2007). They have disrupted public meetings, held street demos and even evicted the planning offices for the highway by throwing their contents on the curb!

Six: Direct Action at the Point of Destruction

We strongly recommend taking actions directly at the point of destruction. There are few actions more empowering and attention-grabbing than blocking access to a coal- or oil-fired plant, coal mine, pipeline construction site or liquefied natural gas terminal. Having a lot of people is useful for an action like this, but most important is selecting a site with one entryway that can be blockaded using civil disobedience and/or a more sophisticated blockade. In Summer 2006, Rising Tide and Earth First! blocked the single access bridge to a Virginia coal-fired power plant, with someone U-locking themselves to a coal truck while another person took up a perch in a platform suspended by a rope blocking the bridge (see *EF!* September-October 2006). The action shut down access to the coal plant for the better part of a day, got a ton of media attention, and no one was arrested when the protesters agreed to leave after media arrived. Of course, a big, fun, rowdy protest at a site like this is great, too!

Seven: Home Is Where the Heart of the Fossil Fool Is

If you're more of an evening person (or just want to make your encounter with your chosen fossil fool a little more personal), a home visit may be in order. It can be tricky finding out where they live, but if you're lucky, a "reverse name search" might work. (Try www.anywho.com.) A surprisingly useful place for researching people is the Federal Election Commission search (www.fec.gov/finance/disclosure/norindsea.shtml). Oftentimes, when people make major donations to candidates (which by law must be reported), they include their home address on their filings. You can use county tax records to find out where a person lives, too. Many counties have an online search database, and all of them have the information on file at the courthouse.

Often, organizing a big rally at a fossil fool bigwig's house is action enough to get a lot of media attention (not to mention their neighbors' attention), especially if you bring a great party, songs and games. A banner hang on someone's roof makes things a bit more interesting, though we caution against doing anything that could be construed as destroying personal property.

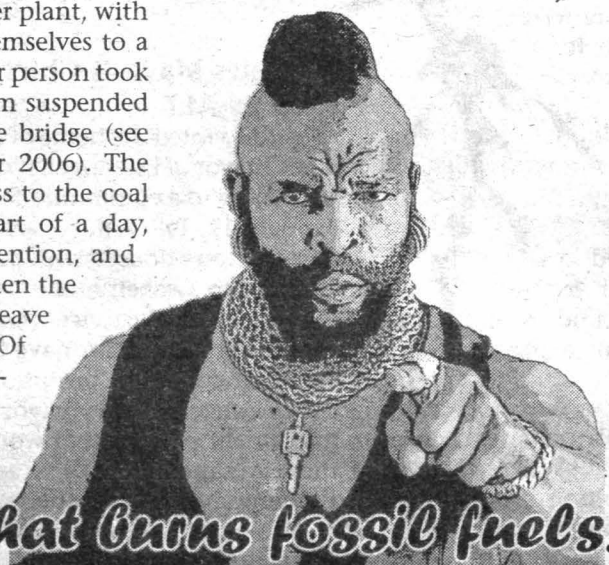


2006 blockade of a coal plant

photo courtesy Mountain Justice Media

Wanted posters in the neighborhood that warn neighbors of a dangerous climate criminal living nearby can help get the word out as well.

Need information on how to pull off any of these actions? Want us to help you get media attention for your action? We can provide help and trainings for any and all nonviolent direct actions described above that target the fossil fools in your community. For more information, contact fossilfools@hushmail.com! For more ideas, visit www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.



I pity the fool that burns fossil fuels.

BARE BONES

Compromise With Timber Interests May Collapse

The Northwest Forest Plan—which protects 24 million acres of forest in the Pacific Northwest, including old-growth forest—is in danger of collapsing because the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wishes to pull out of the agreement. The plan was agreed to in the 1990s, in an effort to end the struggle between environmentalists and the timber industry. Although it leaves many ecologically critical areas still open to roads and logging, the plan protects forests essential to the survival of the threatened northern spotted owl.

The BLM is currently protecting a chunk of land in western Oregon that represents 10 percent of the Northwest Forest Plan. It wishes to pull out and allow logging on up to 2.2 million acres of this land, increasing the amount of logging in the area threefold. According to University of Washington Professor Jerry Franklin, without this 10 percent, the minimum old-growth necessary for the well-being of the spotted owl will not be met, and the plan's purpose of protecting them will be rendered obsolete.

Mapuche Land Occupation Ends in Police Violence

On January 3, university student Matias Catrileo Quezada was shot in the back and killed when Chilean police opened fire on a crowd of indigenous Mapuche protesters, including children and elderly people. The nonviolent protest was part of a land occupation to reclaim stolen Mapuche land in southern Chile.

The following day, protesters responded by blockading roads and setting about 30 fires at Chilean forestry giant Mininco's tree plantations. Mininco deforests indigenous land against the will of the people, and turns it into pine and eucalyptus plantations.

Also, Mapuche supporter and Chilean political prisoner Patricia Troncoso ended her 111-day hunger strike on January 28. Troncoso, who allegedly set fire to a Mininco pine plantation, was tried and sentenced in 2005 to 10 years. During her hunger strike, she made several demands, including the release of Mapuche political prisoners. The Chilean government drugged and force-fed her after she was proclaimed near death. She finally ended the strike when the Chilean government promised better prison conditions for her and two other political prisoners.

Some Charges Against the San Francisco 8 Dropped

During a January 10 hearing, prosecutors dropped conspiracy charges against five of the eight former Black Panthers charged with the alleged 1971 killing of a police officer. Conspiracy charges against three of the San Francisco 8 remain. Richard O'Neal, who was charged only with conspiracy, faces no further legal prosecution, though he has been subpoenaed to testify at the April 21 preliminary hearing.

In 1975, one of the San Francisco 8 and two others were arrested for the same murder, but the case was dropped when the judge found that confessions had been obtained through torture, including asphyxiation, electrocution, beatings and sensory deprivation.

Frontlines

Oaxacans Blockade Major Highway in Mexico

Upset by attempts to reopen a long-vacated gold mine near Capulálpam, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, residents blockaded the main highway out of Oaxaca City with 50 pickup trucks for five hours on October 16.

Demanding permanent closure of the Natividad mine, the community—even the mayor and ex-miners—collectively took action against Vancouver, Canada-based Continuum Resources. The mine was closed in 1993, and locals intend to make sure it stays that way.

"For 230 years, gold- and silver-mining companies have been exploiting tunnels in the mountains," said Francisco Garcia López, a member of Capulálpam's Commission of Communal Goods. "The quantity and quality of our water supplies have been negatively affected by mining activity." According to him, 13 streams have disappeared completely in the past few years because of Continuum's exploration activities.

Primate Vivisector Targeted by ALF

December 6 is customarily St. Nicholas Day in many parts of the world. St. Nicholas travels to people's homes, leaving a gift in their shoe if they are good—and a lump of coal if they are bad. Oregon Health and Science University researcher Miles Novy awoke that morning to a different present altogether.

In the dark morning fog, members of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) paid him a visit. In response to the research Novy conducts on primates, they covered his cars in graffiti and paint stripper.

"This blatant disregard for the Earth, [its] animals and its resources shall not go unseen by the ever-watching eyes of the ALF," a communiqué declared. "The only reason why people like Miles Novy sleep at night is because we let them."

One can imagine Novy will be keeping an eye out for more than St. Nicholas next December 6.

Faucet Butt for the Fur Industry

A fur-selling boutique in Brooklyn, New York, got a noxious punch in the nose on Christmas Eve. Just in time for the peak shopping hours, the ALF sprayed "liberal" amounts of Liquid Ass, a product that has the overpowering stench of rotting shit.

The carpets, clothing and, especially, the fur and fur-trimmed items in the store were doused with Liquid Ass. According to a communiqué, within minutes, the store "smelled like the inside of an asshole." Before the ALF activist left the store, potential customers were witnessed visibly gagging and leaving quickly.

The communiqué also contained a warning for anyone who sells fur in Brooklyn: "Next time, you might find your locks glued, your windows broken or worse.... Happy holidays."

Pro-Whaling Consulate Gets Bloody

William Shakespeare once wrote, "Will all great Neptune's ocean wash this blood clean from my hands?" In the case of the Japanese government's whaling practices, Australian

activists have shouted an emphatic, "No!"

On December 27, ten protesters rushed into the Japanese consulate in Melbourne, Australia, to call attention to Japan's hunting of endangered whales. The members of Animal Liberation Victoria splashed fake blood around the consulate, as the Japanese whaling fleet headed to feeding grounds where it planned to murder up to 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales. Security eventually removed the protesters from the building but decided to not press charges.

Once again, the Japanese government repeated the lies that this hunt is for scientific purposes, ignoring the fact that the whale meat inevitably ends up under the butcher's knife back in Japan.

Genetically Modified Trees Not Tolerated in New Zealand

A patch of genetically engineered pine trees was hacked down outside of Rotorua, New Zealand, on January 14. Saboteurs burrowed under an electric perimeter fence to reach the experimental Norway spruces, before chopping them down in an apparent protest. As a warning, they left behind a spade bearing a "GE Free New Zealand" sticker.

The Soil and Health Association, a lobbying group, had been calling for the trees to be cut down. "Considering overwhelming opposition to genetic engineering in New Zealand, field trials should be treated as a privilege," said Steffan Browning, a Soil and Health Association spokesperson.

Los Angeles Mayor's Chief of Staff Visited by ALF

The ALF visited the home of Robin Kramer, the mayor of Los Angeles' chief of staff, according to a communiqué released on January 17. Two luxury cars in Kramer's driveway were doused with paint stripper in an attempt to awaken him to the situation at Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS).

Since 2003, activists in LA have been exposing mismanagement and corruption at LAAS. Among other concerns, the mayor's office refuses to implement policies that would save the lives of the thousands of healthy animals who are killed each year in LA area shelters.

Ed Boks, the current head of LAAS, was previously asked to resign as director of Arizona's



An artist's recreation of the scene left behind by FLAM

shelter system and was fired from the New York City shelter system. LA animal activists want to see the same thing happen to him in their city.

"It's too bad it takes illegal direct action... to get the media to take notice of the senseless killing going on inside the six animal death camps in LA," said Pamelyn Ferdin of the Animal Defense League-LA.

"Robin Kramer, your job as chief to the mayor affords you the ability to push for LAAS to catch up with the times and transition to 'no kill,'" part of the ALF communiqué reads. "Why are you not pushing?"

Mexican KFC Rendered Extra Crispy

On January 20, the Animal Liberation Front Mexico (FLAM) targeted a KFC fast food restaurant, placing an incendiary device in the chain store. According to the communiqué, the action was taken because KFC "continues the killing of our animal brothers and sisters on its farms of terror for filthy money at the cost of the suffering of others."

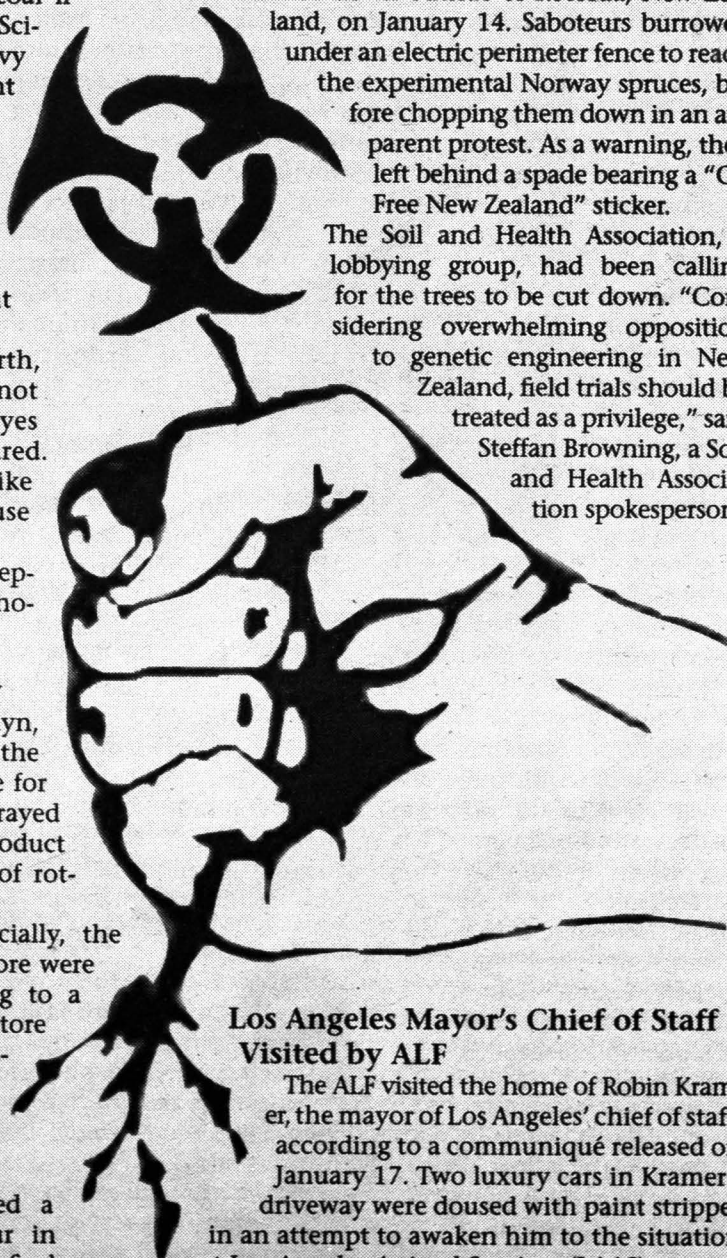
Since late December, FLAM has conducted a flurry of attacks on animal exploiters in Mexico. Among other actions, it has vandalized or raided circuses, pet stores, other KFC locations, furriers, at least one farm and a restaurant. The January 20 KFC visit, however, seems to be FLAM's first foray into the use of a firestorm to purify the bane that society drowns in.

Canadian Bank Attacked to Protest 2010 Olympics

Resistance has been strong against the 2010 Winter Olympics, which are scheduled to be held in Vancouver and Whistler, Canada (see *EFJ* July-August 2007). The struggle continued on January 27.

"Bricks found their way through the windows of the Elgin Street Royal Bank of Canada in Ottawa," a communiqué wryly noted. The attack was committed in protest of the evils scheduled to occur in Canada in 2010: the ratification of the Security and Prosperity Partnership, the 2010 Group of Eight (G8) summit and the Winter Olympics. The Royal Bank of Canada is one of the primary sponsors of the 2010 Olympics.

