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Earth First!

Eostar March-April 2009

\$4.50 US & Canada

Defending an Old-Growth Swamp and Fighting Infrastructure in South Florida

BY EVERGLADES EARTH FIRST!

This ain't the Pacific Northwest, y'all—but don't let nobody tell ya' we ain't got some old growth down here in the Florida swamps.

You see, most folks in Florida—Everglades Earth First!ers (EEF!) included—had little idea up until quite recently that we are co-habiting with an old-growth forest of thousand-year-old cypress trees called Barley Barber Swamp.

Florida Power and Light (FPL) has owned Barley Barber since the early 1970s. It's their "private property," and what they haven't drained, flooded or clear-cut is still wild as a panther's ass in an ant mound. Though a limited number of small tours were allowed into the Barley Barber in years past, FPL shut down all access to it after September 11, 2001, citing "security concerns" for the nearby Martin County power plant.

At 3,705 megawatts, the Martin Plant is currently the largest fossil fuel plant in the country. This great honor will only be trumped by the West County Energy Center (WCEC) that FPL is currently constructing in the heart of the Everglades. Folks familiar with EEF! will recall that the heart of our strategy towards decentralizing and cracking the energy empire in South Florida revolves around stopping the WCEC (see *EEF!* May-June 2008). You may wonder what forest defense has to do with these goals.

It was important for us to research the Martin County plant and area wetlands in detail to draw comparisons about what such a large gas- and oil-burning plant would do to the greater Everglades bioregion. Both sites are less than 40 miles apart (remember, they'd be numbers one and two on a wattage chart of US power plants). So, after a study of some aerial maps, we decided to go take a look at an unknown wetland—a

440-acre swamp that juts into the Martin Plant's 17-mile-long cooling pond.

What we found was part primal forest and part industrial nightmare. It is impossible to describe what the experience was like for Florida folks, reared in the swampy, mostly treeless marsh called the Everglades. With typically only the occasional high ground of slash pine or hardwood hammock, it was a jaw-dropping experience to run up on a forest of trees with a height and girth beyond our wildest dreams, many of them stretching 50 feet around and nearly 100 feet tall into a sky shrouding canopy. These ancient trees, hidden on the power plant property, are of sizes comparable to their cousins, the great sequoias of the Pacific Coast. We saw pre-historic whisk fern, the ancestor to all other ferns, as well as the ten-foot-tall leather fern towering over cypress knees. Bobcats, bald eagles, wood storks, otters and some amazing insects made themselves known to us on our very first visit.

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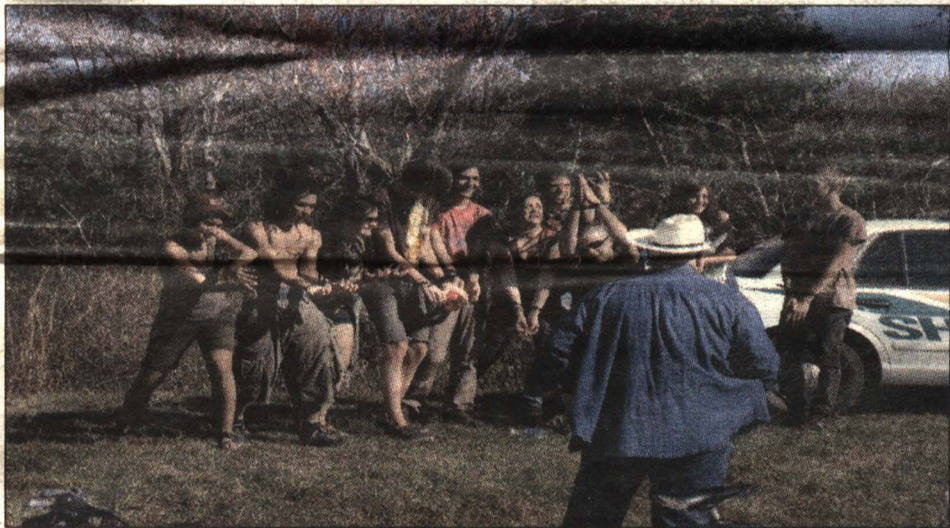


photo courtesy Everglades Earth First!

Eleven to one? We might stand a chance.

Civilian Uprising Against Barrick Gold in Tanzania

BY SAKURA SAUNDERS

In mid-December, reports surfaced in the mainstream press that thousands of villagers had raided a gold mine in Northern Tanzania, setting fire to \$7 million worth of mine equipment. Most reports blamed problems with crime in the area, calling the intruders "gold-seekers."

Teweli Teweli, the spokesman for Barrick Gold Tanzania, a Canadian Mining Company with a bad reputation, describes these villagers as "well-organized groups" who attacked the mine pit following the blasting of high-grade ore. Others paint Barrick as the aggressor in this event, citing immediate and historic causes that have been largely ignored by the international community.

According to several witnesses, the immediate cause of the civilian uprising was the killing of a young man named Mang'weina Mwita Mang'weina. Human rights lawyer Tundu Lissu, who represents many of the villagers, explains that Mang'weina and some

friends were engaged in an argument with Barrick security when one of the guards shot Mang'weina, who was unarmed at the time. This incident caused an uproar within the community, which immediately took up stones, overpowered mine security (who then fled), and attacked the mine, setting fire to millions of dollars' worth of equipment.

Mang'weina himself is a part of the legacy of the North Mara mine. He was one of the thousands of unemployed locals in the area, angry over the mine's recent history of forced displacement, loss of livelihoods, human rights abuses and ongoing repression. He is the seventh person killed at the hands of mine security since July 2005, when the killing of a local boy sparked a similar uprising that resulted in the destruction of mine equipment and the subsequent detention of more than 200 villagers. By mid-2006, all of the villagers detained after the 2005 uprising had been released by the courts after the authorities failed to prosecute them.

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photo courtesy of Radicalism and National Consciousness

By massacring people and the Earth, that's how

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Eostar March-April 2009

No Compromise Until Our Hearts Explode

Throughout the labor of producing this last issue of the *Earth First! Journal*, countless thoughts have inhabited my mind. Because of Tucson hosting the Organizers' Conference (OC), friends have been in abundance. As I write this, most of those people are gearing up to hit the road again. Also, throughout this issue, more friends of mine in the movement received new sentences and are now sitting in cells as I type this.

As a result of all of these situations and the OC happening here, many fruitful conversations have taken place. I'm now looking forward to the realization of these ideas that we've shared reflecting in less oppressive and more supportive, strategic actions. We can only hope that future issues of the *Journal* will mirror this shift, as well.

Reflecting on OC discussions, various refreshing critiques of Earth First! arise. Some EF!ers questioned the wisdom of continuing to work on infrastructure projects due to worries about activists moving from wilderness defense to fighting in the cities. Still, innumerable people have dug in against infrastructure projects in light of the massive amounts of wild lands and species these projects will erase permanently. The amount of solidarity with biological hotspots

and indigenous people that are inseparable from these areas is a convincing reason to continue attacking infrastructure projects.

Another reoccurring topic was how the mentality of "No Compromise" has almost completely been forgotten by numerous organizers. Some have attributed this to constantly being in defense mode. Some newer organizers have begun to believe that the "In Defense of Mother Earth" motto is a bit out of date. Animals and the Earth act on their own instincts. They attack. They don't need defense; they need solidarity.

The idea of attacking without compromise until we either win or our hearts explode is a more desirable position for some to adopt. Applying EF!-type tactics to more urban settings is a useful way to gain solidarity, and we all know that solidarity means attack. Applying different models of organizing in EF! campaigns can take our notions of solidarity to another level.

Specifically reflecting on the post-OC and Rendezvous actions, my biggest concern is the degree to which we can both discourage and disempower ourselves. After both actions, people have tried to decide for themselves whether the action was beneficial or not. Only

the hosting bioregional organizers can truly determine the degree of support that these actions and the corresponding escalation of tactics have inflicted on their targets.

The undeniable need for support and non-oppressive spaces was also raised at the OC. Support and action go hand-in-hand. Like one of my friends says "Take care of each other. Take the system apart."

Since Marie Mason's plea hearing, I have been awaiting her sentencing, hoping for the best. The sentence of nearly 22 years in prison was the opposite of that. It has been hard for many of us to hear this news. Hopefully, an appeal process can lessen her sentencing. The optimism and dedication that Marie has shared with me and the rest of the world is something the system can not shackle. Fearlessness, positivity, and support for our comrades and all things wild are our most threatening weapons.

I personally believe that EF! has been rapidly getting its head back in the game, and I find it impossible to ignore all of the action that has graced the pages of the *Journal* and taken place in campaigns everywhere. If you feel like EF! is in a rut, maybe it's just you or your stale tactics. It's time to fight and win!

—JEZZABELL EM DREAMBOAT

Earth First!

Eostar

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

Submission deadlines are the tenth of every odd-numbered month in the calendar year. Articles should be typed or clearly printed. We encourage submissions via email. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

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

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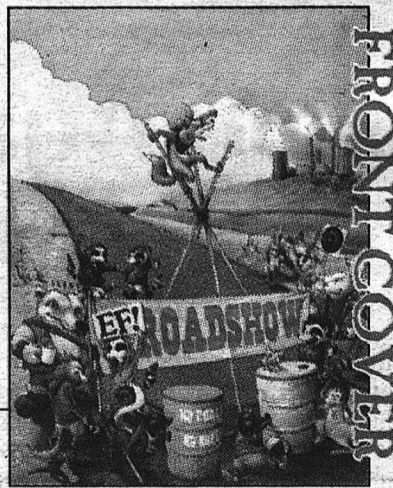
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Kingston Power Plant Toxic Waste Spill in Tennessee

BY JAMES JAMESON

On December 22, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was responsible for a third mining-related toxic waste spill in as many weeks.

Located at the Kingston Fossil coal-fire power plant in Kingston, Tennessee, (the largest coal-burning power-plant in the world) the 40-acre earthen dam that held back a retention pond broke, spilling approximately 525 million gallons of black coal fly ash into the Emory River and the surrounding Roane County countryside, destroying several homes. The ash flowed into the tributaries of the Tennessee River, the water supply for millions of people living downstream.

Coal fly ash is a fine particle that is one of the by-products of burning coal to generate electricity. Fly ash contains various toxic chemicals including arsenic, beryllium, thallium, lead and selenium. Still the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not consider coal ash a hazardous waste.

Previously, in October 2000, the Big Branch coal slurry spill dumped 306 million gallons of waste down 100 miles of waterways. An EPA official called it one of the worst environmental disasters in the southeastern United States. The Kingston Fossil spill is at least 70 percent larger.

On January 2, it was revealed that TVA had released decades worth of toxic sediment into East Tennessee's Ocoee River. Shortly after, on January 10, a gypsum pond at the Widows Creek Fossil plant in Stevenson, Alabama, burst as well, spilling 10,000 gallons of toxic water. For years, there has been a campaign against Massey's Shumate coal sludge impoundment in Sundial, Kentucky. At this moment, the impoundment—which holds 2.8 billion gallons of sludge—sits just 150 feet above an elementary school. Local

authorities admit that these children would have no chance to escape if or when this impoundment ruptures.

Numerous studies have shown that coal-ash leaches toxic substances that can cause cancer, birth defects and other health problems in humans and animals. It can decimate fish, bird and frog populations in and around ash dumps and cause developmental problems like tadpoles born without teeth, or fish with severe spinal deformities.

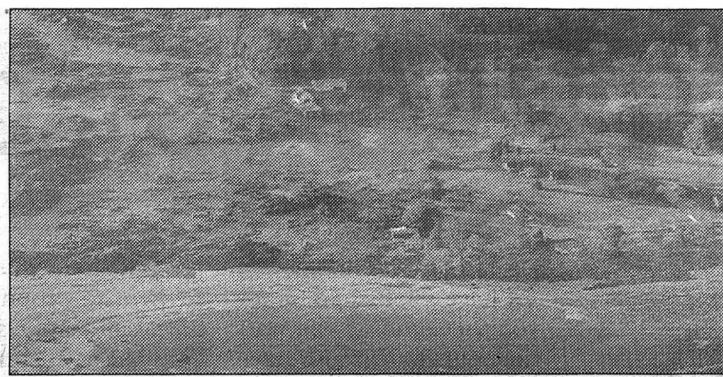
A recent analysis of the US Energy Department data by the Associated Press showed that millions of tons of toxic coal ash are piling up in power plant ponds in 32 states. The analysis found that 156 coal-fired power plants store ash in surface ponds similar to the TVA plant that ruptured at Kingston Fossil.

The amount of coal ash has ballooned, in part because of increased demand for electricity. Contaminants and waste products are increasingly captured in the form of solid waste and held in huge piles in 46 states—near cities like Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Tampa, and on the shores of Lake Erie, Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River.

TVA spokesman Gil Francis said the agency is storing the ash at the plants for now and has not settled on a disposal method. Francis said he did not know whether officials have considered a common practice known as mine-filling. This method is a notorious source of poisoned groundwater.

This is not a new battle. Earth First!ers and other citizens have been battling coal mining and mountain-top removal for decades. For decades, we have been ignored. Now, the predictions have come to fruition but they are still being swept under the sludgy rug.

Appalachia is the poorest region in the country. The coal industry thinks this gives them permission to turn this lush countryside into a



An overview of the TVA-caused destruction

dumping ground, and most folks don't have the resources to fight them.

As I sit here writing this article, I'm listening to "Times Ain't Like They Used To Be" by Clarence Ashley. I've got tears in my eyes as I scroll through muddy pictures of my old home, disgusted to see my childhood memories a washed in slurry. My own sister, Sarah, died just a few years ago at age 12 due to this shit upstream. She was born with Spina Bifida which is one of the most common birth defects in this area. She lived a short, painful, miserable life thanks to these assholes who just keep going, regardless of the warnings.

How many more times does a dam have to burst and flood pollution all over you and your family? How many more babies can we allow to be born with crippling birth defects? The Appalachian region has the highest rates of birth defects in the US, and there is no end in sight to this defect called coal. This is a direct result of what TVA has offered to citizens over the last 50 years. Coal has taken something dear to me, as it has for many people through the ages. This fight won't end soon. This is a personal struggle for me as it should be for all of us. It is a seeping disease. There is absolutely nothing clean about coal. There never was, and there never will be. No matter how it is marketed and sold, there is no changing the fact that coal is death.

James hopes Sarah is proud of her big sister and knows she thinks of her everyday. We will win this fight.

An EPA official called it one of the worst toxic disasters.

The No Coal Movement Scares the Shit Out of Bank of America

NRDC SETS UP A COMPROMISE

BY DIRTY MONEY

In early December, Bank of America (BOA) released a new policy that declared they were pulling their financing from companies predominantly engaged in mountain-top removal and, at the same time, were increasing their financial support of untested technologies like carbon capture and storage (CCS). The Charlotte, North Carolina-based bank blinked in the face of grassroots adversity after years of pressure from Appalachian community groups, radical environmentalists and an assortment of environmental groups.

Their exact policy read, "Bank of America is particularly concerned about surface mining conducted through mountain-top removal in locations such as central Appalachia. We therefore will phase out financing of companies whose predominant method of extracting coal is through mountain-top removal. While we acknowledge that surface mining is economically efficient and creates jobs, it can be conducted in a way that minimizes environmental impacts in certain geographies."

Right-wing, pro-CCS environmental group Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), who gave BOA's CEO Ken Lewis an award for environmental stewardship last April, tried to take credit for the policy based on their elite elbow-rubbing with executives, arranging a fly-over of

surface mining sites for them and a closed door negotiation. Lapdog organizations like NRDC and Environmental Defense often play the role of compromiser with governments and corporations after people-powered movements raise the issues and apply the pressure. In other words, we organize, agitate and take all of the risks, and groups like NRDC sell us out with little or no meaningful change.

The policy itself is not worth the paper it's printed on, as the coal industry has even called it a "public relations ploy" and the Associated Press has called into question which BOA clients are truly losing financing as a result of this policy. Other critics have pointed out that the campaign tying BOA to mountain-top removal had been gaining more and more momentum when BOA announced their new policy. Many people are skeptical as BOA remains quiet about the details and implementation of this policy. Rising Tide Boston, Vida Urbana (a group fighting foreclosures and evictions) and other radical groups have called for continued campaign efforts and a National Day of Action against the bank on Valentine's Day.

