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Earth First!

Mabon September-October 2008

\$4.50 US & Canada

LOCKING DOWN at AMP-OHIO A REPORT FROM THE POST-RONDY ACTION

BY SARAH AZWELL

HOKHOKKEN EARTH FIRST!, the southeastern Ohio chapter of EFi, has been supporting Meigs Community Action Now (Meigs CAN) for about one year. We've been raising funds, writing letters and sending representatives to public hearings to formally comment against all new coal activity in Ohio. Meigs CAN has exhausted every possible avenue for polite, legal appeals to American Municipal Power (AMP Ohio) in efforts to stop a coal-fired power plant scheduled to be built in Meigs County.

This power plant is one of five proposed coal plants within a 10-mile radius of each other. Four coal plants already exist within that same area, and the community of Racine, Ohio, is already suffering from high concentrations of rare cancers, lung problems and premature death rates. Local families are also experiencing the loss of drinkable water. In these times of much flooding, wells that families have been drinking from since before the Civil War are drying up. If these coal plants and associated new mining projects are not stopped, Meigs County will become the most polluted county in the entire nation. Its people will be sacrificed for the gluttonous energy consumption of those in other states who won't feel the effects of this concentrated pollution. It will be ecocide and the genocide of poor rural people with no recourse.

The AMP Ohio corporate office in Columbus, Ohio, was chosen as the site of this year's post-Round River Rendezvous action because the AMP Ohio plant is the first of five proposed plants to get all of its permits in line.

Last March, students from Mountain Justice Spring Break went to the AMP corporate office in Columbus to speak directly with CEO Marc Gerken. They were very polite. Gerken refused to

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Lockdown at the AMP office



A tee-pee with a Mohawk Warrior flag has been set up at a Hampton Inn construction site. King-span development company is trying to build on unceded native land (photo by M. Ladan).

SIX NATIONS WARRIORS

OCCUPY
LAND IN
BRANTFORD,
ONTARIO

BY A SOUTHERN ONTARIO COMRADE

THE CURRENT CONFLICT in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, is anything but unexpected. Brantford sits within seven miles of the Six Nations reserve, and has been squatting on unceded native lands known as the Haldiman tract for 130 years. It has been the target of constant protests for almost a year now as the city continues to hand out fraudulent leases and deeds for land that the Six Nations have neither sold nor surrendered. A quick look into the past reveals continued resistance to the sprawl and destruction that the city has sanctioned for years.

Other Six Nations resistance became known in 2006 when they took back Kanonhstaton, or "The Protected Place," which is located outside of the settler town of Caledonia, Ontario. This is where Six Nations warriors successfully pushed out an armed Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) raid, set fire to bridges, destroyed hydroelectric transformers, attacked and stole an SUV full of US and Canadian law enforcement officers, and crippled the entire town.

Brantford, just like Caledonia, has passed an injunction banning native protests. As in Caledonia, these injunctions have threatened violence from the Ontario government and produced an amazing offensive from the Six Nations community.

Like the Six Nations, Mohawks from Tyendinaga, a small Ontario reserve of 2,000 people with a much smaller warrior society, successfully shut down a

city and its expansion into surrounding wild places by scaring away profit-seeking developers. They have shown how plausible it is to combat urban sprawl and development. They have also demonstrated first hand that capital infrastructure is extremely vulnerable and can render a government on its knees when its pocket book is snatched.

These resisting communities vary in size, but they have all caught the attention of a broad base of supporters. The straightforward method they are using in order to draw attention to the continued colonization of the land and its creatures is inspiring and reproducible. They will not sit by waiting for a resolution at the bargaining table while their territory is sold off and destroyed.

But settlers are not privileged enough to have only a spectator's role in all of this. The struggle to free this land from the grips of capitalism is ours as well. It is only after the settler's warrior spirits are awakened that we will see that we need to stop the rails, block the highways and bring down the electrical pylons. The struggle against colonization and capitalism is all around us. It is present in all of capital's projects.

We need to look no further than the problems in our own backyard to find targets for our solidarity. Solidarity by settlers has the potential of unraveling this occupying army, but the Klanadian and AmeriKKKan state will remain strong as long as people continue to see only natives resisting.

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Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Mabon September-October 2008

PLACES WE'VE NEITHER BEEN TO NOR SEEN

Earth First!

Mabon

September 1, 2008

Vol. 28, No. 6

Each morning of this hot Chuk'son Summer, I stretch before starting the editing duties of the day. Working on this issue of the *Earth First! Journal* has been my first time in the Sonoran desert. I take note of the air and sky across the Catalina Mountains, at the next monsoon conjuring. The fates of all of us are decided up above those rocky peaks, where moisture and electricity parliament before handing down the day's judgment.

I hear the singular cries of a family of raptors, nesting and living somehow in this grassy downtown park in the middle of the desert. I know that I am like those birds, following water from where the pipes take it. My history stretches back through the forest spring by my home (soon to be ravaged), where my lips tasted bliss, on down into the Earth, to aquifers filled by rains that my ancestors danced to. So far now from its source, I still remember the promise of Jinx's kiss, which will bring me back to the forest some day, and, inside of me, I remember the relationships people here before us had with the land. Both of these memories flash in me with the possibility of being reawakened.

Knowledge that something else is possible finds its way to me even as I stare out at the desert metropolis. Reminders are everywhere. This Summer has seen a leap in direct actions with total disregard for the elections or the Green Rapture that has uprooted so many weak hearts. Evidently, there are warriors

around us who feel there is too much to live and fight for to continue playing capitalism's desperate games. What was once a vast, traversing panoply of life is being replaced with Green islands amidst a sea of waste. Be it for a memory of the past or a vision of the future, it is clear that a war is underway, and the outcome is undecided.

I see the spread of the falcon's spotted wings, flashing like chimes of freedom. I feel a tingle and find myself realizing simple ways to heal the lost relationship that, from the depths of my bones, I want to retrieve. It is within me to return to the forest and reclaim my relationship with the person who I love. As with rediscovering our lost relationships to the land, the answers have been here all along, right beneath my feet. It requires being completely honest about what you want and taking direct action to get it.

As we go to print here at *Earth First!*, we are hoping for a total siege in the streets; not only at the conventions, but of the November elections, against I-69, in 2010, at other occupations and in a spanning consummation of the world we want—even in places we've neither been to nor seen. When fighting for the most important thing in our lives, there is no compromise. What we want has always been more than what can fit on an island, anyway.

—LIMM'RIC



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

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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Yet More Green Scare Arrests!

BY DONNY

While we are still reeling from the unjust sentences given to Eric McDavid and Briana Waters (see *EF!* July-August 2008)—and the on-going tribulations of Marie Mason, Stephanie Fultz and Aren Burthwick (see *EF!* May-June 2008)—another chapter of the Green Scare has unfolded. Due to events happening close to the *Journal's* press time, this information is certainly incomplete and likely to change as new things come to light. This what we know now.

In the early morning of July 20, 2000, a US Forest Service (USFS) facility in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, was attacked. Approximately 500 research poplar trees that were part of the Poplar Genome Project were damaged with saws and scraping tools in a process known as "ring barking," which kills the trees. In addition, "numerous" USFS vehicles were "permanently defaced" with spray paint and etching cream. References to the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) were left at the site. The government estimates

that the total damage exceeded \$500,000. A communiqué was sent from the ELF afterward.

Toward the end of this past July, the government made three arrests in connection with this action. Katherine Christianson was arrested in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Nathan Ellringer was arrested in Eau Claire, Wisconsin; and Bryan Rivera (aka Bryan Lefey) was arrested in Olympia, Washington. All three were charged with one count of "degradation of property belonging to the USFS" and one count of "conspiracy to commit degradation of property belonging to the USFS." Christianson and Ellringer pled not guilty and are free awaiting their trial, scheduled to begin on December 1. At the time of this writing, it is unknown what plea Rivera has entered. He is being held in jail in Tacoma, Washington, until he is transferred to Madison, Wisconsin, to appear in trial in late August. If convicted, each person faces up to 15 years in prison.

The two other people the government is connecting to this attack are Green Scare prisoner

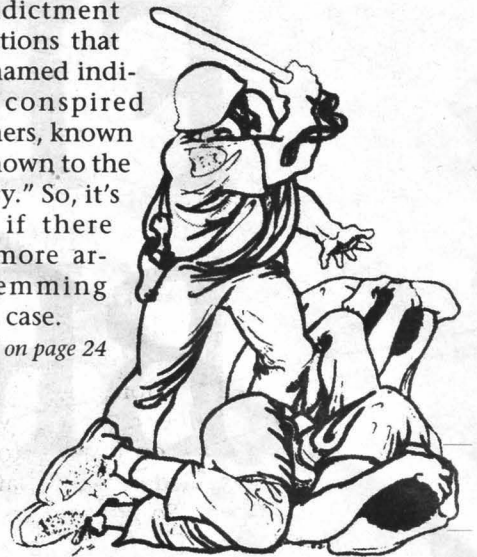
Daniel McGowan, who appeared before a grand jury in Wisconsin twice this Summer, and Ian Wallace, a known government informant. McGowan served a week in a Madison jail for contempt charges related to not cooperating with the government during his grand jury testimony. McGowan told the grand jury whether or not information about him in his plea agreement was correct, but he refused to give any information on other people. McGowan's sentence of seven years was halted while he served the time for contempt.

As of now, neither McGowan nor Wallace are facing charges related to the Rhinelander action. The statute of limitations for these actions is eight years, meaning that it expired on July 20, 2008. A sealed federal indictment from July 17 charged Christianson, Ellringer and Rivera three days before the statute of limitations ran out. The document was unsealed the next week, once the arrests were made. It is likely that McGowan or Wallace would only face charges if a sealed indictment emerges that

was filed before July 20. However, the government could always come up with a separate charge that has a statute of limitations that has not yet run out. It's also important to note that, as part of his plea agreement, the government has promised not to charge McGowan with crimes he shares information about (regarding *only* himself, *not* anybody else). Theoretically, this would prevent McGowan from facing new charges from these actions.

The indictment also mentions that the five named individuals conspired "with others, known and unknown to the grand jury." So, it's unclear if there will be more arrests stemming from this case.

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Once again, snitching is doing people in.

Tortured Consciences Won't Go Away **UNLESS WE MAKE THEM!**

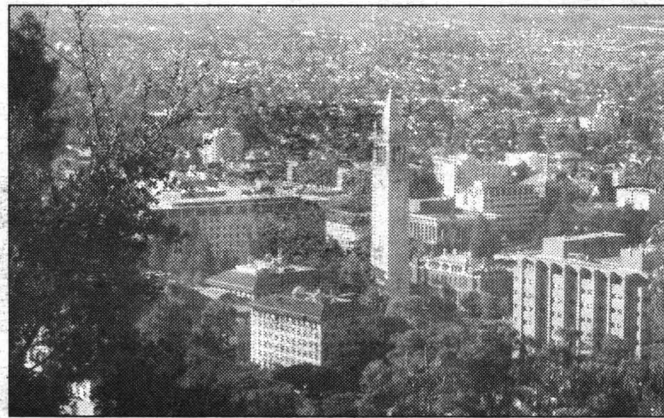
BY STOP CAL VIVISECTION

In the basement of a large, grey, University of California, Berkeley (UC-Berkeley) building known as the Northwest Animal Facility, 40,000 animals are subjected to the most heinous violence imaginable. And like victims of other forms of oppression, these victims of speciesism are not viewed as living beings capable of thinking, feeling or suffering. They're seen as biomachines. Research subjects. Treated like furry test tubes.

Why are animals being exploited and tortured to death at UC-Berkeley? Because National Institutes of Health grant money makes it a career. Professor Jack Gallant wakes up daily and goes to work, where he locks primates in restraint chairs and deprives them of water. In torment, they're forced to perform visual fixations with electrodes inserted deep into their brains. Yang Dan and Ralph Freeman drive to the building where cats and kittens suffer in stereotaxic devices with electrodes inserted into their brains. From birth until death, mechanical stabilization of their eyes restricts them from attaining the smallest of freedoms, even the ability to blink naturally. Frederic Theunissen spends his day drilling holes into the skulls of songbirds bolted into stereotaxic devices for invasive brain recordings. A conclusion Theunissen has reached after years of his violent studies: "There may exist an overall sexual preference for a male with a sexy song." These are just a few of UC-Berkeley's vivisectioners who have been met over the past year with a campaign to hold them accountable for the suffering they inflict on sentient beings.

Activist campaigns against vivisection have gained momentum and won victories in recent years. Dario Ringach of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) abandoned vivisection after becoming the target of a campaign. UCLA vivisectioners have

cops camped out on their lawns to "protect" them from above-ground activists. POM Wonderful abandoned animal testing after becoming the focus of a campaign. Audie Leventhal, formerly of the University of Utah, is no longer torturing non-human primates and has



More than 40,000 animals are being tortured to death at UC-Berkeley.

essentially been driven out of state to live in his Nevada vacation home.

Many of these campaigns have relied on demonstrations that publicly denounce vivisectioners at their homes. The Utah House of Representatives passed a bill to conceal the names, personal addresses and phone numbers of University of Utah animal researchers. Activists have been hit with restraining orders in Los Angeles. And on the state level in California, the California Animal Enterprise Protection Act would make it a crime to post the name or address of a vivisectioner on the Internet.

They're scared because tactics that hit on a personal level work. This is why UC-Berkeley is actively trying to put an end to this sort of resistance with threats of police investigations, media smears and ridiculous rhetoric.

"These people should be banned from harassing people in their homes. They are domestic terrorists, and the FBI has started treating them just as they would al-Qa'ida," UC-Berkeley spokesman Robert Sanders told the San Jose Mercury News, referring to the legal, above-ground campaign of Stop Cal

Vivisection. UC-Berkeley effected a removal of Stop Cal Vivisection's website, and sent letters threatening a lawsuit to their new site host, demanding that the "Meet the Vivisectioners" page and information about a new lab be removed. Restraining orders have also been threatened, but in recent corporate media coverage, UC-Berkeley admitted that they do not have enough evidence to move forward. The threats to the site host are just as likely only a scare tactic, as all of the information published is legal and could be found in the phone book or with an Internet search.

Last October, 20 activists were arrested in relation to the campaign, but the district attorney never moved forward with charges. There has also been small-scale police repression and spying, as well as sensational quotes about the campaign from the local FBI, but the fight continues. Home demonstrations against vivisectioners and others complicit in torture have been occurring frequently.

A new torture facility is currently being constructed at UC-Berkeley. The \$266-million Li Ka-Shing Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences, which is scheduled for completion in March 2010, will include a basement-level vivisection laboratory, and would expand UC-Berkeley's existing Northwest Animal Facility by 70 percent.

To stand a chance at preventing these horrors, we must continue to personalize this struggle. The individuals at UC-Berkeley Capital Projects, McCarthy Building Contractors, and Drilltech Drilling and Shoring have names and addresses. They make the daily choice to assist in oppression. And we have the power to stop them. The people responsible walk our streets, shop in our stores and live in our communities. Hold them accountable by whatever means you are comfortable with, because the horror needs to end.

For more information on the campaign or to learn the addresses of vivisectioners, visit www.pixelexdesign.com/stopcalvivisection.

Let's put a stop to this publicly financed holocaust.

DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS

Know Itall
7084 Naturey Ave
Treehugger, EF 14850

Dear SFB
POB 3023
Tucson, AZ 85702



Dear Editor,

I, too, have shit for brains sometimes, so it is great to connect with a fellow.

Good Luck,

—MIKE HOLCOMB
SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK

Deer Shit, Fur Brains,

When I got your letter asking for contributions, my initial reaction was, "Donate? I'm already subscribing!" Then, I looked at the check-off amounts to donate and thought, "Aw, what the heck. Another \$25 won't kill me." But then, I realized how often I shell out \$50 for a tank of gas without thinking about it and compared that to the high that I get reading each new issue of the *Journal*. Kind of puts it into perspective. So, without necessarily making any comparisons, here is the equivalent of a couple tankfuls better spent.

—ANONYMOUS

To whom it may concern,

My partner, Kevin Oliff, is a vegan prisoner and activist in Santa Barbara County, California. He and I were arrested and charged with felonies for actions as simple as taking a tofurkey from a Whole Foods. The charges were filed by Homeland Security, and we were questioned and pressured to give information on "other groups" that they alleged we were involved with as a compromise for our charges being dismissed. We both refused, and as a result, Kevin is still in the state prison system and currently "out to court" in Santa Barbara County, where he will stay until at least September. After that, he will be returned to state prison.

Kevin feels greatly cut-off from the struggle that he has such a passion to fight for, and he would love letters from anyone who supports the Earth, animal and humyn struggles. If possible, we'd like to make a request for letters to be sent to him. Thank you so much. Write to Kevin Oliff 607097, CID#287574, Santa Barbara County Jail, 4436 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

Sincerely,

—LAURA

Letter to Earth First!
Subject: Reasoning

I was at a loss when I read the article. I have had a number of issues on my mind and, at this point, Earth First! is no better than the people who are actually responsible. In fact, EF! is helping them strip what little freedom is left. There is no winning.

I live in the coal fields. I have seen a rash of nightmares. While everyone is at the door of the coal industry, need I remind everyone who is against nuclear power that the US had a fleet for over 50 years without incident.

We need more power plants like this—like the French have done. But no, that would be too simple. That would mean the powers-that-be would lose money. We can't have that. Yes, I agree that we should go to alternative sources, but we have lost, as we have let the powers-that-be go too far. We the people have done this, and it has been going on for decades.

We live in a country driven by greed and corruption, not to mention that we are broke, in debt, with no way out. We worry

about radicals and riots and meetings when we should be worrying about food and water.

The strength of the country needs to be built back and it needs to be built by our founding fathers' morals and trust. If we do not change that, our country as we know it will become a third-world country.

EF! is just fueling the fire. They are not accomplishing anything. Many articles and a couple of movies come to mind: "Deep Impact," "Apothos 2036 Jericho,"

my deep gratitude for your donating your excellent eco-defense journal to me. I'm an old, recalcitrant, anti-authoritarian outlaw doing 25 on 25 (19 down, six to go!) in high security or super seg. I receive no correspondence other than donated media, so you might imagine what intelligent communication means to me. Your paper is like the ray of sunshine I never see....

My heart goes out to people caught up in direct action litigation: to the

like a law-enforcement investigator if you can ever hope to avoid arrest and conviction. You must keep your spoor—electronic and otherwise—to an absolute minimum. Needless to say, your accomplices can't turn state's evidence if you don't have accomplices. You simply cannot judge how another, or yourself for that matter, will react "under fire." Are you really ready to gamble with possibly decades of your precious life that your comrade



artwork by Earthkeepers

"9/11," "Jeremiah" and "The Black Death." These are movies, but the reality of truth is close at hand.

As I have said, I live in the coal fields. I have been offered a large sum for my property. I would be no better than the rest. My great grandfather said once, "they're not making any more land."

We need to take care of the land, or it will take care of itself. We are the visitors, and we need to wake up now.

—ANONYMOUS

Dear Earth First!,
Greetings from the Texas gulag! I want to express

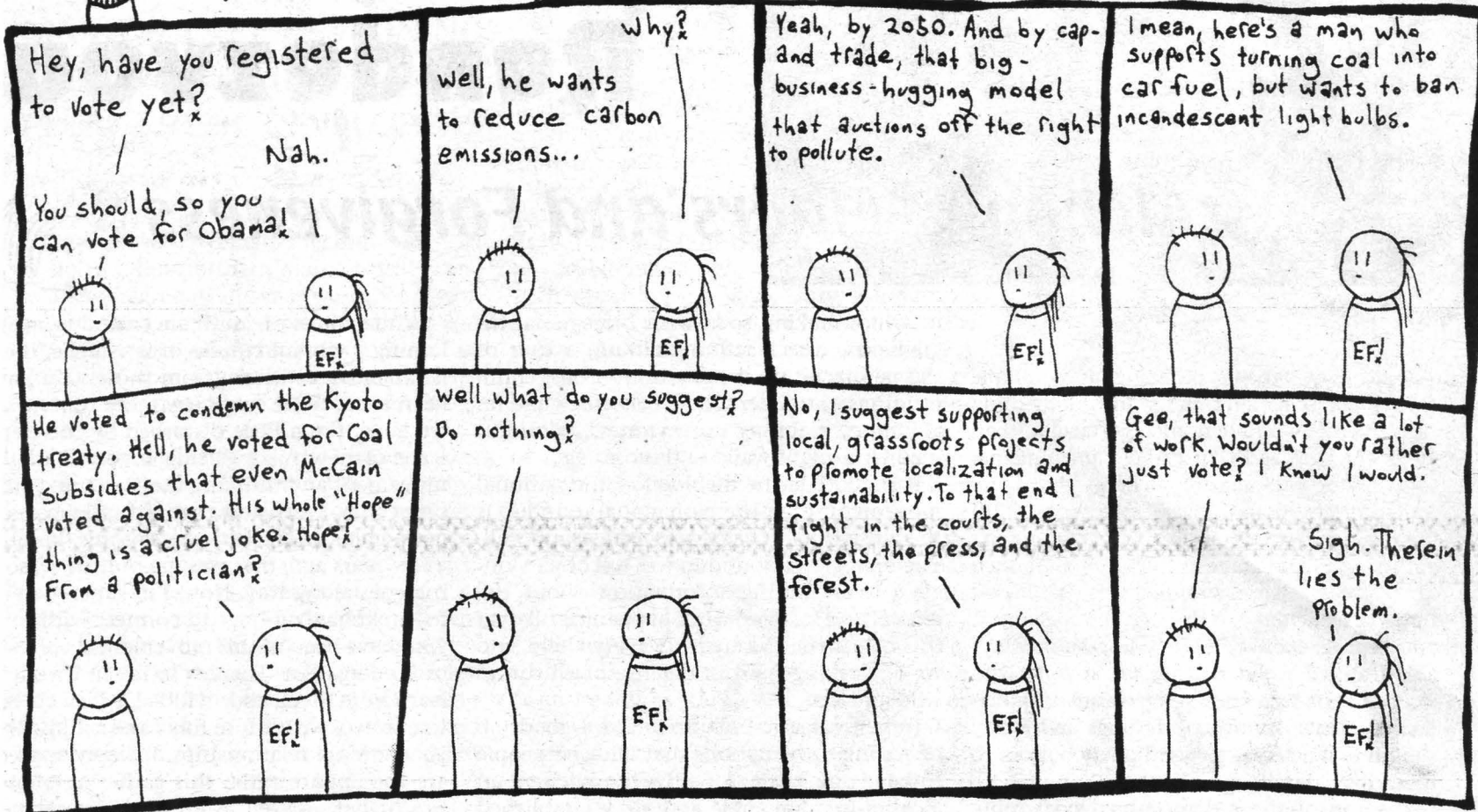
persons who feel betrayed by their weak-hearted comrades and a political system gone awry, and to those weak-hearted comrades who were overcome by terror and forced to abandon their values. It's a whole lot easier to be a staunch and stoic defender of eco-justice in the comfort of one's own home than when surrounded by predatory, menacing law-enforcement personnel. Been there and done that.

If a person feels compelled to exercise direct action, it's a necessity to become intimate with police science. You simply must train yourself to think

won't "break weak" under the horrendous pressure of the state? I wouldn't think so....

Lastly, I want to give voice to the chronically overlooked truth that happiness and peace of mind are within and nowhere else. Acceptance is the key. I'm perfectly content in my little concrete tomb—no windows, no nothing—because I have learned to quit arguing with reality. Faced with a quarter of a century of confinement, I had no choice: It was either make peace with myself and reality or go insane—or take my own life.

Doomsday Mountain Earth First!



Wherever you are and whatever challenges you are confronted with, I hope you're able to maintain a sense of humor and not take life too seriously.

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,

And then, it is heard no more. It is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,

Signifying nothing.

With much respect and warm regards,

—RICHARD OSTRANDER

prisoner sub. I know it is not possible to carry a lot of prisoners. At the same time, the prisoner ad on page 30 misses something. Texas prisoners are not paid and have not been paid in 159 years. So, 35 cents an hour may seem like a lot of money here! Sad, isn't it? Not even \$1 a month, let alone \$3 a day. If you or someone associated with you can go for it, I would appreciate a subscription. I grew up with deep ecology and the Gary Snyder wisdom in the veterinary business in Kansas.

A jury out for four and a half days is too long, and means there was reasonable doubt. Plus, her appeal will be heard in the Ninth Circuit. So, her case should get a good look. Still, as Shakespeare said, "While the grass grows, the horse dies." Sadistic law-enforcement types smirk when they say, "You may beat the rap, but you'll never beat the ride." The rotten SOB's. I have 25 years in the retrograde Texas prison, and my case is still in court—

of Golf Links and Swan. Long time ago, but not forgotten.

Now, I'm writing about trying to get some mail. My people are all shells that no longer resemble anything human. I get out in 16 months. I am in contact with a volunteer through Kansas mutual aid, but could use some mail. My religion is Asatru. Write to Greg A. Weir, #70039, LC-MHF F4-430, RR3 Box 30, Larned, KS 67550-9304.

ELF/ALF,

—GREG WEIR

injustice together in our movement, we can end it in our world.

—A MIDDLE-CLASS, WHITE, PRIVILEGED, ABLE-BODIED, STRAIGHT MALE

Dear EF/J Crew,

How's it going? I just wanted to drop a line thanking you all for the work you do on the *Journal* and making sure that my subscription hasn't run out! I've read every issue since 1995, but haven't received one here since the March-April edition. If my sub is over, could someone drop a quick line to me so I can get my support team to re-sub me?

Also, thank you for removing Chris McIntosh from your support list. His racism, sexism and anti-gay bias have no place in our movement, and we shouldn't be wasting resources supporting him. That being said, what a sad situation. Without the pressure and stress of living in a maximum security prison, I bet that kid never would have ended up so warped. His sad transformation is a reminder of the disfiguring effects of incarceration, and, while his new politics should be denounced, I hope people understand the forces of cause and effect at work here. Most of us militants behind bars aren't having Peter Young's "long walk to the salad bar" experience.

Anyhow, keep up the good work. I look forward to each new issue. I've been thinking of submitting something for a while now but don't know what to write about. Any suggestions?

—Always wild, if not free,
—JOSH HARPER



Dear Earth First!,
I received Beltane in good order. Thank you.