According to the communiqué, the bank's attackers also declared war on all that 2010 represents and all who sponsor the events of that year. "These actions are in solidarity with indigenous peoples, the poor and all those who are made to suffer in the name of 'Security and Prosperity,' the G8 and the Olympics on stolen land." The group concluded by encouraging people to "Riot 2010!"



Earth First!



*Only you can prevent the
destruction of all that is wild.*

THE PROBLEM

Today is the most critical moment in the three-and-a-half-billion-year history of life on Earth. Never before—since the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago—has there been a period of extinction as intense as the one we are now witnessing.

Over the last several hundred years, industrial civilization has declared war on nature, leading to a drastic reduction in the biological diversity of this planet. Some respected ecologists assert that the only large mammals to survive the near future will be those we humans choose to allow to live.

Others—aghast at the wholesale devastation of tropical rainforests and temperate old-growth forests, rapidly accelerating desertification, and the eradication of countless life forms due to

habitat destruction and poaching—say that the Earth could lose one-quarter to one-third of *all* species within a very few years.

Not only is this onslaught against the natural world destroying ecosystems and their associated species, but our activities are now beginning to have fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet—upsetting the world's climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination throughout the biosphere.

Indeed, some biologists have warned that vertebrate evolution may be at an end due to the activities of industrialization.

Clearly, the conservation battle is not one of

merely protecting outdoor recreation opportunities; nor is it a matter of elitist aesthetics, nor “wise management and use” of natural resources. It is a battle for life itself, for the continuous flow of evolution.

We—this generation—are at humanity's most important juncture since we came out of the trees six million years ago. It is our decision, ours today, whether to hold renegade corporations and lawless governments accountable for the destruction of the natural world or turn our backs on Mother Earth and her defenseless life forms. Will we allow the Earth to continue to be a marvelously living, diverse oasis in the blackness of space, or will the charismatic megafauna of the future consist of Norway rats and cockroaches?

OUR SOLUTION

Earth First! exists to defend the Earth in a world of compromising, mealy-mouthed environmental groups. Earth First! is effective. Our frontline, direct action approach to protecting wildlands gets results. We have succeeded in cases where other environmental groups had given up, and we have drawn public attention to the crises facing the natural world.

It's not enough to ask politicians and corporations to destroy less wilderness. We need to preserve it *all*, to recreate lost habitats and reintroduce extirpated predators. We need to stop and *reverse* the poisoning of our air, water and

soil, as well as the modification of life's genetic code. It is not enough to oppose the construction of new dams and developments. It is time to free our shackled rivers and restore the land.

Earth First! was founded in 1979, in response to a lethargic, compromising and increasingly corporate environmental community. Earth First! takes a decidedly different tack toward environmental issues. We believe in using all the tools in the toolbox, ranging from grassroots organizing and involvement in the legal process to civil disobedience and monkeywrenching.

Earth First! is different from other environmental

groups. We do not adopt a human-centered world-view. Instead, we believe that industrial civilization and its philosophy are anti-Earth, anti-woman and anti-liberty.

While there is broad diversity within Earth First!—from animal rights vegans to wilderness hunting guides, from stealthy monkeywrenchers to civil-disobedience acrobats, from whiskey-drinking backwoods riffraff to thoughtful philosophers, from bitter misanthropes to true humanitarians—there is agreement on one thing: the need for action.

To put it simply, the Earth must come first!

No Compromise in Defense of Mother Earth!

DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS

Earth First! is dynamic. In order to be an environmental movement, you've got to move! Direct action means personal, spiritual and strategic efforts to defend the Earth. Earth First! is defined by action, the purpose of which is to:

Halt the Destruction: Force governments and corporations to stop their exploitive extraction of natural resources. Even the most "symbolic" action can help to stop the machine.

Raise the Stakes: Send a clear message to the despoilers: "No more business as usual."

Attract Media: You can't hope to change people's minds or put pressure on politicians without calling attention to the damage. Demonstrations "demonstrate" to the world that when all of our letters are ignored, our arguments mitigated and our legal appeals denied, we still refuse to accept the accelerating destruction of the Earth. Civil disobedience can expose an issue through print, television, radio and the Internet.

Strengthen Resolve: Direct action is the most empowering event imaginable, a rite of passage that fills the participant with a feeling of effectiveness. We learn to work in concert with others who put the Earth first.

Civil disobedience is a deliberate, thought-out act of conscience, even when undertaken spontaneously. Whenever you show up to a demonstration, you risk arrest and physical attack by the police or opponents. Be prepared with creative tactics, media spokespersons and jail support.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations include marches, costumes and street theater that present our position to reporters and make demands of corporate raiders and government pawns. Some Earth First! actions have included 200-pound stumps deposited on rangers' desks, manure from cattle grazed on public lands stacked against air conditioning vents, protests held outside the homes of timber executives, helium balloons hoisting placards inside convention centers, and 100-foot banners strung above highways, down smokestacks and across the facades of buildings.



Activists at the No Borders Camp 2008 defied the border that cuts through both sensitive ecologies and people's lives.

To be the most effective, a demonstration should be:

Dynamic and Uncompromising: Have clear intent, tactics and specific targets. Identify the perpetrators by name and target them.

Colorful and Creative: Create unique and surprising actions that challenge and amuse. Remember, the media tends to fixate on whatever element is the most visually stimulating. Plan for that and make sure your message gets across,



A soft blockade, a lockdown to a coal truck and a pod-hang over a bridge simultaneously block the only road to a Virginia coal plant in 2006.

no matter what captions they place with the pictures from your action.

Informative: Get across the clear goals of your campaign with factsheets and handouts, news releases, songs, skits and chants.

Flexible: Be ready on a moment's notice to revise plans as the situation changes, taking advantage of unforeseen opportunities—as in the sudden appearance of an offending executive or an unwanted piece of heavy equipment. Come up with a quick alternative when the governor is not in, when the building is sealed off, when the cops are out in force or when the meeting has moved to another location.

Occupations and Sit-Ins

Take over the boardrooms, offices and even the homes of unresponsive decision-makers and bureaucrats. Among other things, EFlers have put up tents in land managers' offices, locked ourselves to their furniture, invaded the homes of industry CEOs and put cardboard on the air conditioning intakes of a district ranger's office, forcing them to shut down their computers in the more-than-100-degree heat.

Blockades

The proper place for an Earth First!er is often directly in the path of the machinery that is destroying the wilderness or your community. This may be a symbolic gesture of defiance; it may also stop them in their tracks. Either way, it is a sure-fire way to take the focus out of the boardrooms and hearing chambers and to put it back where it belongs—in the wilderness at the scene of the crime.

Targets can include logging equipment, radioactive waste shipments, livestock trucks, dam sites and mines. Methods include sitting in the road or chaining yourself to cattle guards, gates, doors or equipment. Other actions may call for locking yourself to concrete-filled barrels or raising and sitting in tripods. The longer a blockade lasts, the more effective it is—though even brief, symbolic blockades have proven very effective in building public support.

Treesitting

Treesitting has been used successfully to shut down logging of ancient forests for months, even years, at a time. Earth First!ers have rigged cables to surrounding trees to prevent them from being cut and to cross over to different parts of the canopy. For this, you will need experienced help and safety precautions, which various Earth First! groups can provide. Trainings are often held at EF! gatherings.

Responsible Direct Action

Direct action requires a code of integrity. Everyone involved must agree to a common set of principles or the media and police may focus on the conduct of a few participants rather than the original intent of the action. Be careful who you work with and get everyone to agree to a set of guidelines, whatever your tactics.

At no time should anyone contribute to escalating violence from the police, workers, management or general public at an Earth First! action.

If you are committed not to move—even if it means your arrest—stand your ground. To break and run might defeat the purpose of your action and endanger others. Don't put yourself in a dangerous position unless you are willing to face danger without moving. Otherwise, choose a less risky method of protest.

No drugs, alcohol or weapons should be carried at the site of any Earth First! action.

Identify potential arrestees ahead of time and have a list of their names and addresses. Pair each of them up with a support person who can be responsible for their keys and identification. Monitor and record their arrest using a camera or video if possible, and follow them through the legal process until they are released.

Plan your actions well. Prepare street theater, songs, chants, costumes, signs and handouts in advance. Issue a press release to all of the radio, television and newspaper outlets in your area. Stick to a few short paragraphs describing the destruction you plan to stop or the wilderness you propose for protection, making clear the desired result of your actions. It is a good idea to put in a few quotes attributed to one or more of your spokespersons. A good press release should be no more than two pages, although one page is preferred. It is better for the media to call for more information than it is to issue a long, rambling press release.

Send out press releases a few days before your event. Withhold sensitive information until the action occurs. Follow up with phone calls to the media the day before the action. Never assume they've read your release. Get the name of the reporter and ask them if they plan to come. You might hint at the more radical (photo opportunity!) aspects of your action, but don't tip them off to anything that the cops shouldn't know ahead of time. Don't promise a more radical scenario than you can really come up with or the press may not cover your future events. Look for the reporters who promised to show up and make sure that they have someone in your group to talk to who is knowledgeable, well-spoken and presentable.

Meet before the action to circle up and focus on the emotional, ecological and spiritual motivations for your urgent work. Circle up again afterward to make sure that everyone is accounted for, discuss what did or didn't work, and plan a time to meet to do it again!

photo courtesy Mountain Justice Media

photo courtesy Radio Zapatista

With a turn of the wrench and a twist of the screw,

What was once put together, we can easily undo.

—Dana Lyons,
"Turn of the Wrench"

MONKEYWRENCHING

Monkeywrenching: Sabotage, ecodefense, billboard banditry, desurveying, road reclamation, tree spiking, property destruction....

All of these terms describe the unlawful sabotage of industrial extraction and development equipment as a means of striking at the Earth's destroyers where they commit their crimes and hitting them where they feel it most—in their profit margins.

Monkeywrenching is a step beyond civil disobedience. It is nonviolent, aimed only at inanimate objects. It is one of the last steps in defense of the wild, a deliberate action taken by an Earth defender when almost all other measures have failed.

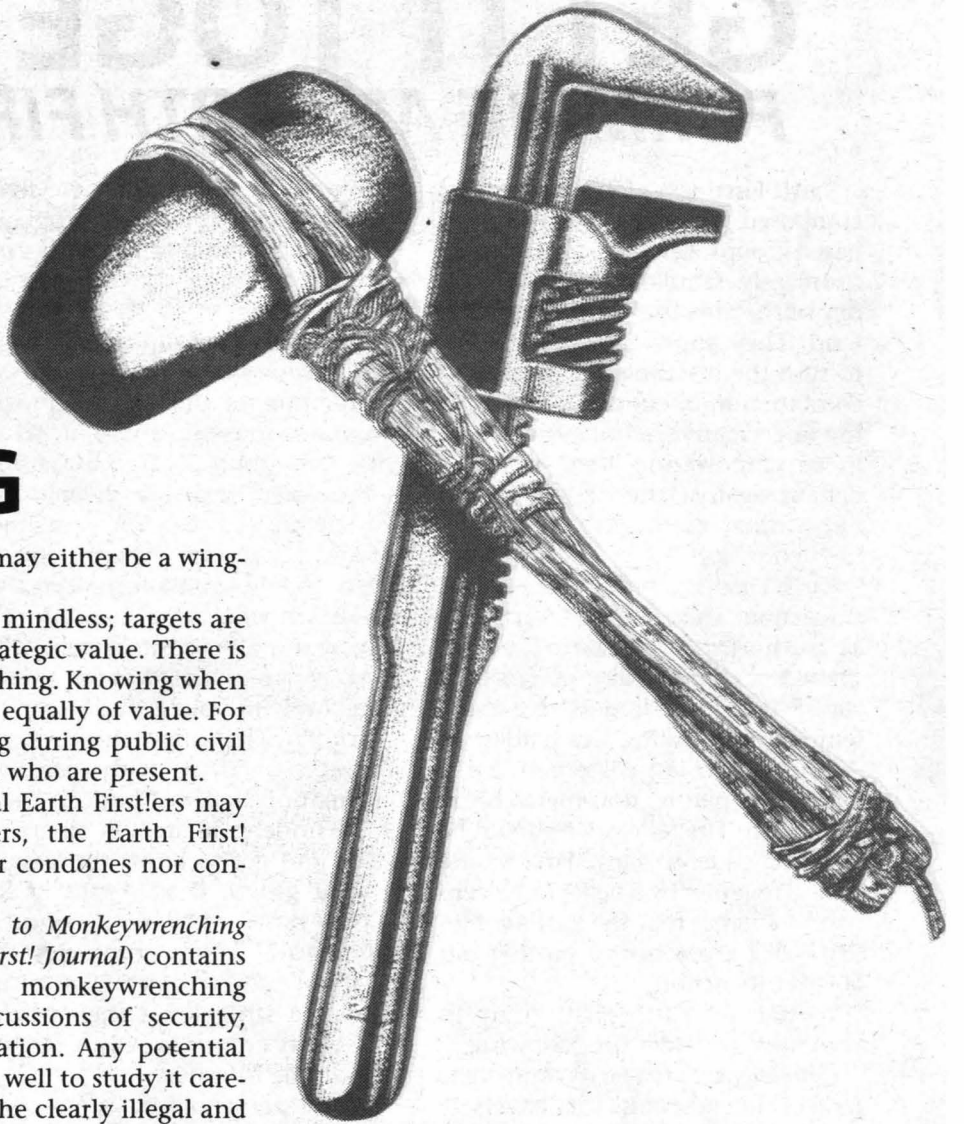
Although Earth First! is often associated with the practice and mystique of monkeywrenching, the organized elements of the Earth First! movement do not engage in monkeywrenching. Any person openly spouting off about sabotage

should be avoided, as they may either be a wingnut or an agent provocateur.

Monkeywrenching is not mindless; targets are carefully picked for their strategic value. There is a time and a place for everything. Knowing when *not* to engage in sabotage is equally of value. For instance, monkeywrenching during public civil disobedience jeopardizes all who are present.

Although some individual Earth First!ers may be active monkeywrenchers, the Earth First! movement officially neither condones nor condemns monkeywrenching.

Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching (available from the *Earth First! Journal*) contains detailed information on monkeywrenching techniques as well as discussions of security, safety, strategy and justification. Any potential monkeywrencher would do well to study it carefully before embarking on the clearly illegal and potentially dangerous path of ecotage.



DEEP ECOLOGY

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." —Aldo Leopold

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology helped us remember that all things are connected and related; that human beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for 3.5 billion years. With that understanding, we can better answer the question, "Why wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for the downstream uses of agriculture, industry and homes? Because it cleans the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week at work or in front of a computer monitor? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humans? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No. It is because wilderness *is*. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that 3.5 billion years of shared travel.