Since 2007, BOA has come under fire more and more as the financier of coal-extracting companies

like Massey Energy and Peabody (not to mention as the financier of coal-burning utilities). In August 2007, Asheville Rising Tide activists locked down in the bank's Asheville offices. In October 2007, Rainforest Action Network (RAN),

Earth First! and Rising Tide activists hung a banner off a crane across from the bank's headquarters in Charlotte.

Since then, days of action, occupations, lock-downs and various direct actions have targeted BOA from coast to coast. On a creative tip, the bluegrass band, Action Jackson, has taken to impromptu jams inside a number of BOA branches around Appalachia.

In April 2008, Appalachian community members bombarded Lewis at the bank's annual shareholder meeting with questions about coal financing until he erupted, yelling "No More Questions about Coal!" At the same time, outside, Rising Tide and Earth First! activists were shaming shareholders as they entered the meeting.

In October, 150 change agents formed a coalition of environmentalists and economic justice activists, and rallied at a BOA in Boston to shutdown a branch over the bank's financing of coal, and their profiteering from foreclosures and evictions in the Boston area. In

November, just three weeks before the new policy was announced, a national coalition targeted more than 50 BOAs on the National Day of Action Against Coal and Coal Finance (see *EFJ* January-February 2009).

More and more, activists have given BOA a proverbial black eye and tied them to mountain-top removal. The shameful image has created a reaction from the bank, but it doesn't mean the struggle is close to being over.

It's important to remember that: 1) BOA has yet to make any commitment on funding coal plants, and it doesn't seem likely if it is looking to promote CCS with its friends from NRDC; 2) BOA has yet to commit to any comprehensive climate policy; 3) We've yet to see BOA follow through with pulling out of mountain-top removal; and 4) Mountain-top removal is far from over, especially with banks like Citi and JPMorgan Chase continuing their funding and George Bush's relaxing of environmental rules before he left office.

However, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't celebrate. It means that our grassroots campaigns that have built and continue to build power and put the pressure on these companies should not wither away. We should celebrate it when our opposition gives in, but always remember that these are continuing struggles.

Dirty Money pledges to be an even more hard-hitting, direct-action organizer under the Barack Obama administration than he was under Bill Clinton or Bush.



Photo courtesy RAN

No Coal Day of Action

DEAR SHIT FER BRAINS



Dearest Shit fer Brains,

I have a lot of praise for you folks and all the warriors out there. I also have a few opinions for some of last issue's SFB writers. To Daniel Patterson, if anonymity made you stop reading the journal, then it sounds like you wanted an excuse. Anonymity is common in letters to editors and articles. It is not just found in the "paranoid". Next time, think of a better excuse.

To Ben Pachano, I agree with you, but you sure like to hear yourself talk, don't you? My final and biggest problem, good ol' Howie Wolke. No one had to twist your arm to get you to "admit" to having anything to do with Earth First! You may have known this in 1980 and forgotten in your wisdom, but the fact is, times have changed and so have needs in our movement. This includes the *Earth First! Journal* and what they print. The *Journal* has evolved since you were around, and it is something I am proud to be associated with. So, go hunt yourself.

—ANONYMOUSLY, NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS

Dear Shit for Brains, and Maybe Piss or Puss for Brains, Too—In Short, All of You,

If I don't get going on this right this moment, as the neurons align properly in cosmic dance of life, then I probably never will.

It's been an unseasonable Autumn, but in ways that seem to smile on life, wild and tame here. Shall hence indicate "later."

I have done time—for nothing is so meaningful as standing up for Earth justice, the living. Nope, although I did a little jail on a rights-to-gather thing, I went from probations, suspended sentences, stays in

juvenile homes and jails, to "sent to prison" several times, and always, people I trusted as friends turned against me as snitches. Always a big drag, but I learned a long time ago, some people just can't take the mental, and some ways physical tortures dealing with interrogations by professionally trained tormenters and amorally prone extortionists. Some people just can't handle it. They're weak in certain ways. If someone you trust for a good reason, not some stranger who may be a plant, betrays you and turns evidence against you, it may be that they really do love you and just haven't got the guts to stand up to the pressures of interrogations and can't help it.

Try to forgive them and understand that it's part of the risks you took, just like any other risks, and you should not be allowed to turn your love into hate. It'll only eat you up like poison fires inside if you hate them. They're weak, it's just the way they are.

I forgave those who turned on me and it felt right and clear. I even made the mistake of allowing it to happen again, with the same "friends." That was dumb, but I accepted it as part of the risks I took and no excuse to hate or harm someone. I guess that whether or not someone who snitched on someone can ever again be even a casual connection for the victim afterwards on any kind of friendly basis is, I suppose, up to the actual involved parties. I found that those who snitch, no matter how they plead that it won't happen again, will snitch again. They're just weak. So try to forgive, accept it as part of the risks, don't let it become systemic poison for one or the movement.

Forgive and learn.

Is there a formula to detect who would or wouldn't? Not that I know of, but I think people who lie a lot, and are always making excuses for their shitty behavior and trying to forever cover up their abuses and stuff are prime snitch candidates. Also people with regular ugly lapses of self-control, blaming others.

I love you, Earth Firsters! I am Earth First! in whole. I love my sweetie—fertile, beautiful Earth—and want to live to protect her. Is it sexist to call the Earth "her?" Nah. Earth is a pretty momma alright. Smells good, too.

I want to help the movement more. I guess we all do (how dare I say, but maybe even some who broke weak).

Thank you so much for all your continued courage and realness. I know to know wild spirits is to be real, and devotion way beyond selves. Hey, I don't want to let you go! On with the show, the show must go on!

—TOMMY WALENS, AKA LAUGHING DEER (AND SHIT FOR BRAINS, TOO)

Hi guys,

Thanks for the recent, great anti-civ issue! Also, Asheville sounds like a very cool place.

All the best,

—SID CLARK

Dear Shitty Shit for Brains,

It's about time that "radical Jews" get over their hang ups about Israel. For all practical and ideological purposes, fuck Zionism. This is not a difference in semantics. Strait up, Zionism is nationalism and Israel is the colonizer. This is not a matter of anti-Semitism. It doesn't matter what form nationalism takes. Whether it's taking

the form of black, Jewish, or Puerto Rican self-determination, or if its taking the form of American imperialism, fuck it. Fuck Israel, fuck Palestine, fuck ideology and fuck civilization.

—JOHN LOCKE

Dear Earth First! and other friends,

It's getting really frustrating to continue to see references to the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), and how it will supposedly be ratified in 2010. This is one of three focal points of the "Riot 2010" movement—the other two being the 2010 Winter Olympics to be held near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, and the Group of Eight meeting occurring in Huntsville, Ontario, Canada.

Anyway, the SPP was ratified on March 23, 2005. The thing that's important for the SPP in 2010 is that it had a major goal to really hit its stride by 2010. Of course, that's something that's hard to measure. (It's also hard to imagine, seeing how the economies of Mexico, the US and Canada are currently doing.)

So, if people want to act to stop the SPP from realizing its full potential in 2010, I think that's a great goal—but please stop saying you want to stop the SPP from being ratified in 2010. It's already happened.

I think it's really important that we, as a movement, are concerned about the accuracy of our claims. We know the facts of all of this are on our side. But those plugged into televisionland, who have never once thought about how their society might be destroying the planet and all life on it are too often quick to dismiss us. Each

time they catch us spouting false information, we have to work that much harder to regain any sense of credibility. I'm not saying our acceptance in mainstream culture should be any sort of goal. It's just that when you're already as marginalized as we are, it doesn't help anything to further marginalize ourselves.

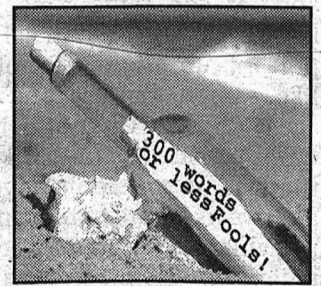
Yours for the rev,

—DONNY

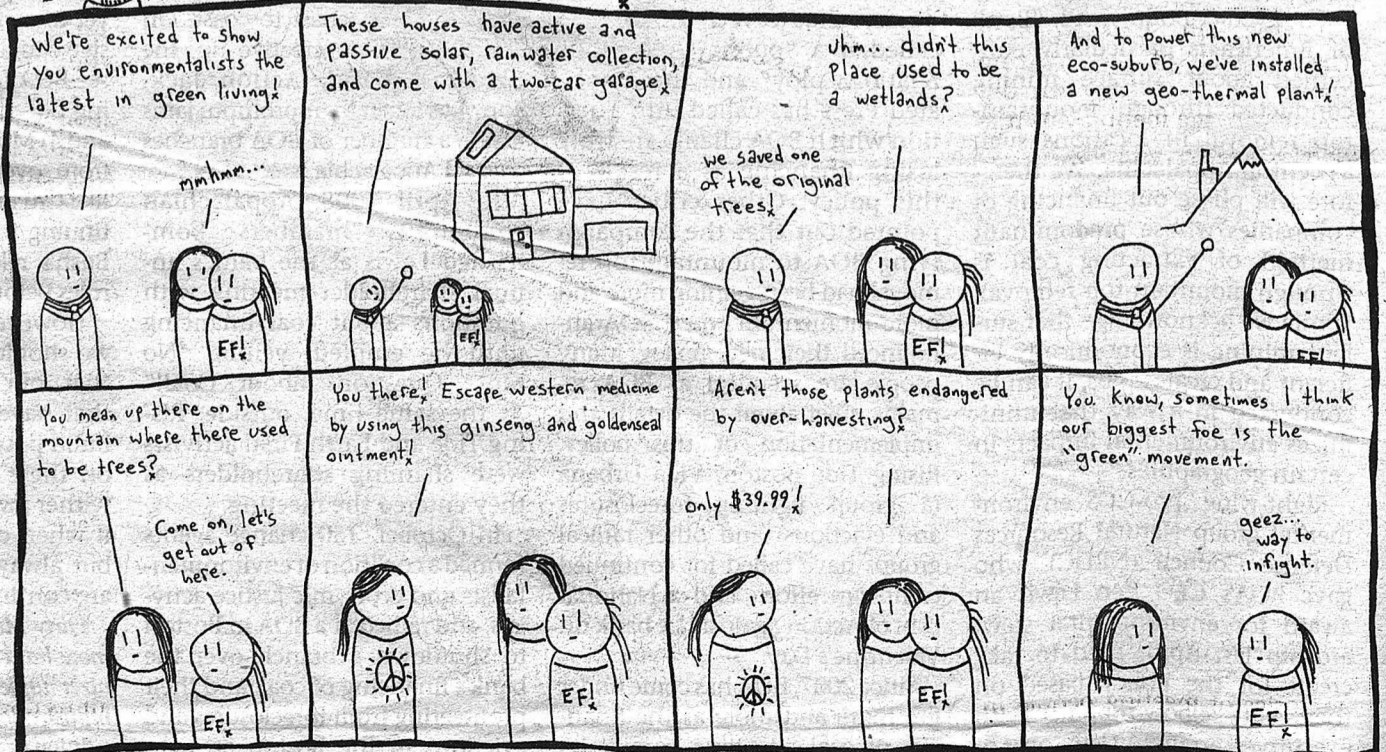
My friends,

It's time for a change. Time to give up on our reactionary revolution and find the right way to live. Many of us decry the capitalists whilst living off their table scraps and buying their basural! There's no doubt, we are in the middle of a power struggle. The only way it can be won is by successfully disengaging ourselves from the system—and it's easy! Leave the highway to hell for the trail to the sky and the hummus for the hunt. The Earth will provide you with her power if you will befriend her. In the beginning and the end, she is everything we are. Don't be a motherfucker, Go wild. Forget the rest.

—GENERAL E. FERAL



Doomsday Mountain Earth First!



Treesit Ends Resistance Continues



BY LRDP RESISTANCE MEDIA

More than a year ago, a handful of activists climbed up into the trees on Science Hill in Santa Cruz, California, as a symbol of resistance to the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)'s plan to destroy 120 acres of campus forest. For the past 13 months, the tree sit has drawn attention to UCSC's reckless plan to develop the upper campus without regard for the welfare of one of Santa Cruz's last wild ecosystems.

At approximately 8 a.m. on December 13, the treesit drew to a close as police seized control of Science Hill, arresting one treesitter. Later, a tree-cutting service hired by the university cut down a grove of redwood trees that were more-than-100-years-old to make way for the construction of a new bioscience building.

The three clusters of redwoods which have now been clearcut were inhabited since November 7, 2007, when more than 500 students, alumni and community members rallied in opposition to the UCSC's Long Range Development Plan (LRDP). Activists involved with the treesit and UCSC administration entered mediation to find a solution to this conflict, but the university was unwilling to

modify any of their plans, despite the devastating effect that upper campus development would have on the ecosystem around Santa Cruz. Precious watershed areas, unique manzanita groves and 100-year-old redwood forests are being destroyed by the university's development of the wild lands just north of campus. The homes of rare native animals, such as the burrowing owl and the endangered red-legged frog are being irreparably damaged.

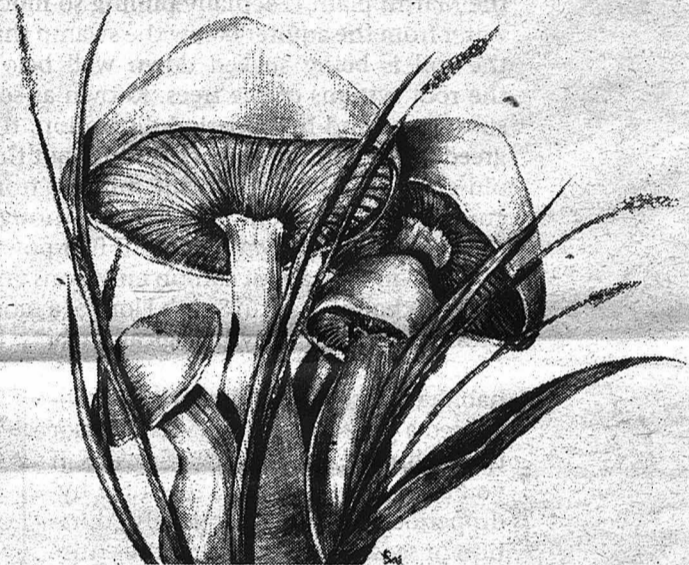
The treesit tactic was employed due to the UCSC's administration failure to meaningfully address the concerns of Santa Cruz city and county officials, community members, environmentalists, and UCSC faculty and students. Instead of acting upon the concerns of the thousands of people who have voiced opposition to increased university construction, UCSC has spent tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars to hire riot police to intimidate community members who oppose their plans.

The end of the treesit is not the end of resistance to the LRDP. The determination and integrity that sustained the 13-month occupation will continue to incite action against the LRDP. The diverse communities that united to oppose the destruction of upper campus are renewed in their commitment to resistance.



artwork courtesy: Dover Publications

Throughout this struggle, there have been other actions taken to save the forest. For instance windows were broken at the college's Owl's Nest Cafe and University House, tires were slashed and windows were damaged on around 20 vehicles, including Physical Plant trucks and an electric car; construction equipment was damaged; there was graffiti in residence halls and the Core West parking structure; and road spikes designed to puncture tires were found on Meyer Drive, a road that leads to the chancellor's on-campus home and office. The company that was in charge of the tree felling was also a target of vandalism.



You Can't Cut Us Down!

BY MAGIC

"You can't cut us down," read the banner at the final press conference of the Santa Cruz treesit. And that is so fucking true! What came from those four platforms placed atop the redwoods of University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) is something that no one will ever be able to take away. The memory of my short time spent nestled in the trees last Winter was a joy I will hold close to my heart for the rest of my time.

Leaving San Francisco and cherishing all of the amazing wildlife around Santa Cruz did wonders for me mentally. While up in the trees, amazing friends mingbirds and sometimes even hawks. Regardless of students and cars, the trees were a sanctuary from the madness of everyday life. I reached a place where I actually appreciated life again. My energy was completely replenished to a healthy level.

Learning treesitting skills was only a portion of my experience in the redwoods. Hiking around the upper campus and beyond were some of my fondest moments of solitude from last year. Meeting other whimsical, like-minded comrades sparked many new, longstanding friendships. Memories of meeting people in

the community struck a chord within me that still resonates deeply.