It had some very interesting and important information, particularly the articles about Briana Waters (superbly written) and Marie Mason, as well as "The Bulldozers Have Arrived in Indiana." I think the "Trans-Texas Corridor," as it is called here, is going to get run over in Texas. Even its Republican sponsors are jumping ship! "Frontlines," "Environmental News of the Weird," etc.... Really, an excellent issue all the way around.

Back when the EF/J came out of Eugene, I had a free

I have always supported EF! and related groups.

"Ask an EF! Lawyer" was good, as far as it went. However, when I went through the entire process, when I got to the CIA, which has always kept domestic files, they wrote me they did not operate under the Freedom of Information Act but rather under the Privacy Act, which I then utilized. Stu Sugarman did not say if the FBI now checks the National Crime Information Center—which they operate but is not in Washington, DC—an important records source.

I think Briana Waters has a good shot at reversal.

albeit federal court, at this point.

—ROBERT ZANI

Earth First!,

Imagine that! Just the other day, I was thinking about your group, and today, I get the #25 Spring/Summer 2008 *Green Anarchy* in the mail.

To most people, this would be a trivial moment, but not to me. My mother used to live off of Speedway and Craycroft on Third Street in Tucson. I was there in Pima County when Earth movers were disabled and Earth First! was spray-painted in green. That was out off

2008 Round River Rendezvous

Alchemy, Elders and Forgiveness



BY LEGUME

If alchemy is the art of taking bits of simple things and changing them into something fundamentally different and spectacular, then Hock Hocking Earth First! did a phenomenal job working the amazing alchemy that is required of any Round River Rendezvous (RRR) organizing crew to pull off a rowdy week-long gathering in the woods of Ohio, for a bunch of dirty rebels. The beautiful, diverse hardwood forest that sheltered us through thunderstorms and kept us cool on the few hot, sunny days also featured wood roaches (as anyone who slept under a tarp knows), many amazing medicinal plants, stunning birdsongs and a clay subsoil that acted as a very slippery bottom to mud-covered trails.

The top of the old, reclaimed coal mine that served as the parking and security area offered a potent reminder of why we come together. We are like the mullein, clover, queen anne's lace and grasses of that hilltop. This is the alchemy of our movement. The plants that are slowly rebuilding the topsoil, and roughing out a space for fireflies, spiders, birds and the occasional mammals, remind us that our own work is one small part of the massive reshaping, rehabilitating and resurrection that needs to happen on this planet. It is our job as cultural alchemists to take both our internal mine sites, where we have deep scars, and the mine sites of the world, and heal them. We take one part love, one part deep respect for all living things, one part dedication, one part stubbornness and one part humility, and mix them with the bodies, minds and hearts of other rebels to forge that great promise of alchemy, change.

For a small organizing crew, the Ohio folks sure did an impressive job feeding the masses, bringing local voices to the forefront and generally running a safe and happy camp for everyone. As someone who has helped organize a RRR in the past, I have a humongous level of respect and admiration for what these folks accomplished.

I'm not sure where the coconut milk came from, but, "Hell yeah!" All week I was impressed by the way the creative kitchen crew was able to make super yummy and healthy food for everyone. This alone was an amazing feat of organizing, and the folks who gathered all of the food, begged for all of the donations and shook their booties in the kitchen deserve serious high fives.

The group spirit in general was perhaps a little lacking (as Milli Vanilli would say—or lip-sinc, "Blame it on the rain, yeah, yeah"), with morning circles spending lots of time trying to fill volunteer shifts, especially security. I'm always amazed that a small group of folks can work so hard to make an RRR happen, but others who show up aren't willing to get off their asses to maintain a basic level of security, sanitation and sanity in the camp. But the folks who pitched in to dig new shitters in the rain, haul water up to the kitchen and do lots of trail work are much appreciated for their busy beaver ways.

There was a wide selection of workshops and skill shares throughout the week. Workshop topics included consent, fighting big coal

in Ohio, making soda with bioregional ingredients, direct action training, a tour of the permaculture demonstration bus, climb trainings, the Green Scare, consensus and facilitation, mapping our madness, botanical medicine, plant walks and more.

If the RRR is the lifeblood of the national movement, then the bioregional roundup is the pulse, and oh baby, are we alive and well. The bioregional roundup was full of passionate voices sharing information about the critical and inspired work happening all over this continent. We are truly everywhere, and we're working hard in defense of all things wild and free.

In general, the organizers did a good job of setting up structures that allowed people to have safe space. An all-vegan kitchen, an alcohol-free fire circle and a pre-established conflict mediation team are key elements for a successful RRR. Though there were exceptions to these elements, the organizers were obviously working toward this end. These are all good examples of the progress we've made as a movement toward accessibility and in the spirit of prevention of (rather than reaction to) bad situations. As we continue to struggle with issues of race, gender, class, etc. within our biocentric movement, my personal hope is that we can focus on practice more than theory, and the

While voices of youth are critical to maintaining a vibrant culture of resistance, there is much we can learn from those who have been around the sun a few more times than we have. I'm a little disturbed by the trend I see of new folks getting involved in the movement and thinking they invented anti-oppression work and that old folks haven't got a clue. I feel like I can say this, because a few years ago, that was me. A little seasoning goes along way. Now, I'm super-grateful for any chance I have to connect with folks who have been in this movement since I was in kindergarten. There is so much I want to learn from them, and an RRR is a great chance to connect with those folks and build cross-generational relationships. I deeply appreciate the opportunities this gathering offered to do that, as well as all of the sweet new tricks I learned from those awesome folks.

Other highlights of the week included the Warrior Poets Society, naked mud wrestling, a couple of crazy "rowdy fires," mud and falling on my ass in the mud. Unfortunately (especially with all of the mud), there was no easily accessible swimming in close proximity to the site. It was awesome to see (for the first time in a while) not just one, but two bioregions ready to take on next year's RRR—it says something about the state of the movement that there are multiple crews excited to host the RRR, and willing to wrestle for it.

Inevitably, this RRR did have its bit of drama. I'm sure there are lots of people with different ideas about exactly what happened. Hopefully, we can all take the time to look at our own individual responsibility for conflicts when they arise. It's always easy to blame the "other" side in a conflict, but the reality is that there is always shared responsibility for conflict. One thing that seems to be a pattern in terms of conflict in the movement is the question of actions—who organizes them and how decisions are made. When we attend a RRR, we have to have some measure of trust and respect for the organizers, who, after all, make the whole thing possible. In turn, the organizers have a responsibility to be as forthcoming and open with us about their plans as is reasonable and secure. We all need to exercise humility, have compassion for each other, remember that miscommunications happen and be willing to forgive. Above all, we have lots of work to do together.

We are a force to be reckoned with. Like the mullein on the mine site, like the silt build up behind the dam, like the grizzly who hunts the hunter, we are alchemists transforming a broken culture into a future with no mines, dams or sport hunters. There will be rough spots along the way, but if this year's RRR is any indication, a change is coming.

Legume is a meat-eating, rabble-rousing, facilitation freak, with no kids and no plans for kids, from the far northern region where the creeks are scummy but the resistance is strong. Her days are spent hula-hooping and working with small farmers to prevent industrial agriculture from swallowing them whole.



Rowdy rowdy action protesting

above-mentioned structures are a key step in that direction.

We have lots more work to do, and some of that was clear over the course of the RRR. While there was a spirited and strong contingent of movement elders, there was a striking lack of under-16-year-olds present. Perhaps one reason for this is the lack of preplanned childcare structures. When organizers can set up childcare structures and include that in the outreach they do, the space becomes a lot friendlier to folks with young children. I'm not suggesting that organizers should bottom line childcare for the whole week, but preparing a kids area and some kid-friendly workshops can go along way.



defending maine

MAINE'S LAST REMAINING OLD GROWTH FORESTS VS. PLUM CREEK DEVELOPERS

BY THUNDERCHEEKS AND DIRTY DEEDS

To many people, the eastern seaboard of the US is a densely populated techno-industrial wasteland, but northern Maine is still home to a few fragments of what was once a vast, wide-ranging, diverse, mixed-hardwood forest. This forest used to cover much of the East Coast, but now only exists in small pockets. Remnants can still be found on a few steep hillsides and out-of-the-way places.

In Ellitsville, Maine, at the southern edge of the North Woods, lies a 220-acre parcel of old-growth eastern forest. Towering white pines, older than any of the private companies that own most of Maine, create a dense canopy that houses threatened species of lady slippers and the Canada lynx. The parcel is bordered by Big Wilson Stream and is scattered with, among many other species, 200 to 300-year-old spruces, hemlocks, sugar maples and birches. The steep slopes and remoteness of this area are probably what have ensured this forest's preservation in this condition for so long, as there are no signs of any human disturbances. However, these majestic giants happen to inhabit land that is now "owned" by Plum Creek.

Plum Creek, the largest private landowner in the US, is awaiting a verdict on their massive land re-zoning proposal from the Land Use Regulatory Commission (LURC), the zoning board for northern Maine. This proposal would allow a massive amount of development to occur in the Moosehead Lake Region of Maine—including golf courses, multiple resorts, lots of new second homes for the rich and a big old stinking mess in the largest undeveloped area remaining east of the Mississippi River (see *EF!* November-December 2007).

Part of this rezoning proposal is the sale of the development rights of about 400,000 acres of Plum Creek land to conservation groups who will hold easements on the land. These easements would allow Plum Creek to continue to practice "sustainable forestry," develop commercial water extraction, mine for gravel, spread municipal solid waste or

sludge, and generally continue to wreak havoc on the natural world. The Big Wilson old growth area is located within the proposed easement, allowing Plum Creek, if the concept plan is approved, to accrue double profits by harvesting the timber and then selling the development rights.

This past Spring, Mark Doty, a long-time forester and resident of the Moosehead Lake region who worked for Plum Creek, publicly revealed information about the planned harvest in the Big Wilson parcel. According to Doty, the company had every intention of logging the parcel this Summer as part of a 1,200-acre harvest plan. This pristine late-successional forest is a longtime favorite recreational spot for locals who have hunted and fished this area for generations. The knowledge of eminent doom for the big trees sparked local outrage.

Native Forest Network-Gulf of Maine (NFN) took an early and strong lead in raising public awareness about the old growth parcel on Plum Creek's land. Beginning with the 2008 Northeast Regional Rendezvous, Maine Earth First! and NFN have worked closely together to explore the area, document the incredibly diverse ecology and impressive old trees and share the area with lots of new people. The two groups have sponsored four public hikes on the parcel to date, bringing out many local residents, local newspaper and public radio reporters, and a documentary film crew. Also attending public hikes have been professional ecologists, forest advocates, artists and activists.

After Doty first noted the ecological value of this area, Plum Creek agreed to delay their harvest plans so that the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) and the Manomet Forest Conservation Society could evaluate the ecological value and old-growth characteristics of the area. These evaluations are now complete, and the results are very clear. According to the MNAP, "The Big Wilson Stream forest is an excellent example of a late-successional forest with characteristic old trees, stand continuity and evidence of a long history of natural processes. In addition to the ecological value associated with late-successional forests, conservation of the Big Wilson Stream

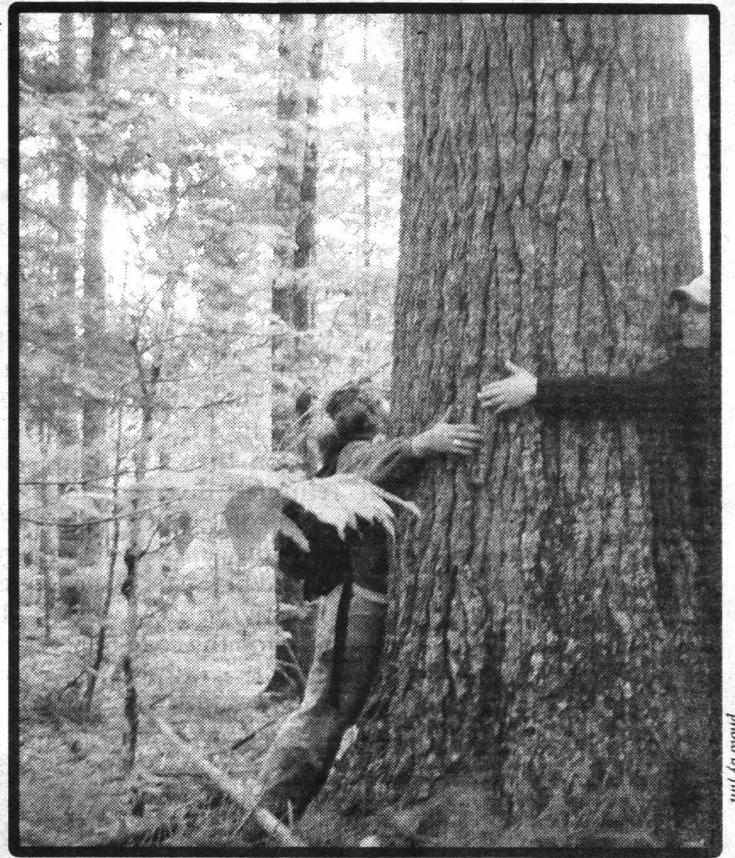


photo by Jim

"Grammana," a tree in the Big Wilson area

forest could retain approximately one mile of pristine habitat along the Big Wilson Stream and provide the additional benefit of habitat connectivity, as the parcel is contiguous to existing conservation lands to the north."

As a result of pressure from NFN and Maine EF!, and the results of the evaluation by the MNAP, Plum Creek is now in talks with conservation groups to attempt to find an agreement to protect this parcel by selling it to a preservationist landowner. However, this momentary attack of Plum Creek's conscience is seen by some as a last-ditch public relations effort on Plum Creek's part in the lead up to LURC's decision on their rezoning proposal. NFN and Maine EF! remain committed to fighting the rezoning proposal and protecting the Big Wilson Stream area. Plum Creek should not be allowed to leverage their willingness to sell the Big Wilson old growth at top dollar to preservationists to curry favor for their development plans. If anything, the antics of Plum Creek around this parcel should be seen as a good illustration of what is wrong with Plum Creek's plan and the conservation easements.

For more information, contact maineef@yahoo.com; nfnmaine@gmail.com; www.savebigwilsonoldgrowth.blogspot.com.

OHIO RENDEZVOUS ACTION

Lockdown at American Municipal Power

continued from page 1

meet with them then, promising to do so later. A few months went by before Mountain Justice received a letter from AMP's lawyer saying that Gerken would not be meeting with them after all.

On July 7, the day of action stemming from the Rendezvous, about 100 Earth First!ers descended on the AMP office. They were not polite. Four people locked down to each other in non-violent civil disobedience inside the building's lobby, while around 20 others delivered messages to the AMP Ohio employees with signs, banners, chants and songs. The activists said that they wouldn't leave until all coal activity in Meigs County was stopped. Outside, two activists climbed the flagpoles in an attempt to hang a banner that read, "Meigs County doesn't want your dirty coal plants!" An AMP Ohio employee ran out of the building and began yanking on the banner that was attached to the two climbers' harnesses, endangering their lives. They were forced to cut the banner free, but remained atop the flagpoles.

When the police did arrive, I was shocked and appalled at what I saw. I witnessed police brutality first hand, as the Columbus police tortured my friends with chemical weapons and used excessive force in removing people from the building. People were pepper sprayed while trying to exit through a revolving door that was allegedly broken in the ruckus. If that door was broken, it was broken by cops picking people up and throwing them into it.

The four activists who were locked together got the worst of it. The police chose to use huge cans of pepper spray—the pressurized ones that are designed for use at the big protests to spray large crowds of people from 20 yards away. The police asked the crowd to leave the building once. The locked-down individuals reasserted that they wouldn't leave willingly until all coal activity in Meigs County was stopped. The police didn't try to carry them out. They simply opened up those huge, pressurized cans of pepper spray inches from

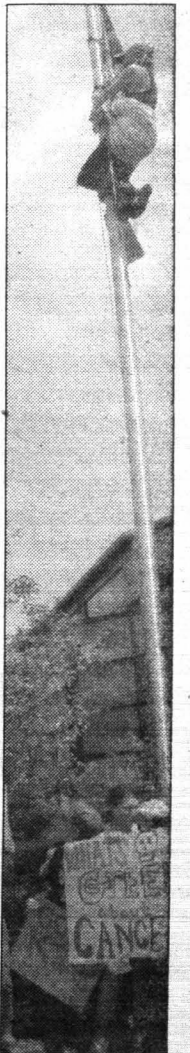
my friends' eyes. Then, while they were writhing in pain, the cops dragged them through the revolving doors while still chained together, injuring their wrists and arms. While the locked-down activists were being removed from the building, another activist was arrested and Tasered for trying to take photographs of the arrests. The two support people for the folks who had climbed the flagpoles were also arrested when they refused to leave their friends who were still 30 feet in the air. A eighth person was arrested after he was targeted by the police for an unknown reason and attempted to flee.

The activists who were locked together were put into a police wagon, and driven through the grass of a nearby park and over bumpy roads for more than an hour without medical attention. They were jailed for a day and a half without proper decontamination and sustained major burns on their faces, shoulders and chests. They were charged with criminal trespass and rioting.

Some 20 or 30 of us stood outside the jail for two days, waiting to get our friends back. We were very peaceful, but were threatened with arrest by the Sheriff's Department. (We eventually did get our friends out of jail.) My friends stood up for what they believe in and were tortured and jailed for it. In the coming months, they will be nursing their wounds, plodding through the municipal courts and suing the Columbus police for the brutality that they experienced. Earth First! maintains the stance of our slogan, "No compromise in defense of Mother Earth," and of our promise to AMP Ohio, "We won't stop until you do." My friends are keeping their chins up, and I'm more in love with them now than ever before.

You can send information to assist the lawsuits (if you were at the action), letters of support and donations to Hokhokken Earth First!, POB 275, Athens, OH 45701. Right now, every penny counts and is going directly to legal support.

For more information, contact rondy2008@gmail.com.



An AMP flagpole

CLIMATE CAMP AUSTRALIA

MORE THAN JUST A PROTEST CAMP

BY GEORGINA WOODS

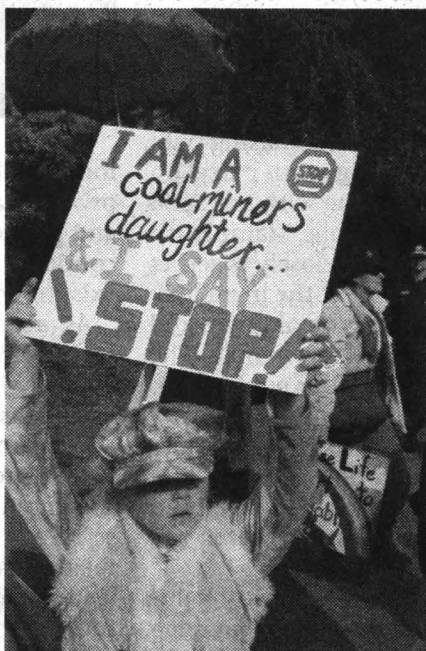
The first Australian Climate Camp was held in Newcastle, New South Wales, from July 10-15. It culminated in a thousand-strong march on the Carrington Coal Terminal, during which around 50 people were arrested for occupying a coal train that lay stranded in the terminal. Images of activists gleefully being arrested atop the coal trucks went around the world. No trains moved in or out of the export terminal for seven hours. The volume of exports from the port that week fell by 18 percent.

July 12 was the day before the massive protest action that was the culmination of the camp. Departing from the terrific workshops, forums and discussions that had filled the program during the previous two days, the afternoon featured a mass simulation of the action we were planning. Most of the camp had gathered together at the welcome tent, waiting to march through camp to the tall wire fence on the other side. There, activist "police" were waiting to try to keep the rest of us from getting across. On the other side of the fence was a soccer field, where locals had been watching their teams play since around 10 a.m.

The parents and kids action team was to lead the march the following day, followed by the percussionists, so off we went in that order. Folks at the camp had been sorting themselves into "action teams" to make the huge gathering we were preparing for a little more self-organized and organic, and to give us a chance to get through the fence that

surrounds the train line. After the parents and percussionists, we saw the Friends of the Earth team, the Victorian team (named for the Australian state, not the era), the clown team, the apocalypse bloc and a group called "infrastructure bottleneck," to name a few.

Once we got to the fence, people were a little hesitant. What now? All of a sudden, someone cheeky spotted a whole area of fence not being guarded by "the



Even the young ones can understand.

police" and clambered over it. The crowd erupted in appreciative laughter that seemed to set off a switch in people's heads. All of a sudden, the masses surged forward to do the same. A large group got over the fence and sat on the ground with legs crossed and arms linked in front of a crowd of soccer spectators who had turned around to find the source of the shouting. But it wasn't over. Activist "police"

wrestled "activists." There was shouting and pushing, and one of the soccer fans threw a beer can at the mob of tussling bodies.

After lots of attempts to stop the exercise, people finally drifted back to a circle to debrief. Some of us were rattled by the wildness of the experience. What had just happened?

The reason I tell this story, rather than one of the many dozen more positive possibilities, was that this action stimulation (as some are now calling it) helped the protest the following day remain strong, single-minded and non-violent. We had seen our comrades experience the cathartic release of unrestrained emotion being expressed through their bodies. We had seen the results of wildness, egoism and abandon. Almost without acknowledging it, we opted as a group the following day for oneness, focus and mutual aid.

There were people at the climate camp (and maybe there are others reading this *Journal*) who question non-violence as a campaign tactic, but the most impressive thing about the action that stopped the trains heading into Carrington Coal Terminal for seven hours was the discipline and determination of the group—our commitment to collectivity and to the cause. This collectivity, so hard to define, was easily witnessed in the joy of the participants. Activist after activist was removed from the laden coal train as the crowds on the other side of the fence danced, celebrated and cheered. Each one of the arrestees grinned and waved in salute to the crowd. People who had arrived at camp timidly apprehensive of what would be their first direct action

protest left that day proud and connected—committed to using direct action as a powerful and effective tool for social change.

The contrast between the simulation and the action on the following day was stark. It was a contrast that highlighted the important divergence of individual heroics from collective action. Heroics are driven by ego and result in headlines. Collective action is driven by a common vision and results in change.

What I want to build on following the climate camp is the recognition that, when it comes to climate change, we have one or two years left to save the world. As activists, we can't afford to please ourselves or alienate each other any longer. At the climate camp, we had socialists (of various factions), anarchists, capitalists, Christians, atheists, Buddhists, stay-at-home mums, unionists, grandparents and babies. Each had a different take on human organization; each cooperated with the others.

The tragedy of our species—if it continues as a tragedy—will be that petty difference, egoism and vanity continue to paralyze us (yes, even activists). We will witness the degradation and irrevocable loss of the indescribable, plentiful, wild and gorgeous life on this one blue planet. The alternative path is the one that has always been just out of reach—cooperation, togetherness, discipline, sacrifice and determination. The climate camp gave me a glimpse of that other possible future. Bring it on.

Georgina Woods is a biodiversity advocate and a founding member of Rising Tide Newcastle (Australia). She participated in and helped organize the first Australian Camp for Climate Action.

West Coast Climate Convergence Fights Roads and Pipelines

BY WEST COAST CLIMATE CONVERGENCE MEDIA

In the early afternoon of August 4, two activists with the West Coast Convergence for Climate Action walked onto Morrison Bridge in Portland, Oregon, and unfurled a banner protesting the I-5 expansion known as the Columbia River Crossing (CRC). One activist suspended a banner from the bridge, and another locked himself to the gate leading to the area where the banner was dropped. The banner reads, "Six more lanes equal more sick people: No I-5 Bridge Expansion."

The activists on the bridge were supported by a politically charged street theater performance depicting the expanded bridge, cars and bikes, and by representatives of the Oil Enforcement Agency, who handed out tickets to passersby.

Activists were drawing attention to the proposed I-5 expansion and CRC project because of concerns about their climate

impacts as well as their continued reliance on oil-based transportation infrastructure at a time when oil supplies are falling and prices are rising dramatically. Opponents of the project point out that the state of Oregon has announced a goal of reducing pollution that causes global warming to at least 75 percent below 1990 levels. Transportation-caused pollution is responsible for one-third of regional global warming pollution. Public health advocates point out that the I-5 freeway has already had a negative impact on the health of low-income communities and communities of color along the freeway, and that increased driving would lead to further pollution. Finally, homeowners are up in arms about the possibility of their property being seized through eminent domain to make way for an expanded highway.

Later that afternoon, three young women occupied the Portland headquarters of NW Natural Gas Company to protest the company's involvement in liquefied natural gas (LNG) development. The climate activists locked themselves to each other in a circle, blockading the entrance to the building and providing an opportunity for interaction with the growing crowd.

The activists were at NW Natural in opposition to the Palomar Gas Transmission

pipeline project, demanding that NW Natural CEO Mark Dodson or President and Chief Operating Officer Gregg Kantor engage in an immediate dialogue with them. The 223-mile Palomar pipeline is proposed to connect the Bradwood Landing LNG terminal to a California-bound TransCanada pipeline. The pipeline would be constructed through the wetlands of the Columbia River estuary, hundreds of Willamette Valley farms and the Mount Hood National Forest before connecting to the TransCanada line in Madras, Oregon. Activists and community members oppose the pipeline due to related global and local environmental destruction and social injustices.

"NW Natural is one of our region's biggest climate criminals. It is widely recognized that, in the fight against climate change, the last thing we need is to build new fossil fuel infrastructure. NW Natural's Palomar Pipeline would only increase our dependence on another foreign fossil fuel," said Sandy Miller, a Eugene resident and participant in the recent West Coast Convergence for Climate Action held in Coburg, Oregon. "We will not let them bulldoze our future for pipeline profits," she added.

For more information, visit www.climateconvergence.org.