All natural things have intrinsic value, inherent worth. Their value is not determined by what they will ring up on the cash register, nor by whether or not they are *good*. They are. They exist. For their own sake. Without consideration for any real or imagined value to human civilization.

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild interconnected community—the wilderness, the stream of life unimpeded by industrial interference or human manipulation. These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of ideas of such ecological thinkers as Edward Abbey, Judi Bari, Bill Devall, Aldo Leopold, Arne Naess, George Sessions and Vandana Shiva, and are the basis for action by Earth First!ers. This biocentric world view, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been developed into the philosophy of deep ecology.

Earth First!, in short, does not operate from a basis of political pragmatism or what is perceived to be "possible." Wilderness is not something that can be compromised in the political arena. We are unapologetic advocates for the natural world, for the Earth.



Vermonters lock down to an immovable barrel at the construction site for a truck stop.

CHALLENGING ALL FORMS OF OPPRESSION

"You cannot seriously address the destruction of wilderness without addressing the society that is destroying it." —Judi Bari

All forms of oppression are inherently linked. Earth First! recognizes that the institutional, economic, political, social and cultural dynamics of hierarchy, power and privilege that define mainstream society also permeate the radical environmental movement. These dynamics are expressed in various interlocking systems of oppression (e.g., racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, ableism, speciesism, etc.), which prevent equal access to resources and safety, disrupt healthy communities and movement building, and severely—sometimes irreparably—harm our allies, our friends, our loved ones and ourselves.

Challenging these forms of oppression is implicit in our desire to stop the domination

and exploitation of the Earth. Failing to address oppressive behavior not only weakens our movement by alienating and further victimizing our friends and allies, it also calls into question our commitment to a better world and our qualification as a radical movement.

Some things we can do to challenge this oppression include participating with your EF! group in an anti-oppression training and having an accessible anti-oppression policy for your group. Strengthening our communities and our movement through acknowledging and challenging oppression is critical.

Basically, while we're locking down or harnessing up, let's make sure we're all in this together and that none of us are getting pushed aside by otherwise well-intentioned ecowarriors.

GET IT TOGETHER

FORMING AN EARTH FIRST! GROUP

Earth First! is a global movement composed of small, bioregionally based groups. Earth First!ers become intimately familiar with the ecology of the area they inhabit and defend. They apply "direct pressure" to stop the bleeding, with a potent combination of education, organizing and creative action. Nothing is more empowering than standing defiant against the destruction of our Mother Earth with other like-hearted people.

Earth First! is a priority, not an organization. There are no "members" of Earth First!, only Earth First!ers. There is no highly-paid "professional staff." The only "leaders" are those temporarily working the hardest in defense of our last wilderness. Earth First! is, by nature, non-hierarchical. Each Earth First!er's voice should be weighed equally. Earth First!ers are bound together by a belief in biocentrism—a belief that the Earth comes first—and a practice of putting our beliefs into action.

To start an Earth First! group in your area, consider the following:

Campaigns: Earth First! campaigns target human actions that adversely impact biological diversity. This can include ancient forest defense, endangered species protection, opposition to urban sprawl, resistance to borders and their impacts, and the preservation of sustainable indigenous cultures. To protect a bioregion, Earth First!ers connect with it through our hearts and souls. To

become acquainted what we fight for, we spend time exploring our watersheds, mountains and canyons, just feeling the wildness of these places.

Contact: Your group needs a contact person with a mailing address, phone number and email who will respond to inquiries and share them with the group. This information is also listed in the *EF! Journal*. It's also helpful to develop a mailing list and phone tree for announcing meetings and events to prospective activists in your area. In addition, it may be useful to create a website to keep people updated about what's going on with your group.

Security: The importance of responsible security with personal information and associations must not be underestimated. Be smart, be aware and get to know the people in your group. Read *Agents of Repression* by Ward Churchill and J.J. Vanderwall, which chronicles the effects of state repression on other resistance struggles. Other articles on security culture are easily searchable on the Internet.

Money: Some of the most common funding needs are for printing, postage, logistics of actions and demonstrations, legal fees and court fines. You may want to set up a special bank account for your group, with at least two people allowed to sign checks.

Fundraising: Some ideas include benefit concerts, slideshows and

tabling; public requests for funding support via radio shows; newsletters and the Internet; auctions of donated goods and services; bicycle pledge rides; foundation grants; school money from campus clubs for EF! presentations; EF! work parties; sale of EF! merchandise and *EF! Journal* sales.

Meetings: Gather for potlucks, hikes, music, swims, etc. Meet to strategize, plan and carry out your actions! Camping and hiking trips to wild places in your area can do a lot for group bonding, as well.

Tactics: Awareness can be presented through handouts, news releases, articles, public presentations, participating in public meetings, etc. Grassroots organizing helps by building coalitions with like-minded groups and generating public participation and input. It's also worthwhile to look into utilizing the laws that exist to protect that which is threatened.

Demonstrations and Civil Disobedience: These are what won women the vote, emancipated slaves and retracted the US military-industrial machine from Vietnam. The quickest and surest way to get a new EF! group going is to do a fun, nervy action! Bold, creative, confrontational actions generate media coverage and announce your presence to friends and foes.

The Earth First! Journal: The *Earth First! Journal* is the voice for the many diverse opinions of our

movement. All are encouraged to submit articles and art on campaigns, philosophy, biological diversity, resistance, investigative reports, humor, conspiracy, controversies and tactics based on uncompromising wilderness defense and love for the inherent balance of the natural world. Use the *EF! Journal* to update the movement on your campaigns. Announce opportunities to attend your gatherings. If you do an action, write about it and send it in. Feel free to get in touch with the *EF! Journal* for tips on writing articles.

Free copies of the *EF! Journal* are traditionally mailed out to contacts to be sold at full cover price as a fundraiser for local groups (the *EF! Journal* only requests postage reimbursements). Contact the *EF! Journal* office to arrange to have a bundle mailed to your group each issue. Individual EF!ers are expected to subscribe, since the *EF! Journal* depends on subscriptions to survive.

A regional newsletter can augment the *EF! Journal* and can focus in greater detail on local issues, lists of local events and demonstrations, and provide more leeway to include other items. These newsletters can be statewide, bioregional or specific to your community. Production, writing and mailing should be done as a group to get the maximum number of voices represented and to keep all of the work from falling on just a few people.

The EF! Round River Rendezvous and Organizers' Conference

The Round River Rendezvous is the annual tribal gathering of Earth First!. Each Summer, this weeklong campout attracts several hundred Earth First!ers from around the world. The gathering is coordinated by a volunteer committee and includes workshops, campaign discussions, campfire music, a rally with performers and speakers, and a post-gathering action. Perhaps, the most important part of the Round River Rendezvous is the informal networking that takes place.

EF! activists in North America also get together in the Winter for the EF! Organizers' Conference. This allows EF!ers to converge and strategize about upcoming campaigns, actions and events.

In addition, other global, national and bioregional rendezvous are held throughout the year. Announced in the *Earth First! Journal*, these gatherings are particularly important for developing a cohesive activist network and planning actions on a local level.

The Earth First! Journal

The *Earth First! Journal* is the voice of the radical environmental movement. Published six times a year, it contains reports on direct action; articles on the preservation of wilderness and biological diversity; news and announcements about EF! and other radical environmental groups; investigative articles; critiques of the entire environmental movement; book and music reviews; essays exploring ecological theory; and an always-lively letters to the editor section. The *Earth First! Journal* is an essential forum for discussion within the Earth First! movement. It is meant to be bold, controversial, amusing and diverse in content and in style. You won't find hard-hitting news like this anywhere else.

The *Earth First! Journal* also markets t-shirts, stickers and books advancing the Earth First! message. All merchandise is available by mail order.

For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org; www.earthfirstjournal.org.



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Este folleto es accesible en español. Para obtener algunas, contacte el Earth First! Journal. This Earth First! primer is also available in Spanish. Contact the *Earth First! Journal* to request a bundle.

If you haven't met an Earth First! group in your area, contact the *Earth First! Journal*. Since Earth First! has no central office, the *Journal* serves as an information switchboard. You can get sample issues, the names of regional contacts or projects, and information on a current campaign. See contact information on this page.

Buffalo Field Campaign

Connections to Global Injustice

BY MIRIAM WASSER

There are times and places, many times and places, where cruelty exists. There are times and places where lives are disrupted, where babies are murdered and mothers taken. Times and places where the unparalleled beauty of the natural world stands in stark contrast to the human activity in the same area. But I do not need to tell you this. You have seen it in the newspapers, heard it in stories and read it in history. Political corruption, government ineptitude, malignant alliances and plundering of the natural world are all rampant. Families who are driven from their homes and rendered into vulnerable refugees are subject to harassment and a deplorable lifestyle that will be ignored by most. They become homeless refugees forced to wander across their homeland. "Management" is used as a guise for power, control and the unfettered ability to accumulate.

This could be the beginning of an article about a whole myriad of issues: worker's rights in China, the Zimbabwean economy, our forests, the Amazon, the polar ice caps—the list could go on. But this time, it is about the plight of the American buffalo. This issue embodies and exemplifies many larger themes of injustice. The deeper one delves into the politics of the buffalo, the more elucidated its connections to other global social, political, environmental and economic issues become.

Millions of buffalo were slaughtered throughout the 19th century as part of the US government's calculated plan to "manage" the western US and its indigenous peoples. This systematic killing continued until only 23 of the original tens of millions of buffalo remained, and the people who depended on them were no longer able to live freely. Only after the population had dipped to 23 were plans instated to save the only genetically pure herd of wild buffalo—much to the ire of the livestock industry. Still, buffalo harassment and slaughter has continued.

After the particularly bloody Winter of 1996-1997, when more than a thousand buffalo were killed by the Montana Department of Livestock, Buffalo Nations—now the Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC)—was formed. BFC, co-founded by Mike Mease and Lakota activist Rosalie Little Thunder, has, with the help of more than 3,000 volunteers, spent the past 11 years

fighting for greater tolerance and expanded habitat for the buffalo.

As usual, this year's forecast for the Yellowstone buffalo is grim. In order to find food in the Winter, buffalo migrate outside of the invisible boundaries of Yellowstone National Park and into lower elevations—mainly West Yellowstone and Gardiner, Montana. Once outside of the park, buffalo are no longer considered "wildlife" and are instead classified as a "species in need of disease control," because politics trumps science. Cattle ranchers fear the transmission of brucellosis and the loss of Montana's brucellosis-free meat status. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that affects wildlife and livestock, often causing a miscarriage in an animal's first pregnancy. It was first transmitted to American wildlife by European livestock in the early 20th century. Though there has never been a documented case of a wild buffalo transmitting the disease to livestock, this inflated potential "threat" frames them as pariahs.

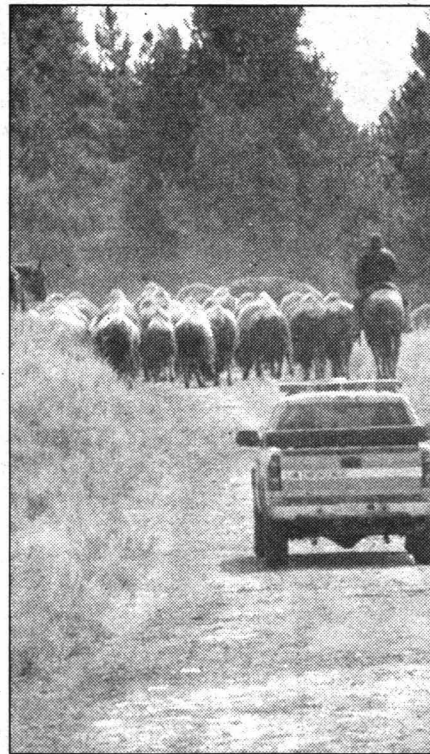
The buffalo's status as a threat, as well as the protocol for handling them as such, is detailed in the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP). The plan was drafted in 1999, by the Montana Department of Livestock, the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the long-term "management" of Yellowstone buffalo. This piece of legislature helps the livestock industry at the expense of buffalo and all people and creatures who coexisted and depended on these amazing animals.

There is, however, a brief window of time when buffalo are considered wildlife. For the past three years, from November 15 through February 15, state and tribal hunting tags have been issued. In the 2006-2007 hunt, 67 buffalo were killed, and as of early February 2008, more than 100 have been killed this season. Conveniently, once the hunt is over, buffalo are no longer wildlife in the eyes and policies of the Montana government—and more severe forms of management resume.

Winter is rough on buffalo, but Spring usually proves to be worse. They are hazed, harassed, captured, quarantined and/or sent to slaughter to prevent their presence on their traditional calving lands and historic range. Hazing is when federal and state agents play modern cowboys,

using horses, motorized vehicles and even helicopters to force the buffalo back into the park. At times, hazes starkly resemble news footage from other government-sponsored wars and genocidal campaigns across the globe. The IBMP allows for repeated and continuous hazing, even at times of the year when there are no cattle in the vicinity. Brucellosis can only live outside of the body for 24 hours in direct sunlight, a fact that further illuminates how ridiculous it is to haze buffalo months before cattle return to the area. Hazing operations exhaust buffalo—forcing them to run for hours without breaks—and have killed newborn calves. Hazing is a barbarous and inhumane—not to mention wasteful, largely unsuccessful and inept—way to "manage" the last free-roaming and wild American buffalo.

In this issue, like in so many others, taxpayer dollars are funding an asinine policy and aiding in the destruction of the natural world.



Buffalo hazing in 2007

Meanwhile, Montana cattle ranchers, like agribusinesses across the country and throughout the world, receive huge subsidies.

History provides numerous examples of indigenous peoples being exploited by settlers and corporations. Those whose lives were once so interconnected with the buffalo are no exception. They are also at the heart of this issue. Plans to slaughter buffalo were concomitantly designed to destroy native populations. Just as the buffalo are confined to the national park,

reservations have been delineated and assimilation policies legislated for people. A historic connection was severed so that money could be made across a tamed and managed country. Today, many native people are trying to re-establish their ancient relationship with the buffalo and introduce them onto their reservations. In this light, the National Park Service's announced plans to capture and slaughter upwards of 1,700 buffalo this Spring is even further enraging.