Working on tensioning platforms, tying traverses and becoming a comfortable climber in general was such a beneficial experience. Having limited climbing experience beforehand made my treetop adventure very empowering. Everything I learned up there, I put into use with the anti-J-69 campaign. Having more confidence in my climbing

skills lead me to feel comfortable enough to train others in Indiana and at the Summer Round River Rendezvous in Ohio.

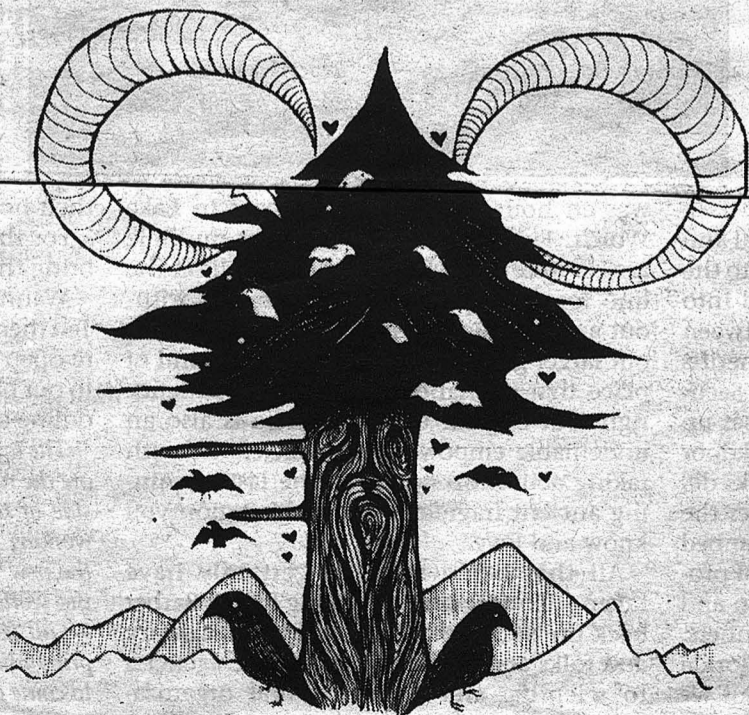
Connections that were made at the Santa Cruz treesit far surpassed the ground support-to-treesit relationship. The bonds of trust and support that were established traveled along with us. Many of us had the good fortune to work on other campaigns together later last year. The trust that is developed

within inspiring actions and camps like these is ever lasting. The resistance we have developed and turned into action since, will only grow stronger each time we work together.

The treesit for me was more than a regular forest defense. It was fighting to say, "Hell no! We don't want a biomedical lab to slice animals open!" It was protesting the attempts to ravage the upper campus—where many animals call home. It was sparring against the UCSC as they attempt to destroy our culture. It was saying, "Fuck you!" to more expansion and research that would further destroy anything we hold sacred.

My only hope is that the future will hold more passionate acts of resistance in the woods of Santa Cruz and everywhere else our spirits travel. The clashing with police on November 7, 2007, that birthed the treesit was heart-wrenching and breathtaking. My account is just one of many that passed with the breeze of those trees.

The resistance continues. It attacks the oppressors in many places. It manifests itself through numerous forms. For Chancellor George R. Blumenthal and all who push the agenda of oppressive education, "May you choke on the lies you spew. You can't cut us down!"



artwork by Swamp Donkey

Defending an Old-Growth Swamp

continued from page 1

However, as is inevitable in over-developed South Florida, we felt the tremors of civilization, even in the depths of the primal swamp. Just a mile to the east, across the cooling pond, we could hear the loud speaker of the Martin County Power Plant barking orders. The massive pumps that push effluent water from the plant to the cooling pond made hissing noises that upset the quiet rustles and grunts of the swamp. Nevertheless, it was love at first sight. From that point on, we were compelled, for better or worse, toward forest defense. Not one of us could get the sight of one particular tree, dated to around 1,100 years old, out of our minds. The biodiversity and tragedy of the Barley Barber has entered our spirits.

With a little help from some allies in the scientific community, we discovered that the Martin plant is actually pulling so much water from the aquifer below the swamp that the soil is being sucked down well below the root systems of the trees. Known as soil subsidence and hydroperiod disruption, the greedy mechanisms at work throughout this old-growth forest are all but missing from current environmental debate. Although thousands of megawatts of fossil fuel power send off an alert about carbon emissions and climate change, here in South Florida, a more pressing concern is hydrological impacts. In fact, in terms of immediate impact to habitat, hydroperiod disruption is considered a greater environmental stressor than climate change. That means if you alter one or more of the three hydroperiod components (levels, duration or seasonality of water), the entire ecosystem can collapse (according to an EPA report from 1999).

Barley Barber was on the brain as our Winter action camp began in the Everglades a few days before the new year. Amid direct action workshops and trainings, we shared what we knew about the swamp to both locals from Indiantown (who remembered when the swamp was open) and folks who had come to camp from far away. We stumbled over logistical challenges and dodged law enforcement, but somehow managed to have a lot of fun. In one incident, a New Year's visit from the mythical skunk ape (the Florida equivalent of Sasquatch) at the stroke of midnight culminated in a mass naked jump into a gator pond. The gators must have known what side we were on, and seemed not too agitated at our presence.

The morning of January 5 began with a festive rally outside the main entrance to the Martin Plant. We hollered one last request to be let into the swamp, but received no response. (We'd been

success.) We then wandered around to a back route—a five-mile hike alongside a canal and a gas pipeline to an unmarked entrance to the Barley Barber. A one-day event turned into five days—a swamp-side stand-off between EEF!, FPL goons, the Martin County Sheriffs Department, the FBI and Homeland Security. Under constant surveillance, we set up a rotating camp just outside of the backdoor to the swamp. On the fifth day, six folks devised a way into the swamp right under the watchful eye of law enforcement, climbed trees and locked down. A large crowd of protesters entered a waterway that flows in and out of Barley Barber, chanted, held banners, played "chicken" (how Maine beat Florida in "swamp chicken" is still unclear, but we

challenge y'all to a rematch this Summer in Cascadia!) and caused a general diversion for the folks headed in. Several hours later, we wound up with 17 folks arrested in a roundup conducted by the sheriff's office. It took some backcountry cops most of the day to find the swamp-sitters, and pull them out of the trees and mire.

We all agree that this makes for a pretty epic story, but at what price? Eleven of the 17 arrests were unplanned. Bail costs and jail time for misdemeanor trespass charges are high, and nearly every organizer was so tuckered out that, by the end of two weeks of craziness, we had trouble keeping it together for post-event organizing.

As the occupation wore on, organizer after organizer began to "stand-aside" from the decision making process, wiggling fingers clenched into sideways thumbs. A main factor of this may have been that the dissenting handful were not out at the camp, but back at home doing media and legal support work. We understood that being face-to-face with a fruit cocktail of law enforcement agents before a backdrop of old growth will give you the adrenaline to do pretty much anything. In any case, a veritable plethora of concerns was raised: that the encampment was a drain on resources and energy, it was unplanned, communication was poor, cars were few (the camp

tions, seem to be buzzing with the name of a once-hidden old-growth forest in their backyard. We claimed a small victory when FPL announced that they're in the process of re-opening the swamp in 2010 (which they never mentioned 'till we came knockin')! In a letter responding to our action, FPL spokesperson Jackie Anderson even claimed, "We would be more than happy to host a site visit by the Water Management District (WMD) at any time." Whether or not we can get the WMD to stray from its corrupt ways is another question, but the door for new dialogue has certainly been blown wide open. We will continue to work with folks from Indiantown and other environmental groups to make sure FPL follows through on their word.

In the bigger picture, the Battle for Barley Barber is only one fight in an unfolding war launched against our wild wetlands by an ever-expanding energy empire. There is an undeniable pattern. FPL is killing our bioregion. The swamp is just one stop on the path of destruction, greed and corruption paved by FPL and friends. Unique ecosystems linked to FPL power plants from the northern Everglades to the mangrove estuaries of Turkey Point are polluted, drained and dying. Following the decimation of natural areas, FPL closes those lands to the public, leaving their impact unseen and unmonitored.

As we prepare for more legal dealings in Martin County's criminal court, EEF! activists are also pouring over permit applications and civil litigation for two new massive liquefied natural gas facilities (one in Indiantown and the other off-shore in Broward County), and more than 500 miles of new gas pipelines and compression stations courtesy of Florida Gas Transmission Company, crossing 29 rural counties throughout the state. All of this new infrastructure is aimed at southeastern Florida, where there is more than 7,000 megawatts in new gas-fired power plants on the horizon between Loxahatchee and Port St. Lucie. That's more than 12 billion gallons of freshwater consumed, 20 million tons of carbon dioxide spewed, nearly 8,000 tons of toxic pollution emitted annually and around two million sprawling homes worth of energy generation.

Overwhelming as it may be, our connection to ancient wild places like Barley Barber is an important part of moving forward against this onslaught of civilization. When we have a relationship to the land and water, we fight hard to protect them. We will fight even harder to avenge

their honor.

For the spirit of Barley Barber swamp, let's bring this shit down, y'all!

Wanna help? Call FPL at (305) 552-3888. Tell them to drop the charges against EEF! and re-open the swamp now! You can also donate to our bail fund and approaching legal battles online at www.evergladesearthfirst.org.

The lawless troglodytes of Everglades Earth First! are the rootin'est, tootin'est swamp anarchists this side of the Brazilian Pantanal. We are currently working to make "In Solidarity With the Swamp" the new rallying call stenciled on banners around the world. We ask folks to remember that while we all descend from those who crawled out of the primordial muck so long ago, it still ain't too late to come on down to Florida to crawl back in.

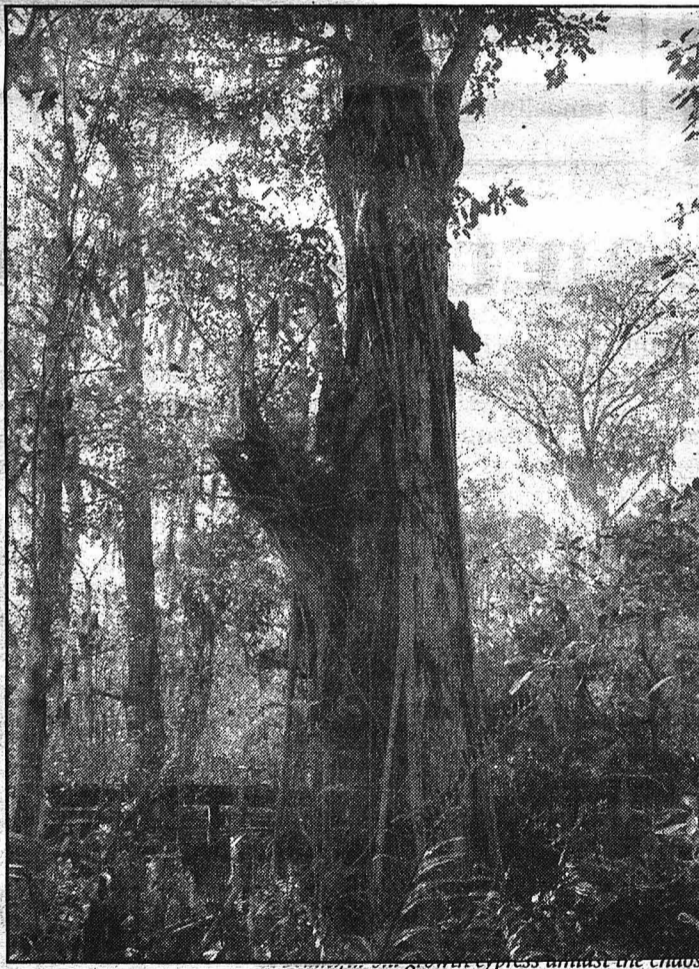


Photo courtesy Everglades Earth First!

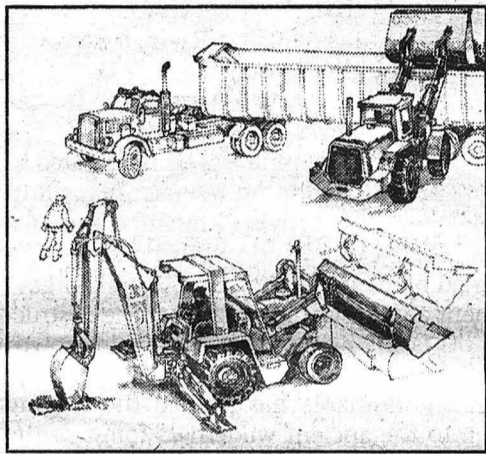
was an hour from our home base in Lake Worth, Florida) and the costs for multiple arrests were high. Did we throw it all on the line for swamp-style forest defense, without a clear vision of how to fit that in with our larger goals? Barley Barber is the kind of place that enchants the logic and patience right out of your ears, but there is also an undeniable empowerment that comes with taking action on behalf of the last remaining ancient fragments of the bioregion you know and love.

All that being said, we certainly have taken steps forward by putting Barley Barber back on the map. Locals in Martin County and folks across Florida, from state agencies to scientific and environmental organiza-

SPRAWLING SUBURBAN MADNESS IN SOUTH FLORIDA!

BY SWAMP LILLY AND
SPARKLE BERRY

Today, the Everglades exists in southeastern Florida only in small oasis-like pockets set apart from the massive, sprawling, concrete death culture of suburbia. People often argue whether these precious forests are even a part of the Everglades, as the groves of trees are so disconnected and isolated. However, doubt not, for all of South Florida was once a smooth-flowing river of sawgrass, cypress swamps, hammocks (tree islands) and pine flatwoods. If these small pockets of forests are not protected, our ecosystem will diminish, as will our experiences as humans.



Green, wild spaces within Broward County, Florida, are becoming a rarity due to unnecessary development that feeds the greed of corporations and steals public space from the community. There is a 46-acre patch of wetlands and hammocks in Coconut Creek and Margate, Florida, that is under attack by development, and Everglades Earth First! (EEF!) is passionately defending the forest from certain death by a proposed Lowe's shopping center.

On September 25, the Coconut Creek city commission voted unanimously to rezone the 46-acre plot to build a Lowe's and Kohl's shopping complex, to be known as "Cocomar". Recently, Kohl's dropped out of the project due to pressure from lawsuits and environmental groups, according to the *South Florida Business Journal*. This leaves Lowe's as the only party still involved in Cocomar.

The decision to rezone was made despite the opposition of local citizens, who repeatedly voiced their unanimous disapproval of the decision at city and county

commission meetings. This motion was pushed through the city and county commission by a lawyer named Dennis Mele, of the Ruden-McClosky law firm, who works exclusively for "developers, landowners and government officials" (according to the Ruden-McClosky website). Mele was hired to pursue and was granted permits for a Lowe's and Kohl's shopping center proposed by Regency Centers, a national shopping-mall developer. Ruden-McClosky has also been working to defend Everglades Corporate Park in Sunrise, Florida, which would be the first development west of the Sawgrass Expressway—on the immediate edge of the Everglades.

Following the stand-off at the Barley Barber Swamp in Indiantown, Florida, we thought it would be appropriate to pay a visit to the developer's favorite law firm.

On January 16, EEF! held a rally in front of Ruden-McClosky's colossal, skyscraper office in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Upon arriving, we were greeted by a large police presence. Police were on horseback, in motorcycles and unmarked cars, and in plain clothes. It seems that Ruden-McClosky felt that we

were a threat, but we were just out front to scream, perform and drum our message of liberation. Things got serious when Dennis "The Butterfly Killer" Mele was issued a restraining order on behalf of the Everglades. The cops did not let us in to deliver the restraining order, telling us to "mail to him" instead.

Our demand is that this unique and precious ecosystem, containing numerous old-growth trees, and native flora and fauna—one of the only remaining green oases in the invasive suburban sprawl of Broward County—be immediately preserved and become a truly public space to be enjoyed by the whole community. Our demand to all parties involved—including Lowe's, Regency Centers and Ruden-McClosky—is to cancel the development project completely. We will not compromise on our demands, and we will not allow the proposed Cocomar plaza to cause the death of even one tree.

Swamp Lilly and Sparkle Berry are going on their third year of sharing food at Food Not Bombs in Fort Lauderdale in front of the downtown library at 5 p.m. every Friday. They love Rastafarian food and long walks in Fern Forest.