The banner drop over Morrison bridge

Oil Enforcement Agency Busts Oil-Worshipping Cult at I-5 Expansion Hearing in Oregon

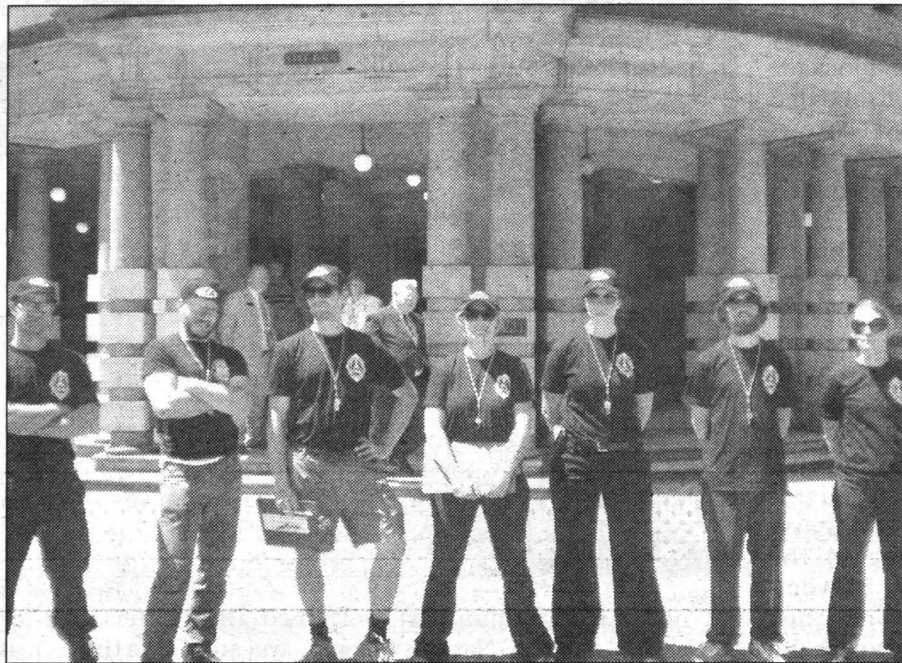
BY CASCADIA RISING TIDE

The controversy over the I-5 expansion project known as the Columbia River Crossing took a theatrical turn on July 9, as an interactive street performance took center stage outside a packed city hall in Portland, Oregon. Meeting attendees were greeted with a fake checkpoint just past an area marked off by "Global Warming Crime Scene" tape.

Decked out in a Men-in-Black-style uniform marked with the insignia of the "Oil Enforcement Agency (OEA)," an actress known as Agent Burns was busily preparing a ticket for a bemused member of the Portland Business Alliance on his way to the meeting.

"This is your final warning, sir. If you're intent on testifying in favor of the bridge, we're going to have to write you up for abuse of a foreign fossil fuel," chided the agent.

The OEA agents were not the only performers making a point about the I-5 expansion's impacts on oil use and climate change. A second troupe had assembled an oil-worshipping cult, chanting dirges in praise of burning fossil fuel while bowing before a 12-foot-tall mock oil-derrick. Occasionally, members of the OEA would attempt to arrest the cult, only to be chased away by an oil-worshipping dominatrix.



Beware the Oil Enforcement Agency.

illegal foreign wars before they prove the end of us."

The street theater was organized by energy activists with the organizations Rising Tide and Global Exchange as a kick off for the second annual West Coast Convergence for Climate Action, a week-long conference that took place in Coburg, Oregon, in late July (see page 8). The convergence focused on regional climate and energy issues, including liquefied natural gas development along Oregon's waterways, the Bureau of Land Management's forest plan revisions, the removal of the Klamath River dams, sustainable agriculture and the Columbia River Crossing.

For more information, visit www.climateconvergence.org.

Meanwhile, inside the city council meeting, a variety of groups opposed to the Columbia River Crossing raised their concerns about the I-5 expansion in a more sober fashion. Hostility to the project has been expanding in recent months, with dozens of groups on both sides of the Columbia River weighing in against the project.

Back outside city hall, the OEA agents had a closing message to Portland residents. "If the politicians won't do it, it's going to take community-based policing—each of us standing up to the oil pushers in our neighborhoods," said Agent Slick. "We need to put an end to the lawless abuse of the climate and the

Putting the government and corporations on the receiving end of a crackdown

Environmental News of the Weird

I've Got a Chip in My Neck!... No, It's Just a Mosquito. No, It's a Bug!

A debate has arisen over whether insect-like robots spied on anti-war protests in Washington, DC, in 2007. While the CIA developed a dragonfly-sized flier in the 1970s, other government agencies have been experimenting on more advanced technologies toward the same purposes. Some involve the nerve-ends of moth larvae growing into a fitted chip that would be able to control the insect's flight. Most government agencies refused to comment on the extent of such technology for a *Washington Post* article titled, "Dragonflies or Spy Insects?"

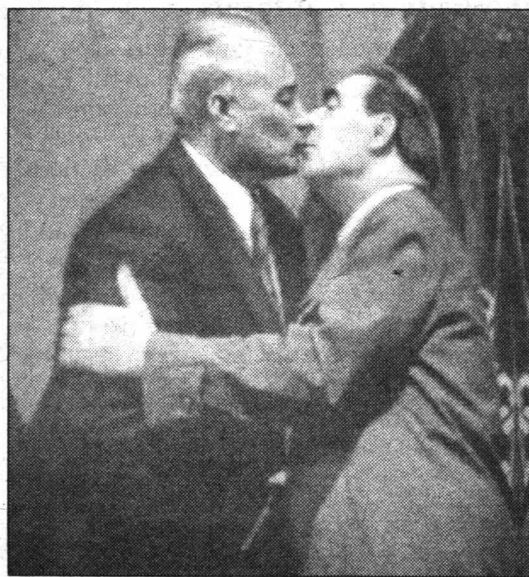
According to the article, questions were raised about bugs seen by protestors last September in Lafayette Square, a park in Washington, DC. If the government openly expresses its interest in using such technologies for espionage, how would we know when they are being implemented? However, some questioned why news of such devices being found has never appeared if they are in wide use.

Hewlett-Packard, The Enemy is You

Hewlett-Packard (HP) is now working toward the commodification of... basically, every atom. Their new line of research is so experimental that we probably shouldn't believe them when they say that their devices will be able to monitor the entire planet.

The head of HP's Information and Quantum Systems Laboratory, Stan Williams, bragged, "When you are able to craft matter at the nanometer scale, you have achieved the ultimate level of control over directing matter, electrons or photons." HP's public imagists say that they are building devices to measure (but not alter?) minute amounts of biological material or imperceptible vibrations. Of course, in such a drab world, a little green must be added—and HP promises that these devices will offer information to consumers on "whether something is organic or

not." With a 90-person HP lab that has been working on the project since at least 1994, Williams declared that trillions of these devices could soon be produced all over the world. The obviously demented Williams says the lab's theme is a "Central Nervous System for the Earth."



Clorox and Sierra Club executives enjoying each other's company

The Sierra Club and Clorox Caught Making Out

We're afraid of what the children will look like now that the Sierra Club's affair with Clorox is out of the closet. The Sierra Club's name and logo will appear on a new line of non-chlorinated Clorox cleaning products called "Green Works." Clorox has also recently acquired Burt's Bees, a line of cosmetic products for hippies.

Apparently, some Sierra Club members want to stop the deal to save the mainstream environmental group from becoming a greenwashing assistant, which would be like trying to save an in-patient who was taken off of life support back in the '70s.

The Sierra Club will receive a kickback based on product sales.

Bayer Cites God as Culprit

In 2006, Bayer CropScience announced that, for five years, a genetically modified (GM) rice variety had been spreading through long-grain rice supplies in the US. The contamination, Bayer explained to the *Washington Post*, was the result of "an act of God."

On the day of the announcement, without a smidge of a healthy fear of God in them, Bayer applied retroactively for permission to plant the GM rice variety. Avoiding a costly recall on contaminated rice, the approval was dully granted by the US Department of Agriculture.

"It Was Us Who Scorched the Sky...."

Global Warming scientist Tim Flannery has proposed pumping sulphur into the stratosphere to artificially cool the planet, which would change the color of the sky. Others have proposed offsetting global warming with outer-space mirrors to deflect sunlight or growing artificial trees that remove carbon dioxide from the air. Additionally, a number of scientists have more practically suggested, "We're done for."

Flannery is the author of a popular 2006 book, *The Weather Makers*, which fishes for a drastic panacea to prevent ecological collapse.

Save the Whales... For Lunch

Norway and Japan are making arguments that eating whale meat is more environmentally sustainable than eating other types of meat. Climate change commentators, in desperation to present a solution to global warming, have also built a hype around fish being a lower carbon-emitting food industry than animal farming. Greenpeace got it half right when they responded, "The survival of a species is more important than lower greenhouse gas emissions from eating it."

Enough carbon emissions might lead to extinction anyway, but the ceaseless hunger for resources is ultimately being driven by our profit system. Unless we do away with that, these solutions are just more of the same.

UPDATES

Grassy Narrows: Logging Company Pulls Out, but the Struggle Continues

In early December 2002, members from the Anishinaabeg First Nation community of Grassy Narrows began a road blockade to prevent Abitibi Consolidated from logging on Grassy Narrows land in Ontario, Canada. This was the beginning of ongoing resistance to the logging of 2,500 square miles of the Anishinaabeg's traditionally used land (see *EF!J* May-June 2003).

In violation of the Canadian government's 1873 treaty with the Grassy Narrows community, the Ontario government has continually granted logging companies rights to the land. By 2002, 50 percent of marketable wood on Grassy Narrows land had been logged. The blockade, created mostly by women and youths who even relocated their high-school classes to the site of the blockade, continued to grow after December 2002.

Some environmental groups celebrated what they perceived as a big victory on June 3, as AbitibiBowater (Abitibi Consolidated had since merged with Bowater to become the biggest newsprint provider in the world) pulled out of the Grassy Narrows boreal forest. It was the last logger left in the area. Its withdrawal has been credited by some to a sustained direct-action campaign led by the Rainforest Action Network (RAN) against companies buying materials from the area. However, AbitibiBowater's decision is largely the result of a newly passed Ontario law pushed for by RAN and other non-profit environmental groups. The law states that resource extraction permits for half of Ontario's land—including the Grassy Narrows boreal forest—must now be negotiated with First Nations Band Councils, who are supported by the Canadian government and are known to flaunt indigenous traditions and not speak for the people. Thus, using assimulative tactics, the new law makes it even easier to plunder native land.

RAN is proclaiming this to be a new step toward respecting indigenous sovereignty in land claims, but if you talk to indigenous sovereignists, you will hear a healthy disdain for both the Band Councils who stand to profit from the sale, and for RAN, which helped broker the government deal. In contrast, Band Council Grand Chief Stan Beardy of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (representing

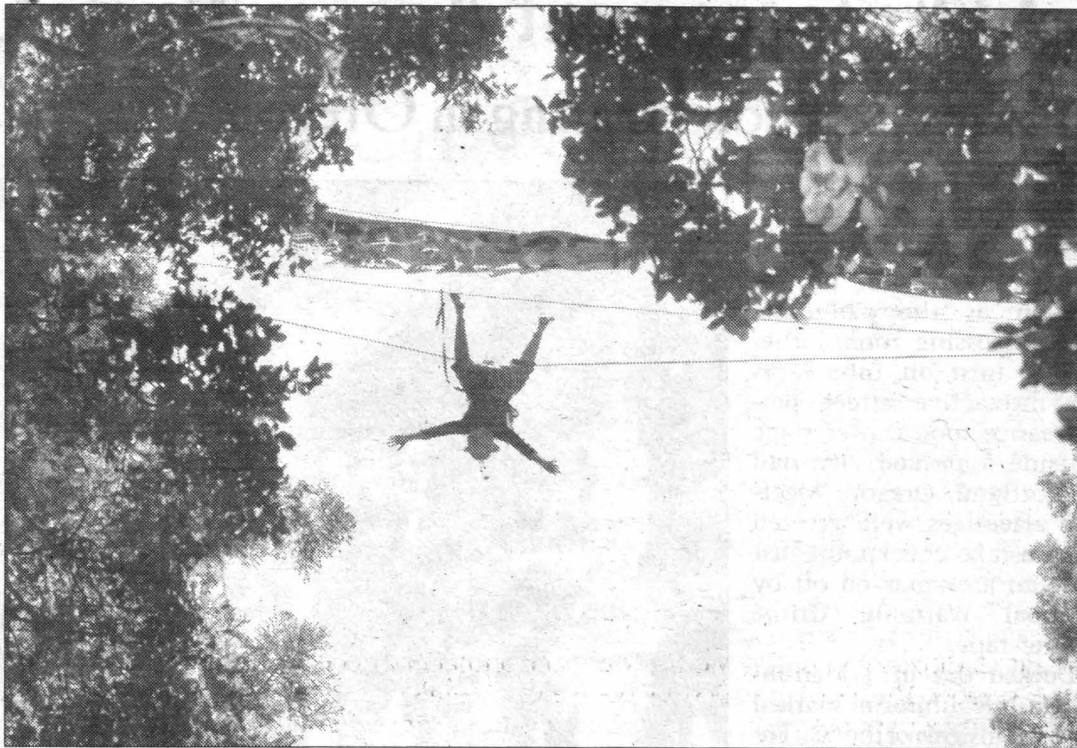


Photo by Bradley Stuart/www.indpbo.org

49 northern communities) welcomed the decision: "As First Nations people, we are not against resource development, but we want to be consulted and we want to have meaningful input into the decision-making process." While AbitibiBowater would still face a large grassroots opposition, the permit that was once theirs can now be placed in the hands of any other pillaging company, with Canada now being able to claim that it has the permission of the native people. Abitibi stated that it could easily meet its logging needs elsewhere.

The Anishinaabeg have faced many of the same types of atrocities as other First Nations. In the last 30 years, they've survived long-term mercury poisoning and fishery destruction stemming from a paper mill; the flooding of wild rice harvesting sites and sacred grounds by hydroelectric damming operations; and continued clearcut logging of their forests. The Grassy Narrows blockade that started in 2002 is ready to fend off the next capitalist venture that tries to turn forest life into paper mill fodder.

Treesits and Resistance to the University of California

Treesits at Berkeley and Santa Cruz, set up to oppose construction on campuses of the University of California (UC), are both continuing despite a heightened threat of removal.

In Berkeley, a frightening week of raids from June 29 through July 6 saw cherry-pickers cutting single lines of support and pulling apart platforms that sitters were perched in (see *EF!J* January-February 2008). The tree village that had been set up in the contested oak grove suffered a blow, as many

June 2, on the zip line at the UC-Santa Cruz treesitters were forced into the lone redwood inside the security fence set up by police. Those in the trees say that the UC almost killed the treesitters without a thought, and the police are now sending up an insufficient amount of water and genetically modified food bars to live on. One sitter collapsed the moment she touched the ground.

Dedication has been heroic, and a support line was created, despite the numerous arrests and constant surveillance of anyone going near the grove. As we go to print, the oaks are still standing, and the sitters appear to be receiving a certain amount of supplies autonomously.

A July 19 ruling favoring UC lifted an injunction blocking development at the site. Once again, down the stretch, it's just direct action versus the system.

In Santa Cruz, four redwood ring platforms are still preventing the construction of a Biomedical research facility (see *EF!J* January-February 2008). Following a temporary autonomous village at the base of the trees, friends and suppliers faced arrests and intimidation. However, new websites for the campaign to save the forest have appeared, and an extensive support network is ready at a moment's notice to throw down against any incursions into the trees.

The UC system has nine full size campuses, making it a formidable opponent for the various campaigns fighting against its monolithic impacts. In addition to the antivivisection campaigns against UC (see page 3), UC campuses are facing an anti-nuclear campaign for producing the entire US arsenal of nuclear weapons, spearheaded at UC-Santa Barbara. Student/worker coalitions have also been networking and organizing a campus-wide strike. The UC's major contribution to society is giving disastrous and mega-toxic research an "academic" veneer of philanthropy. People are encouraged to head to California this fall to start new free-states and attack UC's copious sites of oppression.

Inter-County Corruption: Maryland's Most Destructive Highway Rolls Over Communities and Forests

As of the beginning of August, construction of the Inter-County Connector (ICC), intended to connect I-270 with I-95 just north of Washington, DC, has bulldozed the homes of Cashell Estates, replaced the Mill Creek wetlands with culverts, and built a bridge over Shady Grove Road (see *EF!J* May-June 2007). The next stage includes building bridges over Georgia Avenue, Rock Creek and Emory Lane. Access roads are now cutting their way into the land.

Potomac Earth First! and many of the area's communities have been vigilant as the first of five planned sections of the ICC, running from I-270 to Georgia Avenue, has begun construction.



Photo courtesy: www.globeandmail.com

The site of a clearcut in Canada's boreal forest

UPDATES CONTINUED

The second of the five sections is slated to begin construction soon. It would destroy the Paint Branch and Northwest Branch, important tributaries of the Anacostia River. Both of these streams have a still-active trout population—very rare in these parts. This section of the road is scheduled to open 2011, but if Maryland runs out of money, it may never open!

Citizen opposition and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have stalled the ICC in the past, only for it to be resurrected by bribed politicians. This time around, the EPA was essentially ordered by George Bush to approve 10 fast-tracked projects, including the ICC. Citizen opposition was thrown out the window. The decision to destroy the homes of Cashell Estates served as a warning to other communities not to oppose the destruction of forests and parks near their homes, or their homes will be taken.

An interesting case study in class relations can be found when looking at the exact routing of the highway. In one of the segments, half of the road is scheduled to cut through an old clearcut, but the other half is slated to destroy a magnificent oak forest. This forest would be cut so that Brooke Manor Country Club could retain an exercise trail not-open to the public! Shifting the route north a few yards would save that forest and cut the impact on the community of Sycamore Acres, but at the expense of the private exercise trail.

The Derwood community and Drew Elementary school, both of which lie along the construction route, have marched into the construction zone. Politicians, aware of nothing but bribery cash, have ignored them. Another time, citizens hugging trees were met with a massive police response. The cops pretended to apologize, saying they expected "radicals and terrorists" to show up.

The hope now is that bad weather and high oil prices will delay construction and raise costs until Maryland officials throw in the towel and cancel the rest of the ICC in 2010. Community groups are still hoping to win a moratorium on construction when the appeal of an eco-lawsuit is finally heard in court. Regardless, Potomac EF! will continue to focus on stopping the ICC, as it shows solidarity with the anti-I-69 campaign.

Damage to Goldcorp Power Lines in Guatemala Brings Warrants and Death Threats

On June 13, new energy lines leading to the Marlin Gold Mine near San Miguel Ixthauacán, Guatemala, were damaged so that they no longer allowed electricity to the mine's processing center (see EFJ March-April 2007). Goldcorp, the Canadian company operating the mine, is accusing nearby community members of the actions. There are now warrants out for the arrest of nine local people, mostly women, who are involved with organizations opposing the mine. They have been charged with "aggravated usurpation." The damage forced the mine to suspend operations on July 1.

According to community sources, mine administrators told their employees that community leaders gave bad advice to others in their communities, and are responsible for the suspension of work. The administrators suggested that the leaders should be attacked or killed. They focused particularly on Javier de Leon of San Miguel Ixthauacán, Mario Tema of Sipakapa and on others from the nearby community of Agel.

Some of these organizers have received repeated death threats. These threats are not to be taken lightly; others opposed to the mine have been assassinated in recent years.

From the G8 2008 Repression in Japan

BY AFRAZZZ

The protests that follow the annual Group of Eight (G8) summit arrived in northern Japan this year, as the leaders of the world's seven wealthiest countries and Russia gathered at the Windsor Hotel in Lake Toya.

Japan spent a record-breaking \$280 million on maintaining security at this year's summit, more than double the \$130 million spent by German authorities last year. Police were shipped in from all over the country, and a total of 21,000 law enforcers descended on Japan's most sparsely populated island. With an estimated total of 1,000 protesters attending the demonstrations at this year's summit, the police presence was described by one demonstrator as "overkill and a waste of public money."

Activists arriving in Japan to protest were targeted by immigration officials at Japan's borders. At least 30 people were reported to have been deported upon arrival, many of those from neighboring South Korea. Others were subject to lengthy questioning and held for as long as 20 hours, during which time they were locked in holding cells and deprived of their basic human rights. One activist, who was stopped at the Tokyo airport after disembarking from a flight from Hong Kong, commented, "Two friends and I were stopped by immigration officials at 7:30 p.m. and were only released at 1 p.m. the next day. During this time, we were held captive, refused food and prohibited from making any phone calls."

Activists were keen to highlight the repressive nature of the Japanese legal system,

which allows arrested individuals to be held by police for 23 days without charge, during which time their homes are often raided and their families are harassed. After police arrested four people at a rally in Sapporo, Japan, on July 5, the organizers of protest camps closer to the summit turned their attention to avoiding clashes with police. Many activists felt effective protest against the G8 was rendered impossible by heavy-handed policing and the threat of 23-day imprisonment. One Spanish activist said, "We have seen from the demonstration in Sapporo that the Japanese police will arrest peaceful protesters at random. People are aware that there is a genuine threat of spending time in prison for peacefully protesting in this country."

On July 7, a group of 50 protesters were blocked by 150 police as they attempted to travel to a protest near Lake Toya. The protesters, mostly made up of non-Japanese activists, were making their way toward a train station close to the Toyoura campsite before their progress was halted. After a police spokesman declared their gathering illegal, they were ordered to return to their campsite or face arrest. The activists, incensed at not being allowed to access local public transport, told the press that this show of repression was a clear violation of their human right to protest. "We are being held prisoners in our camp," commented a French protester. "I have never experienced being stopped from traveling to a protest before. The repression in this country is insane."

For more information and more of this article, visit japan.indymedia.org.



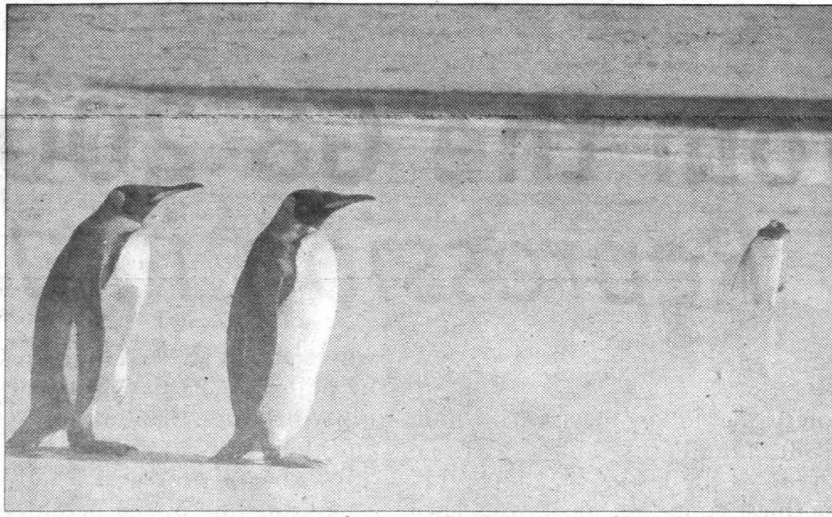
A wave of cops meet protesters at the anti-globalization march of the G8 protests in Japan.

Japanese Day-Laborers Riot Before G8 Meetings

The government focused on preventing the formation of a movement that questions capitalism more than it attacked an existing one. It went to great lengths to prevent public awareness that people were resisting. There were more than 40 arrests in the run-up to the summits alone. The press had to black out major riots by day-laborers in working class Kamagasaki that were sparked by the pre-emptive police build-up. The 40 arrests occurred as police were forced to defend their station during the riots. Internationals and visitors joined in the street fighting, which involved a police infiltrator being struck in the head with a metal beam, and the confiscation of the cops' equipment and riot shields.

Waiting until the international spotlight had passed, the state struck back by arresting several radicals with charges related to the G8 events. While events did not achieve the mass protest model of other anti-G8 summits, the capitalists were nonetheless put on the defensive against social uprisings. Expectations are high for next year's summit in Italy, and in Canada in 2010, but if we already live in a G8 country, we don't need to wait before striking.

BARE BONES



Falkland Island penguins

photo by Ben Tubby

Flightless Antarctic Refugees Dying in Record Numbers

More than 400 penguins, many of them babies, have been found dead on the tropical beaches of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, over a two month period from May to July.

It is common for some penguins to be swept onto Brazil's shorelines, but this season has seen far more dead birds than any time in recent years. Rescuers and experts are divided on the possible cause.

Overfishing forces penguins to swim farther from shore to find food. "That leaves them more vulnerable to getting caught up in the strong ocean currents," said Thiago Muniz, a veterinarian who has been helping with many of the surviving penguins. He also noted that many are drenched in petroleum, and gave a nod to the Campos oil field, just offshore and Brazil's largest supplier of oil, as a possible culprit.

Eduardo Pimenta, superintendent for Rio de Janeiro's coastal protection and environment agency in Cabo Frio, a nearby resort city, agreed that pollution likely played a roll—but in a different way. "Aside from the oil in the Campos basin, the pollution is lowering the animals' immunity, leaving them vulnerable to fungi and bacteria that attack their lungs," he said.

Erli Costa, a member of the state's Federal University, blamed still a different phenomenon. "I don't think the levels of pollution are high enough to affect the birds so quickly. I think, instead, we're seeing more young and sick penguins because of global warming."

One way or another, everybody agreed that rough ocean currents are giving the baby penguins, weakened somehow, an unusually hard time.

Small Farmers Persecuted by Agribusiness in Guatemala

Mayan Keqchi families with the Campesino Unity Committee (CUC) are facing severe repression in the municipality of Panzos, Guatemala.

On June 30, approximately 60 families entered land owned by Ingenio Guadalupe, a large biofuel agribusiness. These families have historically farmed this area, but for the last three years, Ingenio Guadalupe has been cutting forests and planting large swaths of sugar cane for ethanol production.

The families attempted to reclaim the land for their own, more sustainable practices, but paramilitary forces associated with the company fired upon them. A company-owned helicopter also flew three to four feet above the ground, chasing the Keqchi *campesinos* off of the land. One person was shot.

On July 1, around 200 CUC members and supporters gathered in Panzos to protest the violence. Again, paramilitary soldiers

fired on them, with two managers from Ingenio Guadalupe directly participating. Two CUC leaders were issued death threats, but managed to escape. Two other CUC members, however, were kidnapped and taken to a house. Although the house was readily identified, CUC had to initiate legal action in Guatemala City before a judge and police entered the house and freed the captives.

Additionally, on July 7, Balvino Chávez, a CUC member from Coatepeque was shot and killed as he drove the collective transport minibus that he owned. According to witnesses, gunmen fired 10 shots, five of which hit their mark.

The Guatemalan government often works hand-in-hand with large landowners to violently secure indigenous land for agribusiness corporations. The biofuel craze has only intensified the situation, as demand for sugar cane and African palm to be used as fuel has grown rapidly. This demand has also been spurred by the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, which have been promoting biofuel production in Guatemala through loans and grants.