The National Park Service, during its Summer fly-over, counted about 4,700 buffalo—a population size the IBMP deems too large for reasons that are entirely political. Buffalo advocates view this number as a step forward in buffalo restoration, noting that pressure from the livestock industry, not science, is behind the IBMP. Almost 5,000 buffalo should easily be able to survive in this area—as this ecosystem once provided for many, many more. Buffalo could roam, feed and live throughout the greater Yellowstone ecosystem—ideally, all the way to Appalachia. But that will not be the case this year, according to the previously mentioned plan for a Spring slaughter.

BFC is not just a small wildlife advocacy group. It is a group fighting against injustice in both this and so many other causes. The buffalo issue is a microcosm of inequality and injustice on the global level. It is, at its heart, the same battle that Darfur activists fight, and it affects its victims the same way government neglect and other acts of violence do. The campaign's actions foment change on a local and macro scale.

I am often asked, "Why buffalo? Why the Buffalo Field Campaign?" These are questions to which I might respond with a discussion of how incredible the buffalo are, or how management of them disgusts me. It seems to me that, truthfully, I am fighting the same battle against global injustice as any other activist. This is the same battle against corporate or government greed, the same battle against environmental destruction and the same battle for the rights of the less powerful. This is the same fight for what so many of us believe is right and good.

BFC will certainly be busy this season, and the campaign will need all of the help it can get. If you have ever wanted to volunteer for BFC, now is the time!

For more information, visit www.buffalofieldcampaign.org.

Rotting Plywood & Clandestine Blockades

Why We Do What We Must

BY GEDDEN CASCADIA

I have climbed hundreds of trees. As a kid, it was a game: Who could carve their initials the highest in the old maple outside the library? Oftentimes, it was me; other times, I would climb up to check on my mark only to see someone else had beaten me by an inch. Creeping out on ever diminishing branches, I'd stretch my arm as far as I could to try to set the new height. That old maple, as large as it seems in my memories, still could not prepare me for the awe inspired by a truly ancient forest. These trees had sprung from a seed placed not by a landscaper a mere hundred years ago, but by a gust of wind some 500 years previously, guided to its final location at the site now occupied by the tree I am staring at in silent disbelief. The forests are following a cycle that was ancient when the first humans were still grunting over the mystery of fire.

I remember the first time I ever went up into the canopy of an ancient Douglas fir tree. It was about 140 feet up a rope to a treesit named



“Guardian.” By the time I got to the top, my hands were covered in blisters, but I didn't care. The blisters were soon forgotten as I sat down on the old pieces of plywood that hung in silent defiance so far above the forest floor that one had to yell as loudly as possible just to be heard by those land-locked mortals still stuck to the ground. If the wind blew, sending ripples of movement through the canopy, I could forget about communicating with the ground, as my words were swallowed by the gentle swishing of the branches. Standing among the moss-covered ancients of a Cascadian forest, I knew that a stage of my life was over. I fell in love. Not with that one tree or that one grove or even with that one forest. I fell in love with the very essence of forests and wild spaces everywhere. Not surprisingly, I didn't even think about carving my initials into that ancient Douglas fir.

I have spent a good portion of my life trying to protect those places. No longer would the concept of deforestation be a mere slogan devised to inspire people to recycle. I had made a connection with a place. Walking the aisles of a grocery store, I began seeing the insidious side of the teddy bear selling the comfortable, soft toilet paper. Into my mind sprang visions of an army of cuddly stuffed animals wielding chainsaws. They were cutting down acre after acre of forest, leaving a swath of destruction behind them just to meet the ever-increasing demand for rolls of tissue with the texture of a pillow for some person to wipe their ass with.

Many years have passed since that pivotal moment in my life. I have traveled around the world and seen forests on all the continents, but I will always call Cascadia my home. The sad fact is that the few intact portions of ancient, untouched forests here reside only in areas that were too remote and too hard to get equipment into. Thankfully, people didn't have helicopters to extract trees during the first major waves of logging that hit Cascadia some 150 years ago. We are now fighting for these last scraps left over from a time when people considered the forests to be an infinite resource, and the only controls in place to mitigate the damage was the limiting factor of how much timber the train could haul.

Imagine seeing this land before humans had such a devastating impact. Imagine traveling through the low-elevation groves of 16-foot-wide Douglas firs and western red cedars. These groves are now nothing more than a memory and a few old photos of loggers sitting inside the gaping wounds they had just inflicted upon the soon-to-topple-and-die, 500-year-old giants. I can only guess as to the beauty and magnitude of the Cascadian forests back before they were riddled with roads and logging projects.

It is an unfortunate reality that, where some may see beauty and essential habitat for the other residents of this planet, others only see dollar signs and profit margins. It boggles my mind that anyone could walk among some of the oldest living organisms on this rock called Planet Earth and, instead of being touched on some profound level, their reaction is to begin calculating the board-feet available and the money represented in the “timber.”

I defend the forest for the animals that need that “timber” to survive. I defend the forest because there is so little wild space left on this planet, and every inch must be protected. I defend the forest for the future generations of the beautiful and amazing wildlife that resides inside the groves of hemlocks and fir trees. I defend the forest because I am unwilling to sit back and watch yet another bit of nature get trampled and crushed under humanity's ever-increasing footprint.

I do not defend the forest so that it may be cut at a more “sustainable” rate. I do not defend the forest so that the next generation of humans can experience the majesty of the wild. I sure as hell don't defend the forest so that a recreation

source is saved for off-roaders, hunters or casual campers. These are all reasons given to try to persuade the general populace to give a damn about the destruction taking place. Our entire reality is so saturated with the anthropocentric diatribe that many have lost the ability to see the value of nature for nature's sake.

Even how we talk about this planet reflects our need to humanize what is important to us. The web of life is not a breeding female, as the term “Mother Nature” seems to imply. However, if such an anthropomorphic analogy is to be used, then allow me to take it one step further. Our “mother” has the boot of humanity placed firmly upon her neck, slowly crushing the life out of her. As our collective footprint increases, so does the weight of that boot. It won't be much longer until we are awakened one night by a catastrophic *snap* echoing across the land, marking the murder of our mother as her neck breaks under the weight of her child's boot.

The Earth is not my mother. The Earth is not my anything. The Earth is not mine. I am merely a trespasser who is trying to do as little damage as possible while mitigating the damage that is so casually inflicted by the countless other trespassers like me. Slogans like “We must protect our forests” ring hollow in my ears. If someone needs to feel possession of a place to be inspired to protect it, then it is just one more reflection of the shallow and materialistic world that would accept such devastation in the first place. We must protect the forests because to do otherwise is unacceptable on any moral level. We must protect the forests at any cost. I shed no tears for the out-of-work lumberjack, for who put that person out of work to begin with? The environmentalists who stood up and yelled, “No, we will not allow the obliteration of the last remnants of ancient forest,” or the loggers themselves who have cut and cut and cut until there were only scraps left? The people who depend on the destruction of the forest for a paycheck are destroying their own source of income. The important question then becomes: Once they are out of work, will there be any unspoiled wild places left?

I know dozens of scientific justifications for why the forests and other wild spaces should be protected for the benefit of humans. There are hundreds of little factoids one could recite in an attempt to inspire the populace at large to care, but I don't give a damn about any of that. If I have to grin and play the part of the anthropocentric jester to get a little more support for the single-most important issue on this planet, then I will. (All other concerns disappear if the Earth turns into a moonscape and all life—including ours—is eradicated.) I will do the dance and sing the tune to get a few more dollars or one more signature. I'll force down the sickness growing inside my gut. I will smile and nod and pretend I care about the future of the offspring of the person I am addressing.

I have the utmost respect for individuals who can engage in the struggle on that level on a day-to-day basis, but I find the words flat, and my ability to recite them with any amount of conviction is diminishing with age and anger. I also have nothing but respect and admiration for those elves who light up the night with fires and take militant action on the behalf of the Earth, but my place is not among either of these groups of people. My place is among the ranks of the Earth First!ers who occupy and blockade sections of the Earth to try and hold off the chainsaws for one more week, one more day, one more hour or even one more minute.

There have been so many sleepless nights spent trying to get the blockade finished before the first rays of dawn's light expose the work of nature's defenders. There is always one more rope to tie, one more boulder or log to place, or perhaps there is still one more piece of Earth-destroying equipment to lock down to while the horizon



is already beginning to turn colorful, from the comforting embrace of black to the betraying tones of yellow and orange. There have been so many moments out in the forest listening to the sounds of distant chainsaws, knowing the next place marked for destruction was the very spot where I stood. There have been so many "timber sales" that I have been a part of trying to stop that sometimes stories get confused and arguments happen about what happened where, when and with whom.

The exceptions are those few stories about when we have triumphed and held off the forces arrayed against us. These stories are well-remembered and cherished because there are so few of them. Most often, the story ends in tragedy with the large corporate interests winning the day and the dedicated forest defenders locked in some cold jail cell far away from the forest. It is hard to watch a forest that you have put so much time and energy into protecting get leveled in just a few quick moments of madness and a few sweeps of a gore-covered chainsaw.

Being that last line of defense can be cold, wet and hard work. At times, it seems like 80 percent

of forest defense is carrying heavy shit up a hill. What we do is dangerous, and people have been seriously hurt; a few have died. There are crazy loggers to deal with, along with overly macho cops who need to prove their prowess by chasing activists through the forest, then throwing them to the ground in a pain compliance hold. Visitors range from grandmas bearing gifts of cookies to rednecks bearing guns. For these and many other reasons, not many people stick around for long in the forest defense game. People get jaded quickly, or perhaps the novelty of it wears off.

With every victory being only temporary and every defeat being permanent, it is understandable why many people take the easy road of apathy, but there will always be those of us who continue to stand up for the planet. There are those of us who aren't willing to sit back and watch the destruction of the Earth. The battle is hard, and there is a very real possibility we won't win. Humanity seems intent on ripping apart the very fabric of life, but we will do what we can when we can. Because of us and other dedicated individuals, the forests have a chance for survival.

We may be on an irreversible course to the annihilation of most life on this planet, but I will never stop fighting for what life remains. I will never give up and accept the razing of every wild place on this planet and the continued disappearance of species after species. I have no choice in this.

That first tree that I climbed is still standing. After all these years. I can still go back and sit under it and remember the blisters and how scared I was. I can be reminded of the moment I fell in love, and that love is what has sustained me along with the anger that is invoked by the sound of every chainsaw being wielded by greed. The Earth is being destroyed, and every one of us is responsible. The only choice left is what we are going to do about that: accept the destruction or act out against it. The Earth is dying but more than that, it is being murdered. I want to be remembered as a person who stood up, pushed aside the apathy inherent in the comfort we enjoy as a society, and took action to defend the wild and to put the Earth first!

Gedden Cascadia has lost sleep at forest campaigns all over the world and encourages others to remember, "You can sleep when you're dead!"

Q: Can Emails Lead to Second-Degree Felony Extortion?

A: They Can If They're Annoying to Banks and HLS

BY SOPHIA

In October 2005, the Seattle Police Department showed up at the Seattle Central Community College Library computer lab just 45 minutes after Dylan Barr had finished sending out another flood of emails to Washington Mutual Bank to discourage its involvement in Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), one of the world's largest animal testing companies. The plainclothes cops peered over the shoulders of various computer users until, eventually, they arrested Barr on the grounds that he was looking at an animal rights website and was therefore the person most likely to have sent emails.

Barr had carried out a "denial of service" attack. Over the course of his two-week campaign, he sent more than 5,000 emails to employees of Washington Mutual. Most of the emails contained phrases such as "Dump HLS," repeated for hundreds of pages. A few of the emails stated, "This is what happens to companies that invest in HLS," with a link to the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) website or the *Bite Back* website. Other emails directed Washington Mutual employees to the investment manager responsible for the bank's investment in HLS stock. Barr sent so many large documents to the employees that their inboxes became full and refused emails from actual bank patrons. Barr had succeeded in his immediate goal. The Seattle district attorney eventually presented these emails as evidence of harassment and threats.

Of course, Barr also made progress on some larger goals: inspiring people to take action despite the Green Scare, showing solidarity with the SHAC 7 (see *EF!* November-December 2006) and other political prisoners, and, of course, shutting down HLS. Washington Mutual ceased its investment in HLS three days after Barr was arrested.

After Barr was released from jail on \$15,000 bail, there were no immediate charges filed against him. Still, his apartment was searched and ransacked, and he and his girlfriend were questioned by the FBI (though, of course, they would not speak to the feds). Finally, in March 2007, more than a year later and after Barr had moved back to his hometown of New Orleans, he received a letter from the Seattle district attorney's office. It stated that he could either accept a plea deal or be taken to federal court on two felony charges, which carried a potential sentence of up to two years in prison.

After negotiations, he took a non-snitching deal and pleaded guilty to second-degree felony extortion on October 29. The prosecution had argued that Barr was responsible not just for the \$5,000 of direct losses to Washington Mutual while its email systems were clogged, but also for the \$1-million stock loss from the bank's sale of HLS stock. The DA claimed that this was extortion, regardless of the fact that Barr extorted nothing for himself.

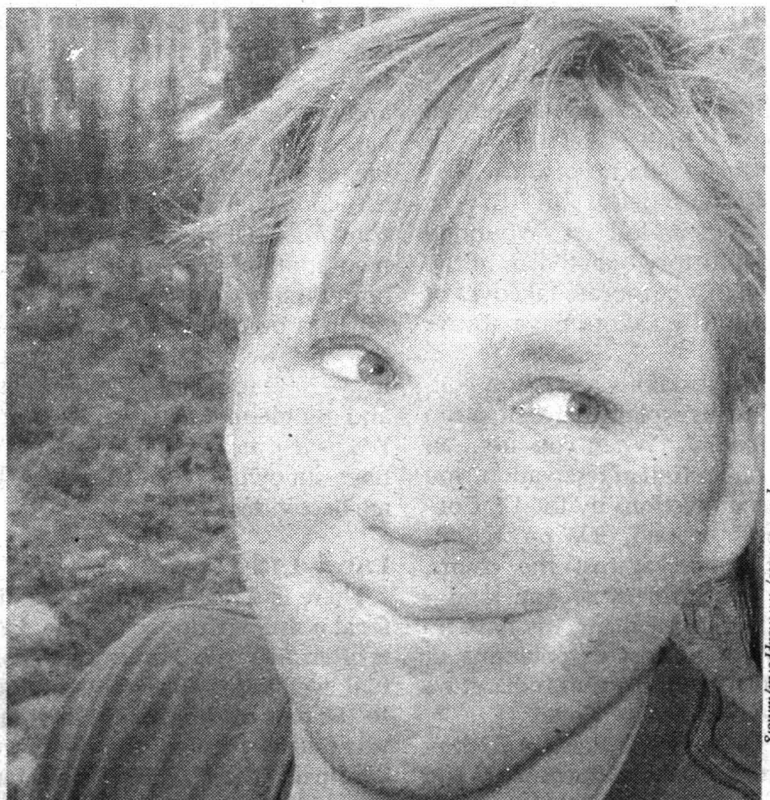
Until the very end, the DA was convinced that Barr had been involved in other SHAC demonstrations and was part of a mysterious animal rights "network," although

Barr had been acting alone and was not even aware that there had been any Seattle SHAC demonstrations. Barr was sentenced to 29 days of community service and \$25,000 of restitution payments, complete with a 12-percent interest rate.