The push to rezone was made despite the opposition of local citizens.

UTAH LAND-BID SPOILED BY ECONOMICS STUDENT

BY JAMES JAMESON

With a small gesture of his hand Tim DeChristopher made the news and an impact. On December 19, the 27-year-old economics student from the University of Utah walked into a land auction, in Salt Lake City. Instead of joining his peers protesting outside of the auction, he registered as bidder 70.

The George Bush administration was getting in as many punches to the environment as it could just days before Bush was to leave office. The Bushies have long sought to open the exceptional land of Utah to more drilling. One of those actions was for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to auction off oil- and gas-drilling leases in Utah.

DeChristopher began buying up land and winning bids placed against Exxon and Chevron. DeChristopher successfully won bids for land located near the Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Dinosaur National Monument. He won the bidding on 13 parcels and drove up the prices of several other pieces of land. The total that he purchased was 22,000 acres for a whopping \$1.7 million—money which DeChristopher does not have.

"Once I started buying up every parcel, they understood pretty clearly what was going on. They stopped the auction, and some federal agents came in and took me out. I guess there was a lot of chaos, and they didn't really know how to proceed at that point," said DeChristopher. After being questioned by authorities, DeChristopher was released.

Patrick Shea, a former BLM director, is also representing DeChristopher. He told Salt Lake City's *Desert News*, "What Tim did was

in the best tradition of civil disobedience. He did this without causing any physical or material harm. His purpose was to draw attention to the illegitimacy and immorality of the process."

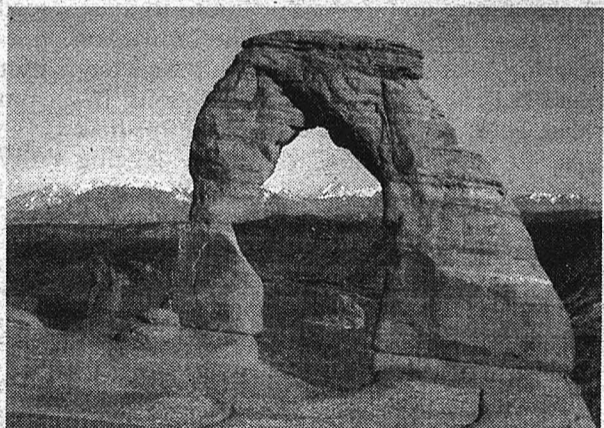
DeChristopher's disruption of the auction temporarily blocked the Bush-enabled land grab by the oil and gas industries. It also tainted the process so thoroughly that they won't be able to conduct another sale until after the Barack Obama administration takes over—thus, hopefully, never.

DeChristopher and his legal team were successful in raising the \$45,000 dollars needed for the down payment on the leases that DeChristopher won at the auction, though it is unknown whether the government will accept the payment or not. It is uncertain how aggressive the government will be in prosecuting their case against him.

A BLM spokeswoman said DeChristopher's offer of payment was too little, too late. Mary Wilson said he owed \$81,000 on the day of the sale and significantly more by January 6. "Since he made up his rules for the auction, he's making up his rules on how to pay for it," she said.

The agency hasn't decided yet whether the parcels legally belong to DeChristopher. That will be determined by an investigation by the BLM and the US attorney's office. Until that probe is concluded, DeChristopher's legal status and that of the parcels he bid for are in limbo.

Though DeChristopher's original plan was to disrupt the auction with shouts of protest, when he was asked if he wanted



to bid, DeChristopher took the opportunity. By taking this action a step farther, he saved a beautiful stretch of land for a while, at least. That land will likely not go back on the auction block any time soon.

"He didn't pour sugar into a bulldozer's gas tank" said the *Salt Lake Tribune*. "He didn't spike a tree or set a billboard on fire. But wielding only a bidder's paddle, a University of Utah student just as surely paperwrenched a federal oil- and gas-lease sale on Friday, ensuring that thousands of acres near two Southern Utah national parks, won't be drilled anytime soon."

In a movement where action is the leg on which we stand, we cannot overlook what an impression this small act of civil disobedience has had. Maybe, while we wait around to hear about the "big" actions, we can give props for the impacts of the "small" ones, as well.

James wants to thank Tim DeChristopher and everyone out there who continues to do "a little something" and not give up fighting.

A Raid Comes to the Upper Florentine Valley

BY ULA MAJEWSKI

Early in the morning of January 12, more than 60 police raided a peaceful community blockade in the Upper Florentine Valley, Southern Tasmania, Australia. Camp Florentine, which was constructed in logging coupe FO044A, has been defending the globally recognized old-growth forests of the Upper Florentine for more than two years. The blockade was constructed of treesits cabled to monopoles, a suspended monopole and tripods, three dragons and a tunnel dug deep beneath the existing logging road. The raid came as Forestry Tasmania moved machinery into the forest, in an attempt to build a new two-and-a-half-mile logging road, which would open up the valley to industrial scale destruction in four planned logging coupes. Around 80 percent of the timber harvested from these coupes, if they are allowed to go ahead, will be wood-chipped and exported by Gunns Limited, the largest wood-chipping company in the southern hemisphere.

The Upper Florentine Valley contains many hundreds of acres of threatened, tall, old-growth eucalypt forest, old-growth rainforest, significant karst systems, a wild river, and outstanding examples of indigenous and European cultural heritage. The valley is bordered on three sides by spectacular mountain ranges located within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). These tall, old-growth eucalypt forests also store huge amounts of carbon.

In July, the World Heritage Committee released an important decision regarding Tasmania's tall eucalypt forests, which requested that the Tasmanian and Australian governments consider an extension of the TWWHA to include areas of potential globally outstanding tall eucalypt forests such as those situated in the Upper Florentine, Weld and Styx Valleys. Furthermore, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature requested that a moratorium on forestry operations in these areas be seriously considered. The Tasmanian and Australian governments have completely ignored these serious recommendations. Instead, Forestry Tasmania completed this new road to climate chaos, with more logging roads planned to open thousands of acres of wilderness forest in other threatened world heritage-valued valleys.

Over two weeks, more than 30 activists and community members were arrested in the fight to protect the ancient Upper Florentine ecosystem. In an Australian first, activist Adrian King spent 36 hours underground in a tunnel designed to make it impossible for heavy equipment to roll overhead without crushing him. Eighteen community members were arrested during a mass community walk-in into the Upper Florentine Valley on January 14, including celebrated landscape photographer Geoffrey Lea. Melbourne bands Milk and Rapsallion played live on the Gordon River Road in support of

burning of some of Australia's most precious natural heritage. Rolling actions have taken place every single day since the blockade was raided, with forest defenders locking onto road-building machinery, new treesits and blockading structures erected, and community members walking into the site and refusing to leave. In Tasmania's capital city, Hobart, activists scaled the roof of Parliament House and hung a giant "Save the Upper Florentine" banner.

"Once again, we are seeing a massive swell of community support for Tasmania's carbon-dense old-growth forests, and outrage at the destructive roading, logging, wood-chipping and burning of these precious ecosystems by local climate criminals, Forestry Tasmania and Gunns Limited," said Ula Majewski, Still Wild Still Threatened spokesperson and Triabunna 13 defendant. "Our community will continue to stand up and speak out against these environmentally criminal acts. In this era of dangerous climate change, the destruction of Tasmania's ancient forests is a global issue."

International support for the ancient forests of the Upper Florentine was demonstrated in London on January 19, as British activists presented the Australian High Commission with petitions and unfurled banners, sending the Australian government a very clear message that the destruction of Tasmania's carbon-dense old-growth forests is a global issue.

Forestry Tasmania has pushed the logging road into the ancient wilderness forest of the Upper Florentine, though gravelling is yet to be completed. As the company moved its machinery out, activists rolled in new structures and even more treesits to establish a new base. As forest defenders wait for the loggers to return to complete the road and log the first of many logging coupes, community uprising is continuing and structures are being built to defend the ancient Upper Florentine landscape.

The fight to protect the Upper Florentine Valley is not slowing in Tasmania. To catch up on where the actions are at now and what continues to be history-breaking, non-violent defense of Tasmania's forests, visit www.stillwildstillthreatened.org, www.huon.org, www.nativeforest.net or www.coolforests.org; or contact us at stillwildstillthreatened@gmail.com or centre@huon.org.



Activists at the Upper Florentine blockade

more than 150 individuals who traveled to the valley to protest against the continued destruction of Tasmania's old growth forests. One activist locked himself onto an excavator for more than two hours, and 24 community members blockaded the logging road, but were removed by police without being arrested. Four forest defenders sat perched high in the canopy of the threatened old-growth forests located in proposed logging coupe FO044A, holding their roost for more than 19 days.

Early on January 15, two forest defenders locked on to a myrtle tree in the road's path to halt further forestry operations in the Upper Florentine Valley. While logging for the new road occurred, Forestry Tasmania loggers felled trees and operated machinery in close proximity to the activists, despite requests from the community at the site to cease operations.

On January 18, more than 500 community members conducted a peaceful mass walk-in to the site, entering Forestry Tasmania's "exclusion zone" to protest the continued devastation, wood-chipping and

Legal Problems for Tasmania Forest Defenders

BY JENNY WEBER

Tasmania's giant woodchipping company, Gunns Limited, filed a lawsuit against 13 forest activists in January in a second attempt to silence those who expose Gunns' environmentally irresponsible destruction of ancient forests. The activists had engaged in a peaceful shutdown at one of Gunns woodchip ports, the Triabunna mill in December.

The Triabunna action was taken to highlight the immense amount of carbon released from the logging of old-growth forests, the pitiful nature of the Australian government's emissions reductions targets, and Gunns' ongoing ruthless assault on the remaining wild areas of Tasmania's Southern Forests. Gunns is claiming damages for trespass, and seeking an injunction that will prevent the defendants from entering its property and land holdings.

Seven activists were arrested, while eight others were standing outside the mill with a banner. Six activists who were not arrested, however, gave their names to police, had their personal details given to Gunns by Tasmania police and are subsequently being sued. In a clear breach of privacy and infringement on citizens' rights, people who complied with police officers' directions are now facing a harsh civil suit to further line the pockets of Gunns.

By stepping up to resist the laws that protect ongoing environmental destruction, the people who were arrested at Triabunna were acting on their grave concerns for the future of the planet as a result of climate change. The Triabunna 13 defendants engaged in non-violent civil disobedience to expose Gunns as climate criminals.

The lawsuit against the Triabunna 13 comes four years after

the now-infamous Gunns 20 case. The Gunns 20 case started in 2004 against 20 individuals and organizations in response to their efforts to protect Tasmania's forests, and continues for 13 individuals and organizations.

A legal fighting fund has been launched to raise the fees that will be incurred by the Triabunna 13 defendants. The fund will be administered by the Huon Valley Environment Centre, and all donations received will go straight to paying for the legal costs, which will surely be in the thousands of dollars. The Huon Valley Environment Centre is a defendant in the Gunns 20 case, and has



The Triabunna banners hang over a giant pile of pulp made from ground-up old-growth trees.

first-hand knowledge of the difficulties involved in fighting such a case with limited resources.

For more information, visit www.huon.org.

Jenny Weber is an organizer with the Huon Valley Environment Centre.

"No a las Minas!"

BY ROOT FORCE

On January 20, roughly 12,000 indigenous people, campesinos, environmental activists and others carried out protests across Ecuador against a controversial new mining law. Three-quarters of these protesters engaged in a blockade of the Pan-American Highway in the country's central highlands as an act of solidarity with communities in other regions of the country, where mining is more likely to take place. The last few weeks of this struggle have been marked by protest and police violence.

On January 26, the National Assembly gave final approval to the law. Although Ecuador has engaged in oil drilling for 40 years, it currently has no active large mines. In particular, Canadian mining companies have pushed for the new law, which will open up the country for large-scale gold, silver, copper and other mineral mining.

The mining law will replace the temporary mining mandate that was passed in May 2008, which froze all mining operations in Ecuador. Rejecting the indigenous and anti-mine movements' demands for prior consent from affected communities, the mining law will limit community power to affect mining projects and allow mining anywhere in the country. This includes protected areas and indigenous territories. Foreign mining companies, especially Canadian ones, have lobbied heavily for this law.

Correa has made "responsible mining" a key part of his plan to develop Ecuador. Indigenous and anti-mining protesters have rejected the president's logic.

"We will never let them into our territory, which provides our water," said Kichwa

protester Juan Francisco. "Responsible mining' is a miserable lie that the government wants to sell to us." He said that better development would come from government support of organic farming.

Canadian companies hold the majority of mining concessions in Ecuador and have been pressing for a new law that would allow for large-scale, open pit metal mining.

While protests over the new law have been taking place for months, the tempo picked up on December 21 with a march to the National Assembly in the capital of Quito. There, protesters seeking to meet with legislators were pepper-sprayed by police. On the same day, campesinos in the south of the country staged road blockades against the law and defended them against police attacks.

The assembly responded by holding meetings with protesters, but continued to move forward with the law. Protests picked back up on January 5, with massive road blockades in Cuenca, Ecuador's third-largest city. The police responded with a further escalation of repression. Officers attacked a press conference at the Court of Justice, arresting a member of the Water Board and tear-gassing protesters who attempted to defend him. Cops also dragged hunger strikers along the ground by their necks.

Road blockades spread to three other provinces, and protesters have been beaten or shot in at least five different communities. Two of the most notorious cases involved a special forces raid on a village to arrest a protest leader. The special forces tear-gassed a school and arrested a campesino leader who was later found in a hospital with bullet wounds in his head.

Even as Correa tried to discredit his opponents by calling them terrorists, they have accused him of being racist and dictatorial. They charge that the mining law violates sections of the recently approved constitution that protect indigenous, ecological and water rights.

Correa portrays the new constitution as one of his great achievements as a supposedly leftist president. However, the president is meeting increasing opposition from his former support base, which accuse him of selling them out. In May, the influential Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) formally declared its opposition to his government. A new group, the Coordinator for the Unity of the Left and for Life, has also formed to mobilize social movements against Correa. Additionally, on January 8, Ecuador's largest labor union came out against Correa's minimum wage policy.

On a related note, in Ontario, Canada, the First Nations Mushkegowuk Council passed a resolution banning all exploration or mining within its traditional territory on November 14. Taking a position similar to indigenous groups in Ecuador, the Mushkegowuk Council says that no current mining shall continue or any new mines go forward without the full consent of First Nations, in the context of First Nations-approved land use plans and environmental assessments. The resolution applies to the Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Kasechewan, Moose Cree, Taykwa Tagamou and Chapleau Cree nations.

For updates on these struggles, visit www.rootforce.org.

CIVILIAN UPRISING AGAINST BARRICK GOLD IN TANZANIA

continued from page 1

Eyewitnesses to the 2005 killing told *The Guardian* (a Tanzanian newspaper) that "the boy who was shot dead was walking past the company premises when company security guards, suspecting him of stealing oil, stopped him. When the boy failed to heed the order, the guards called the police who, before even questioning him, shot him in the chest."

Not one year later, security guards employed by Barrick Gold allegedly shot—five times in the back—another villager who was alleged to have illegally entered the mine complex, bringing the death toll to six.

"The killings represent a major shift in Barrick's strategy for dealing with the troublesome locals who have always opposed the mine," Lissu wrote in a 2006 letter. "In the period after the forced evictions of the villagers in August 2001, hundreds of villagers, particularly community leaders and prominent locals, were targeted for illegal arrests, criminal prosecutions and long-term imprisonment. Numerous local leaders, including the area's [late] member of parliament Chacha Zakayo Wangwe and elected member of the Tarime District Council

Augustino Nestory Sasi were harassed this way, with the latter being sentenced to 30 years in jail before we got him out on an appeal to the High Court of Tanzania in December 2004."

Calculating from media reports, Lissu estimates that more than 10,000 artisanal miners, peasant farmers and their families were kicked out of the area to make way for the North Mara mine in 2001. Since that time, there has been ongoing tension between the mine and the local communities.

According to Allan Cedillo Lissner, a Toronto-based photo journalist who recently interviewed families surrounding the North Mara mine, "Ongoing conflict between the mine and local communities have created a climate of fear for those who live nearby." Since the mine opened in 2002, one family told Lissner that they live in a state of constant anxiety. They are repeatedly harassed and intimidated by the mine's private security forces and by government police.