Native Cultural Center Stands Ground

The occupation of an indigenous university is continuing in Davis, California. In 2005, students took control of Deganawidah Quetzalcoatl University (DQU), a university founded to teach the skills and knowledge of Earth-based indigenous cultures, declaring that it had lost sight of its mission as it turned into a legitimate, accredited tribal college.

Originally, the university was created when Native American activists chased guards away from an Army communications base in 1971. The area had been slated to become a University of California-Davis primate testing facility.

The school gradually became more mainstream until the 2005 takeover. Since then, students there have been teaching classes and practicing the traditions of their native cultures.

On March 31, SWAT teams raided the occupied school, resulting in 19 arrests. Still, the students held strong. Now, opponents are trying to turn DQU into a police training facility.

Supporters are encouraged to bring supplies and help maintain the occupation.

Giant Energy Source Discovered in Southern Appalachia

A gigantic series of natural gas reserves has been found more than a mile below the surface of southern Appalachia. This may distract some companies from trying to blow the tops off of mountains to reach an energy source, but it's not any sort of solution.

If the recent upswing in tapping coal-bed methane in southern Appalachia is any indication, the government and energy companies are proving to be decidedly lax in respecting the environmental integrity and cultural sustainability of the region.

The Appalachian gas reserves may exceed 500 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). To give an indication of the scale of this discovery, before

this, the US was estimated to have around 200 Tcf of proven natural gas reserves. This is two and a half times the previous known total in the US.

Current extraction processes for natural gas in this area have witnessed natural gas tanks often overflowing into the ecosystem around them. Byproducts of natural gas extraction have made their way into creeks, destroying trout populations. In addition, extraction companies are finding loopholes in order to obtain gas from the property of coalfield residents without their permission. This is occurring in many of the same areas that have already been suffering for years from mountain-top removal mining and other destructive resource-extraction processes.

HLS Loses Primary Investor, Faces New Challenges

Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), Europe's biggest (and most-maligned) animal testing company, saw its largest remaining investor announce in late July that it had sold all of its shares in HLS. Eagle Asset Finance, which had owned more than four percent of the vivisection company, made the decision within a month of the start of a full-scale divestment campaign in the UK and US that included email alerts, and office and home demonstrations.

The campaign against HLS is now evolving, as protesters are beginning to target companies that are heavily invested in the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), rather than simply in HLS. The thought is that, since HLS' remaining investors own so little of the company, going after them specifically is no longer the primary focus. Instead, activists are now focusing on getting HLS thrown out of the NYSE entirely, which they feel is a very reachable goal.

Since December 2007, other companies selling all of their shares of HLS due to activist pressure include TransAmerica Investment, Frontier Capital, SAC Capital, Axa, Wachovia, Alternative Investment Partners, Rathbone Brothers, Dresdner Bank, Deutsche Bank, La Grange Capital, Robeco Investment Management, Fairfield Greenwich Associates and BNP Paribas.

Northern Rockies Wolves Granted a Reprieve

A federal judge ruled in mid-July that Northern Rockies wolves are once again protected by the Endangered Species Act. Wolves in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho were taken off of the Endangered Species list on March 28, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service arguing that their population had recovered sufficiently. Before the delisting, however, officials in all three states had scheduled public hunts of the 2,000 wolves in the area.

Angered by the possibility that a quarter of this population could be killed in one season, 12 environmental groups sued to overturn



photo by Quadell

Wolf cub

BARE BONES CONTINUED

the ruling, filing an injunction to stop the hunts in the meantime.

Earthjustice attorney Doug Honnold successfully argued the case to US District Judge Donald Molloy in Missoula, Montana. The judge ruled that the hunts would "eliminate any chance for genetic exchange to occur." Genetic exchange is a central standard for the federal wolf recovery program, including the interbreeding of wolves between the three Northern Rockies states. According to Molloy's decision, that has not taken place.

Opponents of the wolves, who have been heard to suggest that hunters should "smoke a pack a day," are deciding whether to appeal the ruling.

Meanwhile, Washington and Oregon have both recently confirmed their first in-state wolf packs since hunters drove the animals to extinction in the two states during the early 1900s.

Native People Gather to Stop Brazilian Mega-Dam

The largest indigenous gathering in the Amazon in nearly 20 years occurred in May in Altamira, Brazil. More than 1,000 people who live traditionally in the Amazon basin traveled as far as 1,000 miles to tell the Brazilian government they would not stand for plans to dam the Xingu River, the Amazon's largest tributary.

Brazil had announced plans to construct the Belo Monte Dam to fuel the expansion of aluminum foundries and other industrial plants in the Amazon. If built, this would become the world's third-largest dam. The dam would divert nearly the entire flow of the Xingu River, drying up the culturally important "Big Bend" area and many of the Xingu's tributaries. Thousands of indigenous people would be left without fish (their primary food source), transportation or a clean water supply.

During the meeting, a state electric company official arrogantly defended damming the Xingu River, and nonchalantly suggested that people's needs would be met by a government-run indigenous foundation known for its corruption and inefficiency. Upon hearing this, a Kayapó leader leapt from her seat with an angry response. She was followed by a group of Kayapós, who wrestled the official to the ground, tearing his shirt and injuring his arm with a machete. The official survived, but images of his blood ran widely throughout the Brazilian press.

"We want you, as an authority of the government, to tell President Lula that there will be world war in the Amazon if they try to build these dams," a Kayapó chief warned him.

"Our culture, our spirituality and our survival are deeply rooted in the Xingu, and we depend on it for our existence. We who have protected our Xingu River demand respect," read part of the indigenous declaration from the final meeting.

The last time indigenous people gathered in Altamira in numbers close to this was in 1989, also to oppose damming the Xingu River. After a "heated encounter" at that meeting, the World Bank cancelled a loan, setting back Brazilian plans to dam the Amazon by more than a decade.

Raytheon Attackers Declared Innocent

A court in Belfast, Northern Ireland, found nine activists not guilty on charges of "affray and criminal damage" for damaging files, a mainframe server and computer stations at Raytheon's Londonderry offices on August 9, 2006.

The activists were driven to damage the equipment by anger over the Israeli incursion into Lebanon just over a week prior. The Israeli military had dropped a Raytheon

Solidarity With the Social Movement in Oaxaca

BY VOCES OAXAQUEÑAS CONSTRUYENDO
AUTONOMÍA Y LIBERTAD

We, of the space called Oaxacan Voices Constructing Autonomy and Freedom (VOCAL), are writing to denounce the serious climate of harassment, criminalization and persecution that the Ulises Ruiz Ortiz government and the local news media have directly unleashed against some of our members.

In particular, the repression began to get heavier after the events of June 20, when the organized people impeded Ruiz's presence at an event convened by the municipal government of Zaachila, Oaxaca.

They are blaming our members for initiating violence, when this was provoked by party municipal president Noe Perez, and his father, Natalio Pérez, who, pistol in hand, fired at people peacefully protesting Ruiz's presence in their lands. This aggression is documented in photos and videos.

Nevertheless, for several days, the local news media, echoing the statements of Ruiz and other government functionaries, has spread the story that the violence was provoked by some of the schoolteachers in the town of Zaachila and VOCAL members. The same news media has been circulating threats that the full force of the law will be brought to bear against those who supposedly provoked the violence.

The government's response to resistance is clearly to try to discredit movement organization in Oaxaca with the same-old dirty strategies: seeking out leaders to co-opt, repressing activists, blocking alternative information Web sites, stepping up the arrest of graffiti artists and beating them before turning them loose, making false accusations and intimidating all of those movement spaces in the struggle that aren't willing to negotiate the dignity of resistance. This dignity is

visible in the reorganization among different peoples in neighborhoods, barrios, collectives and spaces, and it resounded in the streets on June 14, 2008. The police presence is also steadily increasing and there are calls for the application of more federal force.

Police presence at many of our private homes and meeting places is constant. We consider the risk of being arrested latent and highly probable, which has prompted us to make public this climate of repression and harassment.

Direct harassment against us in news broadcasts on Channel 9 (the state TV channel) includes photos displaying several VOCAL members: Silvia Gabriela Hernández Salinas, Efraín López, Eduardo Zanabría, Rubén Valencia and David Venegas Reyes. News reports say that there are arrest warrants out for all of these comrades and that they will be arrested any minute.

The intention of these reports is to justify repression, prison and even our disappearance. Our case is not an isolated example; it is a symptom of the permanent police presence against all of the comrades in the Oaxacan social movement.

The true motives of the state in repressing VOCAL, just as it has repressed other movement comrades in other circumstances, are clear. We are true to our word and keep up clear, public, peaceful participation in the social movement in Oaxaca. We ceaselessly struggle for the demands of our movement to overthrow Ruiz: punishment

for the murderers of our people, freedom for all political prisoners and an in-depth transformation in Oaxaca.

Different peoples, collectives, organizations, teachers and neighborhoods are also in struggle. VOCAL is being targeted now because we have responded to calls for solidarity and support that some of these peoples have sent out to the movement as a whole. This poses a serious risk to the state at a time when it is bent on dividing and conquering a social movement that is setting out on the road toward a true, deep, radical change in our society—a change born in the people's roots and nourished by the ancestral wisdom that's been almost blotted out during the last 500 years of heavy imposition and injustice. Today, Oaxaca says, "Enough is enough! We're not willing to live the way we have before. After 2006, nothing and nobody will ever be the same again."

We demand justice, freedom and an end to the hostilities against the social movement as a whole and against our comrades. We ask all of you comrades to help us in spreading the word about our situation. No matter how hard they try to silence or stop us, we're not going to let them do it.

Ulises Ruiz Ortiz out of Oaxaca!

Freedom for all political prisoners in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the world!

Punishment for all those guilty of murders and disappearances!

Freedom and justice for the peoples of Oaxaca!

For more information, visit vocal.lahaine.org.



"bunker buster" bomb on the town of Qana, Lebanon, killing 28 members of the Shaloub and Hasheem families on July 30, 2006.

"Their unimaginable loss was foremost in our minds when we took the action we did on August 9, and the injustice that they and the many thousands of victims of war crimes in Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan have suffered, will spur us on to continue to campaign against war and the arms trade that profits from it," said Colm Bryce, one of the acquitted activists.

"The jury has accepted that we were reasonable in our belief that the Israeli Defense Forces were guilty of war crimes in Lebanon in

the Summer of 2006; that the Raytheon company, including its facility in Londonderry, was aiding and abetting the commission of these crimes; and that the action we took was intended to have, and did have, the effect of hampering or delaying the commission of war crimes. We have been vindicated," added Eamonn McCann, another of the nine.

"We trashed Raytheon to help protect our neighbors," McCann continued. "The court has found that that was not a crime. We have not denied or apologized for what we did at the Raytheon plant in the Summer of 2006. All of us believe that it was the best thing we ever did in our lives."

Police Station Attacked by Spontaneous Combustion

Thanks to unknown arsonists, the Diablo Valley College police station in Pleasant Hill, California, went up like a book of matches on June 24.

Three incendiary devices caused approximately \$350,000 damage, causing the forces of law and order for several college campuses in the area to operate out of a foreign languages conference room. However, someone still located a swivel chair, found time to check indymedia and is pondering whether an anarchist group's praising of the arson was just "a prank."

The Concord Revolutionary Anarchist People, who had previously published a critique of the Berkeley treesit for employing too narrow of a struggle, signed off with their lewd acronym and gave a shout-out of solidarity to the anonymous arsonists.

That's right, officer. "CRAP."

Whoever they are, the little match girls are still out there—to the fear of all three little pigs, who will still build their next house out of straw.

Blaze Must Have Been a Living Fantasy for On-Lookers!

On July 15, a four-story condominium complex under construction was transmogrified into ashes, costing millions of dollars. Flames from the building in Abbotsford, British Columbia, shot at least 100 feet into the night sky and could be seen by residents all over the city. The radiant heat was intense, and another condo complex and other buildings near the arson site were also damaged. "The Crossing" real estate development was set to open in the Fall, with one and two bedroom units priced above \$200,000 already selling out. Three people were arrested and charged with three counts each of arson.

Thirteen-year-olds Trash 21 Cop Cars

Two 13-year-olds smashed the windows and mirrors, ripped off the windshield wipers and slashed the tires on 21 cop cars, on July 23, in Sherbrooke, Quebec. They also tried to set one on fire. Damages were estimated at between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The cop cruisers were parked, waiting to have new equipment installed in them. Sherbrooke cops, driving by at 1 a.m., spotted the early risers and charged them with breaking and entering and mischief. Ah, mischief!

Mexican ALF (FLAM) Fucks Shit Up!

FLAM continued its unstoppable streak, with attacks in the last two months against KFC, McDonald's, Coca-Cola, a pet shop, the state circus and a leather expo. Almost nightly tactics—including splattering paint, spilling rotten vomit, window smashing, arson and animal liberation—were used to express solidarity with imprisoned activists from the UK to Austria to the US. Now that's diversity!

Uranium Mining Corporation Hit by Explosives

On July 1, incendiary devices exploded at the office of hated military contractor Frontenac Ventures Corporation in Oakville, Ontario. Perhaps this was just a rowdy celebration in honor of Canada Day. However, a communiqué said that the explosions were following up on failed efforts by native and non-native peoples to resist Frontenac's destruction of the environment. Gas cans with timed incendiary devices were placed with a warning painted on the wall of the office.

Frontenac's uranium mining in the area of Sharbot Lake contributes to the displacement of people and destroys land that belongs to none of us. "Neither government nor company care to listen to [other] peaceful methods, so we hope they'll hear this one," read part of the communiqué.

Swedish ALF Torches Slaughterhouse

On July 4, a fire swallowed a giant slaughterhouse under construction before its scheduled opening date of September 1. Moose, elk and other wildlife were to be slaughtered for a profit at the Djurens Befrielsefront in Sweden. However, thanks to the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), this house of terror might never be built.



Swedish ELF Sheds Light on Urban Sprawl

On July 25, the Earth Liberation Front dealt a setback to rampant urban sprawl in Älmhult, Sweden, and "civilization all over," according to a communiqué. A villa project was torched, costing approximately \$80,000 of damage. The President of Sweden commented, "If other youths used their time as effectively as these ambitious scalawags, the world would be a better and brighter place."

2,000 Mink Freed in Solidarity With Austrian Prisoners!

Anonymous activists freed more than 2,000 mink from a fur farm near Kiel, Germany, on July 22. "These animals deserve freedom! This action is dedicated to the imprisoned Austrian animal activists!" said the rescuers.

Austrian activists have gone on a hunger strike after a nationwide sweep imprisoned people for aboveground animal rights work. Without any evidence being presented for several months, the Austrian government has persisted in detaining the arrestees for conspiracy and involvement in illegal groups (see page 26).

World's Largest Vivisection Supplier Bombed by ALF

On July 5, the French ALF dedicated an arson to all the Austrian activists and others "who lost their freedom for that of the animals." Explosive devices were used against an administrative building and refrigerated trucks at the largest center in France for breeding animals for death under the scalpel. Charles River Laboratories operates more than 100 "production facilities" and labs in 17 countries. The facility incinerates rabbits, monkeys and other creatures who were tortured or sold to pharmaceutical companies like Novartis, Huntington Life Sciences (HLS) and Sanofi. The ALF wished to be clear that their concern is with the whole of the vivisection industry.

Mohawks Erect Flaming Barricade

On July 26, Kanesatake Mohawks barricaded a Quebec highway in response to harassment by the Quebec Provincial Police. Reports said that 12 to 15 individuals blocked Highway 344 near the town of Oka by dragging trees into the road and setting them on fire. The 1990 "Oka Crisis," where Mohawks blockaded the same highway, and sparked a national indigenous uprising, is one of the most significant moments in Canadian history.

Two police cars were damaged in the incident, but police used the Band Council to end the blockade before noon.

Australian ELF Take Action in Defense of Tasmanian Old Growth

The ELF attacked the office of Gunns, Ltd. in Victoria, Australia, on July 31. Gunn's latest assault on old-growth forests in Tasmania is the controversial Tamar Valley Pulp Mill. The project has seen wide opposition, including a 10,000-strong march. In their communiqué, the ELF called for more resistance to prevent the proposed mill. A number of endangered species would risk extinction if the ancient forests in northeastern Tasmania face the doubled rate of wood-chipping expected by the new mill.

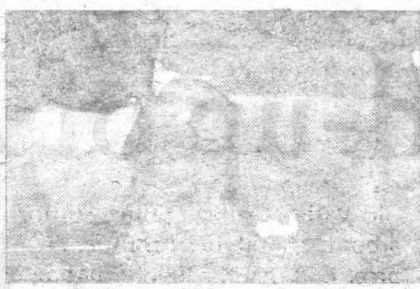
Animal Liberationists Target UCLA Vans

Despite exhaustive campaigns by activists, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), continues to carry out torturous experiments on primates. On June 13, the ALF took responsibility for torching a UCLA van in Irvine, California. They stated that it is unacceptable to see, hear and know the experience of these monkeys without taking action. On July 22, 23 and 27, more UCLA vans were stolen from Riverside, California, and Chino Hills, California. Communiqués stated that the funds obtained from the vans would go to saving animals rather than helping UCLA perform gruesome primate experiments. One communiqué compared the \$150,000 from the two vans to their tax money, which supports UCLA vivisection. Still another communiqué mentioned that knowing what goes on at their own university, and seeing those responsible for the vivisection in hallways and parking lots, makes not taking action almost impossible.

Fifty Turkeys Liberated for Sarah Whitehead

On July 13, the ALF sent a message of love to a woman who is doing hard time for rescuing an abused beagle (see page 26). The ALF took credit for releasing 50 turkeys from an East Coast US factory farm in honor of Sarah Whitehead and pointing to her penalization for doing the right thing.

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Incendiary Devices Destroy Vivisectors' Porch, Car

The FBI has used an action against vivisectors at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC), to further its witch hunt for "domestic terrorists." Incendiary devices were placed on biomedical researcher David Feldheim's front porch and another unnamed vivisector's car the morning of August 2. Damage done to Feldheim's front door caused the family to evacuate out the back without injury, but the FBI is calling it an "attempted murder"—a charge that will never stick.

On August 7, the FBI, Department of Justice, UCSC and local cops raided a Santa Cruz house where students live. This follows the pattern from February, when the same house was raided after a demonstration at the home of a UCSC vivisector (see *EF!* May-June 2008). The media was awash with tales of masked protestors "invading" the home, and is still repeating sensational falsifications that divert attention from the appalling research taking place at UCSC.

While no one has claimed the action yet, and no suspects exist, the raids and media smear campaign demonstrate that the FBI and UC are manipulating the situation to vilify anyone who speaks out against animal torture. It is unlikely that a porch fire will be remembered as a major

act of "domestic terrorism," but the FBI has shown its impunity by raiding homes simply in response to suspected participation in home demonstrations. Hopefully, the Santa Cruz community will not stand for such police state tactics, and terrorism being experimented on animals will continue to be broadcast and denounced.



Two Cop Cars Torched in Plain Daylight

There was nothing plain about the smiles on the faces outside (and, no doubt, inside) of a Vancouver, British Columbia, courthouse when a Sheriff's van, parked outside, was set on fire on August 6. Another police vehicle, empty because the pigs were in the middle of arresting someone, was also treated to the crisp-o at the busy corner of Main and Hastings Streets. An inspired communiqué mentioned the sheer happiness of the day's downtown eastside gossip, where a destitute population struggles to survive poverty or prison beneath booming development.

"We hope this act will spark communication and create new relationships of collaboration in struggle. Our choices move beyond run, hide and prison. There are endless possibilities to be found in the conspiracy of attack. Our love is sent to the comrades who continue to refuse the life of passivity and silence, inside and outside the walls of prison. We are bound to annihilate their prison-world!" read part of the communiqué.

This beautiful action was done in solidarity with more than 500 European prisoners currently on hunger-strike. Amadeu Ramon, one of the anarchist prisoners, has called for "freedom or death."



Continuing Blockades at Mines Shake Peru

Indigenous and *mestizo* Southern Peruvians protesting the government's robbery of natural resources brought the country to a standstill several times in July and August. In one incident in Moquegua in early July, police fired tear gas at a strategic blockade of the country's main highway to Chile and to the Cuajone mine, which was on strike at the time. The crowd responded with clubs, took 48 police hostage inside a church and burned a captured police station.

Demonstrations in Moquegua reached as many as 20,000 people. Simultaneously, there were strikes at Cerro Verde, Peru's third largest copper mine, in the neighboring Arequipa province. On July 12, a neighboring Chilcaymarca community also blockaded the Orcopampa gold mine.

On August 9, indigenous people in the high Andean province of Cusco occupied the controversial Camisea gas field. Pluspetrol, an Argentine company, was forced to cease extraction and evacuate its workers. In another southern province, Loreto, 800 indigenous Peruvians occupied an oil-pump, drilling platforms, a helicopter port and buildings operated by state oil company Petroperu. In the northern province of Amazonas, an indigenous group took over the El Muyo hydroelectric plant and shut down part of an oil duct. A recent free trade agreement and laws giving mineral access to US companies have escalated Peru's opening of indigenous territory to commercial exploitation.



Montreal Police Initiate Riot

On August 11, it took hundreds of cops in full riot gear marching through a northern neighborhood of Montreal, Quebec, to quell a riot that had broken out the previous day.

On August 9, cops harassing a group of youths at a park fired into the group, hitting three people and killing one. Witnesses stated that in addition to the unprovoked firing, the encounter itself had been initiated by the confrontational pigs. In response, a mob smashed three fire trucks, burned a fire station, torched cop cars and broke into more than 20 businesses the next day. Burning barricades and molotovs erupted in the primarily Haitian neighborhood, and one cop suffered a gunshot wound to the leg.

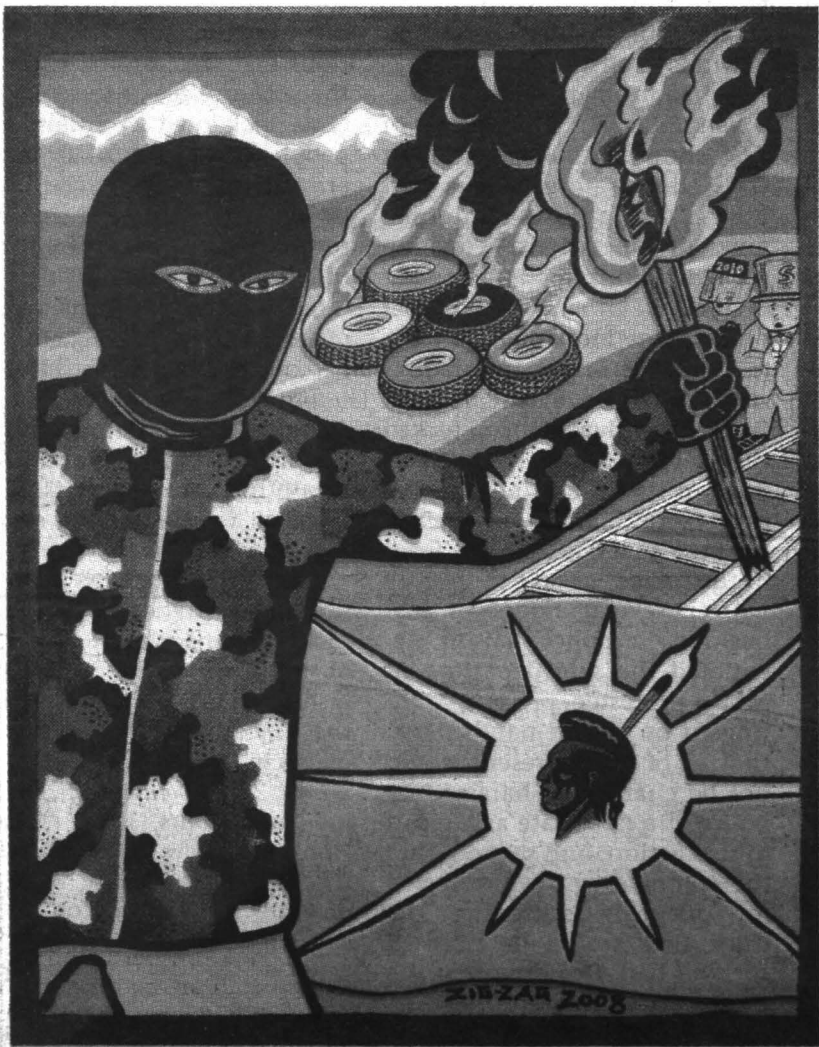
Chile Told to "Prepare a Subversive September!"

Exactly one month before September 11, an anarchist group in Chile bombed a high-tension electrical tower on the road to a major ski center in Farellones. Structural damage occurred but, unfortunately, did not cut off power in the town. In May, the same group claimed responsibility for the bombing of a police station where a youth arrested for rioting had died.

On September 11, 1973, the US fucked over Chile, and it's been hell to pay, with annual riots marking the anniversary.

A Spark at Dawn... A Wildfire by Midnight! Coast Salish Territories ("Vancouver, British Columbia")

COMMUNIQUE OF MABON:



We've chosen to amplify the warrior's cry here by featuring one communiqué of those on the frontlines each issue. This issue's communiqué is regarding a truck belonging to the construction company Peter Kiewit and Sons was torched in response to the company's widening of a highway in preparation for the 2010 Olympics. The Sea-to-Sky Highway is the major artery north of Vancouver that will be used to access and suck resources from native territory in British Columbia.

This is not the first time that Kiewit has been targeted.

Kiewit is a major construction company with offices and projects across North America. In 2006, people occupied Eagle Ridge bluffs to prevent its destruction by the Sea-to-Sky Highway. Kiewit filed an injunction causing the arrest and imprisonment of Squamish elder and warrior Harriet Nahanee, who died shortly after falling ill in jail.

In a previous May 7 action, a Kiewit truck was burned as a reminder that Harriet has not been forgotten. A wide variety of direct actions, from protest to sabotage, continue to take place in opposition to the colonialism inherent in the 2010 Olympics.

The communiqué of Mabon, 2008:

In the early morning of July 22, a truck belonging to Peter Kiewit and Sons, parked off of Victoria Drive, was lit on fire. Kiewit is making a(n) killing off of the development of the Sea-to-Sky Highway. This highway development, along with the new high-speed train line linking the airport to downtown Vancouver and the construction of new power lines through Tsawwassen communities, is paving the way for an intensification of development, resource extraction, tourism, ecological devastation and repression. Progress is a weapon used by the rich to impose the resulting misery of their projects upon our lives.