As Barr explained in a recent article in *Bite Back* magazine, there are lessons to be learned from his experience. First, the cops can determine the location from which an email is sent, but they won't know it was you if you are using publicly accessible computers and get out of the place fast. (Obviously, it's also wise to avoid leaving fingerprints or being caught on camera.)

Although the government wanted to make an example of him by prosecuting his case, the real lesson Barr hopes we take from his experience is that "this movement is not in decline. You are not isolated. There are millions of us, and no court will ever be able to stop the spread of worthy ideas and the actions that arise from them."

Barr urges everyone to continue taking action to shut down corporations like HLS and to demonstrate support for imprisoned victims of the Green Scare. He also needs help with his restitution expenses. If you want to donate to his restitution payments or hold a fundraiser for him, contact supportdylan@gmail.com or donate online at www.supportdylan.org.



Dylan Barr

photo courtesy: www.supportdylan.org

LAKOTA FREEDOM DELEGATION

Declares Withdrawal From All US Treaties

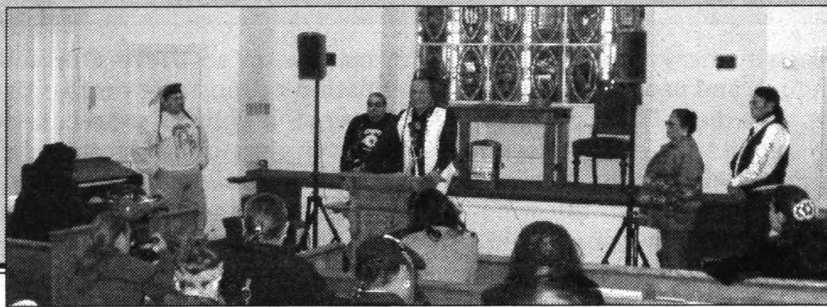


photo courtesy Lakota Oyate

Press conference at which the Lakota Freedom Delegation announced withdrawal

continued from page 1

bit more of the declaration's background and each of their visions.

When I interviewed Russell Means, one of the founders of the American Indian Movement, he referred to the Lakota land as the "Republic of Lakotah."

His vision includes constructing a provisional Lakota government to be replaced eventually by a governing structure based on the elder women, as is traditional in Lakota society. He also explained a lot of the legal measures the Republic of Lakotah has been taking and will continue to take to reclaim land stolen by the US government, and concrete steps to ensure an economically strong and independent state.

This is in contrast to what Canupa Gluha Mani spoke to me about. Also known as Duane Martin, Sr., Canupa Gluha Mani is a member of the Strong Heart Civil Rights Movement. While he acknowledged the work that Means is focused on as important, he explained more about the psychic shift the Lakota people need to make toward a place of love and communication. He referred to the Lakota *Oyate* (People) rather than the Republic of Lakotah.

Although the two of them both signed the declaration, they have differences at this point. By including both of them in this article, I mean to explore a wider range of the meaning of this declaration.

A History of Struggle

The decision to withdraw is one that has deep roots. Looking to atrocities of the past, the reasons behind this move are clear. The Lakota have survived massacres like the one by US troops at Wounded Knee in 1890, the infamous reservation boarding schools, a lack of basic civil rights, unyielding government repression and infiltration, and institutionalized racism.

Yet from the Battle of Little Bighorn (Custer's defeat) in 1876 to the 1973 standoff at Wounded Knee to a history of activism in the battle against corporate takeover of their land, the Lakota have always fought back.

Still, the insidious repression continues. Means explained this situation to the *Journal*. "When you are... an Indian on an Indian reservation, you have no protections by the US Constitution," he said. "No protections against police, against the courts, against government of any kind—even tribal government. You have no protections against corporations or individual crimes by non-Indians; we have no protections! None!"

The Lakota were forced off their land, the "Dakota Territory," and

onto reservations in the 19th century. The area they were allotted continued to shrink after that. Conditions on most Lakota reservations are terrible: The life expectancy for men is only 44 years (and not much higher for women). Diseases that are mostly unknown elsewhere in the US are rampant on reservations. The Lakota suicide rate is 800 times the US average, and the infant mortality rate is 200 times the US average.

The Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation, located in one of the poorest areas in the country, is a case in point. "Come down to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and see what's going on. That will make enough tears fall out of your face, and you will understand why," Canupa Gluha Mani told the *Journal*. He was arrested last Summer for blockading a road from Nebraska to keep alcohol from entering the dry reservation. "The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is the death trap of America, with all these colonial practices going on to this god-forsaken day—and nobody in the government system wants to do anything about it. That's an insult to us!"

Things are getting worse in the rest of the US, too. According to Means, "That's what scares us the most: Indian policy is now on your heads. Your health system, what there is of it, was bred and born on an Indian reservation. Your entire public educational system: bred and born on an Indian reservation. Your land policy: Get rid of the family farmer and give the land to a corporation, because the family farmer is in the way of progress. So your land policy has been bred and born on an Indian reservation. These major factors of your life, along with the deprivation and the continual degradation of your constitutional rights by the implementation of fear: that's bred and born on a reservation. When we see America becoming a big Indian reservation, we don't want any part of it. We have to maintain our integrity and our identity as a distinct people. We have our own value system. We have our own societal structures that are becoming extinct."

Land and People

There is a reason that land is the focal point of this declaration. Land is often tied to community, to spiritual well-being and to livelihood. In the case of the Lakota, their land was outright stolen, the rivers were dammed, their sacred mountains

were mined for gold, and the buffalo that were so important to their way of life were slaughtered. Now, more than a century later, they must continue to fend off corporate attempts to use their land for mining, nuclear energy facilities, hog farms and other industrial uses.

Speaking about the current state of the Earth in the hands of the corporations, Canupa Gluha Mani said, "Our trees are getting stripped right off of her like her pubic hairs! Those are hers; they're her hairs from her mountain. The clouds are polluted with all these chemicals from these... corporate industry plants that are sending this toxic waste into the air."

"There's an old saying among the Lakota people," Canupa Gluha Mani continued, outlining the responsibility of the Lakota to defend the Earth. "When you keep

stripped away? It's because we are stubborn enough to allow it to happen. We don't know how to say 'no' anymore!"

Promises and Lies

"The government officials always stated, 'As long as the grass grows and the rivers flow, this land and these rivers will be yours.' Well, that's all a lie," related Canupa Gluha Mani emphatically.

The Lakota are pulling out of treaties with the US because, although Article Six of the Constitution states that "all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the US, shall be the supreme law of the land," it seems that the US never intended to honor any of them. Treaties of "peace and friendship" were signed in the early years of the 19th century, shortly after the Louisiana Purchase, and were

routinely violated as colonial "settlers" pushed west. The first treaty of Fort Laramie was signed in 1851 and specifically recognized a sovereign and independent Lakota nation. This too was broken, leading to more conflict unfavorable to the US. So it called for another treaty meeting at Fort Laramie in 1868. This stated that the US would close the major road through the Lakota territory and the military forts along it, as well as keep US troops and settlers out of the area.

This time, the US broke the treaty right away, allowing railroad and mining ventures into the area. In the 1870s, General George Custer charged into the sacred Black Hills, beginning the rush for gold mining in the region. Ever since, the rights of the

Lakota to self-determination and sovereignty have been violated and violently repressed so that the US economy could grow.

1974 to 2007

The predecessor of the 2007 declaration came in 1974, with the Declaration of Continuing Independence. It was written by the first International Indian Treaty Council, which was attended by more than 5,000 people representing 97 tribes. Means, who was in attendance, recalls, "Among the Lakota, we had most of our elders there, a few dozen men and women in their 70s, 80s and 90s at the time. They had been born in the 1800s, had never gone to school and had been raised by people who were born free. They had a

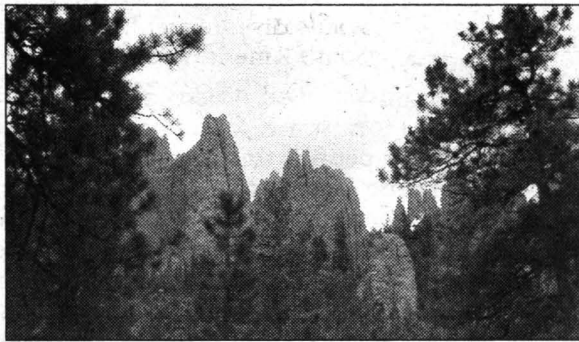


photo by Bill Allgezza

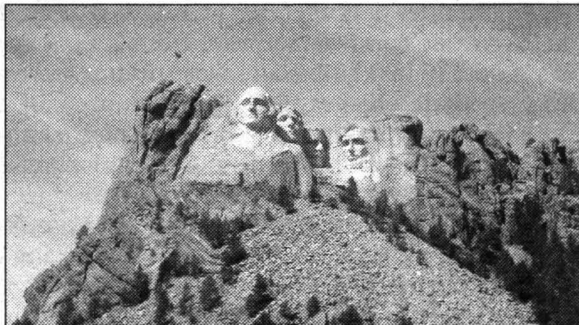
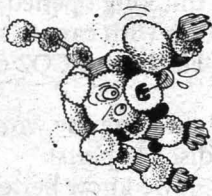
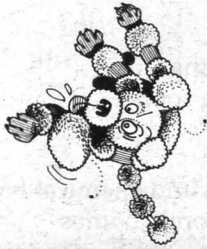
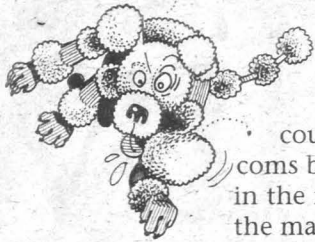


photo by Larry Jorgest

The Lakota name for the Black Hills is Paha Sapa, which translates to "the heart of everything that is." These sacred mountains have been invaded, mined for gold and twisted into the faces of dead presidents.

bothering Mother Earth, the Great Spirit continues to look upon you with dismay, and eventually, the two of them are going to conspire together, which they always do, and they're going to brew up something serious... that's not going to affect the white man hardly. It's going to affect the people who are supposed to be doing the rightful thing by standing up to [the corporations] and stopping them from destroying our land, our water, our resources, that are a part of Mother Earth.

"People need to start realizing that if we don't really protect our resources, our Mother Earth and the Great Spirit, they can kiss humanity goodbye in the next 33 years. Why do you think global warming is happening? Why do you think the rights of humanity are being



A pleasantly surprising, I-guess-you-have-one-good-deed-in-you wolf to several phone companies, who cut off FBI wiretaps used to eavesdrop on suspected criminals this January. More than half of the FBI's 990 phone bills were not paid on time, so the phone companies pulled the plug, resulting in lost evidence. As Michael German, a former FBI agent and current American Civil Liberties Union national security policy counsel, put it, "It sounds as though the telecoms believe it when the FBI says the warrant is in the mail, but not when it says the check is in the mail."

If anyone should know how to break the law at this point, it's the FBI. Don't they know by now that you have to obey the little laws if you're going to break the big ones?

A no-compromising, unshakably defending, eminent-domain-this! wolf to Apache landowners on the Rio Grande, who, in a national media conference call on January 7, told Homeland Security to halt the seizure of their lands for the US-Mexico border wall. "The wall in South Texas is militarization," said Enrique Madrid, a Jumano Apache community member. "[The Border Patrol and US soldiers] will be armed and shoot to kill."

The wall also goes against a 2007 Environmental Impact Statement released for the area and would pose a threat to wildlife. Homeland Security says it will seize property even without the consent of the landowners (largely made up of indigent people).

A not-so-corpulent-cleric but wicked-phat-friar wolf to Bishop Dom Luiz Flavio Cappio of Brazil, who, after a 24-day hunger strike, was rushed to the hospital after losing consciousness. Bishop Cappio, 61, began his hunger strike on November 27, to protest the Supreme Court of Brazil's ruling in favor of a project that would divert water from the San Francisco River, South America's fourth largest river. This would cause lasting environmental damage and steal a water source from thousands of citizens. The majority of the diverted water would go to large farms owned by wealthy landowners. Only four percent of the water would go to the homes of poor families in the area, who would be charged a fee to use it. He said after hospitalization that he would "interrupt the fast but not the fight!"

A backstabbing, sleeping-with-the-enemy, you've-gone-bananas, lickspittle poodle to Rainforest Alliance, which is conveniently profiting from rainforest destruction. Rainforest Alliance receives 30 percent of its funding by certifying industrial logging through its Smartwood program. It is the largest such certifier in the world. Smartwood certification follows Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines, which Rainforest Alliance claims will ensure sustainable forestry.

In truth, FSC guidelines allow first-time logging of pristine ancient forests. In addition to enabling legal, unsustainable logging, Smartwood has issued FSC certificates to various companies involved in illegal logging. Also, Rainforest Alliance has issued "ethical certificates" to Chiquita, a banana corporation involved in illegal deals with paramilitary operations in rural areas of Colombia in order to "protect" its certified banana plantations.

A heartless, the-wild-isn't-Six-Flags-theme-park, we-just-have-to-poodle-you-again poodle to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which would like to start a one-year experimental harassment program against Mexican gray wolves. It would allow people to shoot the wolves with paintballs when they are in the vicinity of livestock and human residences. "We, USFWS, will modify our permits to allow the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to harass wolves using paintballs. Paintballs deliver a stinging blow that will scare the wolf away and reinforce their natural fear of humans.... We will issue paintguns and paintballs to people who have a documented history of interaction with problem wolves."

A totally-missing-the-point, hey-you're-not-Poseidon poodle to James Lovelock (best known for his Gaia theory) and Chris Rapley, who have been plotting with a billionaire to carry out the harebrained idea of fixing climate change with pipes in the sea. They claim that this will "rejigger marine ecosystems to counter climate change."