"There have been several deadly confrontations in the area, and every time there are problems at the mine, the Mwita family say their compound is the first place the police come looking. During police operations

the family scatters in fear to hide in the bush 'like fugitives' for weeks at a time, waiting for the situation to calm down," Lissner said.

The Mwita family explained that they used to farm and raise livestock. "Now, there are no pastures, because the mine has almost taken the whole land," they said. "We have no sources of income, and we are living only through God's wishes.... We had never experienced poverty before the mine came here." They also told Lissner that they would like to be relocated. However, the application process has been complicated. They feel the amount of compensation offered was merely "candy."

According to Tanzanian journalist and community advocate Evans Rubara, this latest uprising "is a sign to both the government of Tanzania and the International community (especially Canada) that poor and marginalized people also get tired of oppression." He hopes that the recent conflict will inspire Barrick "to start another strategy that will bring a good and constructive relationship with the local communities by implementing programs that do not enhance more looting and belittle Tanzania, leaving thou-



sands in destitution."

Since this most recent uprising, dozens of villagers have been arrested. According to Lissu, who plans to represent those arrested, "[Barrick is] on a warpath. These people have been denied bail. They are targeting the youth, and repression is on."

Lissu also spoke about reports of weapons making their way into the North Mara area. "Two days ago, we got information that [Barrick is] importing weapons—a ton and a half of tear gas, and hand grenades were transported to the mine.... The hand grenades were seized by customs on the way to the North Mara Gold Mine, but have since been let through," he told www.protestbarrick.net.

Sakura Saunders is an editor for www.protestbarrick.net, an all-volunteer news site that connects organizations and community groups organized against Barrick Gold around the world.

FRONTLINES

Indigenous Community Stands Strong Against Development

On October 11, 120 indigenous people attacked the construction site of a hydro dam in Brazil and burned it to the ground.

"They came with axes and pieces of wood, banished the employees and later set fire to everything," recounted Frederico Muller, a coordinator at the site.

The Enawene Nawe had participated in a "consultation process" with developers who were proposing to build 77 dams on the Juruena River. When the Enawene Nawe discovered the extent of the plans for the river that they rely on for subsistence in their heavily fish-based diet, they went into action and made their displeasure known.

More recently, on December 17, two Enawene Nawe adults and two children were fishing near another dam site along the Juruena River when they were approached by construction workers working on the dam. The four natives were made to lie down before they were threatened, beaten with sticks and had guns shoved in their mouths. The encounter only stopped when police showed up. The company denies its workers acted aggressively.

The dams are being promoted by the Maggi family, which owns one of the largest soy companies in the world.

Activists Confront UK's Aviation Industry

Protesters with the anti-aviation group, Plane Stupid, cut through a fence and stormed the grounds of England's third-largest airport on November 3. One team used an old fire truck parked along the perimeter as cover as they sliced a large hole in the security fence. A second group slipped through the hole and chained themselves together after creating a barrier to help protect them and fend off cops. In all, 57 people were arrested after five hours of disrupting business as usual at Stansted Airport, just north of London. Fifty-six flights were cancelled, and extensive delays were created.

The action was taken to draw attention to a campaign to stop the airport from building a second runway, which would bring more carbon emissions.

On January 15, upon learning that a third runway was approved for Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest airport, three female climate change activists carried out a "nocturnal smash-and-paint." They sent bricks through the windows of the Department for Transport and tossed paint across the front of the building.

Hens Become Truly "Free Range"

Twenty captive hens were released from a "free-range" egg farm in British Columbia, Canada, on November 27. The hens all had their beaks amputated, and suffered from infections and the loss of most of their feathers because of the over-crowded conditions they had lived in. The "free-range" certification was applied to this farm only because the hens were not individually caged.

"Free range" is not good enough! 'Organic' is not good enough! Go vegan, and leave the animals in peace," suggested the communiqué from Animal Liberation Front (ALF) Canada.

"Imprisoned for life, egg-laying hens, whether 'free-range' or not, endure intensive confinement, are fed antibiotics to ameliorate infections due to overcrowding and are killed as soon as their egg-laying capacity starts to diminish," stated the North American Animal Liberation Press Office in response to the news of the egg farm raid. "Their beaks are amputated as chicks to prevent damage to other birds. Any male chicks born are discarded, often still alive, into large trash barrels. The natural instincts of these

captive animals are completely frustrated—self mutilation, sickness, infection, poor sanitation and the sheer stress of confinement often lead animals to premature death."

Prisoners and Guards Unite in Canine Jailbreak

The Frente de Liberación Animal-Comando Verde Negro (FLA-CVN) paid a visit to a municipal dog pound in Mexico state, Mexico, in early December. Cutting a hole in the surrounding fence, some of the activists distracted the "guard" dogs, while others slipped in to visit the tiny, disgustingly unkempt cages that each held five dogs.

After releasing 25 dogs from their cages, the FLA-CVN encouraged the "guard" dogs to follow the others into freedom through the hole in the fence. Before leaving the facility, the liberators placed an incendiary device under one of the dog-catching vans.

University Vivisectors Continue to Face Resistance

There has been a steady campaign at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) of activists targeting school vans to persuade the faculty to stop torturing and murdering animals. On December 12, another van was attacked. This one had its tires slashed and red paint splashed on it. The hope is that the continued costs on UCLA to take care of their damaged vans (many of which have been torched) will persuade the administration to do away with animal testing.

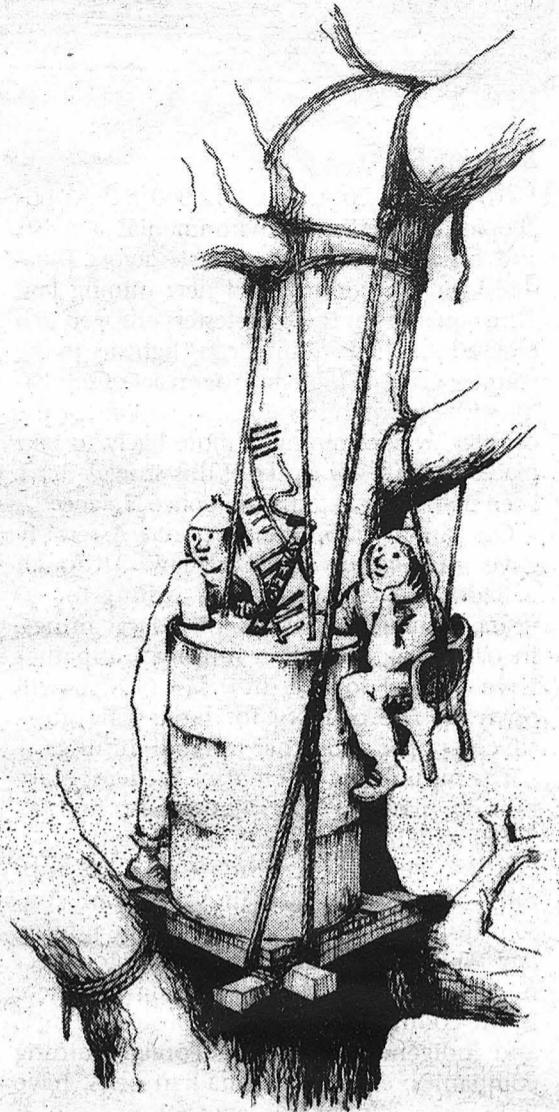
Moving up the coast to another notorious University of California animal abuse facility, University of California, Berkeley vivisector Ralph Freeman and his staff encountered the wrath of Hackers for Total Liberation. The Hackers sent viruses to the email accounts of Freeman's Visual Neuroscience Laboratory members.

"This virus is designed to completely wreck their computers, while leeching all vital personal information they've ever entered into their systems," read part of the communiqué. "It is time to buy new computers, and after that, save yourself the hassle that will follow and get the fuck out of this cat-killing lab—the lab where kittens as young as six weeks live in daily fear and trauma from the violence that you are responsible for. The cats in stereotaxic devices with holes drilled into their skulls are what drives us, and we will do anything to end your torture."

Back at UCLA, notorious vivisector Edythe London was targeted again. This time, she was sent a New Year's greeting card that contained razor blades coated with blood and rat poison. London addicts non-humyn primates to nicotine and methamphetamines for a living before killing them. In the past, among other actions aimed to change her mind about the usefulness of her work, her home was flooded with a garden hose and an incendiary device burned on her front porch.

Speaking of changing one's mind about the uselessness of their work, London's buddy and fellow vivisector, Arthur Rosenbaum, recently announced that he would be retiring from the business of gluing metal coils directly onto the eyeballs of non-humyn primates. While he has stated that he is simply retiring, inside sources say Rosenbaum "made an informed choice to stop animal experimentation after repeatedly being targeted by picketers and animal liberation activists."

Crossing coasts, in Baltimore, the Animal Liberation Brigade, has taken to similar tactics in their campaign to stop animal abuse at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). A package containing unknown sketchiness was delivered to Elise Weerts because of her refusal to stop addicting non-humyn primates to gamma-Hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) and other drugs. GHB is often known as a "party drug,"



and has a reputation for date rape. In addition, it can cause its users to go into a coma or die. Part of Weerts' research is to give these drugs to primates, then watch them suffer in agony as the drugs take their course.

Steven Hsiao, another vivisector at JHU, was also sent a package with unknown sketchiness inside. Hsiao performs brain-mapping experiments on non-humyn primates, which are said to be "pure torture for these innocent beings."

Benefit Concertgoers Get Fired Up

A concert around the beginning of the new year was thrown in New York City to help raise funds for anarchist eco-prisoners and the *Earth First! Journal*. However, police broke it up after about five hours. Evidently, there had been a number of noise complaints. Attendees left the location and constructed a makeshift barricade out of discarded Christmas trees and garbage near the intersection of Walker Street and Broadway. Once it was built, the barricade was lit on fire, presenting a more imposing obstacle to the police.

Firefighters put out the blaze, and people were able to escape without any arrests being made. One organizer who had stayed at the venue was detained for a bit, but was ultimately released and does not expect to receive any charges.

Ex-Oil Executive Loses House—and Not in a Foreclosure!

A week after a lawsuit was launched against Canadian oil company Syncrude, former Syncrude president and chief operating officer Jim Carter had his \$850,000 luxury home in Edmonton, Canada, burned to the ground by Molotov cocktails thrown by four suspicious "youths."

The lawsuit is seeking to hold Syncrude accountable for the deaths of 500 ducks in a toxic tailings pond last Spring. Syncrude has also been a major player in developing extraction infrastructure for the Alberta tar sands. Carter, specifically, has overseen much of the investment in tar sands technology and also the creation of carbon capture and storage schemes that industries are promoting in attempts to appear less malevolent.

While neighbors have reacted to the January 10 arson in shock, commenting

MEXICAN LEATHER EXPO BURIED

BY THE MDA

The commercial area of Coacalco, just north of Mexico City, was an easy target for attacks by the Militias for the Rights of Animals or—*Milicias por los Derectos de lxs Animales* (MDA) in Spanish.

David Sanchez, who was born evil, believes in organizing bullfights of torture and humiliation, fairs where roosters are exhibited and won as if they were trophies, circuses with animal prisoners, and leather and fur fairs. He is also into protecting multinational killers, banks, commercial marketplaces and other institutions complicit in the destruction of the planet.

On the morning of November 30, we infiltrated the León and Guanajuato Expo Fair of Leather and Footwear. Shops were lined with the skin of horses, cows, snakes and other animals. Also on display were clothes of wool snatched from lambs, jackets made of the skin of murdered pigs and other products consumed by our anti-speciesist hate. We placed an incendiary device in one of the tents. After 20 minutes, the fire burned most of this deviant trade.

Many people who are unfamiliar with the movement of sabotage for animal liberation may ask, why did they do it? Did they not care about the traders who lost their merchandise? Don't

they respect private property, authority, morals or lives?

The MDA responds, "No! We do not care about the thousands of pesos in losses that we have caused. We do not care about traders who profit at the expense of the pain, torture and suffering of nonhuman animals, just as they do not care that they deprive one who is sentient their freedom and torture them to death. We do not care about the morals of respect and tolerance toward civilization that destroys all of us little by little."

We are not going to respect any authority dressed in political colors of blue (Partido Acción Nacional), tricolor (Partido Revolucionario Institucional), yellow (Partido Revolución Democrática), red (communist parties)—much less black (traditional anarchist authorities) or any "revolutionary" leader. We're not in favor of their way of life. We are not biocentrists; we are anti-anthropocentrists, and we are in favor of animal, human and Earth liberation. We will not stop in our attacks, even if an exploiter is left wounded or dead. We will delight in what we have done.

We are not going to respect the private property of torturers, because we know that to strike the leather and fur industry in this country as we have done will make the filthy owners think twice before establishing

their businesses covered with the blood of innocents.

It is also a clear message to the other industries of planetary destruction. You are in sight and we will not stop until you collapse. We note that this action was done a few steps from the McDonald's that we sabotaged in October with graffiti and a fake bomb. The municipal police, instead of fulfilling their duty as "Mr. Justice," appeared to be incompetent and powerless clowns—just as they are in reality.

Our words are no joke. We stated in the October communique that the next bomb would be really destructive. We do not lie. We laugh at the criticisms of mediocre people who, full of feelings of inferiority, said that the fake bombs were just false alarms, and that we would not return again. They should eat their words.

Likewise, we scoff at the absurd and groundless criticism of the communists, conservationists, traditional anarchists and others, whose old and authoritarian characters were made to see what they still won't account for. To move from words to actions shows

that we are in a struggle to the death with the state and its specialist lackeys. It is effective to demonstrate our vengeance with stones and fire, and to strike and



be an individual in an informal organization.

These actions will not stop. On the contrary, they will grow. In Mexico, the exploiters will no longer have the easy life. All torturers will pay the price. There will be no more classism in this fight. Any person, regardless of social class, who destroys the Earth and its inhabitants is an enemy! For animal, human and Earth liberation, radical insurrection! Why shed tears if we can instigate them?

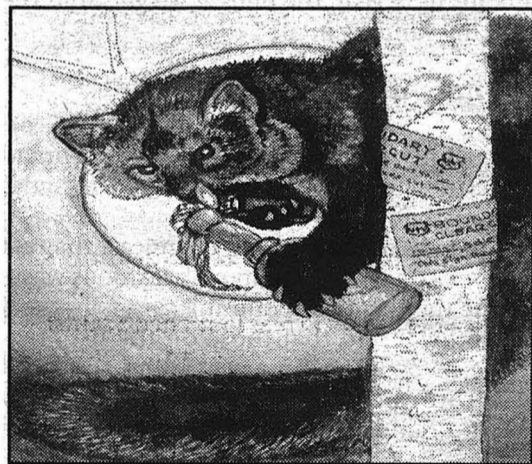
For more information, contact animallibpressoffice@riseup.net.

on what a swell guy Carter is, it is obvious that he has a large role in helping to ensure Canada remains a country where a few non-native people profit off of natural resource extraction that basically impacts everything but these bastards' pocketbooks negatively.

As is always the case in a political arson of this nature, nobody was hurt in the fire.

Activists Take Issue With Revolting Jackets

In mid-January, \$25,000 worth of winter jackets were sabotaged at Winners stores across Canada. The jackets have a fur trim that is occasionally faux fur, but is often



the skin and hair of rabbits, fox, mink and raccoon dogs. According to a communiqué from this sabotage, it is extremely difficult for shoppers to recognize the difference between the real and fake fur.

Winners was contacted numerous times by people in Canada who were upset that Winners would so casually sell something as disgusting as the skin and hair ripped straight off of an often-still-living animal. The store's only response has been to reaffirm their desire to sell this product as long as it remains in style.

According to research done by anti-fur-on-anyone-but-the-one-born-with-the-fur activists, the skin-and-hair strips used for the Winners jackets comes from animals trapped on Chinese fur farms. Documentation is easily accessible online that shows animals being skinned alive at Chinese fur farms, "screaming and writhing in pain as their skin is being cut off of them. One animal was even filmed trying to bite a fur farmer as he finished skinning her," according to the communiqué from the actions.

Locals Say No to Gold Mining in Peru

Indigenous people living near Peru's northern border took two mining officials, their two security guards, their boat captain and his helper hostage on January 15. Local communities are upset about the activities in their region by Minera Afrodita, a mining company with gold concessions in the area.