This action was done in solidarity with people attacking capitalist projects everywhere, from Six Nations and their battles in Ontario to the people who made "deep cuts" in the new power line poles and threatened developers with crowbars in Tsawwassen. We are at war, and our promise to developers and the pigs that protect them, their projects and their world is simple: As long as you build alienation and exploitation into our lives and territory, we will not hesitate to consume your nightmares with our fire!

Round-up of Actions Against I-69

BY ROADBLOCK EARTH FIRST!

Many things have happened in the midst of the anti-I-69 campaign (see *EF!* May-June 2008). Some were organized actions and some spontaneous, autonomous actions. We wish to share these magical events with you. We hope you enjoy the good news as much as we have!

May 19, Evansville, Indiana: The homes of John and Michael Gohmann, of I-69 contractor Gohmann Asphalt and Construction (GAC), were visited in protest by the River City Animal Defense League (ADL). This was the ADL's first visit—and maybe not their last.

June 3, Frederick, Maryland: Members of Potomac Earth First! held a small but loud and spirited protest outside Michael Baker Corporation offices. The protest was in opposition to the construction of Section 5 of I-69, which the Michael Baker Corporation is contracted to construct.

June 11, Bloomington, Indiana: Protesters lead an office demonstration at the Michael Baker Corporation I-69 planning office in downtown Bloomington. Office walls were tagged and chants were yelled. An outside window was also smashed.

June 20, Bloomington: In response to the eviction of the treesit along the proposed route of I-69 and the reckless and dangerous arrest of the treesitters and their supporters, opponents of the highway once again converged upon the Michael Baker Corporation office. Armed only with whistles, signs and shouts of rage, these opponents of the interstate raised a ruckus in the lobby, chanting, "I-69, shut it down! Michael J. Baker out of our town!"

Several employees from other offices in the building tried to photograph the protesters. One businessman walked outside and blocked the doors in an attempt to keep the protesters inside until police arrived. The protesters managed to escape, but one persyn was tackled outside by a plainclothes cop and cuffed. The arrested activist was charged with battery and domestic disturbance, although the charge of domestic disturbance was later dropped.

June 20, Gary, Indiana: In solidarity with the recent treesit evictees, a group of northwestern Indiana protesters visited the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) office in Gary. They marched into the office holding signs and playing homemade instruments. The office workers looked up from their work, unamused and slightly confused. The protesters were chanting,

"Don't arrest our friends! Don't cut down our trees! Evansville solidarity!" They also questioned the workers about their level of awareness. Not one of the workers knew anything of the road. INDOT has tried to keep anything about I-69 or its resisters under a shroud of secrecy and lies, even with its own employees.

June 21, Bloomington: I-69 opponents held a torch-lit march through the streets. The march was in response to the treesit eviction earlier that week. Traffic



Glimpses of the anti-I-69 treesit and the surrounding forest

was held up for hours as cops followed the march. Protesters marched downtown and past the jail, where they lit off bottle rockets, beat drums and chanted, "You can't throw our friends in jail. We will drive the final nail!" They also dragged barrels into the street to hold up the cops. Many people who were originally bystanders joined the march.

June 23, Kalamazoo, Michigan: Residents opposed to I-69 visited the DLZ Corporation in Kalamazoo for an office demonstration. DLZ is another I-69 contractor. They entered the building prepared to read a statement, but were instantly harassed by an employee. He screamed obscenities, shoved the woman reading the statement, and insisted that there was no office manager and no one else to discuss the impact of I-69 with. The Kalamazoo residents then marched through the office with drums and whistles before exiting the building.

June 23, Bloomington: A crowd of people enraged over the eviction of the anti-I-69 treesit stormed the office of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) in Bloomington. IDNR was complicit in the eviction of the treesit and the endangerment of the treesitters' lives by providing climbers to pull the sitters out of their lofty perch. IDNR is keeping climbers on staff specifically to evict treesits.

The crowd charged through the doors of the office, pushing papers off desks and smashing a potted plant, while yelling, chanting, whistling and generally causing a disruption. The IDNR workers seemed annoyed and confused, claiming they had

nothing to do with the eviction. At least one activist set them straight.

June 24, Hicksville, New York: Employees of HNTB Corporation, an architecture and engineering consulting firm, arrived at their office to find the building defaced with spray paint. "Deal with I-69, deal with us," was written across the front of the building. When they went to the front door, the lock was glued and the door was covered in paint. They walked around

hours of lost business and the media spectacle were more important than symbolic arrests, those locked down walked away without even being identified, freeing up more bodies and legal funds to continue the fight.

However, the persyn who was arrested for slashing tires is now facing a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP suit) for \$16,000. SLAPP suits function to harass and impede activists and their organizations with frustrating legal entanglements. The activist is also being pressured to snitch on all involved. Additionally, all of Earth First!, Roadblock Earth First!, the River City ADL, Root Force, and anybody arrested under the names of Jane and John Doe were hit with a restraining order by GAC.

June 30, Maryville, Illinois: The office of BLA was once again visited. A company car had all four tires slashed. Its headlights, windows and mirrors were busted out, and its paint job was ruined. The office building had its locks glued, windows smashed and exterior painted with, "187 on I-69," and, "The frontline is everywhere."

July 5, Columbus, Ohio: There was a round of home demonstrations against those associating with the construction of I-69.

July 15, Gary: In response to I-69 construction beginning, five activists locked down in front of GAC offices, demanding that the company immediately drop their contract for work on I-69. Additionally, they demanded that GAC and its accomplice, Riverton Trucking, drop the spurious civil suit brought against the sole arrestee at the previous GAC lockdown. A total of 15 people were arrested. Everyone arrested at this action was added by name to the afore-mentioned restraining order and SLAPP suit of GAC's.

July 15, Chicago, Illinois: Three office demonstrations against I-69 occurred in downtown Chicago.

July 19, Grafton, Wisconsin: Around 70 people from the CrimethInc. Convergence took a break from camping to demonstrate at the home of an executive profiting from I-69.

July 23, Chicago: Three more office demonstrations took place, including one against DLZ. Two of the demonstrations turned disruptive as people occupied the offices and scattered documents in the road.

July 27, Bloomington: In the pre-dawn hours, some enraged Hoosiers threw rocks through the window of Chase Bank in downtown Bloomington. GAC uses Chase bank.

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Reflecting on the Fight Against I-69

BY GOHMANN SUCKS!

With I-69 currently a focal point in the Earth First! movement, lots of awesome folks have been coming through Indiana and joining with locals to stand in the way of the NAFTA superhighway. State Road 68, just north of Evansville, Indiana, has closed as construction on the first 1.77 miles of I-69 has actually begun. This campaign has a sense of urgency right now like never before; something that has loomed in the future for years is now upon us. It is vital that the fight against I-69 continues stronger than ever and, thus, essential to reflect on the strategy of this campaign, how it is being organized, what has been going well and what needs to be done better to make sure that they never build this road.



Indiana Interstate signs from the near future

Growing Local Resistance

Though construction on the first 1.77 miles of I-69 is imminent, this is a long-term fight. The project is still severely under-funded. Contrary to what some in Indiana believe (those won over by the pro-I-69 media, the slogans of sleazy government officials and conditioned feelings of powerlessness), this road is not inevitable. There are still many obstacles to I-69 and plenty of time to fortify these obstacles and build new ones.

Strong community support for those engaged in direct action against the road is necessary in maintaining a long-term opposition. There has already been a lot of effort to build relationships with rural communities along the route. The I-69 Listening Project has engaged with folks whose lives, homes and land are affected by the proposed route by conducting interviews, and hearing and publicizing peoples' stories. Activists have bought houses and made friends in Evansville. Community events have made space for all who are opposed to I-69 to get to know and trust each other better. Organizers from out of town have also made trips to people's homes along the route, giving these activists a better understanding of what people are losing.

There are also some real obstacles to overcome to gain more widespread community support for the radical side of the anti-I-69 campaign. For one, there is a perception, highlighted by the corporate media, that folks who are fighting this road are all outsiders. According to a local newspaper, *The Courier Press*, protesters are coming to Indiana "with destruction in their hearts" to tell people how to live. The media has exploited images of protesters masked up to label us intimidating terrorists. Consistent community events will hopefully allow folks to get to know each other better and to recognize that many activists are from Indiana, have lived here for years or have traveled here at the specific request of local friends. If we talk about NAFTA, which is affecting communities all across North America, we can highlight how our goals align.

There are marked lifestyle differences. Many of the EFlers working on this campaign are young, able to travel and not tied to job or family obligations, making risking arrest and devoting a lot of their lives to the campaign feasible. Many people who

live along the route have land to maintain, families to support and jobs. This clearly affects how much they can get involved. One way to address this is for others to volunteer to garden, fix up barns, build structures, and do childcare and whatever else people might need help with if they want to devote more time to organizing.

One goal with all of this community work is to get people who haven't engaged

action against the road as outsiders, criminals and terrorists. Front-page photos of our mug shots, and the constant quotation of law enforcement and targeted contractors (but never of activists), have given many locals a skewed image of who "these protesters" are. The local papers are widely distributed and are the main way folks in these rural communities and small towns get their news. A lot of effort has been put into contacting these newspapers, giving them statements, writing letters to the editors and inviting them to actions. However, they have continued to ignore us, and perhaps shifting our strategy with the media makes sense.

One way of trying to shift our image is to get local folks who support us to write in and to vouch for us, saying that they, too, are opposed to the road and appreciate folks who are standing in the way of big money and politics. The only anti-I-69 letter that has been printed in the last couple of months was a comment from one of the treesitter's family members on their strong character. Having local folks write in also seems to be the only way to draw attention to the police harassment that organizers are experiencing. Hopefully, more publicity about the harassment will get people questioning why the authorities behind the road are so viciously trying to suppress opposition. It's also important that wider circles of people understand repression to be a threat to them, too; as long as it doesn't immobilize them with fear, it might contribute to radicalization.

Another way to deal with unfriendly media is, of course, to create your own. Folks in Indiana have already distributed two issues of *The Roadblock Report*, an independent newsletter with action reports, upcoming events and commentary pieces on the campaign. Creating a mailing list so landowners along the route have a more efficient and direct way of hearing what's going on would be great. Right now, somewhat infrequent personal trips to homes along the route are the only way that positive information about the opposition travels.

Are We Fighting the Cops or Fighting the Road? How Do These Battles Overlap?

With the anti-I-69 campaign on the top of the FBI's list in Indiana, and Indiana State Police Officer Brad Chandler on the case and providing information to the feds, organizers are experiencing heightened surveillance and harassment, especially in Evansville. All cars associated with the campaign are consistently followed, and cops watch houses and gathering places, make intimidating comments, arrest quickly and illegally and try to bust organizers for anything from jaywalking to falsified intoxication. The cops have also been working closely with Gohmann Asphalt Company (GAC), the company contracted to build the first 1.77 miles, to serve 16 activists with a restraining order and a SLAPP suit, suing for alleged damages incurred during lockdowns.

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in this type of resistance before excited about direct action. A lot of EF!-style direct action is highly technical—lockdowns and climbing, for example—and affinity-group-based, and requires intensive planning, which makes it difficult to spread organically. But these are not the only methods folks can use to oppose I-69. There are some radical farmers and landowners who will lose everything if this road is built, and they have stated that they are willing to explore more than just legal avenues of resistance. There are a lot of direct-action practices that have been used for years by farmers, like stake-pulling and threatening surveyors. If we are open about the kind of direct action we practice, why we have the ability to practice it and that there are other kinds of direct action that are more knit into the fabric of rural communities, then a lot of our actions can compliment each other.

Some perceive the first I-69 treesit as a really important breakthrough in work with landowners. Before the treesit, most locals assumed we were students who were week-ending in the struggle. After the treesit, many of them said that they realized we were serious and willing to put ourselves on the line to stop the road. So, even if EF!-style tactics aren't very accessible, they might still have relevance to the wider community, empowering others to engage in their own forms of direct action.

The best-case scenario is the spread of open struggle against the road in rural areas by farmers—a wider mobilization of the community. In fact, a farmer was charged with stake-pulling a few years ago in Gibson County. His charges were dropped when other farmers packed the courthouse. It's possible that our activities have made this less likely, since the media has been able to nurture a ridiculous stereotype of who practices direct action. But the lower-level struggle of the past points to the potential that exists. One of the small things we can do is talk about other struggles that farmers have engaged in—for example, the "Bolt Weevils" campaign in Minnesota and the movement against the high-speed train in northern Italy.

Media Battles

As expected, the corporate media has portrayed the core group engaged in direct

artwork by Donny

Reflecting on the Fight Against I-69 (continued)



continued from previous page

We must remain strong in the face of this repression. Restraining orders and SLAPP suits are the usual tactics that companies use to unconstitutionally suppress protest. And the cops are following a pretty standard campaign of intimidation. Vigilant security culture, minimizing internal conflict that the cops can exploit, knowing and studying our rights, in-depth legal trainings, kick-ass supportive lawyers and community support for those facing charges and lawsuits are essential to keep this campaign going strong. Depositions and the possibility of a grand jury loom as ways for the feds to get information and spread distrust among us. We must back up our conviction to remain silent with tangible support for those folks who could be held in contempt of court; prisoner support is essential!

A strong legal arm to this campaign has developed because of all of the arrests and legal injunctions served by GAC. Many hours have been spent dissecting the restraining order and by activists preparing to represent themselves. Many of us have learned a lot about the legal system and have become confident in our legal knowledge. But supportive, (hopefully) pro-bono lawyers are also necessary. Fortunately, after some persuasion, the Indiana Civil Liberties Union has agreed to take the restraining order case. Whatever they serve us with, we must respond with a solid defense—and on the offensive, sue GAC for constitutional breaches, and the cops for legal misconduct and the physical and sexual harassment experienced in the Gibson County Jail.

At the same time, it's important to look strategically at arrestable actions and their consequences. Since 15 more arrests were made at the second Gohmann lockdown and these activists were served with restraining orders and the SLAPP suit, a lot of energy has been directed into legal battles, and away from action and event planning. Public shutdowns of contractors and construction sites are important, but more than two dozen people in total running through the legal system requires a lot of cash and lawyers that we have been scrambling to get after the fact. A lot of folks around the country have responded with benefit shows and other fundraising, which is awesome, but we are still in debt for bail, and court costs are only going to continue to rise. Dealing with the criminal injustice system is also stressful and defeating, and can burn out activists.

With the media highlighting the "criminal nature" of arrestable actions, we should also reflect on how these actions can be alienating to some locals. Often, community members' objection to civil disobedience is that it looks like weakness, like asking to be arrested, which doesn't make sense to them since they have burdens we don't have. How much of this can the campaign handle? What are the other ways to effectively shut down construction and not get caught?

Toward a Healthy Community

We also need to look at the internal dynamics of the community we're organizing from. Our organizing is based around non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian and anarchist principles. To work, this requires really good communication, which is sometimes lost in the hectic, often stressful environment of working against a behemoth of a road project. Hierarchy can sneak in when

action roles are picked; there's a faulty perception that's often acted on that if you're willing to get arrested, you're really throwing down and you're more committed to this campaign than folks in supporting roles.

A conscious effort also needs to be made against a hierarchical long-term/short-term dynamic. We need to commend but not idolize folks who are in this for the long term, while respecting that everyone who's coming through to help is offering what they can—one type of commitment is not better than another. Long-term folks need to be aware of condescending communication and be transparent about what needs to be done so short-term folks can plug in. For folks to plug in effectively there needs to be space for everyone to express what their skills are, what they'd like to help with and what their comfort levels are, not just a blind delegation of tasks.

Some of the difficulty stems from the fact that lots of individuals and not that many affinity groups are coming. Long-term folks have directed a lot of their energy toward providing support to actions by affinity groups. But individuals who arrive without affinity groups are feeling lost between initiating their own projects with folks they don't know very well and plugging into existing projects bottom-lined by organizers who could be more transparent with their needs. Instead of holding onto a strict vision for this campaign, we need to adapt to what we've got.

While turning to long-term members of the community for guidance and advice makes sense for folks new to Indiana, one of the empowering things about anarchist organizing is the emphasis on autonomy. If you want to see something done, do it. If you want to see something change for the better, facilitate that change. There is space and a need for everyone to take initiative. No one is telling us what to do; we are constantly shaping this fight.

Taking time to build relationships and trust with the people we're working with is essential for us to feel comfortable doing actions together. Making space for emotional check-ins will allow us to better support each other in the stressful environment of organizing. And let's frickin' have fun together, taking some time to not talk about organizing the next action but to shoot the shit and relax. Friendships are much more important and sustainable than purely working relationships; one look at mainstream society should make that clear.

Anti-Oppression Within the Campaign

One of the things our group has struggled with is the anti-oppression department. Many meetings have been avoided or even fallen apart due to poor interpersonal dynamics and a lack of general communication skills. In some cases, patriarchal tendencies have overshadowed conversation, but let it be noted that it hasn't only been male-bodied folks fucking things up. It is important to note that throughout this year, our diversity has been largely lacking—so much so that people of color and trans folk could probably be pointed out by that defining characteristic. However, on a better note, during the last lockdown arrests, there were actually more women arrested than male-bodied folk, along with one trans person.

Throughout the Summer, our group has also been faced with the task of confronting perpetrators and supporting survivors. We have been successful at helping survivors quickly create demands and process things, and at mediating conversations to communicate their demands. In most cases, this has led to perpetrators being removed from the campaign and not being allowed to represent it afterward. Many people in the campaign have had mixed feelings on this, but others feel good that we have been able to help survivors while protecting the safety of others and not turning toward physical violence as a form of retaliation. We have also avoided the past EF! mentality of, "We're too busy to deal with this," or, "The trees are more important right now." A common plea from survivors and mediators is that people within our organizing groups stop hurting others of us working on the same fight. We are all stressed and losing our minds over this highway and defending the land. The last thing any of us want to hear is that our group is being hurt from the inside by the people we have trusted.

Tapping the Collective Memory

Organizing in Indiana has made it clear that this movement is lacking elders. This campaign lacks an experienced base, and more detrimentally, there is a gap in our knowledge of similar fights in the past. This means that we are repeating past mistakes and learning the hard way. While this campaign is a great place to gain a lot of experience and skills for the future, it is also important to get educated about past eco-action and tap into EF!'s extensive collective memory. This isn't the first anti-road campaign and it certainly won't be the last; we need to retain past experiences so our strategies and tactics can improve and not wander in endless circles.

With That Said...

When they started clearing the ground in February while it was still snowing, it's needless to say that none of us saw it coming. The posters said, "Spring and Summer 2008, be in Indiana," right? Once Spring actually came upon us, we weren't flooded with a bunch of traveler kids yet, and word in the corn fields was that all of the trees on the route were gone. For a bunch of lonely, anxious tree climbers, this was a bit sad. Fast forward to August when, to date, we've somehow managed getting three platforms up in the trees, two massive lockdowns, lots of office demos and solidarity acts of broken windows, flattened tires and glued doors. We're still attempting to navigate a total of 26 arrestees through the legal system and the traveler kids are still here—hell, some of 'em started their own squats or are even paying rent! We have met the locals—some like us and some don't. At the least it's been a hell of a fight so far, and none of us are giving up.

For more information, visit stopi69.wordpress.org.



Expanding Allies

The March on Zeb Mountain

BY SARO.

Citizens gathered in Campbell County, Tennessee, one Summer Sunday for a rally and march on Zeb Mountain, which has been strip-mined by the National Coal Corporation since 2003. The July 20 event was organized by United Mountain Defense (UMD), a group dedicated to ending strip-mining in Tennessee; Mountain Justice (MJ), an organization working on the same issue throughout the southern half of the Appalachian Mountains; and Three Rivers Earth First!, based in Knoxville, Tennessee. However, the demographic of the march was not confined to members of these three organizations. Hunters, Christians and local community members all dressed in their Sunday best to take part in the action. It sure wasn't an average crowd for an Earth First! gathering. Months of planning had gone into ensuring this fact. I was curious to see what the results would be. What strengths and weaknesses would arise out of the strategies we were employing that day?

The Zeb Mountain march was designed to accomplish two things. The first was to gain publicity for a host of issues specific to Tennessee: National Coal is in a continuous process of destroying Zeb Mountain and has recently purchased 64,000 acres in the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area for mining. In addition, a bill called the Scenic Vistas Preservation Act will be reintroduced this Fall in the Tennessee legislature. If passed, surface mining would be forbidden above 2,000 feet, environmental impact statements would be required for every strip job and strip mining would be restricted from taking place within 100 feet of a water source. These issues were vocalized in speeches at Zeb Mountain and were brought to the attention of the media there.

The second aim was to gain diverse allies and was realized by the march itself. The Zeb Mountain march was a living example of a step toward collaboration and communication spanning political and religious backgrounds.

Three Rivers EF! has performed several "militant"-type actions on Zeb Mountain in the past—including two night blockades. Everything from tripods to car lockdowns, from cat and mouse games to dragons have been used. There were few traditional Earth First! tactics we had not tried—except one: an open rally with a plain-old walk-across-the-line civil disobedience arrest at the end that we could openly promote.

With this in mind, UMD and Three Rivers EF! realized the necessity of speaking in diverse languages in order to communicate a universal message for the Zeb Mountain march. Patriotic and religious imagery had too long been used to symbolize the "other" in activist circles. Why not claim these images and the ideas they symbolize for what we believe they mean? We believe patriotism is about respecting the land we live on. We also have a strong Christian-based support network and know that many Christians believe the Bible teaches protection of the Earth's natural resources. Using these ideas as common ground, we attracted the interests of a variety of people.

In our advertising, we used two flyers. The first displayed a bald eagle and a peace dove holding a banner together. The second was of a file of marchers walking toward mountains, with a large cross beaming over the horizon. The aesthetics of the march were carefully thought about as well. Recalling some of the strategies of the civil rights movement, we decided to dress in traditional Sunday church attire and carry signs utilizing quotes from Henry David Thoreau, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mohandas Gandhi. At the march, a local group provided puppets of King and Gandhi as further visual references to our exercise of non-violent direct action.

Our speakers at the rally were diverse, reflecting the passions of the audience. Local citizens, musicians, Earth First!ers and MJ representatives spoke, and the rally was concluded with a sermon by a minister-in-training from Christians for the Mountains.

As we walked up Zeb Mountain toward the first coal road (where police and miners waited for us), we sang "Amazing Grace" and "Rocky Top, Tennessee." (The words in the latter were altered so that the song mourned the loss of mountains.) When we reached the barricade, four people stepped forward and addressed the miners, police and marchers. They articulated why they were prepared to cross the line and get arrested. They hoped that their action

showed a physical defiance against the barriers mounted by those who claim the Earth only for the purpose of harming it.

Eric Blevins, of MJ, stated before crossing, "My family is firmly rooted in these mountains, and you are all my brothers and sisters; all of God's creatures, large and small, are our brothers and sisters."

Weeks before, Three Rivers EF! and UMD representatives had taken a unique step by speaking with Campbell County police to make sure they actually *knew* illegal activity was going to take place. The police politely lifted the caution tape as the four protesters held hands and crossed. It turned out that the police were sympathetic to the interests of the four arrestees. On the sheriff's orders, those arrested were released without bail soon after being taken in. Allies are everywhere.

So, what did the Zeb Mountain march accomplish? Doubtless, some reading this article may already be shaking their heads at our tactics. Couldn't collaboration, not only on the social level but on



The scars caused by strip mining on Zeb Mountain

the aesthetic level as well, make us lose sight of our goals (especially if we have other interests at stake)? I pondered this as we approached the rally site that Sunday. But at Zeb Mountain, any of my concerns about our tactics were dissolved. First, when we arrived at the base of the mountain, we found that someone had placed signs along a roadway up toward the coal road. Utilizing Biblical references, the signs informed the marchers that they were blaspheming the Lord's day of rest and that scripture supported mining practices. Our own use of Christian imagery and text countered whatever claim the coal supporters thought they had to that cultural cornerstone. Secondly, I noticed a sign a young marcher was solemnly holding. It read, "I am not a rich activist, I am an Appalachian." I don't think any of us in this movement would want to self-identify as a "rich activist." However, the sign does reflect class assumptions, perceived and real, about activists—in this case, environmentalists. To me, the sign signified that we were going in the right direction. More class collaboration must take place in order for movements like this one to be more productive. In fact, if anything could have improved the Zeb Mountain march, it would have been a dialogue between marchers and miners.

MJ, Three Rivers EF! and UMD all need people who are first and foremost identified as people affected by the coal industry to join this struggle. That identity crosses borders of class, politics and religion. We have to realize that when issues such as mountain-top removal and coal dependency encompass so many people, it also means that we collectively have countless tools to use through a variety of avenues. We have no time to waste in utilizing all of them. Whether we identify as biocentrists, dominion-care Christians, Appalachians, sportsmen or eco-feminists, we all know that this fight, at its core, is not one of specific value systems. It is one of survival.

Saro is from the rolling hills of middle Tennessee and hopes to live in Appalachia, working on mountaintop removal issues, until the coal companies get the hell out.

photo courtesy: Appalachian Voices

Property Destruction Turns up RIOT 2010

BY CUSTODEUS

Earth First! has finally come to a loose consensus on capitalism as the root cause of our ecological crisis. As opposed to the mainstream's reactionary embracement of green lifestyles, the focus on ending capitalism's grasp on the world gives cohesion to the radical environmental bloc. The first serious campaign created directly toward this strategy has been Root Force, which calls for targeting capitalism's vulnerable infrastructure at key industrial projects. However, other tactics are also being launched against capitalism that expose additional points of vulnerability.

A recent trend of midnight window smashing and sabotage at urban institutions of capitalism has utilized a less scientific and more widespread approach. Companies such as Bank of America and Chevron have been targeted, for practices ranging from financing mountaintop removal and Navajo relocation to profiting from the Iraq war. Because a company like Wells Fargo invests profitably in so many devastating projects, most people in the US are literally surrounded by property of this bank, and have many opportunities to strike it.

Our struggles are not limited to demanding that any one company must change the type of project it makes money from. A fundamental change in the ability of money to trample people and the environment is necessary. What makes a culture of direct action so effective and threatening is that if people recognize the possibility of fundamental change, we are in a position to make it. The attempt to brand the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) a terrorist network has failed to prevent many people from sympathizing with ecologically motivated property damage. In their very first communiqué, the ELF notably mentioned the countless acts of sabotage that predated it and gave birth to its *modus operandi*. The ELF is only one manifestation of the ability of unruly populations to take direct action to stop ecological destruction. Resistance movements can quickly lead to further stages of social transformation when their actions are understood and taken up by others.