They want to place 100,000 buoyant pipes in the ocean to better circulate nutrient-rich water, supposedly leading to more algae, which would reduce carbon dioxide. Their vision is that the 100-yard-long, 30-foot-diameter pipes would float in the ocean and use flaps to increase the mixing of warm and cool waters. Please join us in reality for your next scientific breakthrough, fellas.

different worldview and clarity of mind and heart than we who have been contaminated with the European mode of education. So we listened to them, and they asked us to come up with a paper with two mandates.

"First, they told us they wanted us to go into the international community and get the international community to recognize us, a million people in the Western Hemisphere. The second was to re-establish our independence, so that the US would listen."

In September 2007, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with only four dissenting votes cast: the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The UN Declaration, which had been in negotiations for 20 years, may have helped accomplish the first mandate of getting international recognition. And the 1974 Declaration of Continuing Independence was meant to forward the second, by demanding US recognition of the sovereignty of First Nations' promised by its treaties. However, since that hasn't happened, the Lakota Freedom Delegation has announced withdrawal from the treaties altogether.

Plans for the Future and "Bringing Back the Way"

When asked, Means and Canupa Gluha Mani explained some projects in the works and next steps for carrying out this withdrawal.

For Means, following international and US law is of the utmost importance. "We are not going to ever be involved in confrontation of any kind. It would not gain us anything, because we've already tried it. We've tried armed struggle. I was in Wounded Knee in 1973, and struggled against the American government, militarily fought against it."

He explained concrete changes in the works for the Lakota territory. These include setting up a Lakota government led by the elder women; filing liens on (in other words, reclaiming) all federal, state and local government property within Lakota territory, including the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore; setting up a national Lakota bank and currency; and generating power based on wind, solar and geothermal energy. Another priority is opening up communication between the Lakota and the US federal and state governments within Lakota territory, as well as with other indigenous nations.

Canupa Gluha Mani also wants a chance to "really sit down with" members of Congress and other US government officials. He emphasized that, in order to become free, the Lakota must work on "bringing back the way." These words are only a weak English translation of an original Lakota phrase, but it means that the way of love and responsibility to others and to the Earth is essential. He explained that the colonizers "taught us never ever to understand the type of dignity and prosperity we once had as a free people, an independent nation."

"We have to take our baby steps to this. I'm confident we will prevail. And when a nation becomes free and independent, then and only then can we really prosper with love again. And dignity will return. That's how you save humanity. When you look at the real picture of reality, nobody implements freedom. Nobody talks about love. Love is never taught in the home; neither is language. What does that tell you? We have become the wretched refuse within our own environment."

"When do we start speaking out truthfully about the industries that shame Mother Earth and the Great Spirit? 'Oh, you can't do this, because

of certain colonial laws that are implemented through the US Constitution.' That's bullshit!"

Means, too, stressed responsibility. "The first act and the first law of freedom is that you are free to be responsible—responsible for yourself. And we take it a step further. Each footstep we take upon our grandmother the Earth, we're responsible for seven generations."

When asked what could be done in support of the declaration, Means said, "We are asking anyone and everyone in the world to contact the corporate media, Congress and the State Department, and to organize on the web—to organize people like themselves, who think and believe like themselves."

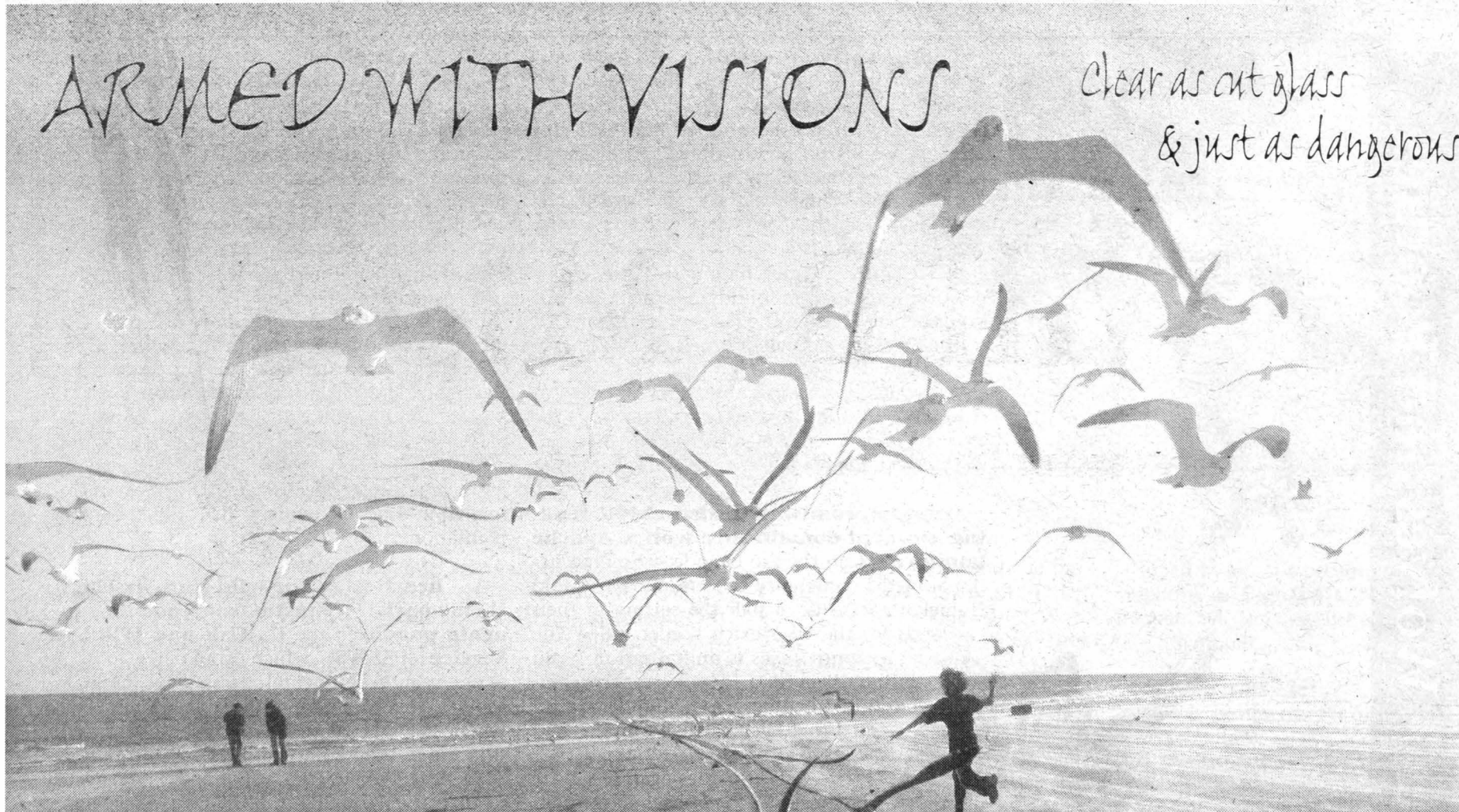
Canupa Gluha Mani wants to tell readers that "if American people and First Nations people stand together to combat all these issues that are before us, then and only then can our world... rise back to the dwelling it once was. And that's free."

For more information, contact Lakota Oyate, (828)230-1404; lakotafree@gmail.com; www.lakotaoyate.net; or Republic of Lakotah, (605) 867-1111; info@republicoflakotah.com; www.republicoflakotah.com.

Note: Russell Means does not approve of this article.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous



Drought

When I was a child, a greenhouse seemed exotic—
poinsettias peering out at snow,
Easter lilies white as wedding gowns,
glass mysterious with the breath of plants.
Now, we all live in one,
the sun a giant gro-light,
the air a haze of halogen.
No pounding on the glass will set us free.

Someday from the lemur-eyes of gas masks,
we will see faint outlines of our ghosts—
lispng breath from proboscis-hoses.
Stunted corn will be plowed under
for wheat fields that do not germinate.
Shriveled leaves will blanket the ground
white as drifts of snow
that once held the prints of angels.

Sleds will hang on museum walls,
children's ice skates rest behind glass.
If science concocts a giant mirror, pale antidote
to deflect sun, will it crack like a glacier?
Children, ask grandpa, when you gather at his knee,
to tell you about when there were birds
who rode on air you couldn't see.

—Constance Vogel



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Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
P.O. Box 14501
Berkeley CA 94712-5501*

Blue Whales

Blue whales are out there somewhere,
six thousand of the hundreds of thousands
that once roamed the planet's seas.
Now separated from each other
by thousands of miles, they moan their loneliness
four octaves below middle C, so low, so slow,
we humans cannot even hear. But on our ocean liners
and in our lighthouse kitchens, the cutlery jangles on the table,
the glass pane vibrates in its frame, and we know
something nearby is crying out in need.
Two thousand miles away, they can be heard
and answered, the loudest sound made by a living thing,
and we don't know what it says, but only that,
speeded up ten times, what we hear is a long, blue,
unearthly note, a gurgle so deep
we slip down into our own lostness,
grateful that they are carrying for us
something bigger than we could hold.

—Gail Rudd Entekin

Shadowland

We have become a country where truth
and scientific facts are pushed into the shadows
and hidden from the light of day

Since the late '40s we have been living
better through chemistry and dying sooner
The war was won but truth was lost

We developed pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers
We won the war over Japan with atomic bombs
and malaria with DDT

Outmoded scientific thinking opened Pandora's box
plaguing the population with cancer, diminished the ozone
layer and heated the Earth with CO2 concentrations in the air

Aristotle's scheme of studying the world by
breaking it down to discrete parts
is still in vogue though we know better

Though of many parts, nature is of a piece
When we eliminate a thread of life's fabric
the whole is weakened and diminished

Our practice of killing what we don't like or find useful
is as old as man but now reaching new heights, poisoning
other life and inserting into our cells time delayed death

Half of the men and a third of women have or will get cancer
While we heat the Earth and poison our bodies
Look at our fields and sky and shudder

Look at our government and vomit
Look at our corporations and curse
Look at our justice system and howl

—Sid Bridges

I Hate Cars

The wing still took flight
Feathers netted the wind
And swayed the bone
In a roadkill duck
Half a mile from
A fox squirrel ever reaching for
Its last step
Unusually bloodred.
Another quarter mile
Is a turtle who made it to the shoulder
With shell broken in several
Long, hard, dark places.

I hate airplanes too.

—Jenny McBride



Mike Thought Big. He Was a Warrior. He Will Be Missed.

BY KATÚAH CARES

Mike Edge died on December 21, after a struggle with cancer. Some of y'all may remember Mike as Sketchy Mike or Chattanooga Mike. An active member of Katúah EF! in Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tennessee, he was 26 years old.

Mike was completely dedicated to stopping mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR). After his participation in Mountain Justice Summer (MJS) 2005, he went to engineering school to learn about designing better windmills and other alternative power sources.

"I decided that the best way for me to duke it out with King Coal is to fight his technology for a career," said Mike in a letter to his friends. "If I keep going and get a doctorate afterward for teaching on the college level, I may have the Summers off to run amok! Ah, yes, Professor Edge. I like that. 'Now, for extra credit, students, participate in a direct action against King Coal.' Sweet!"

Among his efforts to improve life on this planet, Mike went to Idaho to work on wind turbine construction in the dead of winter. He also took part in treesits in California and protests in the East. He always promoted the conservation of water, electricity, air, animals and human life.

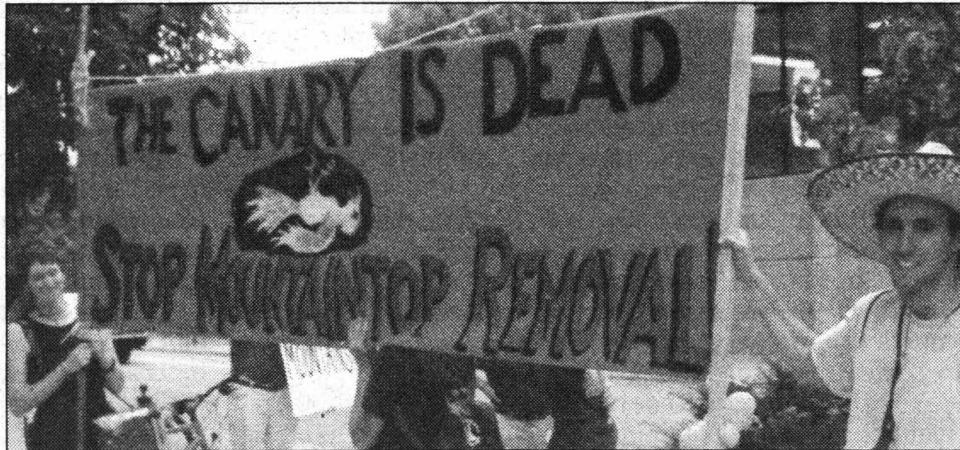
Outside of his great work for the environment, Mike was active with the Women's Action Council. He helped out every year with the Vagina Monologues. He also organized awareness-raising events about sexual assault, intimate partner violence and reproductive rights.

Since childhood, Mike brought constant laughter to his family and friends. Not a day passed—even when he was in pain—without him finding something to lighten the mood and heart. When he told his mother about his cancer, Mike said, "Mom, I'm dying of cancer, but guess what? It could be worse. I might have had to breathe smog and eat dirt for years to get where I am today."

MJS and Earth First! really represented for Mike at his funeral on December 23. It was so apparent how much he meant to us and we to him. Mike loved MJS and the community.

It changed his whole life path—and he changed many of us. On January 19, friends and family attended a wake in Mike's remembrance. The evening was an inspiration for his friends to continue the fight to "save the world," using his phrase. After dinner, the celebration commenced with a bottle of rum, a display of his urn and pictures, a screening of some martial arts movies and some personal stories about Mike. Spontaneous community flossing ensued. As the night wore on, someone broke out the German techno music, and the crowd tried to feel the groove. In a vision, we saw Mike's ashes leap from the table in

photos courtesy Katúah Cares



Mike at a Mountain Justice Summer protest in 2005



a beautiful display of dance fever that showed us all up.

We should all play Frisbee and engage in martial arts battles—it's how Mike would like to be remembered. He hated cut flowers and said that if you want to remember him, please plant a tree for him. MJS has committed to buying 26 blight-resistant chestnut trees to plant in his memory.

We can't believe Mike is gone. He was so young and just getting started in life. We were glad to have known him and are proud that he was a part of MJS. Yo, Mike, say hi to Jamie and Sue. We miss you all and love you. For the mountains, Mike Edge—*presente*.

Tacy Gorton, Mike's mom, can be written to at 1436 Ely Rd, Hixon, TN 37343; pietra4_4@yahoo.com.