According to Peruvian law, the local people need to be consulted before any mining projects can begin. Indigenous leaders have said that the hostages will be released when a government group comes and inspects environmental damage already caused by Minera Afrodita. Minera Afrodita says it is not exploring for gold, only "prospecting," at this point.

So far, the company has only obtained permission to do anything with these mining concessions from the Peruvian government. The Peruvian government is required to request approval from communities in the area, which it hasn't done. Additionally, a Canadian mining company, Dorato Resources, has the rights to purchase all of Minera Afrodita's shares, bringing any money that would come from the proposed mining even further from the communities who would be most affected.

Tucson HAND Slaps Ex-Bureaucrat

On January 20, Tucson, Arizona's, chapter of Hooligans Attack at Night, Duh! (HAND)

etched slogans into the windows of the recently-retired chairpersyn of the Arizona State Transportation Board's home. The activists also painted a slogan on his garage door and splattered paint on his driveway and sidewalk. This action was done to express displeasure at the idea of an Interstate 10 bypass that would avoid Tucson and Phoenix, instead cutting through the desert in a yet-to-be-solidified path.

Schorr is a career real-estate lawyer, and many people have long speculated that much of his desire to see this project go through is based upon various land holdings that he owns. A remote desert parcel is worth a lot more with a heavily traveled truck stop or hotel on it.

There had previously been other proposed routes for the bypass that would cut through more ecologically sensitive areas, but most of those have since been dropped. Still, the remaining route that's being emphasized is one that would pass directly through a conservation area that is "managed" by the Bureau of Reclamation. This would defeat much of the purpose of setting the area aside for conservation, as I-10 is one of the most heavily traveled interstates in the US. In addition, this proposed route would not even reduce travel time for through-drivers—which is the whole reason to build a bypass in the first place.

Currently, the remaining route of the I-10 bypass is opposed by Pima County, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, the Bureau of Reclamation, hordes of concerned citizens and activists, and, evidently, Tucson HAND.

Tucson HAND says that, regardless of Schorr's retirement from his post on the State Transportation Board, it is holding him personally accountable for any harm done to ecosystems because of a constructed I-10 bypass. "You're our special scumbag," a communiqué stated. "This [action] was just for fun."

Bare Bones

First Nations Take Legal Action Against Canadian Mining Companies

First Nations from two Canadian provinces took legal action against mining in January. The Tsilhqot'in Nation, in British Columbia, filed a lawsuit on January 6 in the hopes of stopping Taseko Mines from opening new gold and copper mines.

The Tsilhqot'in hopes to block Taseko from reclassifying Teztan Biny Lake as a "tailings impoundment area" instead of a natural body of water. This would permit Taseko to dump mine tailings in the lake, killing all of the fish. In exchange, Taseko promised to build a new lake.

"Normally, only God creates lakes," said attorney Jack Woodward. "The idea that there is some empty niche where you could find a habitat for 85,000 fish is a denial of what we know about how biological systems work."

Proposed Xalala Dam in Guatemala is a No-Go

Last November, the proposed Xalala Dam in northern Guatemala received no bidders. This was the third time that the project had no takers. Numerous well-off companies and firms purchased the project bidding rights, but it seems as though none of the groups have a plan for the estimated \$400 million excursion. The lack of bidding was apparently linked to the global economic crisis.

The company winning the bid would have assumed responsibility for conducting feasibility studies, as well as constructing, operating and maintaining the project for 30 years.

The dam would displace more than 2,000 residents along the proposed 26-mile route. It would also negatively impact the lives of at least 8,000 Mayan Qechi farmers. Nearby, hundreds of people were massacred in 1978 when they resisted the construction of another dam on the same river.

Dam Removal in Spain Flowing Strong

Recently, water oversight committees, municipalities, anglers and environmental groups have been working hard to bring dams down around Spain and bring fish populations up. Within the past decade, around 50 dams have been removed in Spain. Most removed dams have been in the north—to help protect against floods and sustain salmon populations.

In 2009, new demolitions are proposed near the city of Oviedo. In the past two years along the Bidasoa River system, five dams have been destroyed. Almost 500 water permits have also been revoked to aid salmon and trout species. Planned dam removals for the next few years number in the hundreds.

Whale Meat Back on Sale in Japan

For the first time in 20 years, whale meat from Iceland and Norway is being sold in Japan.

An Icelandic firm that caught and exported the majority of the meat confirmed the sales in early December. Although there is a moratorium on commercial whale hunting, these sales are legal because of the three countries registering exemptions to rules on banning the international trade of whale products. Currently, the consignment stands at 65 tons of fin whale meat hunted by Hvalur hf (an Icelandic whaling company) and five tons of minke whale meat exported from Norway.

The reintroduction of sales in Japan makes many environmentalists nervous. Some are afraid that Norway and Iceland might increase their exports.

Japan Hopes to Ban Sea Shepherd and Other Whale Defenders

The Japanese foreign ministry has accused the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and the crew of its ship, the *Steve Irwin*, of acting like pirates. For this reason, Japan will be asking Australia, and possibly New Zealand and Chile, to ban anti-whaling ships from their ports for refueling purposes.

"We are going to request a port closure against it," said Chiharu Tsuruoka, a Japanese foreign ministry official. "They have obstructed our activities in the past, and their action is extremely dangerous." Using the International Whaling Commission rules as their defense to kill animals "in the name of research," Japanese whaling fleets plan to hunt at least 935 minke whales and 50 fin whales this year.

New Loophole in Endangered Species Act Opens Up

On December 11, a final rule change struck a deep blow to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The new rule proposed would allow for agencies to use their own discretion as to whether or not their actions will have an impact on the lives of endangered species. Previously, any project that may or may not have impacted endangered species was subject to mandatory consultations with experts at the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

"Consultation with experts at the Fish and Wildlife Service is one of the cornerstones of the ESA," said Mike Parr, Vice President of the

American Bird Conservancy. "This system of checks and balances helps ensure that the 90 birds and 1,236 other animals on the Endangered Species List are adequately considered and protected by federal government actions."

UK Indymedia Server Seized Again by Police

On January 22, police in Kent, England, seized a United Kingdom (UK) Indymedia website. Officers visited the hosting company, UK Grid, and asked for the server. UK Grid members asked for a warrant and police responded by saying that they could get one after making a phone call. UK Grid eventually handed the server over to police without a warrant being served.

UK Indymedia members have been led to believe that the seizure was linked to two comments that were posted with the home addresses of the judge that had recently declared that UK Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty activists were guilty of blackmail. Earlier in the day, police emailed UK Indymedia, requesting the two comments containing the addresses be removed from the site.

German Ship Recklessly Fertilizing Southern Ocean

Despite a global moratorium on ocean fertilization activities that was recently agreed-upon through the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, a German research ship from the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research plans to dump 20 tons of iron sulphates across 186 square miles off of the Chilean coast near the Antarctic peninsula. Researchers believe that the dumping of chemicals normally used to treat lawns and sewage could lead to an outbreak of algae enormous enough to be seen from Mars.

German and Indian scientists seem to believe that this dangerous experiment could lead to a quick fix for climate change. Other researchers disapprove of the experiment, calling it a "frankenshpere" experiment, that chooses to ignore hard facts on climate change and leans toward false solutions.

Womyn Arrested in Defense of Wetlands Near the Mexico-US Border

In El Paso, Texas, a wetlands defender and member of Border Residents Against the Border Wall, Judith Ackerman, was arrested on December 17 by officers of the Texas Department of Security. She was protesting the further construction of the border wall inside the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park. Ackerman was blocking construction equipment and machinery from entering the park.

A fellow border activist, Carlos Marentes, said, "This is life. The river is life, but not the wall; the wall is death."

Officers from state, federal, county and city law enforcement agencies, along with the Border Patrol, came out to detain Ackerman and suppress the other protestors.

Nevada Senator Cutting Funding for Yucca Mountain Project

Senator Harry Reid proclaimed that the Yucca Mountain project would "bleed real hard" in the coming year. He said that the already-reduced budget for the nuclear waste depository would be cut significantly in 2009.

On January 5, Reid met with President Barack Obama, who said that he was still opposed to the project—just as he had been when he originally campaigned against it.

Later, Reid said, "I think for next year, the budget we get from the president will have little if any funding at all."

EPA to Launch Environmental Assaulters Most-Wanted List

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is showcasing a brand new most-wanted list which focuses on 23 fugitives, and includes mugshots and descriptions of charges.

Some of the crimes committed are: smuggling chemicals that eat away at the Earth's protective ozone layer, dumping hazardous waste in oceans and rivers, and the trafficking of polluting cars.

A top EPA enforcement official said that those on the list "represent the brazen universe of people who are evading the law." A large majority of these Earth perpetrators would face lengthy prison terms, along with thousands of dollars in fines, if they are ever apprehended.

USDA Staying on Their Toes in the War Against Cattails

The US Department of Agriculture has initiated a program to eradicate cattails and boost sunflower seed production. How are cattails related to sunflower seed production, one might ask? Cattail infested wetlands are the preferred habitat of sunflower-snacking blackbirds.

For all interested applicants, a helicopter can come in late Summer and eradicate your cattails by spraying a herbicide. Last year in North Dakota, 3,700 acres of wetlands throughout seven different counties were sprayed with the herbicide. Federal wildlife officials began accepting applications for the process in January and will continue until June.

GEARING UP FOR THE EF! ROADSHOW

BY THE EF! ROADSHOW CREW

It's almost February, and the Sonoran Desert is alive with Earth First!ers scampering around preparing for the invasion of the Organizers' Conference. However, lurking in the shadows of a candle-lit fortress, another pack of wily eco-rebels are also busy at work—the Earth First! Roadshow Crew! As members of the crew slowly trickle into the desert, the preparations for this massive undertaking becomes more intensive. Come the end of February, we will set off from our desert base and begin our long journey, winding around the country and preaching the good words of eco-defense and no compromise!

With all of the new EF! groups sprouting up and many long-standing groups waning, one of the desires of the roadshow is to connect and reconnect the movement to our goal of resisting the continual destruction of the Earth. There are nearly 100 stops on the tour, ranging from one-night presentations to multi-day action camps.

There is a massive and diverse list of skills, workshops and discussions that the roadshow will be offering. A quick sample of

the topics include: blockades, facilitation and consensus, a look at Earth First!'s past and future, direct action, prisoner support, tree climbing and rigging, planning a strategic campaign, current campaign updates and much more. The content of the stops will vary with each location, based on the needs and desires of the local community. We want this road show to be relevant for the wide spectrum of folks that comprise the Earth First! movement.

While we'll be able to offer a large amount of skills and hands-on training, we also recognize the need to sit down around campfires and have some good, strategic discussions. We are hoping to be able to strike a balance between the two. To do this, the roadshow crew is working hard to make sure that we're heading out with worthwhile content that reflects the current state and possible futures of the radical ecological movement.

As the clock ticks on and our inaugural stop grows closer, we're jumping over hurdles and dashing obstacles. Constant, daily frustrations wear on our nerves, but the cloak of stress is punctuated by small victories

that give us hope. After months of searching, we now have a (bass!) vehicle—a giant van that will be our home for the next few months. T-shirts and other goodies are in the works, and a snarled slew of logistical issues is being slowly and patiently untangled. Currently, our biggest stress is fundraising, but nobody's surprised about that one.

Amid all of the stress, we're questioning ourselves constantly: Is this worth it? Are we doing the right thing? However, we don't have to look very far to find the answers to these questions. Hiking around in the rocky crags that envelop Tucson, Arizona—which is completely surrounded by mountain ranges that are impacted by encroaching development—we understand what we must do to help save places like this. The crew comes from every bioregion, and we see these same forces of destruction affecting each of our homes. The same capitalist death-machine's maw sucks and chomps at every corner of our beloved planet, no holds barred.

Taking a step back from all of the minutia and daily tasks, it's easier to see that what we're doing is important. For every wild place that needs someone

to stand up for it, we must pass on skills and stories that have been passed to us. It is becoming more and more urgent to educate folks about the needs and means to stop the mindless destruction. We are all the holders of a knowledge and history that must be shared far and wide.

At press time, we have no updates from stops, only from our preparations. However, we will continue to have a column in the next few issues of the *Earth First! Journal*, keeping the community updated on the progression of the tour, where we are and inspiring stories from along the way. Keep checking the *Journal!*

The Earth First! Roadshow Crew is a gaggle of eco-rebels who are likely to be somewhere in your vicinity at some point in the next six months. To find the most up-to-date schedule, more information about the tour and how you can help out, visit earthfirstroadshow.wordpress.com. Hell-fucking-yeah!



Climate Activists Invade DC Office of Environmental Defense

Daughter of ED Founder Accuses Group of Pushing False Solutions to Climate Change

BY RISING TIDE

As the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change opened today in Poznan, Poland, grassroots climate activists took over the Washington, DC, office of Environmental Defense (ED) on December 1. The activists stated that they had targeted ED, one of the largest environmental organizations in the world, because of the organization's key role in promoting the discredited approach of carbon trading as a solution to climate change.

Dr. Rachel Smolker, of the Global Justice Ecology Project and Global Forest Coalition, read a statement saying, "My father was one of the founders of this organization, which sadly, I am now ashamed of. The Kyoto Protocol, the European Emissions Trading Scheme and virtually every other initiative for reducing emissions have adopted their market approaches. So far, they have utterly failed, serving only to provide huge profits to the world's most polluting industries. Instead of protecting the environment, ED now seems primarily concerned with protecting corporate bottom lines. I can hear my father rolling over in his grave."

The activists rearranged furniture in the office, illustrating how marketing carbon is

"like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic." Others held signs reading "Keep the cap, ditch the trade" and "Carbon trading is an environmental offense."

Leo Cerda, an indigenous activist with Rising Tide Ecuador said, ED wants to turn the atmosphere and forests into private property, and then give it away to the most polluting industries in the form of pollution allowances that can be bought and sold.



Climate activists invade Environmental Defense's office

Not only is this an ineffective way to control emissions, it is also a disaster for the poor and indigenous peoples who are not party to these markets and are most impacted by climate change."

ED has played a key role in establishing the US Climate Action Partnership (CAP), a

business consortium advocating for a cap-and-trade system with extremely weak emissions reductions. US CAP allows polluters like Duke Energy, Shell, BP, DuPont and Dow Chemical to claim that they are green, while continuing with business as usual. In recognition, activists awarded ED the "Corporate Greenwash Award," a three-foot-tall green paintbrush. "We think this award is appropriate since Environmental Defense spends more time painting polluters green than actually defending the environment," said Matt Wallace of Rising Tide North America.

Opposition to carbon trading is growing as it becomes apparent that market-based schemes do little to fight climate change while helping corporations rake in profits. Earlier this year, more than 50 groups came together in the US to denounce carbon trading in a Declaration Against the Use of Carbon Trading Schemes to Address Climate Change. Globally, hundreds of environmental, social justice and indigenous groups have come together to oppose such market-based initiatives calling them inherently unsustainable and ineffective in creating a just transition away from fossil fuels.

For more information, visit www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

An Open Letter from Captain Paul Watson From the Tasman Sea

Starting off on another quest to stop those who kill mercilessly for profit

BY PAUL WATSON

Dear friends,
We are finally on our way. On December 4, my ship, the *Steve Irwin*, and my crew left Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. We made a brief stop in Newcastle, New South Wales, to take on fuel and oil, and departed from there on December 7. We will make another brief stop in Hobart, Tasmania, to top off the fuel tanks to allow us the maximum range when we head to the Ross Sea to intercept the Japanese whaling fleet. We are under no illusion that this will be an easy campaign. Japan has budgeted \$8 million to oppose our efforts. We have no idea what this means. Will they send a gunboat? We don't know for sure, but they have said they will arrest us if we interfere with their illegal whaling operations. It is unknown how they will do that. Will they fire on our ship or board our ship? We don't know. We just need to be prepared for all possibilities. This is a four-part campaign. Basically, it gets down to "prepare, search, intercept, and stop." We are prepared.

We have improved the ship substantially since the last campaign. We have a newly constructed helicopter deck and hanger, a completely overhauled helicopter, a very experienced ex-military pilot and a dedicated helicopter mechanic.