Both the "No 2010" and "Smash ICE" movements express solidarity with exploited populations that are particularly affected by resource extraction and environmental degradation. The 2010 Winter Olympics are the most significant of three events happening in Canada that year, including meetings of the Group of Eight (G8) and the realization of the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP). It has been made clear through land occupations, blockades and countless actions that Canada is using the Olympics as an excuse for the theft, exploitation and pollution of the First Nations' land. Increasingly common attacks against the Royal Bank of Canada and similar Olympics boosters expose a connection between the current devastation being experienced and those responsible. As more actions happen, momentum builds toward what many hope will be a riot throughout Vancouver in 2010, if not sooner.

The Smash ICE campaign began in resistance to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention Center in downtown Tacoma, Washington. Immigrants from a five-state area are held inside without rights, sometimes for more than three years. Smash ICE's message has compared residing in Tacoma to living down the street from a concentration camp. They have demanded that action be taken, and have drawn the connection between ICE and Wells Fargo. Wells Fargo is a major financial member of the Geo Group, which runs the ICE detention centers in Tacoma and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as well as a vast assortment of other gulag infrastructure. Numerous Wells Fargo branches along the West Coast have recently been hit with broken windows and paint attacks decrying ICE.

It has been articulated in the *Earth First! Journal* how ecological devastation caused by US corporations in Latin America contributes to a cheap labor pool within US. Controlling that population through mechanisms such as detention centers is part of maintaining the system of environmental exploitation. An important step toward stopping this cycle is spreading awareness that capitalist infrastructure of *all types* exploits and poisons our world. We can practice solidarity with community members affected by anti-immigration laws by fighting against border security and immigrant detention.

Recent popular uprisings against the exploitation of land and people have turned against the urban infrastructure that belongs to the ruling class. In Oaxaca,

A wide
diversity
of targets
makes
capitalism
vulnerable.



Hitting ICE and Wells Fargo

The campaign against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is just one example of simple actions being used to strike those responsible for horrors happening to our planet. The following quotations are from communiqués posted to the Internet following the actions.

May 27: Anarchists took responsibility for stealing and destroying six surveillance cameras from University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC). Commenting on the rapid spread of surveillance throughout society, they added, "This action is dedicated to those affected by the recent immigration raids in Watsonville, California, a town just south of Santa Cruz. Fuck ICE! Spread the rebellion against social control!"

June 4: The Wells Fargo on 39th Avenue and Powell Boulevard in Portland, Oregon, was attacked. "A window pane was

smashed in with a rock. All banks serve the interests of the capitalist class, furthering exploitation of "resources" and indigenous people around the world. We are fighting for the destruction of this society and for our own liberation from this world of banks, cops, prisons, poisoned water and air, and rapidly shrinking wild spaces."

June 10: In Tacoma, Washington, "Wells Fargo was attacked from two sides and had many of their windows smashed. The message, 'stop prisons,' was spray-painted on one side of the building."

A Little Information on the Geo Group:

The Geo Group manages four detention centers for ICE in: Tacoma, Washington; Aurora, Colorado; Deerfield Beach, Florida; and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They have Head Offices in San Diego, California; Charlotte, North Carolina; New Braunfels, Texas; and Boca Raton, Florida. In August, the Geo Group announced that the Northwest ICE facility (Tacoma) will expand to cage more than 500 additional people who commit the crime of being here.

June 14: The Bank of America and Wells Fargo ATMs at UCSC were smashed out. "Bank of America funds Peabody Coal, which is blasting the tops off mountains in Appalachia and strip-mining indigenous land in Arizona."

July 21: A Wells Fargo Financial Office in Olympia, Washington, was attacked in solidarity with ICE detainees. "Last night we

attacked your storefront and spray-painted a letter of hatred on your wall as an assault on your participation in the prison-industrial complex."

July 21: All four ATMs at the Wells Fargo on River Street in Santa Cruz were smashed. "Refusal and non-participation is a good place to start, but it is necessary to actively destroy the system."

RECENT
ACTIONS

the Heat: & SMASH ICE

in 2006, colonialist property that signifies the exploitation of the indigenous culture was attacked. In Argentina, in 2001, attacks were directed against banks and corporations that had first disenfranchised the rural areas and then bankrupted the urban working class. In the last few years, in the Banlieue slums of Paris, disenfranchised youth have acknowledged their worthless position in capitalist society by burning cars—a practice that has caught on like wildfire. Using quick methods to burn the cars (such as lighting off flammable materials in the back-seat or beneath the tires), the youths have been difficult to apprehend or dissuade.

We need to act with the tactics that are available to us, while at the same time realizing the possibilities that our actions will create. We should think as if we are already in a state of insurrection, because, in fact, we are. An important question for Earth First! is, "How can these campaigns be spread in new directions, and how can momentum be increased?" One option is to use moments of repression as opportunities to go on the offensive.

Repression is the state's offensive strategy for preventing revolution, so that the status quo of private property and collective exploitation can be maintained. Thus, resistance movements are often repressed so that their effects will be stopped. While repression was clearly boosted after September 11, 2001, the true movement in the US toward comprehensive restriction of movement and communication seems to be approaching only now. The goal of a militarized society is thinly veiled behind actions like preparing for closed borders, constructing massive imprisonment and detention infrastructure, and constantly policing neighborhoods. In addition, the powers-that-be are consistently stretching their ideologically defined word (or ideologue) for outsiders, "terrorist," to encompass any perceived threat to their goals.

This has been the case in Canada, where an ex-military intelligence agent recently wrote an article arguing that autonomous actions across Canada against the 2010 Olympics constitute a terrorist threat to national security. A subsequent communiqué stated that windows were smashed at a bank sponsoring the Olympics in honor of Mr. Quiggin—the article's expert. In the US, a House bill wants to create a new university for identifying social movements that *could have the potential* for violence and study methods for altering their development. This, included with Eric McDavid's case and similar efforts, demonstrates the pursuit of the holy grail of repression—making thought crime punishable.

Becoming offensive before their endless quest goes any further is essential for all of us. The ELF and the social movements mentioned above are great examples of this. An even more immediate example is the August 6 burning of a cop car in Vancouver while the police were carrying out their routine harassment of the destitute and homeless (see page 14). Actions such as these demonstrate that repression is only creating more "outlaws," and that active resistance moves us into a world of our own making.

¿Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?

WHO WILL SERVE THE SERVANTS?

Against the 2010 Olympics

The following list reflects only a few of the most recent actions in opposition to the 2010 Olympics on Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver, British Columbia). However, countless blockades, arsons, protests and other forms of resistance have occurred against projects that are justified by the Olympics and its sponsors. The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is one Olympic sponsor that has had its windows smashed on at least 11 different occasions in less than a year in the Canadian states of British Columbia and Ontario.

May 31: Three McDonald's in Victoria, British Columbia, had their toilets plugged with cement.

June 24: Fire and explosions at a west Toronto Chevrolet dealership damaged at least 13 cars. The engine compartments of each car were burning when firefighters arrived. General Motors is a major Olympic sponsor.

Mid-July: Powerlines being constructed outside of Vancouver were found to contain "deep cuts." The

sabotage occurred amid protests over Vancouver's infrastructure invading Tsawwassen territory.

July 21: An RBC on Broadway in Vancouver was attacked. Four ATMs were smashed out.

July 22: A truck belonging to Peter Kiewit and Sons was lit on fire (see page 15).

July 23: Ten windows were smashed out at the RBC on First Avenue and Commercial Drive in Vancouver, "because it is a bank."



photo by Bradley Stuart/www.hiphop.org

blast from the past

Mabon 1997 *Earth First! Journal*

Strategy & Tactics

BY MIKAL JAKUBAL

It has been said that the first duty of a revolutionary is to win the revolution. Likewise, the first duty of an Earth warrior is to save the Earth. All other considerations become secondary. In other words, "No Compromise! Earth First!" Fulfilling this obligation demands of Earth warriors all the inner and outer strength that can be mustered. It demands commitment and unwavering persistence in the face of hardship, courage under fire, sacrifice, patience and humility. No movement lacking such personal qualities can ever hope to succeed. However, these qualities alone are not enough. The fundamental strategic imperative is to outperform the adversary. To accomplish this task requires a thorough knowledge of the chosen technique of struggle.

There are many possible techniques of waging political conflicts: working within the system, pacifism, full-scale military warfare, guerrilla warfare, sabotage, non-violent action and others. Were Earth First! to adopt, say, guerrilla warfare as our chosen technique, we would more than likely extensively study of its strategy, tactics, methods and history. We would read up on Emiliano Zapata, Crazy Horse, the Viet Cong, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the modern-day Zapatistas. In short, we would take it seriously. If we are to choose nonviolent action as the preferred technique of struggle, we need to devote ourselves to a comprehensive understanding of its history, methods, strategic requirements and dynamics. Such is the intent of this and future pieces.

My own activist history spans 13 years of practical experience with Earth First! with concurrent research and study into the whole spectrum of social change movements. The motivation for this present effort is a desire to share some of this information to help the movement become more effective and help newer activists avoid repeating past mistakes—mistakes that cost forests and other endangered ecosystems.

Strategic Action Planning

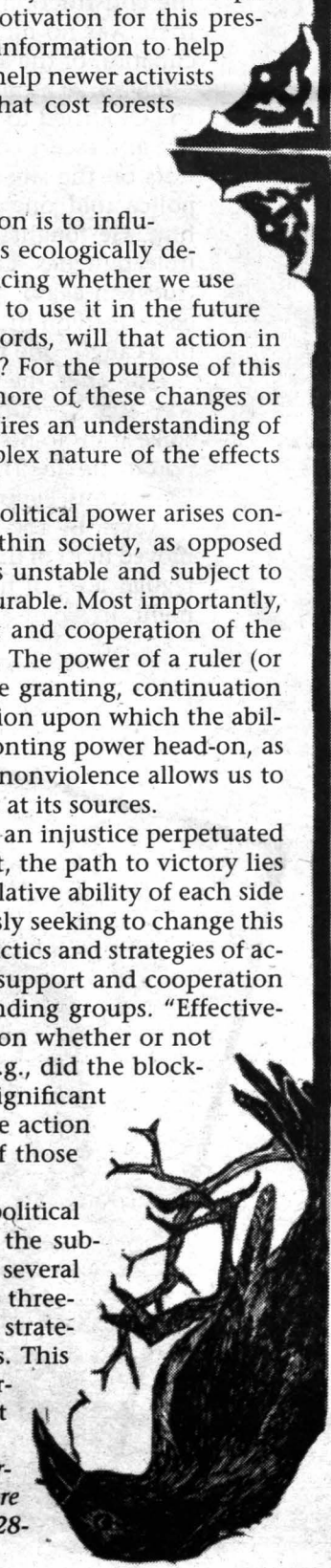
The reason we engage in nonviolent action is to influence behavior—specifically, behavior that is ecologically destructive or unjust. The main factor influencing whether we use a particular method of action or continue to use it in the future is that action's "effectiveness." In other words, will that action in fact lead to the desired change in behavior? For the purpose of this essay, a "goal" will be defined as one or more of these changes or effects. Determining appropriate goals requires an understanding of the source of political power and the complex nature of the effects of nonviolent action.

According to nonviolent action theory, political power arises continuously from a multitude of sources within society, as opposed to emanating from the few at the top; it is unstable and subject to change; instead of being monolithic and durable. Most importantly, it is dependent on the obedience, support and cooperation of the very people subject to such political power. The power of a ruler (or corporation, etc.) may be controlled by the granting, continuation or withdrawal of this support and cooperation upon which the ability to rule depends. Thus, instead of confronting power head-on, as in most violent conflict, the proper use of nonviolence allows us to indirectly challenge power by controlling it at its sources.

When a small group wishes to challenge an injustice perpetuated by an immensely more powerful opponent, the path to victory lies in a radical—at the root—altering of the relative ability of each side to wield political power. Activists consciously seeking to change this power relationship will choose methods, tactics and strategies of action that affect the sources of power (i.e., support and cooperation by a multitude of people) for both contending groups. "Effectiveness" will then be evaluated not so much on whether or not some superficial objective was achieved (e.g., did the blockade actually shut down the bridge for a significant length of time?) but on whether or not the action led to a change in behavior on the part of those on either side.

The topic of the nature and control of political power is extremely complex—it has been the subject of innumerable volumes over the last several centuries alone. I wish to put forth a basic three-phase procedure for nonviolent action: (1) strategic analysis; (2) goal setting; and (3) tactics. This procedure can be used by activists to determine which actions will achieve the greatest possible effect with the least effort.

For the rest of this article, see *EF! Journal* September-October 1997. Back issues of the *EF! Journal* are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete 28-year set for \$500.



Six Nations Step It Up in Brantford

continued from page 1

What follows is a timeline of the current resistance against development in Brantford:

July 5: At the Grand Council meeting of the Six Nations, the clan mothers and the women of the Six Nations asked the chiefs to come and stand by their people in stopping illegal development in Brantford.

July 7: One hundred fifty native people went on a mobile protest, shutting down four development sites across the city of Brantford, including ones being developed by Ireland's Kingspan Group. They started by shutting down "Birkett Lane," where 120 houses were to be built on previously undeveloped land. Then they shut down two more sprawling developments, before moving on to a "future" Hampton Inn, telling the construction workers to "have a nice day off!" Hampton Inn is one of 10 hotel chains owned by the Hilton Hotels Corporation.

This protest marked the first time that the confederacy chiefs have publicly stood with their people to stop colonial land grabs. Several clan mothers and one elected band council member were a part of the protest, as well. Both Kingspan and the Hampton Inn were chosen because they were instrumental in pushing through an injunction to stop protests by natives within Brantford city limits—initiating a still-pending request to call on the army to suppress this popular movement.

July 11: To commemorate the anniversary of the July 11, 1990, "Oka Crisis," five Six Nations people went to the "future" site of Kingspan's new \$4-billion Klanadian headquarters and insulation plant. They arrived early in the morning, before the construction workers. They told the workers there was no more work there, and set up an occupation of the area.

July 14: At around 8 a.m., Brantford city pigs and the OPP tried to enter the Kingspan construction site and escort concrete trucks into the area. Warriors on the site refused to let the cops pass. The police told one man to move, before attacking him. He fought back, hitting the cop with multiple punches. Later, the pigs tried to move the trucks in again. Warriors, both men and women, converged on the group of pigs. After a scuffle, the pigs caught one man.

Soon after, the OPP gathered in cruisers on Highway 403, surrounding the site. The cops lay down spike strips to prevent the reserve from getting support to the site. They brought in ambulances and police wagons, expecting a fight. The situation calmed, however. By the late afternoon, the police had removed most of their cars, and the site was back to its regular level of heightened surveillance. Later that night, in Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver, British

Columbia), a railway was blocked in solidarity with the Six Nations (see below).

July 17: Two racist young men drove a pick-up truck into the reclaimed Kingspan construction site, burning rubber and doing figure eights. Then, they began driving toward the warriors, who jumped up and grabbed rocks. "We're not going to stand for it. Anyone caught doing these things here will be made an example of," said one warrior.

July 18: Six Nations warriors set up a large teepee outside of the (not so) soon to be completed Hampton Inn. The warriors let the construction workers finish their work for the day, but told them they wouldn't be able to continue working. "They were told by our chiefs a week and a half ago to stop, and yet they continue to build." Rumors have spread, saying that Kingspan may rethink building in Brantford if the protests persist past July 21.

August 5: At about 7 a.m., more than 30 people from Six Nations visited a \$500-million commercial and industrial King and Benton development site in Brantford. More than 50 workers were sent home for the day, with pay. Haudenosaunee said they will see that the company president keeps his word that no work will continue while the land claim is unsettled.

The gathering then continued to the Hampton Inn site, where workers were told that the property owner had two days to talk to the Six Nations or work would be shut down. No workers were present when the Kingspan development was visited moments later.

The Six Nations community intends on continuing to stop all development in Brantford, and this situation is only gaining momentum. All that can be said for sure is that Brantford and all other cities within Haudenosaunee/Six Nations land can expect more resistance.

There have been all forms of resistance, including pickets and information sessions, in direct solidarity with Six Nations and Tyendinaga and against this colonial state. The following is from the communiqué of an action done in solidarity with Six Nations:

"On the night of Monday, July 14, east of the Abbotsford-Mission Bridge (near Vancouver), thick copper wire was placed across the train tracks, connecting two rails to mimic a blockage and hopefully disrupt train traffic for hours. This is a strategic place because it is a bottle-neck of three major train lines.

"We disrupted the tracks because they are, along with highways, the main arteries of the economy, transporting the building blocks of development. In 'British Columbia,' we are seeing rapid development build the projects of the rich, ushered along by the investment craze of the 2010 Olympics.

"We did this in solidarity with those whose struggle poses a credible threat to the stability of the Canadian state. If our solidarity is expansive, disruptive and targeted, we can further our own fight for freedom while strengthening others."

For more information, visit www.mohawknationnews.com; www.confrontation.wordpress.com; www.reclamationinfo.com; or www.friendsofgrassynarrows.com.

There are more than 800 native land claims pending in Canada. The time it will take to resolve these is expected to be more than 200 years. Creating the political will for a just and timely resolution will take your help. Real solidarity means shouldering some of the burden of struggle. At a time when money is more powerful than justice, governments need financial (dis)incentives to live up to their own laws.

—RAILWAY TIES COLLECTIVE

ROADBLOCK EF!

ACTIONS AGAINST I-69

continued from page 16

July 28, Washington, DC: Resistance to the construction of I-69 continued nationally as nearly 100 people took over K Street in Washington, DC, to demonstrate their opposition to the road. Students for a Democratic Society, Potomac EF! and others danced in the streets, handed out hundreds of fliers and stickers, and held corporations publicly accountable for their complicity in I-69 and the free-trade agreement, Plan Puebla Panama. Distracting the police with their funky dance moves, the crowd was able to storm the Cato Institute—a right-wing think tank responsible for forcing neoliberal ideology down the throats of communities across the world—and leave their pristine glass doors plastered with anti-I-69 stickers.

The rowdy crowd continued to the offices of HNTB, a planning firm involved with I-69, but were limited to blocking traffic and chanting by a line of riot police protecting their corporate bosses. The group finally danced its way down to the Washington Post, holding the corporate apologist responsible for uncritically supporting neoliberal policies and free trade agreements throughout the Americas. The crowd almost obtained entrance to the newspaper's offices, distracting those inside and disrupting work, but were forced down the stairs by another line of riot police.

The action forced hundreds of people to stop in their tracks (literally, as traffic was stopped by a dancing reclamation of the streets), open their eyes and learn about I-69. It also served as a reminder to those responsible for I-69: We know where you are. We will continue to visit you wherever you hide. All that protects you are thin glass doors and a line of riot police. Capitalism may be globalized, but so is resistance.

July 28, Santa Cruz, California: Activists dropped a banner over Highway 1, reading, "Solidarity! No I-69!"

Wherever capitalists maneuver to increase their wealth and power, we find a target for our anger. I-69, the NAFTA superhighway, is nothing more than a channel for the flow of profit from the backs of working people to the pockets of the rich.

For more information, visit stopi69.wordpress.com. Decentralized action against I-69 is encouraged. Check out the "those responsible" section of the website for target ideas.



artwork by Angie Stentith/Gitksan Nation/First

ARMED WITH VISIONS

SYONG'IL BAY

Thirty years ago
that spot was like a mother to me.
Simply
like my best friend's mother.

Twenty years ago
it was my own mother.
Absurd, but
I used to shout to her
"Mother,"
when I felt helpless:
"Mother!"

Today
factories have killed my mother.
Now,
there is no mother
to greet you, sun and moon.
And since I am motherless,
I am without dreams, no matter
how long I sleep.
For millennia now, sand
has been announcing the end of
the world.
Who has understood?
Those grains of sand
were once mother of every man
and beast.

—Ko Un, translated from Korean
by Brother Anthony of Taizé,
Young-moo Kim and Gary Gach
Translators' note: Yong'il Bay is on
the east coast of Korea. It shelters
P'ohang, which, in recent decades,
has become home to one of the
largest iron and steel foundries in
the world, polluting what was pre-
viously a site famed for its natural
beauty and the purity of its waters.

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

RIVER

I am tiny fragments of light
on your glistening surface
I am moist smell
smoothness of rock
I am the few remaining salmon
unslaughtered and free
their gills opening and closing
with living breath
their cold transparent skin
I am the willows
bending and bowing
dipping their feathery branches
their roots drinking deeply
from muddy soil
I am the deer that come at dawn
and dip their silken muzzles
drinking deeply of your cold fresh water
I am the moon whose long milky trail
swirls in your black current
I am the first wild flowers
tiny and delicate
the blue gray shadows where their
petals meet

—Jean Varda

URSUS

Met you
On a Vancouver Island ridge
Above the creek that bears your name

As the final thunderclaps
And flashes of a Summer storm
Faded off toward the Pacific.

We stopped, stared at each other.
You rose tall, long claws crossed
Over your chest, head backtilted,

Nose in the air, weaving and testing,
Sorting out the tapestry of scent
That meant home to you:

*Huckleberry. Unearthed camas bulb.
Rainwet manzanita. Mountain hemlock.
Rewarming rock. Stonecrop. Scat.*

Then:

Yes. It's me, bear,
Alien biped in these hills, bringing
Bright berries of death,

Poisoned roots that shoot,
Sharp tools that grew in cities—
Never here.

Snorting, you recognized me,
Dropped back to all fours
And moved off downslope as the sun came out,

Hoping to forget the misfit in your spectrum.
A rainbow sprang over you, but
I was the brown in it.

—Richard Arnold

ALIEN

It was one of those mornings when my feet seemed unaware of each other and I walked slowly up a canyon wash to avoid tripping. It was warmish at dawn, but the sun wouldn't quite come out, having missed a number of good chances, or so I thought studying the antic clouds that were behaving as sloppily as the government. I was looking for a wildflower, the penstemon, but stopped at a rock pool in a miniature marsh seeing a Mojave rattlesnake curled up in the cup of a low-slung boulder. Since this snake can kill a cow or horse I detoured through a dense thicket then glimpsed the small opening of a side canyon I had not noticed in my 17 years of living down the road. How could I have missed it, except that it's my habit to miss a great deal? And then the sun came out and frightened me as if I had stumbled onto a well hidden house of the gods, roofless and only a hundred feet long, backed by a sheer wall of stone. I smelled the tell-tale urine of a mountain lion, but no cave was visible until I looked up at a passing Mexican jay that shrieked the usual warning. We move from fear to fear. I knew the lion would be hiding there in the daytime more surely than I had seen the snake. They weren't guardians. This is where they lived. These small rock cathedrals are spread around the landscape in hundreds of variations but this one had the rawness of the unseen, giving me an edge of discomfort rarely felt in nature except in Ecuador and the Yucatan, where I had appeared as a permanent stranger. I sat down with my back tight against a sheer wall, thinking that the small cave entrance I faced by craning my neck must be the home of the old female lion seen around here not infrequently, and that she could only enter from a crevasse at the top, downward into her cave. This is nature without us. This is someone's home where I don't belong.

—Jim Harrison,
from the forthcoming book, *In Search of Small Gods*, Copper Canyon Press

send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
POB 14501
Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

A Closer Look at Two Snitches

Frank Ambrose

Indicted on arson and conspiracy counts relating to an action in Michigan, Frank Ambrose has accepted a plea bargain that involves full cooperation with the government. He has admitted his involvement in numerous other Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions throughout the Midwest, and has provided the names of many activists to the government.

Ambrose has been traveling around the country—both to an EF! gathering in Florida (where he offered and paid for the airfare of other people) and to the West Coast—following the April 10, 2007, raid on his residence. He is suspected to have begun cooperating with the FBI shortly after that raid. He has produced countless audio tapes for the government, including recordings of a large portion of the 2008 EF! Organizers' Conference in Florida. If you have ever had any association with Ambrose, you should assume that any knowledge he has about you and your activities has been given to the feds.

For detailed evidence of Ambrose's cooperation, visit www.ecoprisoners.org/ambrose.htm.

Ian Wallace

Born and raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Ian Wallace was active with Big Woods Earth First! and the Live Wild or Die collective in Minneapolis from 1999-2002. During this time, he was involved in many civil disobedience actions against Home Depot. Until his government cooperation began, Wallace had been pursuing a graduate degree in physical anthropology at Stony Brook University in upstate New York.



Ian Wallace

During Daniel McGowan's June 2007 sentencing, it was stated in open court by McGowan's prosecutor that Wallace is cooperating with an ongoing investigation into ELF actions in the Midwest (along with Green Scare snitches Kevin Tubbs and Stanislas Meyerhoff). This information has since been confirmed. Individuals were also subpoenaed to a cancelled grand jury in September 2007 based upon Wallace's accusations. In addition, Wallace is assumed to be the original informant in the Rhinelander, Wisconsin, action in 2000

(see page 3) and has possibly been sentenced recently to three to five years in prison for an unknown crime in Michigan—though this has not been confirmed. As of press time, there is no known list of actions that Wallace is giving information on.

For more information (or to report useful information) on Wallace's cooperation, visit www.midwestgreenscare.org.

If you have been visited by law enforcement in relation to these investigations, please get ahold of the National Lawyers Guild as soon as possible by calling (888) NLG-ECOLAW. There are activists and lawyers at this number who are more than willing to help you. You should also send an email to fightthegreenscare@riseup.net. Remember, never speak to law enforcement. You are only endangering yourself and others. Always consult with a knowledgeable and experienced attorney.