Mike in Europe

Making Nature Poetry "Cool" Again

BY DENNIS FRITZINGER

Earth Shattering: Ecopoems, by Neil Astley, Bloodaxe Books, 2007.

Poetry has played a part in Earth First! since its inception. Poet Gary Snyder read at Earth First! fundraisers, and San Francisco poet Art Goodtimes volunteered to edit a page of poetry in the *Earth First! Journal* that he named "Armed With Visions." Moreover, poetry made its appearance at campfires, demonstrations and every rally, with poets filling the role of entertainer, mischief-maker and tribal storyteller. They shared this role with Earth First! musicians, but the poets' access to the printed page ensured a lasting influence.

Fast forward to 2007. An Englishman named Neil Astley, the guiding light and founder of Bloodaxe Books (a publishing company devoted solely to poetry), turned his considerable editorial skills to the seemingly impossible task of making nature poetry "cool" again.

Citing a bias that some hold against nature poetry, he points out that this is a misconception of the ignorant, who are not aware that nature poetry has made itself relevant by keeping up with the times. "Daffodils," by English poet William Wordsworth, is in some ways a quintessential nature poem, yet it's pure calendar art—it leaves out the smokestacks in the background and the



rotting fish in the foreground. To distinguish itself from the Wordsworthian kind, contemporary nature poetry that brings in those modern details is now called "ecopoetry"—a poetry that embraces nature and humans' (often negative) relationships to nature.

This book, *Earth Shattering: Ecopoems*, is basically a dirge. If anything, it's depressing: a catalog of human misbehavior through time, beginning with 17th- and 18th-century England and continuing

into the global present. It's a pity that there aren't more victories we can celebrate.

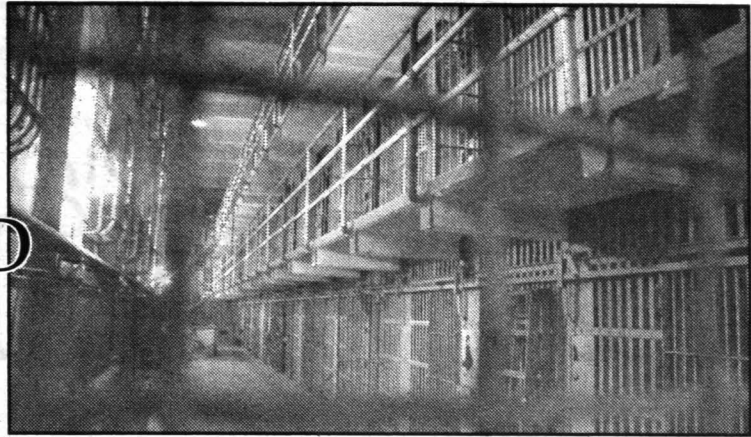
Still, there's no denying the book's power. Astley is a clever and knowledgeable anthologist. He provides us with many poems important for historical reasons, many poems that challenge the way we look at the world, a few poems that are so sublime I can only look on them with awe, and some that are so terrifying that I want to shriek and run away.

A bookseller is in the business of selling books, yet I doubt this is Astley's purpose here, given that he has tackled such a difficult subject. Instead, I think that Astley has assumed the activist's role, in which one gleefully informs the audience of a few inconvenient truths.

Earth Shattering: Ecopoems hasn't received the attention it deserves. However, this book has staying power. It presents a considerable intellectual edifice that is a bit more challenging than the latest scandal coming out of Hollywood, London or Washington, DC.

Dennis is active with the Warrior Poets Society. He also compiles and maintains *Armed With Visions*, the poetry section found inside each issue of the *Earth First! Journal*. To submit an original poem, send it to Warrior Poets Society, POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712-5501.

HYMNS FOR A CAGED FRIEND



BY DONNY

Free Jeff Luers, Free the World, compiled and released by Friends of Jeffrey "Free" Luers, 2007.

For those of you who have been living in a cave for the past seven years, Jeffrey "Free" Luers is an eco-activist who helped torch three SUVs in 2000. In June 2001, he was sentenced to 22 years and eight months in prison. Last year, the Oregon Court of Appeals agreed to withdraw this unusually draconian sentence and issue a new one that may be as much as 15 years shorter. Hopefully, he'll be "free" with the rest of us very soon.

Of course, all of this legal wrangling requires a lot of money. To help cover the expenses, Friends of Jeffrey "Free" Luers has put together this compact disc. It is compiled entirely of songs donated by Luers' supporters. The insert promises that all of these songs are either favorites of Luers' or favorites of his support group.

Persynally, I think it's really interesting to get a glimpse into the musical tastes of people I consider my *compañer@s*. Because, though we are all united in our dedication to defend the Earth, we often come to this movement from very different places. That feeling really comes across for me when I listen to this album.

While it's bound to have something that pretty much everybody is going to like, it's also going to have at least a few tracks that aren't for all of us. Honestly, this seems to be as good an analogy for the Earth First!

movement as any, so it's fitting that this is how the compilation shapes up.

Highlights for me include a live version of Casey Neill's biocentric call to arms, "Flaming Arrows"; TchKung!'s dirge-like "New Earth Rising"; the feedback-laden punk of the Happy Bastards in "Great White Plague"; and Desert Rat's always gallant performance of "Eugene the Anarchist." Ultimately, my favorite selection has to be the extremely touching "Song for Rod Coronado," by Dana Lyons. That guy just has a special knack for grabbing his listeners and mesmerizing them with his voice and guitar.

Except for one hip-hop tune by Grand Prix, the rest of the album is rounded out primarily by folk songs from Francine Allen, Thunder Craig, Mill a h-Uile Rud, Spring, the Lonesome Shack and David Rovics.

The last track is a speech Luers gave from his prison cell to the 2005 Environmental Law Conference about the urgency of working to halt global warming. While he is often thought of primarily as a treesitter for his co-founding of the old-growth canopy defense group Red Cloud Thunder and his constant vigilance at the Fall Creek treesit in Oregon, it's important not to create a one-dimensional image of anybody. In Luers' case, he sees forest defense and the need to stop global warming as intertwined in a larger eco-revolutionary struggle. When he committed the arson he is in prison for, it was very specifically to draw attention to the role SUVs play in

causing climate change. This connection has remained a central point for Luers ever since.

Luers summed up the situation in an interview with this very publication (see *EFJ* November-December 2001): "We are at a critical point in herstory right now—not only ecologically, but in our human interactions, as well. The future is going to be what we make it. We are either going to end up living in a world void of any wild places or natural diversity, an oppressive police state monoculture, or we are going to finally realize that we need to put our differences aside—come together, learn from each other and create the world we want to live in. The greatest challenge we face is that it is much easier to accept things as they are and to give up hope than it is to try and make a difference. We have the power, we only need to realize it."

Copies of *Free Jeff Luers, Free the World* are available postage-paid for \$14. To obtain one (or 10) or to get in touch with Friends of Jeffrey "Free" Luers, write to POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440 or visit www.freefreenow.org. The support group has also set up donation gift packages to reward supporters for giving various amounts of money. Inquire with them for details.

To get in touch with Luers while he awaits resentencing, write to Jeffrey Luers #1306729, Lane County Adult Corrections, 101 West 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401-2695.

Donny likes to rock hard, but he also likes to take it easy and listen to nice songs about good people.

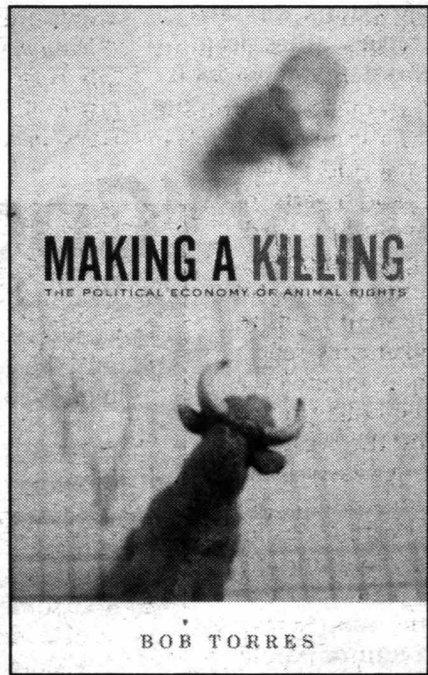
Marx, Murder and Madness

BY TIM COMPOST

Making a Killing: The Political Economy of Animal Rights, by Bob Torres, AK Press, 2007.

Making a Killing is written for someone without much knowledge of animal rights, but with some understanding of Marxism and the philosophy of other such dinosaurs. In other words, it is not for me, but maybe it is successful in explaining the suffering of non human animals to folks who would otherwise be disinterested. I hope so, as this seems to be the point of this book. Author Bob Torres almost lost me when talking about animals as being part of the working class, but he got back to terms I can understand when he described the conditions in slaughterhouses for both the human and non human animals involved. He also made all the right connections between the intertwined systems of oppression: racism, sexism and speciesism.

I'm frequently skeptical of people who criticize capitalism but don't seem to talk about the larger and more insidious beast that enables its evils. Torres doesn't go so far as to name civilization as this destroyer of all things good and wholesome, but he does acknowledge the hierarchical way of thinking that is ingrained in our consciousness by the culture



as being a larger enemy to tackle than capitalism.

Torres devotes a sizeable portion of this work to a critique of what he calls the "animal rights industry," mostly People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). I find most of these criticisms to be right on. He draws attention to PETA's sexist ads and wishy-washy corporate compromises, as well as Whole Foods Market's "farm animal compassion standards" and other such phony, feel-good consumer solutions. Torres writes of how, while Peter Singer defends vivisection and has an ultimately

weak stance on all things regarding animal rights, Singer retains his practically untouchable status as the "father" of the animal rights movement. Seriously, F Peter Singer. Torres also hates on the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act at one point, but says little in defense of its victims.

This book contains descriptions of slaughterhouses and battery cages that made me cringe. I couldn't get the image of a pig slaughterhouse out of my head through most of the book. It just persisted in the back of my mind; even as I read other things, it haunted me. If that isn't an effective outreach tool, I don't know what is.

Torres bashes what he calls the violent element of the animal rights movement, saying that it is both ineffective and counterproductive. While he uses the words "violence" and "property destruction" separately, he doesn't seem to perceive them as separate and different things. He also overlooks the great many things that are inarguably not violent in the direct action toolbox. A disagreement when it comes to tactics is fine in my book and an important thing to discuss. However, when you divide all animal rights activism into this false dichotomy of either PETA-style compromising with all the wrong people or this vaguely defined "violent" element and proceed to condemn them both, that's just not helpful in advancing the dialogue.

Torres' proposals for activism beyond being vegan and recruiting for the team are vague. It was reminiscent of reading a Daniel Quinn book wherein the reader is introduced to this righteous new idea but not left with much of a clue of what to do with it besides tell other people. After all of his criticisms of the animal rights industry, Torres says nothing about the ways the animal rights movement has been successful in recent years. What about the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign? What about the fur stores that have closed? What about the fact that there are no longer any horse slaughterhouses in the US? And what about those "violent" tactics that result in animals living their lives in freedom instead of in cages?

In the end, *Making a Killing* may very well be a good book for recruiting more vegans, but it would do well to expand on the positive elements of the animal rights movement—especially if it is meant to be an introduction for an outsider. If I were reading this as my introduction to animal rights, I would have felt directionless. If you present this book to someone in an attempt to open their eyes to the plight of non-human animals, I suggest also telling them that there are effective animal liberation struggles going on.

Tim Compost thinks it's totally OK to punch Peter Singer in the face.

Symbols of Rage

BY JOANNA

Flying Close to the Sun: My Life and Times as a Weatherman, by Cathy Wilkerson, Seven Stories Press, 2007.

Flying Close to the Sun documents one woman's journey through two leading radical organizations, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and the Weathermen. She eventually landed in jail for involvement in an accidental explosion, which blew up her father's townhouse in New York City and killed three of her friends. (The bomb was meant for Fort Dix, a military training facility.) Yet, Wilkerson is hardly the voice of revolution in her memoir, and you can tell immediately that she's not calling to arms the young people of today. If anything, she probably wrote *Flying Close to the Sun* instead of getting some seriously needed therapy. But if you know that going in, you can still learn quite a lot about the inner workings of SDS and the Weathermen.

The central questions that Wilkerson faced as she organized with SDS—and then the SDS splinter group that later became the Weathermen—are even more pressing in our organizing efforts today: How do you effectively respond to violence? How do we, as activists, gain political power and effect change if those with power uphold and promote a violent system? Wilkerson quotes Mao Tse-tung in noting that “power grows out of the barrel of a gun,” which describes the philosophies of both the US government and the Weathermen. Our whole world is surrounded by violence: violence against women, violence against the poor, police brutality, the military-industrial complex, racism, and the US's violent and racist occupations of other countries. Our possessions, food, clothing, appliances and shelter are the results of a complex and intricate system of violence against the Earth and all her inhabitants. While today is a very different time in history than when Wilkerson was organizing in the 1960s and 1970s, those violent systems are still strong and present in all of our lives—perhaps even stronger, since our dissenting voice has weakened since Wilkerson's time.

What stood out for me were a few organizing roadblocks that our movement should be wary of, educated about and committed to avoiding as we march forward in our own revolution.

One big problem that Wilkerson thinks “doomed” the Weathermen was their blind acceptance of the “existing paradigm in which manhood and power were ultimately determined by physical force and aggression.” It seems the Weathermen made the mistake of assuming that taking a political stance of total opposition to every aspect of American life would automatically rid the movement of sexism, racism and other societal vices. Unless you took militant action, there was no “proof” that you were anti-racist, anti-war and anti-sexist, because the status quo was inherently complicit.

While the act of physically fighting back seemed exciting and cathartic for many, Wilkerson finds this strategy to be more reactionary than revolutionary. Many men at that time were trying to find ways to express their masculinity, since war supporters called their refusal to fight in Vietnam cowardly. The sexism within the Weathermen leadership and strategy silenced Wilkerson's (and supposedly many others') criticisms and disempowered her, eventually turning her away from political work permanently.

For those who are hesitant to address our own internalized sexism, racism, anti-Semitism, ableism, ageism or homophobia because it might marginalize the needs of the Earth, this book

underground and accrued a 1,000-page FBI file before turning 25. If you want the violence and political analysis, I would skip the first 100 pages. Yet, Wilkerson's early years may help your judgmental relatives understand how you ended up on the radical left, as her transformation is so gradual they may not even notice and could end up wanting to plant a pipe bomb themselves!