On deck, we have a new hydraulic winch and two fast interceptor boats. We have three times the safety equipment required, including immersion suits, survival suits, lifeboats and emergency rescue beacons. We also have a medical doctor onboard and officers holding emergency medical technician certificates.

We have a master welder, a master carpenter and a crew of very experienced engineers, led by our longtime-Chief Engineer, Charles Hutchings. We have qualified divers, communication techs and navigators.

We also have an excellent crew of 40, plus eight people from Animal Planet who are shooting the second season of *Whale Wars*. A third of the Sea Shepherd crew is Australian and a third is from the US, with the remaining third composed of activists from Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Bermuda, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Hungary and Japan.

A third of the crew are women, and half of the crew are returning veterans.

Upon leaving Hobart, we will begin the second phase of the campaign—the search. This year, the Japanese whaling fleet is operating in the Ross Sea, and that is where we will be heading. It's a long haul to get there, and once there, it's a vast area to search. We will scour those remote frozen seas until we find them. Once we do, we will intercept them—hopefully before they kill too many whales.

There are quite a few differences between this campaign and our previous four voyages to the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. This year, we will be very much alone down there.

The new Australian government of Kevin Rudd and Peter Garrett has reneged on their election promises, and they will not have any ships in the Southern Ocean. In fact, the Australian Navy has been ordered into

port. Practically all of their ships, their officers and their crew have been sent home for a two-month vacation. There is not a single Australian government ship patrolling the Australian Antarctic Territorial Waters, despite the fact that the Japanese whaling fleet has been killing whales in direct contempt of an Australian Federal Court ruling that specifically forbids the killing of whales in waters over which Australia has declared sovereignty.

Greenpeace will also not be down in the Southern Ocean, despite raising millions of dollars for that express purpose. They have backed out primarily because they do not want to be associated with Sea Shepherd actions. Their excuse is that they need to address the trial of two of their Japanese activists. Greenpeace has the funding to do both,



The *Steve Irwin's* previous incarnation, after being rammed by a Japanese whaling ship in 2007

and they certainly have the ships. The truth is that they have surrendered the Southern Ocean to the Japanese whaling fleet. They no longer have the stomach for confrontation.

The key to success with the Japanese whalers is persistence. We must never retreat or surrender the Southern Ocean Sanctuary to them. We must continue to undermine their profits and expose their illegal activities to the world.

We must do this no matter what obstacles are placed before us, no matter how violent they become, no matter what political, media and economic pressure they direct at us. They can call us all of the names in the world, but they cannot deny the reality that they are targeting threatened and endangered whales in an established whale sanctuary in violation of the international moratorium on commercial whaling and in contempt of Australian courts.

Sea Shepherd, on the other hand, has not and is not violating international law. We have not injured anyone, and we have not been charged with any crime. We are acting in accordance with the principles established in the United Nations World Charter for Nature by working to uphold and enforce international conservation law.

I have called this year's campaign "Operation Musashi." This is in recognition of Miyamoto Musashi, who is to the Japanese what Robin Hood, Ned Kelly and Jesse James are to the British, the Australians and the Americans.

Aside from being an outlaw, Musashi was also a master strategist. I have incorporated his strategy of a two-fold plan of pen and sword, which means we'll approach the problem through confrontation, and communication or education.

Our physical interventions to stop the killing of whales is the sword and our participation in the television series, *Whale Wars*, is the pen.

We also carry the most effective weapon ever designed, the camera.

What will happen this year?

It is hard to predict with certainty. Will we find the fleet? I am confident that we will. Will they react more violently than last year? We suspect that they will. Will we prevent them from killing whales? I am confident that we will be able to do so.

As Musashi once observed with regard to strategy, we need to proceed toward the whaling fleet with absolute resolve, with courage and determination, focusing on the goal of saving the lives of as many whales as possible. Undeterred by threats or physical violence,

unconcerned with the consequences, we are prepared and cautious, yet committed to a policy of no retreat and no surrender. We need to understand that when we say we are willing to risk our lives for the whales, it is not a meaningless slogan on a banner to us; it is what we do. We need to demonstrate to the world that there are human beings willing to risk everything to protect diversity and the right of other species to live unmolested by the rapacious greed of humankind. We fight not just for the whales in those remote southern waters; we fight for the diversity of life and, thus, the future of our own kind upon this planet.

It will be a dramatic campaign and I will direct all of my energies into ensuring that it will be an effective campaign—that the lives of whales will be saved.

I cannot tell you in words just how wonderful it is to have intervened for the whales in seasons past, to know that at this moment, there are whales swimming freely in those lonely waters that would now be dead if not for our interventions. Knowing that so many baby whales have been brought into being because we were able to force the whalers to spare their mothers is a source of great happiness for me. I feel them out there, so alive and so aware, in those dark and cold waters, and it is this connection that calms my soul with the purring hum of contentment in my heart. In truth, to die in defense of life is the most honorable death I can think of and, thus, there can be no fear—only enlightenment and contentment.

So, it is southward that our bow is pointed. It is 2,000 miles to the south, amongst the icebergs in the remote, frozen, south polar seas, that we will once again skirmish with the killers of the gentle giants of the sea. For their sake and for the sake of our children we will prevail and we will drive these vicious killers from the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Thus, we will restore the integrity of the sanctuary in a world where governments seem to have lost the meaning of the word, "sanctuary." For the whales, we sail on toward what I believe will be our most aggressive and most effective confrontation with the Japanese whalers ever.

For more information, visit www.seashepherd.org.

Captain Paul Watson is the founder and central force behind the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

Two Russian Activists Killed by Assassin in Moscow

BY DONNY

On January 19, Stanislas "Stas" Markelov and Anastasia "Nastya" Baburova were killed by gunshot wounds to the head. They had just finished a press conference on the steps of a prominent courthouse in Moscow, calling for a well-known Russian war criminal to remain behind bars, rather than be granted early release from prison.

Stas, 34, was one of Russia's most prominent human rights lawyers, becoming a bit of a celebrity for championing causes no other lawyers would touch. In this case, he had represented the family of a Chechen 18-year-old woman, Elsa Kungayeva, who was murdered (and believed by some to have been raped) by Russian Army Colonel Yuri Budanov.

Evidently, Budanov had committed many other atrocities in Chechnya, but Stas won a conviction in this case, becoming the first lawyer to successfully prosecute a member of the Russian military for war crimes committed in Chechnya. Budanov was sentenced to 10 years in prison. However, after serving eight and a half years, he is up for early release.

Stas called the press conference to announce his intention to question Budanov's release in European courts. As Budanov is relatively popular in Russia, many people speculate his supporters may have been behind Stas and Nastya's killings, though nobody really knows for sure. By all accounts, Nastya was killed because she was standing next to Stas when he was shot. Some witnesses say she was shot as she tried to apprehend the killer.

Stas was active as both an activist and a lawyer for activist causes since the 1990s. When the new Russian state was created in the ashes of the Soviet Union, he was the first lawyer to defend people who were accused of being left-wing "terrorists." He was renown for managing to get most terrorist charges dismissed. Eventually, if defendants were sentenced, they were typically sentenced for lesser charges that didn't include the label, "terrorism."

As the Soviet system fell and Russia began figuring out who it was as a country, Stas worked with radical coalitions to speak out for human rights and

ecological protection. Through this time, he seemed to favor being at the frontlines of the struggles he was a part of. In 1996, he participated in a Rainbow Keeper protest camp to stop the construction of a nuclear power plant in the Rostov region. The Rainbow Keepers are an anarchist, primarily ecological movement. Things got wild at this camp, as the army was ordered to disperse the gathered activists, shooting into (thankfully empty) tents to encourage people to leave the area. Of course, Stas represented the activists in court who were victims of the army's brutality.

Stas also organized a 1998 protest march against a nuclear plant in Belarus and spoke at a 2008 Rainbow Keeper mass protest against the construction of an addition to a chemical plant in Sasovo, Russia. Additionally, he was a frequent guest at Chernobyl Day marches in Minsk, Belarus, which has become the largest anti-nuclear protest in Europe.

More recently, Stas represented and spoke on behalf of Mikhail Beketov, the owner of a local paper in Moscow. Beketov opposed the construction of a new expressway, which would destroy a forested park. A popular movement formed to stop this expressway. However, on November 13, Beketov was found lying in his garden in a coma after a severe beating. About two weeks later, there was a mass demonstration held to decry the assault on both Beketov and Moscow's green spaces. As of press time, he is still in bad condition, with several of his fingers amputated.

Stas was proud of his work to support oppressed people. In 1994, he was the first lawyer to travel to the embattled North Caucasus region to help how he could and represent victims of war in Russian courts. Since then, his support has not wavered. In 1997, Stas became active in Belarusian causes in connection with the massive upheaval taking place there. He became fluent in Belarusian, an unusual skill for a Russian to have, as Russians typically see the Belarusian language as more of a historical relic than a useful skill to hone.

In addition to all of this, Stas was also one of the most prominent animal rights lawyers in Russia, representing animal liberators in courts

and digging through legal documents to find loopholes animal liberators could use to defend their actions.

Nastya, 25, also went by the name Skat. She was an anarchist and journalist who worked for many activist papers and was involved in numerous activist projects. Recently, she helped coordinate solidarity efforts for the Tarnac 9 (the activists in France who were accused of attacking high-speed train lines



Photos by "a friend"

Nastya

in late 2008). Additionally, she attended the 2008 Rainbow Keeper chemical plant protest in Sasovo, and has been centrally involved in campaigns to help refugees fleeing Georgia and other areas who have had their lives torn apart by conflict between local fighters and a Russian government hellbent on maintaining its empire. Nastya and Stas were also both involved in antifascist organizing through their work as a journalist and lawyer, respectively.

On January 20, the day after Stas and Nastya were killed, demonstrations were held in their memory in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia; and Grozny, Chechnya. Four hundred people gathered at the murder site at noon in Moscow. Agreeing that it wasn't enough of a tribute, people decided to form a march in the evening. After riot police violently thwarted a series of attempts to start the march from various places that had been announced, nothing really got going until after 8 p.m.

Finally, friends and sympathizers of Stas and Nastya took to the streets, blocking traffic and bringing their slain all, around joined this of whom windows of

restaurants along the path. Nearly 50 people were arrested, but it seems that they were all released without charges that same night.

Around 100 people gathered in St. Petersburg for a memorial march. Police tried to stop this one, too, but the marchers managed to make their way to a memorial for victims of "white terror."

In Grozny, it appears that the Russian-backed government sometimes tries to pay lip-service to the rights of the Chechen people. In this case, more than 1,000 people joined a government-sanctioned demonstration to pay tribute to Stas and Nastya.

Curiously, among the throngs was the "Fan Club of Ramzan Kadyrov" (the controversial president of Chechnya and notorious war criminal). People have speculated that the government may be trying to curry favor with a public who appreciates the roles Stas and Nastya have played in defending Chechens against Russian atrocities. Also, oddly enough, Stas' work to defend Chechens was actually supported by Kadyrov, because Stas' bringing these cases to Russian courts upheld the notion that Russia is the rightful power over Chechnya.

"There is no big difference in Russia between radical ecological activism and other social movements," said a Moscow activist in correspondence with the *Earth First! Journal* after the killings. "Most radical ecological activists are involved in many kinds of other issues as well."

The commonalities that bind us as people dedicated to struggling for a better world were present with Stas and Nastya. Already, activists across Russia and surrounding regions are obviously feeling the pain of this loss. May Earth Firsters and our compañer@s around the globe honor those of us who die in these struggles, while reinforcing our "no compromise" approach to defending the Earth and its inhabitants.

That same Moscow activist wrote, "Take care. We will never forget Nastya, Stas and Brad." Let's take the memories and inspirations of everybody we've lost and commit ourselves to doing our best to make them proud.

We've all got a too long a list of fallen friends. This article's for Stas and Nastya.



a Rainbow Keeper flag



Stas (in front of the banner) at the protest camp in Sasovo in July

Photo by Tuuli Hakkinen

Rad Babies

BY LEAH

Bumper stickers that proclaim, "Love your mother, don't become one," and, "Love your mother, don't become a father," proudly displaying the Earth First! logo, have not been printed in years, but are anti-breeders still present in our communities? The Earth First! movement, and radical environmentalists in general, have shown much resistance to breeding in protest of overpopulation and the destructive footprint left by the general public of over-consuming, under-concerned humans. Does the decision to bear a child contradict a life in defense of the wild?

While those opposed to breeding may see the act as selfish, those in activist communities who decide to have a child attempt to counter-balance a society of breeders who do not consider their environmental impacts. The now-defunct Revolutionary Anarchist Mom and Baby League wrote in a 2003 Earth First! Journal article, "Parenting is a part of the revolution, and kids are the next revolutionaries." We see that this is true when we look at the sea of young people growing their radical roots deep into the movement. At first, this can happen by default, but it is quite often followed by the youth making their own choices to dig in, do-it-themselves, join campaigns and rise up to protect the Earth—our ever-nurturing mother.

The following accounts are from a range of radical parents and two rad offspring. Their testimonies portray a multi-generational community that grows together, creating long-lasting defenders of the wild. Rad babies are at times more aware of their surroundings from a very young age. Their impressionable minds often have many teachers from colorful backgrounds. Their perspectives are rare, compared to the outlooks of those of us who have had to walk long, hard paths to understand how much our lifestyle choices effect our environments.



My Sage Father

BY SEBASTIAN

I received my first exposure to radical ideas through my dad. However, for the majority of my youth, I did not grow up in a revolutionary "community." I spent the most impressionable chunk of my life in the clutches of brainwashing history lessons and statist rules, while my dad was influencing me in ways that were definitely of a counter culture.

I have all of these scattered memories of sitting with my sister inside the old pirate radio station house in Santa Cruz, California; wandering around the San Francisco Anarchist Book Fair, looking for cool buttons while my sister sewed an Earth First! patch on her sweatshirt (though we were too young to know what Earth First! was); or drinking tea in the most cozy and gorgeous forest squat in the Santa Cruz mountains. I remember being awestruck at the time, thinking, "This is how I want to live!"

Incidentally, these were the same things that my mom had used against my dad during her custody crusade, citing negligence and irresponsibility. Evidently, he was unfit to raise two children due to these experiences, right? The chasm between his world based on liberation and hers based on rules seemed fairly obvious at the time.

My dad was constantly taking my sister and I exploring, and I was deeply affected by his constant curiosity and fascination toward adventure—ah, all of the caves that he took me to, clambering over jagged rocks, the whole place just dripping with moisture. My dad was a seasoned hobo and created one of the first public websites on recreational train hopping in the US. In those days of exploring together, I exuded his love for the world and longed for the times when he would take me to so many beautiful, mysterious places.

I remember when I ran away from my mom's house and began living full-time with my dad and his partner. I was about 15 years old. They immediately sat down with me—together, we had a conversation about how we wanted to relate to each other. On a list, we put down certain considerations that would promote trust, respect and mutual support. I felt like I was finally being treated like the adult I thought I was.

I was 11 years old when the US began to deploy troops into Afghanistan, and I had heard all of these stories about the massive protests that had sprung up in the San Francisco Bay Area from firsthand accounts from my dad and some of his friends. It all seemed quite exciting! Two years later, once the occupation in Iraq was under way, I was getting minimally involved in an anti-war, youth coalition, of which some of its members had helped to organize a mass march in the Bay Area and were expecting thousands to show. I went, of course—my first protest—and was terribly upset by the carefully maintained and police-supervised route. The march came to a close at a park with vomit-inducing, white, liberal, reformist speakers. When I expressed my deep frustrations with the weakness of the demonstration, my new "friends" urged me to be more positive and think about planning the next march. I never again went to such a silly and ineffectual protest. Though I didn't have the tools to understand what it was that had irked me, it was my first step towards understanding why direct action is the only capable and worthwhile tactic for these campaigns.

These days, I work closely with my dad, and we've worked really fucking hard for the last few years to reshape our relationship to exactly what we need it to be—for both of us. Our friends are almost all mutual friends. We talk openly about his open relationship. (His longtime partner is one of my dearest friends.) We conspire together and share stories, which is honestly the best part of any of this for me: that my elder, my sage father, is someone that I make time to hang out with and brainstorm ideas for rending the neo-fascists limb from limb.