Frank Ambrose

Among the actions that Frank Ambrose is known to be cooperating with the FBI on are:

- August 7, 1999; Escanaba, Michigan; arson of two power boats; \$9,436 loss
- August 22, 1999; Bloomington, Indiana; arson at Deer Park construction site; \$95,000 loss
- November 2, 1999; Bloomington; vandalism of logging equipment; \$55,000 loss
- December 31, 1999; East Lansing, Michigan; arson of genetic research building at Michigan State University; \$3.7 million loss
- January 23, 2000; Bloomington; arson at Sterling Woods Development; \$200,000 loss
- April 30, 2000; Bloomington; vandalism of Crider & Crider Equipment; \$75,000 loss
- June 26, 2000; Bloomington; tree-spiking in Morgan-Monroe State Park; \$5,500 loss
- June 26, 2000; Bloomington; tree-spiking in Yellowwood State Forest; \$1,600 loss
- July 2, 2000; North Vernon, Indiana; arson and vandalism at Rose Acre Farm; \$100,000 loss
- October 18, 2000; Shoals, Indiana; vandalism at Martin State Park; \$55,000 loss
- March 21, 2003; Superior Township, Michigan; arson at Mystic Forest; \$1 million loss
- June 4, 2003; Macomb County, Michigan; arson at Willow Ridge; \$1 million loss



FBI Wants Scoop on Vegan Potlucks Too Bad!

Following is a statement from a person known to Earth Warriors are OK! (EWOK!, formerly the Twin Cities Eco-Prisoner Support Committee). This person was approached by the local Joint Terrorism Task Force and offered the possibility of being a paid informant.

The individual has rejected the offer and now has a National Lawyer's Guild lawyer. His statement should both inspire us for his refusal to cooperate and remind us that he is probably not the only person solicited by the government in such a way. Unfortunately, we have to assume that some people will cooperate.

As I was biking back from court, my phone rang. I let it go to the answering machine and checked it when I was off my bike. It was the police officer who I talked to about my graffiti. The message said something like, "This isn't graffiti related, but I need your help with something. You're not in trouble; give me a call."

I gave him a call. He said something like this: "I'd like to meet with you today. It's not about graffiti."

"I'm not going to rat anyone out. What do you want?" I don't really know why I said that. I was nervous, I suppose.

"Twenty minutes of your time. Where do you want to meet?"

"I don't know, Erik, where do you want to meet? And can you tell me what this is about?"

"I'll explain it when we meet. How about Espresso Exposé?"

"Sure."

"When's good?"

"How about 12:30?"

At this point, I was antsy and confused. I got there 15 minutes

early. He came a bit late. He said, "This is my partner," referring to a woman next to him. They both got coffee, leaving me in my shaky, dumbfounded mental state even longer. When we sat down, she flashed an FBI badge. Seeing my nerves, they reassured me that I was safe and not guilty of anything. Then, for 20 minutes, they flattered me about how my personality and appearance were perfect matches for what was required in some espionage dealio. They wanted me to crash vegan potluck parties and get into the inner circle of terrorists, because supposedly terrorists are trusting and I'm "trusting, easygoing and funny." Every time they said "vegan potluck," I chuckled—but their faces showed they weren't kidding. They said "vegan potluck" half a dozen times. They really feared vegans and their violent conspiracies to blow up buildings in protest against the Republican National Convention.

So, after 20 minutes of bewildering suck-ups, they asked me if I was in. They said there'd be compensation if I assisted in someone's arrest.

I said, "Umm, I'll pass."

She said, "That was the fastest anyone has ever rejected me." Then she tried for 10 more minutes to get me to change my mind, before saying, "Really, think about it. We could really use you." Then, she gave me a business card. On the back, she wrote her cell phone number.

I said, "You have very legible handwriting," and they both had themselves a hearty laugh.

"Call if you change your mind. Don't tell any of your friends about this and don't show anyone this card." We said our good-byes and I haven't heard from either of them since.

Here's the information from their business cards:

University of Minnesota Police
Twin Cities Campus
Erik Swanson
Police Sergeant, Investigations
Joint Terrorism Task Force
UMPD
511 Washington Ave, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Internet: www.umn.edu/police
E-mail: swans078@umn.edu
Office: (612) 624-9560
Cell: (612) 290-4688
Fax: (612) 626-0534

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Maureen E. Mazzola
Special Agent
111 Washington Ave, South
Suite 1100
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 376-3200
Fax: (612) 376-3444
Cell: (612) 490-7447 (written very legibly on the back)

If you are approached by law enforcement, you do not have to talk to them. If you are in the Twin Cities area and you need jail or legal support, call the Cold Snap Hotline, (651) 356-8635. If you are arrested or subpoenaed for offenses related to environmental or animal activism, call the National Lawyers' Guild Ecolaw Hotline, (888) NLG-ECOLAW. For more information, contact EWOK!, fightthegreenscare@riseup.net.

Yet More Green Scare Arrests

continued from page 3

With Christianson and Ellringer both pleading not guilty, the government account of what happened should be taken with a grain of salt for now. However, we want to include it to help readers make sense of what Christianson, Ellringer and Rivera are facing. The government alleges that this group planned the action in Rhinelander while at the Round River Rendezvous in Tennessee a few weeks prior, deciding to act in conjunction with protests against the International Society of Animal Geneticists (ISAG), which occurred in late July in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the government's story, Christianson, Wallace and McGowan obtained the supplies and did most of the planning, while keeping in touch with Rivera and recruiting Ellringer to be the driver. The indictment says Christianson, Wallace, McGowan and Rivera drove straight from the ISAG protests to Eau Claire, where they picked up Ellringer, who drove the four to the Rhinelander facility, dropping the others off after midnight to do their deeds. Again, it's important to remember that this is the government's account, which may or may not resemble anything that actually happened.

For more information, visit www.midwestgreenscare.org. Be sure to check out the Earth Warriors are OK! (EWOK!) zine they've compiled. It has lots of crucial, relevant information about how to nip any further Green Scare investigations in the bud.

SILENCE NOW = FREEDOM LATER

Thoughts on How to Keep a Movement Together and Out of Prison



BY DONNY

Okay, here's the question: How do we get people to stop snitching? How can we ensure that each of us, as movement participants, will never cooperate with a government investigation or give information that helps set back this movement? How can we trust that if we are ever being threatened with life behind bars, physical torture and abuse, or the suffering of our loved ones that we will stand strong and roll with the punches?

Every movement has had its traitors. Many conquered or crushed movements were *only* undone because people they trusted cooperated with enemies. Look at a movement that has seen better days, and you will find traitors that lurked in its midst—from indigenous struggles worldwide to black and brown liberation movements to Earth First!.

We all know examples of police and federal agents assigning someone to infiltrate a group. Earth First! has seen our share of this—most recently with “Anna,” the student working for the FBI to entrap Eric McDavid and his one-time *compañer@s*. Many of us have played the old game, “Spot the Cop,” at protests and gatherings. Infiltration is a problem, for sure. But this is not what I want to address right now.

What is more worrisome to me is when somebody who is a trusted activist and friend, and who has been through arduous campaigns and heart-wrenching struggles with us, turns informant. *That* is what we need to quash out. *Now*. The infiltrator can stick around and slowly start to earn our trust, but the security culture we teach ourselves tells us not to even mention the prospect of illegal activities around people we don't *thoroughly* trust and know. There are examples like the Arizona Five in 1989, where EFlers were busted by an undercover within their group, but if you look at the Green Scare, which has been chipping away at us since 2005, almost every arrest can be directly attributed to somebody who was once very trusted and proven within their circles opening their mouth and handing their buddies over to the feds.

Most of the Green Scare arrests are for actions that occurred in the late 1990s or early 2000s. The majority of the people active then are no longer active in the same context today. Maybe they are married. Maybe they have families. Maybe they even have (*gasp!*) careers. This isn't to say that any of this specifically describes any individual who's been targeted for repression. Rather, these are things we need to consider when we're strategizing how to resist this repression.

As I see it, this means at least two things: (1) People generally have more to lose by spending decades in jail now than when they were 23 years old and spending most of their nights at punk shows, drinking 40s and dreaming up their next target, and (2) much of the recent talk we've been doing within Earth First! and the radical environmental movement about staying silent and supporting each other through whatever tribulations may arise has not been reaching those no longer active within these circles. These are both seriously imposing issues to address.

As far as people potentially having more to lose these days than when they were younger, I am not going to pretend that Earth First!, as a movement, is able to help

pay their mortgage or the grocery bills or take their kids to school. I don't think that's realistic. But the more each of us, within our communities and groups of friends, talks and thinks about—plans for—supporting each other in case something like this happens, the more we're likely to be ready to spring into action as soon as it becomes necessary. Maybe we're not going to get a check from Dave Foreman to help out with the dog food. But, if we share our needs with our friends (and, after arrests, support groups), then we can probably get somebody to pick up little Susie when school gets out. Maybe passing that time in prison can be just a little bit easier with that much less to worry about.

Regarding reaching people who are no longer in our movements to let them know that they will be supported if they just keep quiet and honorable, I think we just have to do the best we can. It's certainly important for those of us who were active then to reach out to people we were close with to ensure there will be a wall of silence, should the government try anything. Reaching out to each other is no basis for suspicion. Each of us, whether or not we've had some fun at night, should be emphasizing the need for mutual support and closed mouths.

The feds have found success using wiretaps as old friends reconnect and share memories, but if we don't share any memories of sketchy events (because, of course, we were never there and would have no recollection anyway), then those wiretaps can't be used for much in investigations or trials.

This brings me to another point that is painfully obvious, but still seems like it needs to be repeated: Don't snitch. Don't say a damn thing. Don't tell them nothin'. Legally, you are required to give only your name to a cop. But, honestly, I don't know what charges you face if you refuse to give your name. Likely, they'll just hold you until they find out who you are, then slap you with a misdemeanor.

Regardless, if they ask what you're doing right now, respond with silence. If they ask what you were doing the night of August 35, 2007, respond with silence. If they ask what your dog's name is, respond with silence. If they threaten you with everything in the book and you know they don't know anything, because it's all untrue and you can easily prove it, you still need to respond with silence. If you're innocent, let the lawyer you're now going to hire sort it out in court. With any question they may ask you, it is so important to respond with silence.

It can be tempting to try to talk your way out of an encounter, but investigators are trained to be able to out-manuever you. Silence is never incriminating, no matter what they may tell you. If you didn't do anything, it's not going to help if you tell them so before you say those four words, “Not guilty, your honor.” If you did do something, it's certainly not going to help you any by opening your mouth. They may arrest you, charge you with contempt, threaten 3,745 years in prison and promise to kill your cat. Roll

where the punches may take you and you'll likely be pleasantly surprised by how hollow their threats can be. I don't want to say that living through this is not tough or scary or that it's something to take lightly. But it's important that our *only* strategy is to stay silent and take what's coming.

No arrests associated with the Green Scare have been made until someone cooperated with the government. If we collectively make a promise to ourselves and each other to stay silent, to not cooperate and to support each other as best we can, then the government has already sentenced the last activist to prison for crimes related to activities to defend the Earth. It's that simple. If government investigations keep finding dead ends (people who refuse to give *any* information), they will stop bothering that community. It'd be fruitless to continue.

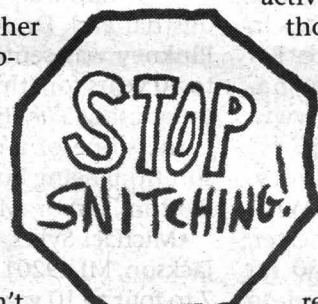
Like the “Ask an EF! Lawyer” column said in the last issue of the *Earth First! Journal* when talking about staying silent during a grand jury, “Your lawyer could argue that the coercive effect of imprisonment does not work on you, so it is silly to continue holding you. If the judge were to agree, you would go free and your grand jury ordeal would be over (probably for life, because your strength this time will be proof to a future grand jury that prison can't make you squeal)” (see *EF!* July-August 2008).

So, let's spread this far and wide. Let's make a commitment right now to ourselves and each other that we will not say anything to investigators (or old friends with suddenly active memories) and that we will support those of us who have been and will be rounded up in these witch hunts as best we can. Let's make this promise and hold true to it. I know this is so much easier to commit to now than when it's happening to us. That can't be emphasized enough. I've never faced imprisonment for the rest of my life. Still, we need to find a way to

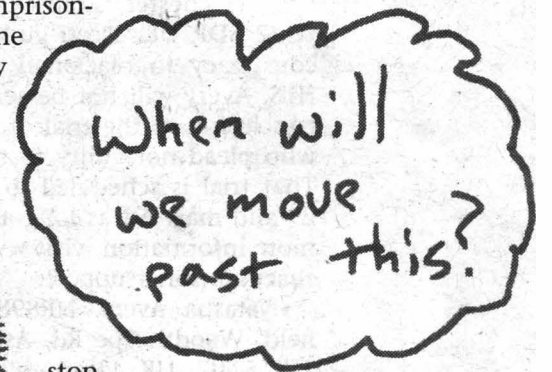
stop this trend of cooperation. If we steel ourselves and imagine now what it might be like to lose the chance to watch sunsets with our loved ones (as we gain the respect and gratitude of a movement fighting for the life and well-being of the Earth), then it might be that much easier to face that agent knocking on the door—and *not say a damn thing!*

Donny lives for singing Manowar's “Brothers of Metal” at the top of his lungs, but he refuses to give cops the chance for a sing-along.

What can we do to help each other feel strong and not even consider cooperating to be an option?



stop this trend of cooperation. If we steel ourselves and imagine now what it might be like to lose the chance to watch sunsets with our loved ones (as we gain the respect and gratitude of a movement fighting for the life and well-being of the Earth), then it might be that much easier to face that agent knocking on the door—and not say a damn thing!



artwork by Donny

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 42¢ 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

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Exeter, 30 New North Rd, Exeter, EX4 4EX, UK. Plead guilty on July 30 for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). Amos will not be sentenced until the conclusion of the trial of 12 co-defendants who plead not guilty to the same charges. That trial is scheduled to begin September 29 and may last as long as six months.

•Tre Arrow, 70936-065, FCI Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Sentenced to 6.5 years on August 12 for two counts of arson for burning logging trucks, and a sand and gravel company's vehicles. Under a plea agreement, Arrow will receive credit for time served since March 2004 in Canadian and US jails, leaving less than two years in his sentence. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Plead guilty on July 30 for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. Avery will not be sentenced until the conclusion of the trial of 12 co-defendants who plead not guilty to the same charges. That trial is scheduled to begin September 29 and may last as long as six months. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Plead guilty on July 30 for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. Avery will not be sentenced until the conclusion of the trial of 12 co-defendants who plead not guilty to the same charges. That trial is scheduled to begin September 29 and may last as long as six months. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Sacramento Delfino Cano Hernández and Oscar Santa María Caro were released from jail after months awaiting trial on charges stemming from the popular resistance in Oaxaca. Santa María is a known member of Resistance Against Animal Torture.

•Sean Kirtley, WC6977, HMP Stafford, 54 Gaol Rd, Stafford, T16 3AW, UK. Kirtley was moved to the above address. Serving 4.5 years for organizing legal demonstrations against Sequani, an animal-testing company. For more information, visit supportsean.wordpress.com.

•Bryan Lefey (aka Bryan Rivera), #38664-086, FDC SeaTac, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA. Awaiting trial on charges stemming from a 2000 attack on a Forest Service

research facility in Wisconsin. For more information, see page 3.

•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, USP Marion, POB 1000, Marion, IL 62959, USA. Serving seven years for Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arsons at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. McGowan's sentence was paused while he served a week in July for contempt in relation to not cooperating with a grand jury. For more information, see page 3 or visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Christian Moser was granted bail on August 13. He awaits trial in Austria with his nine jailed co-defendants on charges of forming a criminal organization to commit direct action in defense of animals.

•Olga Aleksandrovna Nevskaya, UU163/5, 7 Otryad, pos. Dzerzhinskiy, Mozhaysk 140090 Moskovskaya oblast, Russia. Eco-activist serving six years for arson, criminal damage and causing explosions in protest of the war in Chechnya. Due for release in 2009.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Plead not guilty on July 30 for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. Nicholson's trial is scheduled to begin September 29. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Rev. Edward Pinkney #294671, 4533 Industrial Park Dr, Kincheloe, MI 49786, USA. Pinkney was sentenced on June 26 to three to 10 years for "threatening" a judge in court by quoting *The Bible*. Pinkney has been the cornerstone of a campaign to prevent a resort from being built in a park in low-income Benton Harbor, Michigan.

•Michael Sykes, #696693, 3855 Cooper St, Jackson, MI 49201, USA. Sentenced on August 7 to four to 10 years for the arson of two newly constructed condominiums, trying to chop down an 80-foot utility pole and attempting to chisel through cement in his jail cell. The above address is believed to be temporary.

•James Tucker, #218447, Minnesota Correctional Facility Lino Lakes, 7525 4th Ave, Circle Pines, MN 55014. Will be released on October 7 after serving 3.6 years for the ELF arson of a construction site.

•Briana Waters, #36432-086, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. Waters was moved to the above address. Serving six years for the ELF arson of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Waters insists she was not involved. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.org.

•Sarah Whitehead, VM7684, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Sentenced on June 30 to 15 months for burglary charges after rescuing an abused beagle from a dangerous home and nine additional months from a prior suspended sentence for rescuing more than 100 animals from a pet breeder who was later prosecuted for animal abuse. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportsarah.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr, Waynesburg, PA 15370, USA. Awaiting resentencing to either life in prison or death. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981. For more information, visit www.freemumia.org.

•Martin Balluch, Jürgen Faulmann, Felix Hnat and Elmar Völkl, c/o Justizanstalt Wr Neustadt, Maximiliang 3, 2700 Wr Neustadt, Austria. Awaiting trial as four of 10 Austrian aboveground animal rights activists arrested and charged with forming a criminal organization to commit direct action.

•Vaggelis Botzatzis, Dikastikes Fylakes Komotinis, TK 69100, Greece. Awaiting trial for the alleged arson of a bank, a car dealership and two cars owned by an energy company.

•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. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportmel.

•Daniele Casalini, Casa Circondariale, Via Burla 59, 43100-Parma PR, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Casalini is a member of Il Silvestre, an Italian eco-anarchist group and frequent target of state repression.

•Christoph, Jan, Kevin Kroemmer, Leo and Sabine, c/o Antirep 2008, Postfach 101, 1070 Vienna, Austria. Awaiting trial as five of 10 Austrian aboveground animal rights activists arrested and charged with forming a criminal organization to commit direct action. Some have intentionally withheld their last names.

•Francesco Gioia, CC Sollicciano, Via Girolamo Minervini 2/R, 50142-Firenze Sollicciano FI, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Il Silvestre.

•Paola Gori, Via delle Macchie 9, 57124-Livorno LI, Italy. Awaiting trial for alleged subversive conspiracy to rob a post office. Gori is a member of Il Silvestre.

•Marie Mason is under house arrest while awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a series of ELF actions against genetic engineering and development. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

Animal Liberation

•Jon Ablewhite, TB4885, and Kerry Whitburn, TB4886, HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham, NG14 7DA, UK. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

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

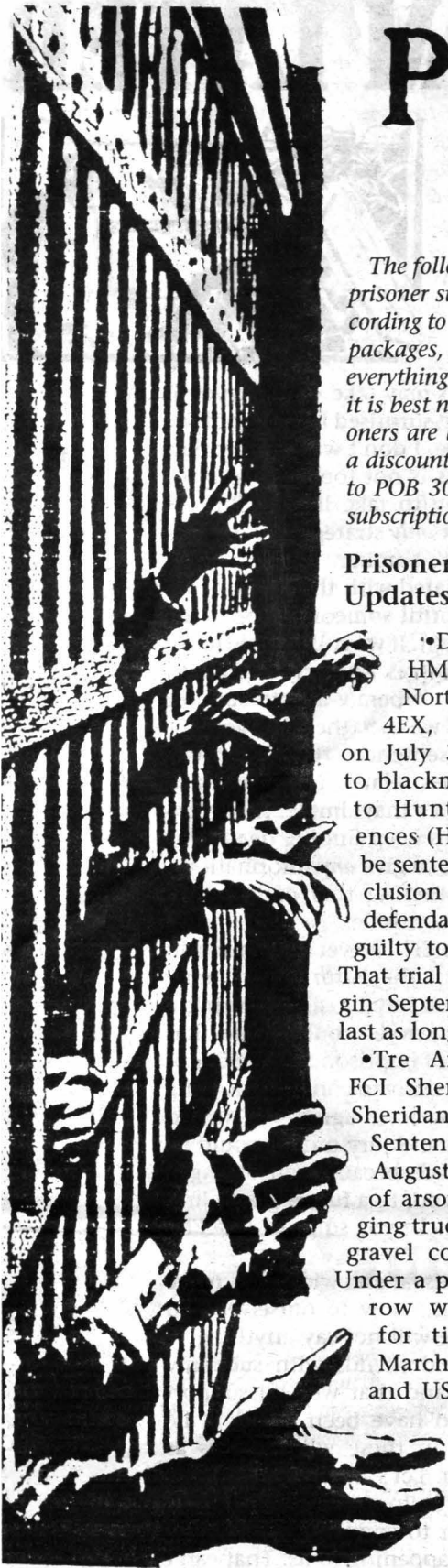
•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX, UK. Serving an "indefinite sentence" of at least six years—with no fixed release date or upper limit—for arson against targets linked to the vivisection industry.

•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 1, FCI Sandstone, POB 1000, Sandstone, MN



BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear Earth First! Lawyer,

There's a lot of discussion about grand juries and how to fight them, but not so much about depositions. I want to know how the two procedures are different, how they're the same and how to fight depositions.

—Intending to be Silent

Dear Silent,

Depositions, like grand juries, are designed to force people to speak. Grand juries are arranged only by the government in *criminal* court to investigate criminal activity, while depositions are arranged by a private party (or sometimes the government) for use in *civil* court, where someone is suing someone else for money. In civil cases, no one is accused of criminal wrongdoing.

The Fifth Amendment (the right not to incriminate yourself) only applies where a person might expose themselves to criminal prosecution if they were to testify. This is much more likely to occur in a grand jury setting than in a deposition setting, although it could happen in either. In the last issue of the *EF! Journal*, I outlined the basics of a grand jury process in which one invokes their right to remain silent (see *EF! Journal* July-August 2008).

Depositions are different from grand juries in a very important way. In depositions, the people asking you questions are not likely to be from the government but from businesses or other private interests. Thus, the people pressuring you to talk would have no ability to

offer you immunity from criminal prosecution in exchange for your testimony. Therefore, if there is even a small chance that you might incriminate yourself if you speak at all during your deposition, "taking the Fifth" might be the end of the interrogation entirely.

In most civil cases, however, there is just no chance that the deposition witness would incriminate herself by answering a question. For example, pretend that you were asked, "Did you witness the car accident on that day?" Your answer, "Yes," would not incriminate you unless being in that location would be an admission of a crime you had committed. If you had a right to be where the car accident occurred, then none of the details of the car accident would incriminate you either. Thus, pleading the Fifth would not work and you would have to answer the questions under oath.

Let's now discuss what would happen in that minority of cases where you actually would be in danger of providing evidence against yourself if you spoke, and where the party deposing you is the government. It is conceivable that the government could file a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP suit) against you or someone else, and question you in a deposition about that case. I believe that the government's civil lawyers would not be as familiar with the Fifth Amendment as the government's criminal lawyers. The federal government always has lawyers that specialize in a small area of either civil or criminal law. The state governments in big cities are the same way,

though rural areas might have a District Attorney who also does civil work for the government. You can use this to your advantage by taking the Fifth. If the lawyer doesn't know what to do, that will be the end of that.

Another rare scenario would be when the government civil lawyer does know how to respond to your Fifth Amendment claim. In such a case, it may be that the civil lawyer would be unable to convince the government criminal lawyers to impose immunity on you (since the government criminal lawyers don't know the government civil lawyer, why would they do anything for them?). In that scenario, you walk away as well, because without the imposition of immunity, the government will not be able to force you to talk.

That leaves us with the rarest of scenarios: where the government is suing you or someone else for money. They've subpoenaed you to a deposition and you make a good faith Fifth Amendment claim against self-incrimination and refuse to testify. The government lawyer knows how to handle that response and is able to impose immunity on you. Let's assume that the judge also knows this area of law—a big assumption, because this so rarely comes up in state court.

Say you are asked about a roadblock where the government lost a forest destruction contract that would have paid it \$10,000 for the clearcutting of 1,000 acres of old growth forest. Because of your or your friends' alleged actions, the government lost the ability to make that money and now the forest

still stands completely undisturbed, the butterflies and birds and beavers are all happy, but the government wants \$10,000 from you to pay for the "damage" you've caused.

If you take the Fifth and refuse to testify, the government lawyer would file a motion (a request) with the court to have you found in contempt of court because you did not testify after you had immunity. Then, you and your lawyer would go to court and explain that the Fifth Amendment protects you. The judge would threaten you with contempt if you don't testify, and you would return to the deposition and face questioning again. If you don't answer, you would return to the judge where you would expect to find yourself in civil contempt and be incarcerated until you do testify, or until you prove to the court that the incarceration is having no effect on you. In this case, there would be no grand jury term expiring, so you could theoretically be incarcerated forever.

You could also be charged with criminal contempt and serve a certain period of time if the court were convinced you'd never speak. Notice that this procedure is precisely the same as I discussed in the last issue of *EF! Journal* about grand juries.

To sum up, if the deposition questions might put you at risk of criminal trouble, don't hesitate to take the Fifth. My bet is that would be the end of it in a deposition.

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stu Sugarman, quixote516@yahoo.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" in the subject line.

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.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, Columbia River Correctional Institution, 9111 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211, USA. Serving 10 years for arson at a car dealership and attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreenow.org.

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium II, POB 5700, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years 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.

•Jonathan Paul, #07167-085, FCI Phoenix, 37910 N 45th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85086, USA. Serving 4.25 years for the Animal Liberation

Front/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.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubuck© Clan, #07909-051, USP Coleman I, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521, 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 Army of National Liberation in Mexico.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Peltier, an AIM 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. Delbert Orr Africa's parole hearing is scheduled for November. The others were denied parole this Spring. 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 17932, USA.

•William Phillips Africa, #AM4984, and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Follies Rd, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

Other Political Prisoners

•Rodney Coronado, #03895-000, FCI El Reno, POB 1500, El Reno, OK 73036, USA. Serving one year for distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction. Be aware that the prison may punish Coronado for receiving radical materials in the mail. For more information, visit www.supportrod.org.

•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.