I wouldn't continue reading after the explosion, since the end is a huge disappointment. I read through all of Wilkerson's action and reflection, as she poses relevant questions about how to create a different world. I was waiting for a very complex and nuanced analysis, as well as a political philosophy with specific models of action, but I got nothing. Wilkerson just wraps up her time in jail and her decision to become a teacher without any reflection. Rather than having an even clearer picture of revolutionary change and how to go about creating it, she simply writes, “I am discovering a hope that can accept that we might fail, and already, we can see the face of that failure if we look.” She ends the book suggesting that it is naïve to act with a clear vision of revolution because one won't come, and we all must be patient and do the best that we can.

So, if you can stand the narration of a burned-out activist, vitally important questions can be explored in this book. Anyone taking active steps to make the world a safe place for all its inhabitants should keep searching for answers that will sustain us through the important work, keeping us strong and inspired, but also mindful of lessons from the past.

Joanna wishes she hadn't fallen for the “maybe this book will be written by a feminist” trick and just read Bill Ayers' *Weathermen* memoir, *Fugitive Days*, instead.



Wilkerson's FBI Wanted poster from 1970

documents the result of such a strategy. By not proactively creating a safe forum to explore problems like sexism and racism in your organization, you silence important and critical voices and limit your revolutionary vision and impact. In the case of the Weathermen, Wilkerson feels they were “doomed to crash and burn.”

Finally, a problem that Wilkerson only hints at—but which was at the forefront of my mind—was how the Weathermen seemed to rely on the idea that struggle served as a symbol, that clear symbolism in and of itself would collectively change the minds and hearts of US citizens and spark a revolution. Earth First! appears to be having this problem, too; symbolic struggle and meaningful change seem to suggest different roads to freedom. I took from Wilkerson's reflections that this phenomenon might be a symptom of whiteness. Symbolic protest played a key role in SDS and the Weathermen, while the Black Panther Party (BPP) had both symbols to demonstrate its political framework and practical local solutions, such as free breakfast for children. The Weathermen leaders believed these efforts took away from the more pressing goals of sustained confrontations with police and citizens, which the BPP found to be dangerous and negative. It is important to speak freely about these issues in any organization, to think about who has the freedom to do what and how much our perspective has to do with our skin color. Without a diverse set of ideas coming from people different than yourself, the scope of radical change can only reach so far.

Wilkerson says very clearly that the Weathermen were sexist in their structure and organizing, but a critique of the Weathermen's whiteness is hardly vocalized at all. I don't really know if it crossed her mind.

This book is brutally personal, painstakingly chronicling how a white, well-off, Republican-bred young woman went



Wilkerson at a women's demonstration during the Days of Rage

A Look at Mountaintop Removal

BY ERIN AND COLLEEN ELIZABETH

Coal River, by Michael Shnayerson, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

Exploded mountains, buried valleys and streams, obliterated habitats and forcibly depopulated communities should be enough to determine that mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR) is an abomination. Common sense should be all one needs to conclude that the practice is irreversibly destructive and must be stopped immediately.

But the reality is that the power structure supporting MTR is deeply entrenched. Corruption permeates the whole system. Yet, many of the efforts to stop MTR are focused on attempted legislation. As Michael Shnayerson shows in *Coal River*, common sense does not have as much influence in the courts as industry does. Retracing the past 10 years, Shnayerson uses narratives to portray the painful roller coaster of political and legal battles around surface mining in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Readers encounter tenacious lawyer Joe Lovett, an assortment of courageous coalfield residents fighting to save their homes, ruthless Massey Energy baron Don Blankenship, and others in battles over individual mines and over the legality of MTR mining as a whole.

This look at the legal circus surrounding MTR is a useful tool for anyone who supports the mountains and people of Appalachia. As we fight to tear down the larger neocolonial system, we need to educate ourselves about its tricks and trades while it still exists. This book outlines King Coal's strongholds in Appalachia, Wall Street and Washington, DC, in a clear, engaging way. Only toward the end do the numerous lawsuits and appeals begin to blur together. Reading *Coal River* gave us a better understanding of the courts and regulatory agencies, such as the West Virginia Department of "Environmental Protection" and the Army Corps of Engineers, as well as an unsettling reminder of the political power wielded by corporate actors and their money.

Shnayerson's primary credentials came from his role as a contributing editor of *Vanity Fair*, so it's wise to approach this book with the understanding that it is crafted in a similar style. We had been hoping for a book that balances biocentrism and social impacts, which, sadly, this is not. The people's stories are powerful and need to be heard, and *Coal River* does a good job of telling them, but Shnayerson addresses ecology only as it is most directly relevant to human

communities. His use of personal narratives to poignantly describe the recent history of mining in Appalachia highlights the strengths of individuals in the struggle.

In his description of the people who have come out to support coalfield residents (Mountain Justice Summer participants and Earth Firsters, for example), Shnayerson perpetuates detrimental stereotypes based on appearance, and he shows a lack of understanding of the efforts at cultural sensitivity that these activists strive for. While the author gives well-deserved credit to the inspiring local organizers he follows in the book, readers are left with the impression that Mountain Justice Summer folks came to the coalfields for one Summer of marching and then went back from whence they came. Many have stuck by their commitment to the mountains and the people of Appalachia by remaining in the coalfields as allies or by working in their own communities to bring awareness to the issue and to hold the corporate scumbags accountable.

Shnayerson recounts the rich history of many longtime coalfield residents, but he glaringly omits the even further-reaching roots of the indigenous people in this region. The one mention of native peoples is an

offensive comparison of a protest march with a Native American funeral procession.

Shnayerson does get some things right. In his portrayal of Don Blankenship, he couldn't have created a nastier, more ruthless character if he'd been writing fiction! The stories of bribery, union busting, negligence, buying elections, intimidation, exploitation and unabashed greed show the danger of a capitalist system in which one man with enough money can wield power without limit.

We would hope that a book that illuminates how pointless it is to assume legal victories can bring about lasting change would end with the seemingly obvious conclusion that systemic change is necessary. Shnayerson demonstrates how these systems operate, but never challenges their existence overall. In fact, he tries to leave readers with the hope that change is possible if the next presidential administration would simply uphold the laws. However, MTR can't be solved as an isolated problem. It is a representation of this whole society, and as long as this society is based on runaway consumption, no technological replacements or amount of mining reform will save us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rights Action Speaking Tour March-April 2008

Canada and Western US

Rights Action is a multifaceted community development, environmental and human rights organization based in Guatemala and Canada.

Subjects for the Rights Action Speaking Tour include: Investigating in Conflict: North American Mining Companies; Trickle-Down "Development" and Environmental Destruction; Guatemala and Honduras: A Global Miner's and Investor's "Oasis"; and GoldCorp in Central America.

Rights Action will ask interested organizations to raise funds and contribute to the overall cost of the tour. All profits from the tour will go to the work of *campesino* and indigenous organizations in Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico that are resisting the global mining industry.

For more information, visit www.rightsaction.org. To host an event, contact Grahame Russell, (860) 352-2448; info@rightsaction.org.

No! G8 Action Info-Tour March 6-24 • US

In July, heads of the states that monopolize two-thirds of the Earth's wealth will gather at Lake Toya in Hokkaido, Japan. The so-called Group of Eight (G8) is the embodiment of the global governance that has consistently driven neoliberal reform while spreading poverty, violence, hatred, segregation and environmental destruction across the globe. We can no longer let this continue. The info-tour presentation deals with issues facing Japan and East Asia, such as militarization, neoliberal reform, free trade, societal control, environmental destruction, and the rights of minorities such as foreign workers and the indigenous Ainu people of Japan.

The tentative US tour schedule is: March 6-10 in Washington, DC (National Conference

on Organized Resistance); March 11-13 in Chicago, Philadelphia and/or Baltimore; March 14-16 in New York (Left Forum); March 17-20 in Seattle or Portland; and March 21-24 in San Francisco (Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair and other locations).

For more information or for international tour dates, contact Kaori and Go at 81-3-5366-4797; ka-os@riseup.net; go-hi@riseup.net.

Spring Regional Rendezvous in Western-Central Appalachia

March 20-23 • Southeastern Ohio

Join Hock-Hocking Earth First! for a resurrectionary weekend camp-out for planning, meeting, having fun and bringing EF! back to the forefront of the western-central Appalachian region.

For more info, contact hockhockingef@gmail.com.

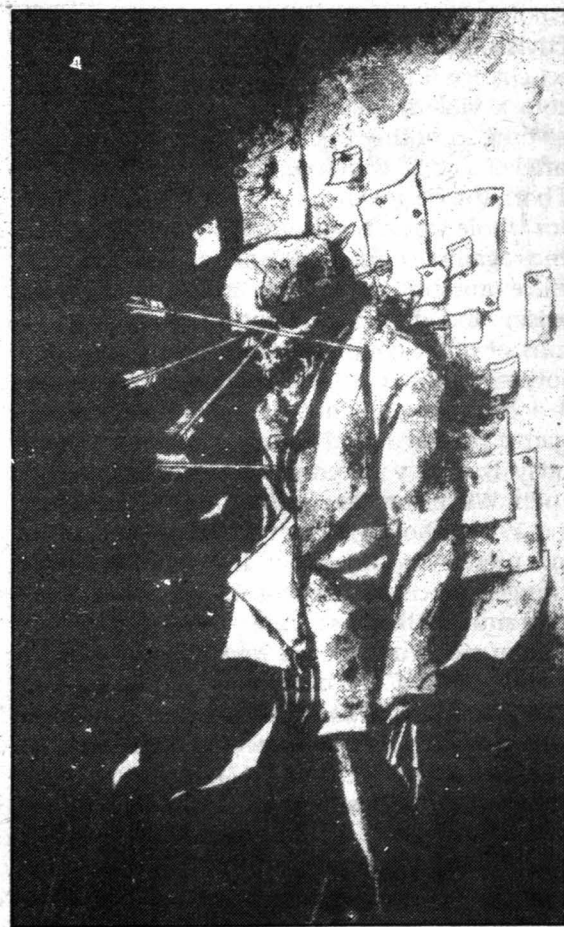
Call for Workshops for 2008 Round River Rendezvous

June 30-July 6 • Southeastern Ohio

Organizers of this year's Earth First! Summer Rendezvous are accepting applications for workshops and skillshares at the gathering. Possible workshops include facilitation training, bridging community gaps, consent, mental health, post-issue organizing, EF! response to the Republican and Democratic national conventions, bringing EF! into the Space Age, and any other awesome ideas and knowledge you'd like to share with the EF! community.

We are also in need of funds for this year's rendezvous and are asking that other EF! groups host a benefit event and split the profits with us. Any funds would be much appreciated.

If you have workshop submissions or donations, contact rondy2008@gmail.com. Please put the appropriate topic in the subject line.



artwork by Hush

Live-In Internships at Farm Sanctuary Ongoing • Acton, CA

One hour north of downtown Los Angeles, Farm Sanctuary provides a home to more than 150 rescued farm animals. It is dedicated to public education, outreach and investigative campaigns to prevent cruelty to farmed animals. One-month internships include 32 hours per week of assigned tasks (cleaning barns, shelter maintenance, administrative jobs and conducting tours) and eight hours per week of training in a special project (investigations, animal health care, fundraising and more). There is dormitory-style housing on sanctuary premises. For more information, contact (661)-269-0986; www.farmsanctuary.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 some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. Prisoners can obtain a discounted subscription to the *EF!* Journal by sending a book of 10 41¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Rod Coronado entered a guilty plea to one count of distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction. The government has agreed to ask for a year prison sentence, and drop charges from other cases in Tucson, Arizona, and Washington, DC. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•Chris McIntosh, who is serving eight years for the joint Animal Liberation Front (ALF)/Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of a McDonald's, has made a number of statements justifying rape and racist violence. For this reason, the *Journal* is withdrawing its support for McIntosh and removing him from this listing.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Awaiting the results of his May appeals hearing. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.

•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.

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, and Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Avery is also serving 16 months for using abusive words and behavior toward a fox hunter.

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. Awaiting trial for conspiracy to blackmail and possession of explosives in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's primate lab.

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

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #1306729, Lane County Adult Corrections, 101 W 5th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401, USA. Luers' resentencing for an arson at a car dealership and the attempted arson of an oil truck is scheduled for February 28. For more information, visit www.freefreemnow.org.

•Eric McDavid, X-2972521 4E231A, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 "I" St, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA. Awaiting a March 6 sentencing for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Briana Waters' trial for alleged involvement in an ELF arson at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture began on February 11 and was ongoing at press time. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.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.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Winchester, Romney Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Awaiting trial for alleged conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS.

•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 Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.supportjake.org.

•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.

•Lauren Gazzola, #93497-011, FCI Danbury, Rte 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Serving 4.5 years for conspiracy charges stemming from her work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.supportlauren.com.

•Sarah Gisborne, LT5393, HMP Downview, Sutton Ln, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD, 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.

•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.

•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.

Ecodefense

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the ELF arson of SUVs.

•Nathan "Exile" Block, #36359-086, FCI Lompoc, 3600 Guard Rd, Lompoc, CA 93436, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

•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 and Julio Villanueva, 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 in 1996.



•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, Unit I, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN 55072, USA. Serving seven years for ELF arsons at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Serving 4.25 years for the ALF/ELF arson of a horse slaughterhouse and meat-packing plant. For more information, visit www.supportjonathan.org.

•Joyanna "Sadie" Zacher, #36360-086, FCI Dublin, Camp Parks, Unit E, 5701 8th St, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving nearly eight years for ELF arsons at an SUV dealership and a hybrid poplar farm.

Il Silvestre

Il Silvestre is an Italian eco-anarchist group whose members have been framed for a variety of direct actions. In May, Alessio Perondi and William Frediani were found guilty of terrorist conspiracy and participating in direct action. They are under house arrest pending their appeal. Ragusa and five others who are free on bail are awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines.

•Costantino Ragusa, Casa Circondariale, Via Prati Nuovi 7, 27058 Voghera (PV), Italy. Serving more than two years for an arson at 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. "Oso Blanco" 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.

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.

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

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973, and Charles Sims Africa, #AM4975, SCI Graterford, POB 244, Graterford, PA 19426, 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, USA.

Other Political Prisoners

•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.

•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, and robbing a bank and burning the money.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, elp4321@hotmail.com; www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

•National Jericho Movement, POB 1272, New York, NY 10013, USA; www.thejerichomovement.com.

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, naelpsn@mutualaid.org; www.ecoprisoners.org.

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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 *Journal*. 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 activists who can vouch for you. For more information, contact (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

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