Marie Mason's Bittersweet Folk

BY BEN PACHANO

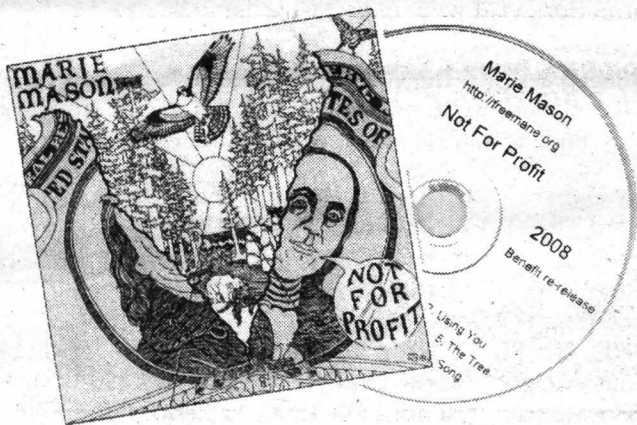
Not for Profit, by Marie Mason, Environmentally Sound Productions, 1999 (re-released 2008).

I've never met Marie Mason, but I feel confident in saying that, if I had to pick a word to describe her, "versatile" would be a safe bet. Marie is a well-known Earth Firster who has worked since 1989 on a wide variety of campaigns (including, recently, the fights against water privatization in Michigan and I-69 in Indiana), an organizer with the Industrial Workers of the World, a writer for *Fifth Estate*, a singer-songwriter and a mother of two.

"Versatile" also describes Marie's 1999 album, *Not for Profit*, recently re-released as a benefit for her legal defense. For those who haven't heard, the feds have charged Marie with two Earth Liberation Front actions, based on the testimony of snitch Frank Ambrose, her ex-husband (see *EF!* May-June 2008). She faces life in prison if convicted.

Not for Profit is a short, sweet album, only 27 minutes long. However, in just eight songs, it manages to cover a significant breadth of the vast territory described by the term "folk music." Marie has a beautiful voice with superb vocal control. She is accompanied by longtime Earth Firster Darryl Cherney and other talented musicians on acoustic and electric guitars (including dobro and pedal steel), keyboard, and bass.

Half of the songs on the album are Marie's, while the others are songs originally performed by male artists. For someone like me who had never heard any of Marie's music before, this made *Not for Profit* a nice mix of the new and the familiar. While I tend not to be a fan of covers, I loved the ones on this album—hearing them in a woman's voice, with Marie's own interpretations, almost made them into different songs.



The overall tone of *Not for Profit* is bittersweet, and not only because of Marie's current situation. It starts out strong with Danny Dollinger's "The End of the World," a love song about finding solace from the horrors of the world, and moves into Darryl Cherney's "Using You," a bluesy tune that aims to tell loggers what their bosses really think of them. The third track features the country sounds of Utah Phillips' "All Used Up," in which an elder looks back on her hard life, yearning for recognition and community. The fourth track is Marie's own "Take It Down," a song with a truly old-school EF! sound familiar to fans of Peg Millet or Joanne Rand. I probably don't need to tell you what this song is about.

Next, Marie covers Dana Lyons' classic, "The Tree." It's a slow, melancholy tune in which an ancient tree narrates its life and death. In case you're wondering, this is not the version with the happy ending.

For the last three tracks, Marie returns to her own compositions. "Tiananmen Square," the only all-vocal song on the CD, is a haunting song about the Chinese people's defiance during the famous 1989 protests. The seventh track, "The RCP Song," provides an emotional break with an upbeat tune and some funny slams on the Revolutionary Communist Party, before leaving us with the title track, "Not for Profit."

This last song truly sums up the feel of the album: The narrator sings about finding beauty and community in an oppressed, degraded urban landscape, while also calling for us to overthrow the powerful and build a new world for ourselves. The sound is very '60s, a mix of classic oldies and the era's political folk (à la Phil Ochs), adding a nostalgic feel to this song of passionate yearning.

The CD is only \$7 in the US, \$8 in Canada and Mexico, and \$10 everywhere else. All the money goes to Marie's legal defense. If you're a fan of folk music at all, you owe it to yourself to order a copy today. To make that happen, send a check or money order made out to "*Fifth Estate*" to *Fifth Estate*, POB 201016, Ferndale, MI 48220.

Ben Pachano works with Root Force.

John Zerzan Is Running on Emptiness

BY JOSH

Twilight of the Machines, by John Zerzan, Feral House, 2008.

John Zerzan's newest collection of essays is a disappointing one. Unlike his previous books—which balance a primitivist critique of civilization with topics as diverse as labor history and classical music—*Twilight of the Machines* almost completely rejects this fascinating variety for a series of redundant, muddled and ultimately boring essays on a limited selection of topics. A hit-or-completely-miss collection, the book does contain a few thought-provoking essays that are certain to become classics.

Twilight is divided into two parts. "Part I: Origins of the Crisis" includes essays on the oppressive nature of symbolism and language, the emergence of warfare, the alienation of urban life and the impressive capabilities of our primitive ancestors. These are all topics that Zerzan has discussed at length in his previous books, and he offers few new insights here.

One exception is "Patriarchy, Civilization and the Origins of Gender," which does an excellent job of merging ecofeminism and radical gender theory with a primitivist analysis. As far as I know, this essay represents Zerzan's most substantial discussion of patriarchal domination and gender equality. It's a powerful antidote to the stereotype of hunting males and child-rearing females. Anyone interested in rewilding should pay close attention.

In "The Iron Grip of Civilization: The Axial Age," Zerzan explores the emergence of new worldviews during the first millennium BCE. This is the longest piece in the book, as well as one of the most engaging and original. Unfortunately, the essay also seems shallowly researched and poorly conceived, and its implications are troubling.

Zerzan argues that the religions that emerged during the Axial Age—including Judaism and Buddhism—represent a severe departure from the authentic and unmediated primitive spiritualities that preceded them. According to Zerzan, these religions traded direct experience of the natural world for false promises of transcendence (e.g., heaven and nirvana) designed to maintain hierarchy, enslave nature and exert oppressive social control. Zerzan concludes by encouraging readers to reclaim their "authentic spirituality," although he does not suggest any ways to actually do this. Are Jews and Buddhists supposed to abandon their ancient traditions in order to emulate surviving "primitive" peoples or white, secular anarchists? This strategy seems decidedly inauthentic, if not subtly racist.

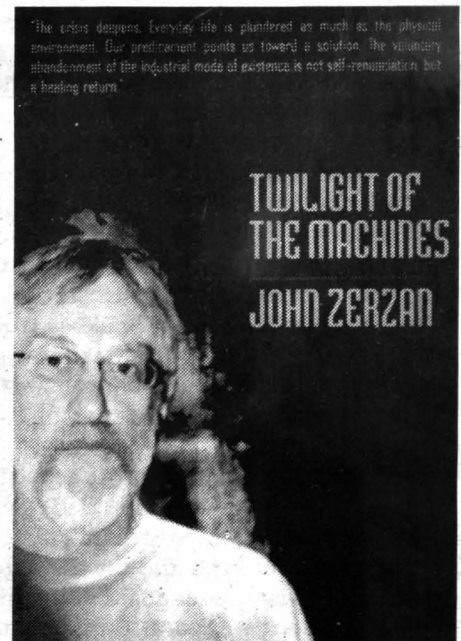
The essay relies almost exclusively on sources (many of them decades old) that confirm Zerzan's narrow and cynical assessment. If he'd done more research, Zerzan might have discovered that the religious traditions he summarily rejects include numerous anti-authoritarian, utopian and nature-venerating strains. Moreover, Judaism and Buddhism (not to mention Hinduism, Islam and Christianity) have preserved many beliefs and practices of the indigenous, Earth-based spiritualities that preceded them. Thus, each tradition offers its adherents means of discovering and reclaiming the ways

in which their ancestors honored the Earth as sacred. It's a shame that Zerzan refuses to see this.

"Part II: The Crisis of Civilization" is even more redundant and tiresome than Part I. Most of the essays in this part simply repeat the same critique of postmodernism, which Zerzan plainly despises. Moreover, a few essays on unrelated topics quickly devolve into denunciations of postmodern thinkers. This obsessive animosity to postmodernism is particularly confusing since so much of Zerzan's own work draws heavily from postmodern critiques of contemporary civilization and is written in the style of postmodern critical theory.

The worst piece in the book is "Overman and Unabomber," a meandering, pointless comparison of Friedrich Nietzsche and Ted Kaczynski that reads more like a grade-school compare/contrast paper than a philosophical essay. Possessing neither a substantial introduction nor any discernable conclusion, it goes nowhere and says nothing.

Fortunately, there are a couple of dazzling gems. "Twilight of the Machines" and "Why Primitivism?" rank among Zerzan's most succinct and effective arguments for primitivism, combining vivid and distressing catalogues of civilization's rapid degeneration, uncompromising assessments of the insufficiency of the mainstream left (including labor anarchism) and inspiring descriptions of the wild alternative. "Twilight of the Machines," in particular, contains an astute and intriguing reflection on the spread of anarcho-primitivism in the wake of the 1999 World Trade Organization protests—a particularly interesting discussion given Zerzan's role (real or perceived) in building that very movement.



Overall, *Twilight of the Machines* is a frustrating collection. Some of the essays should be considered required reading for all green anarchists, some will be enjoyed only by diehard Zerzan fans, and some are frankly embarrassing. Wait until the good ones are reprinted as zines. You'll be happy you did.

Josh recently left the *Journal's* editorial collective after more than three years to gallantly learn some stuff at some non-primitive institution. So, we're going to get him back by changing his biography sentence. We'll miss Josh, his fecophilic humor and his amazing editing skills. We hope that he only reads books he actually likes from now on.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Carfree Day **September 22 • Worldwide**

Every September 22, people from around the world get together in streets, intersections and neighborhood blocks to remind the world that we don't have to accept our car-dominated society.

2008 should be no different.

We do not want just one day of celebration followed by a return to "normal" life. When people get out of their cars, they should stay out of their cars. It is up to us, our cities and our governments to help create permanent change to benefit pedestrians, cyclists and other people who do not drive cars.

Let World Carfree Day be a showcase for just how our cities might look, feel and sound without cars... 365 days a year.

As the climate heats up, World Carfree Day is the perfect time to take the heat off the planet, and put it on city planners and politicians to give priority to cycling, walking and public transport, instead of to the automobile.

So, join in the celebrations!

For more information, visit www.worldcarfree.net/wcfd.

Critical Resistance Conference **September 26-28 • Oakland, California**

In September 1998, thousands gathered in Berkeley, California, for a conference that founded Critical Resistance's movement to abolish the prison industrial complex. Each participant, with their own experiences of oppression and resistance, watched as diverse struggles were unified by humanity, hope and the shared vision of a different world. We witnessed a vision of a world with truly safe, healthy and whole communities; a world with unconditional access to self-determination and dignity for all; and, critically, a world without imprisonment, policing and other forms of punishment and control.

To celebrate 10 years of Critical Resistance, thousands will converge once more for CR10, a 10th Anniversary Celebration and Strategy Session.

We have seen only the beginning of what we can accomplish together. CR10 promises to propel this momentum forward, with united, strategic force. Through workshops, skill shares, performances, action, reflection and celebration, CR10 aims to reunite our voices, reinvigorate our collective refusal to be silenced and strengthen our collective will to build a world without walls.

For more information, visit www.criticalresistance.org.

Philadelphia Zine Fest **October 5 • West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

The Philadelphia Zine Fest is in its sixth year, and we're going strong. The fest's goal is to embrace written and verbal communication as much as possible without constraints. At the zine fest, be prepared for everything from personal experiences to artistic talent to first-hand politics. Information trading will be in abundance and in many formats.

We are looking for more people to help keep up the momentum. We need help with workshops and weekend events!

For more information, visit www.phillyzinefest.com.

Mexico Solidarity Network Speaking Tours **October-November • Across the US**

This fall, the Mexico Solidarity Network will host two speaking tours. The first part will be from October 12-25 in New England, and will cover the struggle at the border to confront militarization, increased internal migration, insecure living conditions for women and a new threat by land developers to displace communities such as Lomas de Poleo.

The second part will be from October 19 to November 10 in the northwestern US, and will explore a trade agreement that is officially called the "Mérida Initiative," but is more commonly referred to as "Plan Mexico" because of its similarities to Plan Colombia. Instead of providing aid that would address the current economic crisis caused by past US policy, this plan calls for the US to provide military and intelligence equipment and training.

For more information, visit www.mexicosolidarity.org.

Madison Zine Fest **October 18 • Madison, Wisconsin**

The Madison Zine Fest is an annual event held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Book Festival. The fest's mission is to expand networks of zine communities and increase individual and institutional awareness of zines. It encourages the creation of independent media and alternative publishing.

The fest involves local and national zine creators, readers, researchers and other experts who educate, inform and bring others into the zine scene. It also helps people share skills and information related to zines and zine culture. This year, it will be held at the Majestic Theater.

For more information, visit www.midwestzine.org/2.

London Anarchist Book Fair **October 18 • London, England**

In addition to the wide variety of anarchist groups and individuals meeting and tabling, the London Anarchist Book Fair will feature several speakers, an anarchist cabaret and a full program of films throughout the day. There will be a space for older kids, as well as the usual day care for younger ones. There will also be hot food and snacks on site.

Get in touch if you want to set up a stall, run a meeting, advertise in the book fair program or suggest a film. Or, you can just turn up on the day of the fair with thousands of others.

For more information, visit www.anarchistbookfair.co.uk.

Trans' and Women's Action Camp **October 22-26 • Southern Appalachia/Katūah**

Come on down to the Trans' and Women's Action Camp (TWAC) for action-packed adventure, skills trainings and discussions in an anti-hierarchical, anti-oppressive gathering in the woods! There will be workshops on everything from wild-crafting to defending the wild, health to harnesses, and girthing to the Green Scare. We're actively soliciting more trainers and workshop ideas.

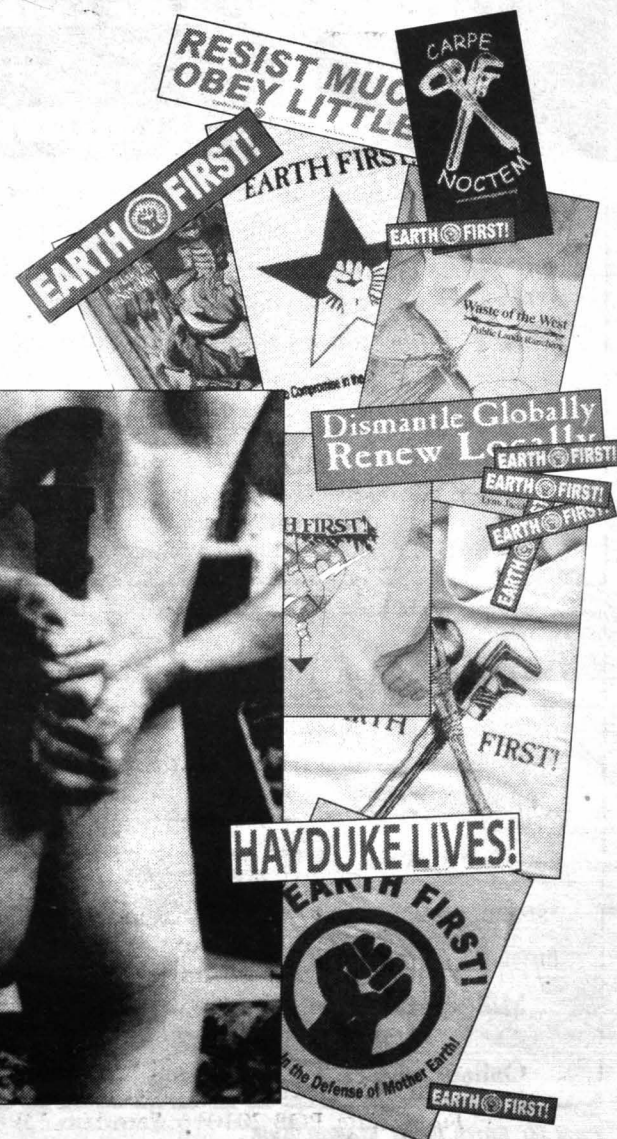
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"I spent a year in the Northwoods of Wisconsin at an outdoor school. It was not a survival school, because I died. I died to my old way of thinking. I died to being egocentric. I died to the pursuit of the civilized lifeway. I became alive to many other things—became alive to the Circle. I became alive to the native lifeway. I became alive to the connectedness of all things. I became alive to trusting, being and the now. My heart is full. I have much to share, more than words can say."

—Coyote Three Feathers aka John Herron
(Wilderness Guide Program 2004-2005)

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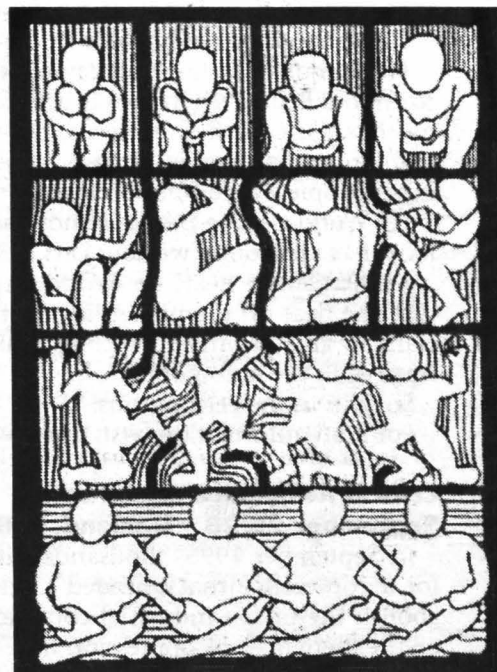
WTO Protesters to Donate Class Action Settlement Funds Through "Money to Movements"

BY HOLLY ROACH

In a landmark decision for First Amendment rights, a Seattle civil jury has found that police acted unconstitutionally in arresting more than 175 peaceful protesters as part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) protests in 1999. Now members of that class-action lawsuit have joined forces to ensure that a portion of settlement funds will be used help to fund organizations carrying on the work of the global justice movement through the Money to Movements project.

The WTO conference drew about 50,000 protesters to Seattle in 1999. Groups such as farmworkers unions, environmental activists, indigenous rights advocates and non-governmental organizations gathered to protest the policies of the World Trade Organization, triggering what observers characterized as an overreaction by local police and government officials. Crowd-control tactics such as tear-gas, percussion grenades and rubber bullets were employed, and more than 600 mostly peaceful protesters were arrested and detained. All charges were later dropped.

The Money to Movements project was created by a group of plaintiffs involved in the Westlake Park case in order to help channel funds obtained through the court settlement back into the global justice (formerly known as anti-globalization) movement. "We brought this suit for everyone who faced inappropriate police behavior at the protests," said Erica Kay, of Seattle's Community Action Network. "We want to see this money put to good purpose."



So far, 15 of the plaintiffs involved in the Westlake case have donated to the Money to Movements project, totaling \$15,000. The ultimate goal of the project is to raise \$40,000 through donations and matching grants, a figure equivalent to 10 percent of the settlement after legal fees.

Money to Movements is currently seeking matching grants and individual donations to reach that \$40,000 goal. All donations are tax-deductible through Money to Movements' fiscal sponsor, the Agape Foundation.

Groups selected for funding include the *Earth First! Journal*, Critical Resistance, the Jena 6 Legal Defense Fund, Mothers for Police Accountability and many more. All groups benefiting were selected by those plaintiffs who chose to participate in the project.

For more information, contact wtoSettlement@gmail.com; www.realbattleinseattle.org.

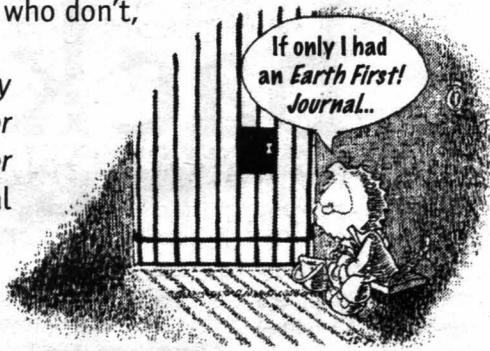
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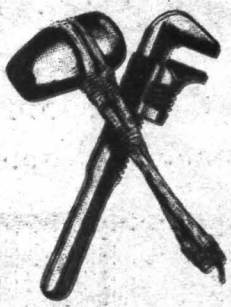
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Central New York EF!

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(585) 802-8330; cnyearthfirst@riseup.net

Wetlands Activism Collective

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(201) 928-2831; activism@wetlands-preserve.org

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croatanearthfirst@gmail.com

Katúah EF!

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Rising Tide Asheville

risingtide@mountainrebel.net

OHIO

HokHokken EF!

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The Wire: A Community Resource Center

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(740) 589-5111; thewire@riseup.net

OREGON

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project

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Cascadia EF!-Eugene

POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440

Cascadia EF!-Stumptown

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Ocean State EF!

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Three Rivers EF!

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Lone Star EF!

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Wild Wasatch EF!

8790 W 25800 N, Portage, UT 84331

(435) 866-2137

VERMONT

Save the Corporations From Themselves

169 Main St, Brattleboro, VT 05301

(802) 254-4847; corpsave@sover.net

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Blue Ridge Earth First!

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The Evergreen State College

Environmental Resource Center

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The Last Wizards

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Madison EF!/Infoshop

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(608) 262-9036

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Teewinot EF!

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PROJECTS & CAMPAIGNS

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Rising Tide North America

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www.savingiceland.org

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GroenFront! Netherlands

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2007@groenfront.nl; www.groenfront.nl

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Benin City, Nigeria

environmentalrescue@yahoo.co.uk

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Ecodefense!

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0112-44-84-43

SOUTH KOREA

Green Korea United

110-740 #605 Korean Ecumenical Bldg

136-56 Youniji-Dong, Jongro-Gu

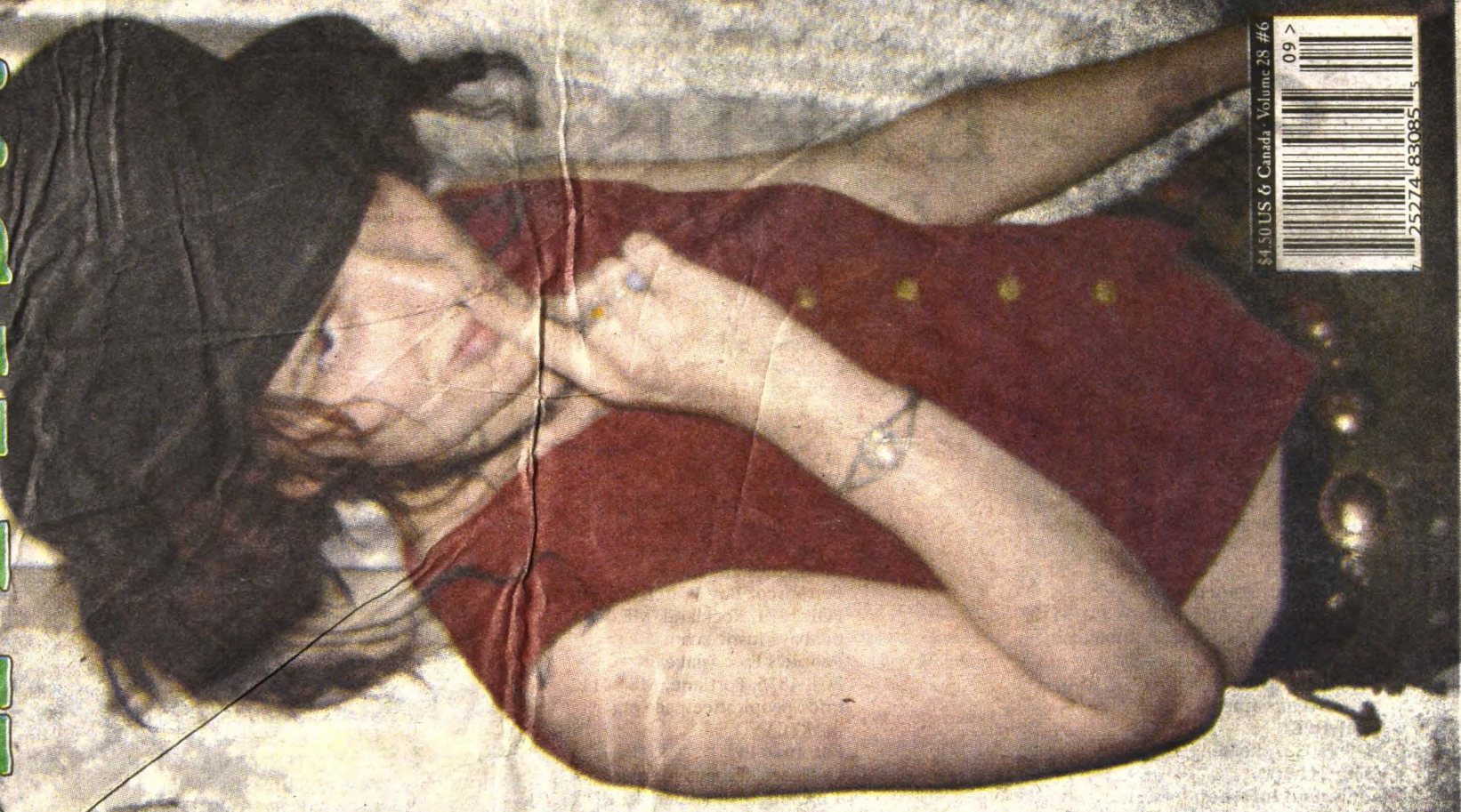
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82-2-747-8500; greenkorea@greenkorea.org

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For the sake of all things wild, keep your secrets!

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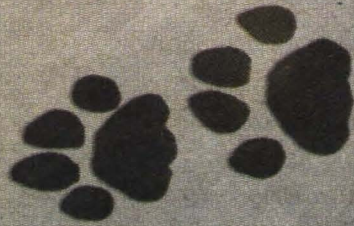


UCSC WARNING! MOUNTAIN LION HABITAT

You are entering prime mountain lion habitat. Mountain lions are unpredictable and have been known to attack without warning.

- Children and pets are especially at risk.
- Dogs are prohibited on UCSC property.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MOUNTAIN LION



DO NOT:

- Run or crouch down

DO:

- Back away from it slowly
- Talk calmly, yet firmly to it
- Hold young children
- Raise your arms and make yourself appear larger
- If the lion behaves aggressively, yell, throw stones, branches or whatever you can grab without crouching down
- Fight back and stay on your feet

STAY ALERT!

Warning sign found in the forest around the University of California, Santa Cruz

Daily Planet Publishing - *Earth First!*

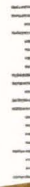
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