Support Radical Families

BY CHRISTA

I didn't take the decision to become a mother lightly. I thought of the implications for the world and whether it was fair to bring a child into this chaotic mess. I made my choice consciously.

I have experienced both what it is like to be a single mother in the radical community, and what it is like to be a wife of a political prisoner and a mother to children raised with their daddy in and out of prison. From these experiences, I will share my opinions on why it is important to support radical families, despite your view of breeding.

I believe we should provide mutual aid to those who need it, and our means must reflect our ends. If we marginalize radical families, they will seek support somewhere else. Mainstream society is ready and willing to fit them back into consumer culture.

Our lack of multi-generational bonds lends to short-sightedness in our actions. Without elders to advise us and children to challenge our core beliefs, we lose wisdom on both ends.

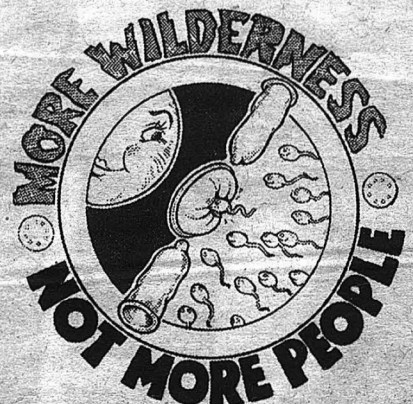
The education of children—by this, I do not mean school, but more importantly, the experience a child has—shapes their realities and perceptions. How can we isolate radical moms and children, and expect that these folks will feel that alternative communities offer viable and supportive futures?

Historically, almost every revolutionary or evolutionary social movement has been dependant on radical families. From the Russian to the Mexican revolutions, it is evident that when families embrace the reality that change is necessary, their children become the vehicles of change.

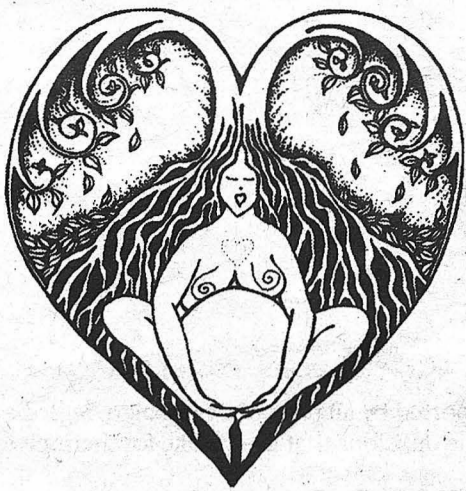
We must ask profound questions, like what do we value for our community? How do we implement this? Most importantly, what do we want our future community to be like?

Here are a few suggestions of how you can support a rad family:

- 1) Make an effort to get rad moms and dads to meetings and events; their voices should be heard!
- 2) Share the dumpstered wealth; the extra food always helps to feed hungry mouths!
- 3) Baby-sit; rad moms and dads need time away from kids to evaluate parenting, attend meetings and cut loose a little (OK, a lot)!
- 4) Lastly, get to know the kid outside of the parents; you may find you like this person for their great imagination and skills!



Anti-breeder propaganda



art courtesy Glennie Kindred

The Choice

BY ERIKA

When I found out I was pregnant, it wasn't an accident.

I was in California, and visited a walk-in clinic to confirm my pregnancy. They supplied me with MediCal forms, WIC information and a bottle of prenatal vitamins. By the time I was three months pregnant, we hitchhiked through Arizona and Texas. Eventually, someone bought us a bus ticket to New Orleans. There, we participated in a homeless protest across the street from city hall and stayed in a tent for the next month.

Around Christmas, a charity put all eligible homeless folks up in a hotel, while assisting us to get jobs and homes. After another month, the hotel walls were closing in on us. When I was told it could be another month, I asked them to help us get to Chicago, my home base, before I was six months in.

In my experience, bigger cities offer free or, at the very least, sliding-scale clinics. Chicago has a few really good ones. So, along with being closer to my friends, it was my top reason for going there. I got hooked up with Medicaid and found an awesome clinic with midwives. Medicaid would pay for my water birth, and that made me excited. I was originally planning an unassisted home birth, but being my first pregnancy, I didn't know what to expect. I chose a water birth in a hospital, unaided by narcotics or drugs of any kind.

The whole of my pregnancy went by without any problems, and so did the birth.

My daughter, Chevali, is now eight months old, and I've been raising her in a collective house. People always comment on how calm and happy she is. I really feel it's in the best interest of children to be surrounded by loving people in all kinds of situations. I've seen the children who only see Mommy, Daddy and the nanny, and they tend to be a bit tenser and more clingy. This can cause behaviors like "reactive attachment disorder," which affects children as they get older.

I believe in attachment parenting. We co-sleep; I wear her in a sling, or wrap, and generally pay close attention to her wants and needs. I was hoping our radical community would embrace her, and so far, everyone seems OK with the situation. Sometimes, I get resistance at parties for bringing a baby, but I feel that I am still me and shouldn't have to suffer socially. I handle her myself, and the people who chose to be inebriated can do so, but they will not be able to hold her.

Chevali and I are a pair, and resistance to parents is what keeps us from staying in the community. So, if you wonder why you don't ever see your friends who have kids, perhaps you should simply invite them to get together. It's hard to feel welcome when you assume that no one wants the baby around. It's important not to lose people. We all make decisions in life. While I do not think that everyone should procreate, I chose to—and I support the choice either way.

Unless Someone Like You Cares

BY MIKE ROBE

It seems to me that the Earth and animal liberation movements are excellent at critique and good at defense. They are lousy at offense, mostly because they lack any coherent vision of a liberated future and how to get there. In my opinion, issues raised in the *Earth First! Journal*, including the question, "To breed or not to breed?" should be approached in terms of a radical program for ecological and social transformation.

In that spirit, I would acknowledge that our anti-breeder friends have logic on their side. What the world does not need now is more humans, especially of the "first world" variety—with our mass-consumption and corresponding Earth and animal devastation.

Still, there is nothing closer to life for any species than the care inherent in bearing and raising offspring. That parenting and family life has become so distorted in the Euro-colonial world is another reflection of this fucked up culture, not an indictment of reproduction itself. Additionally, the idea of an absolute ban on reproducing reinforces the image of self-righteousness, exclusivity and, frankly, the implicit green fascism that is so detrimental to this movement. However, the flip side—a "right" to reproduce as much as one wants—is no better, reflecting the image of white, middle-class egoism and teenage anarchy that is probably more detrimental to this movement.

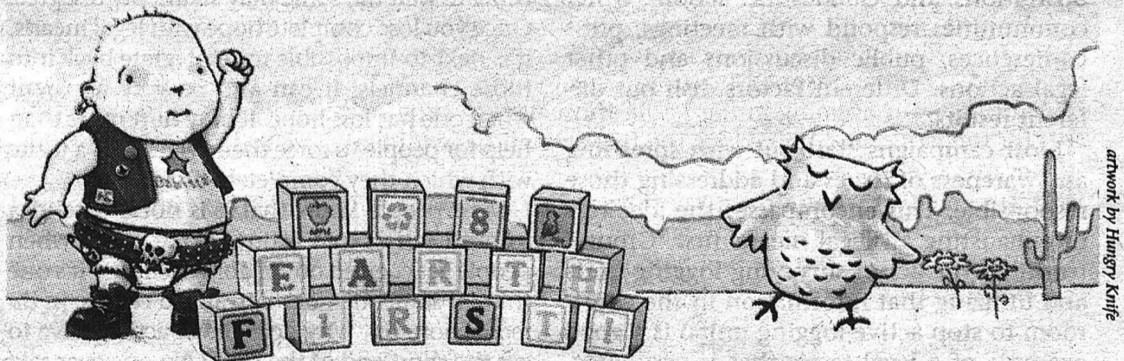
Let's assume that the world we envision reverses the current situation. Cities and farmlands supporting them will be carefully cordoned off in the way wilderness areas and national parks are today. By contrast, wildlands will shoot off in every direction, filling every remaining nook and cranny. In either the city, with its "civilized" hordes, or the wilds, with its "primitive" masses, humans will have to limit reproduction, or we would move inevitably back toward the current morass.

What I can say for certain is this: Being an Earth Firster, being for the liberation of the Earth and animals from oppressive, illegitimate hierarchies and exploitation, being for the liberation of all human beings from the same oppression and exploitation should be a prerequisite for being a parent, or a friend to a parent or a child. I don't want to say a "good parent" or "good friend," because being a parent or friend means caring and thus, being good. My partner and I have experienced this authentic care first-hand from people in this movement on countless occasions. No amount of money could ever measure how much richer we are for it. Nobody's perfect, and you can kill a movement demanding perfection. Still, there is a world of difference between a person of conscience working towards perfection and a person who doesn't give a fuck.

A close friend of mine who is a warrior in this movement has the word, "unless," tattooed on his body. I asked him why, and he referred me to Dr. Seuss' book, *The Lorax*, which somehow, I had never read. "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not," the book reads. If this caring for others—by gender, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation or species—is not there, then nothing else really matters.

Much of great worth has been written in these pages about ridding this movement of racism, sexism, classism and homophobia. (Not enough has been written, in my view, about speciesism, as some in this movement continue to carry on the master-race mentality of anthropocentrism.) I would add what might be called "parentism" to the list of "isms" comprising illegitimate hierarchies. To be a real parent means to care a whole awful lot—enough to embrace an infant as a unique center of life, worth no more and no less than a Doug fir, a mink, or your closest friend who was snatched out by a fuck-up and is now a political prisoner. The difference is that you love your child more than anything and as much as life itself. However, even with all of that love, the illegitimate hierarchy of oppressor (parent) and oppressed (child) can easily sneak in. In our inherently authoritarian culture, we internalize "parentism" just as we do the other "isms." We assume that because one is a parent, s/he is entitled to control the child.

What if the authoritarian switch flips "on" and stays there? It would be another power-tripping parent, another ego-trip, another nail in the coffin of anarchism and biocentrism. Life is at the center. An ethic of respect for life in all of its forms is the best practice for being a parent and avoiding "parentism." Whether you are a breeder or not, please care a whole awful lot.



artwork by Hungry Knife

Grown Up?

BY ALOE

I want to be a reader, a writer, a dancer or a prancer. My wish is to simply live and to enjoy every second of it. I want to grow old in Hawaii or to explore the Himalayas; to live in the forests and dance around an open fire; to howl like coyotes, letting tears role down my cheeks and other peoples' laughter only making us howl louder.

I want to fly over the world like a bird of prey, experiencing everyone's life all at once—like rush hour on a highway. I want to experience everything; I want to know all, but that is not possible. Still, who said I can't fill my mind to the extreme?

What is it to feed everyone my words, to let them taste my words, to let them taste what I feel grown up? I'm going to be a child forever, no matter how hard people try to change me or the way I am. I will slip away from their clutches as if into an ocean.

Growing old, what does that really mean? I'm a child. No, I'm a bird of prey ready to take flight.

After 15 years of cursing the thought of having a child, Leah now dreams of raising an Earth-defending rad baby and appreciates activist parents who stay in the movement! Send submissions for a rad babies zine to stingingnettle@earthfirstjournal.org.

Direct Action?

BY MAGDALINIOUS

Have you ever stopped to enjoy the sight of wild grasses piercing through the concrete? It's a truly beautiful process for the eyes to behold. It has always reminded me of people rioting feverishly—or the sight of a treesit platform, sitting freshly rigged against the sunrise.

The same question always burns in the back of my mind. Where does this wild energy come from—the energy for seeds to overtake blacktop, the spirit to penetrate the very force that dominates us with the thrust of a brick or the strike of a match?

Direct action is employed in numerous ways. It takes the form of an array of tactics. Assorted targets are chosen. Varying degrees of damage are inflicted.

Back in the 1980s, Earth First! was more of a group that pushed the boundaries of campaigns. The outlandishness of EF! actions made more mainstream groups look "reasonable." While "no compromise" is still the only way some of us can stand to live, it is not necessarily a shared way of thinking for the masses—or even for all of our friends. However, more than 20 years later, the most outrageous of actions can still inspire comrades and cripple enemies.

The Role of Action in Campaigns

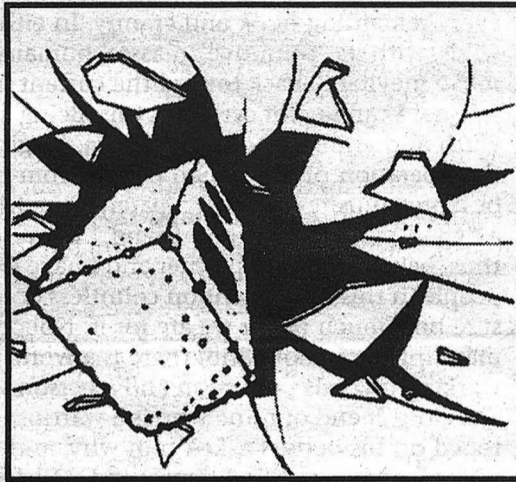
Within campaigns, there are numerous ways to plug in. It is important that we place no hierarchy on *any* roles. This will benefit those filling all roles equally. No matter if the roles are media, legal, research or action, support and appreciation needs to be equal. Taking these precautions will help everyone feel validated—especially within the decision making process of actions.

When issues arise, local or extended community members chose methods of response to take. The urgency of the issue, and the communities prior exposure to tactics and actions often play into how these decisions are made. Some environments are prime for instantaneous riots, blockades, demonstrations and clandestine action. Other communities respond with meetings, press conferences, public discussions and other legal actions. Different factors dish out different results.

Most campaigns start out with spreading an awareness of issues and addressing those responsible. This encompasses the ideology of exhausting all legal means first. Ground truthing (the act of surveying logging units and utilizing that information in the courtroom to stop active logging units) is a good example of a legal tactic that is very effective. It provides an opportunity to witness destruction first hand, while acquiring necessary information to help stop some logging.

However, stopping *some* logging is where the problem resides.

Looking at the relationship between the two tactics of ground truthing and treesitting we see how legal and illegal action can support each other. Information from ground truthing can help defeat logging in the courts. Treesitting can help create more immediate public awareness. Through manipulating the media and launching our own



public awareness campaigns, our actions can create a space for our messages to be heard. Various tactics of liberation movements fit into this equation in their own unique way. Destroying targets can help get a message across, while neutralizing business as usual.

Time For Action?

Once frustrations with legal means hit their peak, direct action is where it's at! When the introduction of direct action has a clear time origin, it is easier to map out why and when it was introduced. A steady rise in escalation is easier for the public to understand. More importantly, though, it helps people new to direct action understand why that path was chosen. While direct action definitely helps alleviate the symptoms of destructive habits, it almost never stops those habits altogether.

Though one can look at escalation as something to wait for, some may staunchly disagree. Once you lose complete hope with legal means, it is next-to-impossible to reintegrate back into those channels. It can also be very apparent when one has lost hope. It may hurt more than help for people to force themselves into a tactic with which they completely disagree.

Most people know that it is not a wise idea to push others into action. What about when people get coerced out of doing actions? It's one thing if someone doesn't want to engage in direct action, but why does direct action have to get the short end of the stick? No one ever said we have to all agree on the same thing all of the time. It is incredibly important to maintain an atmosphere where a diversity of tactics is

supported by all parts of a campaign, regardless of the decisions that they make for themselves.

Learning By Example

Looking closer, the very-publicized 1996-1998 campaign against Vail Inc., the largest ski company in North America at the time, provides lots of insight. It is remembered most commonly by the emotionally charging communiqué, "On Behalf of the Lynx," and the mind-numbing economic damage of \$12-24 million inflicted on the ski company, but many days of intense direct action preceded the famous Earth Liberation Front (ELF) and Animal Liberation Front (ALF) arson of Vail. After the US Forest Service approved the construction of a giant ski lodge in 1996, Vail was quickly met with appeals from local environmental groups. Still, after a federal court's final ruling in 1998, the Sierra Club gave up on the lynx. Not so easily defeated, the ALF and ELF burnt down three buildings and four ski lifts.

Nearly eight months after the arson, Vail decided to start cutting down trees. They were met by a 30-foot tripod right off the bat. For five days, loggers were challenged by an assortment of lockdowns, from lockboxes and U-locks to batmobiles. Activists also erected an 80-foot treesit. Those looking to analyze the flow of direct action should take note of the variety of tactics used against Vail.

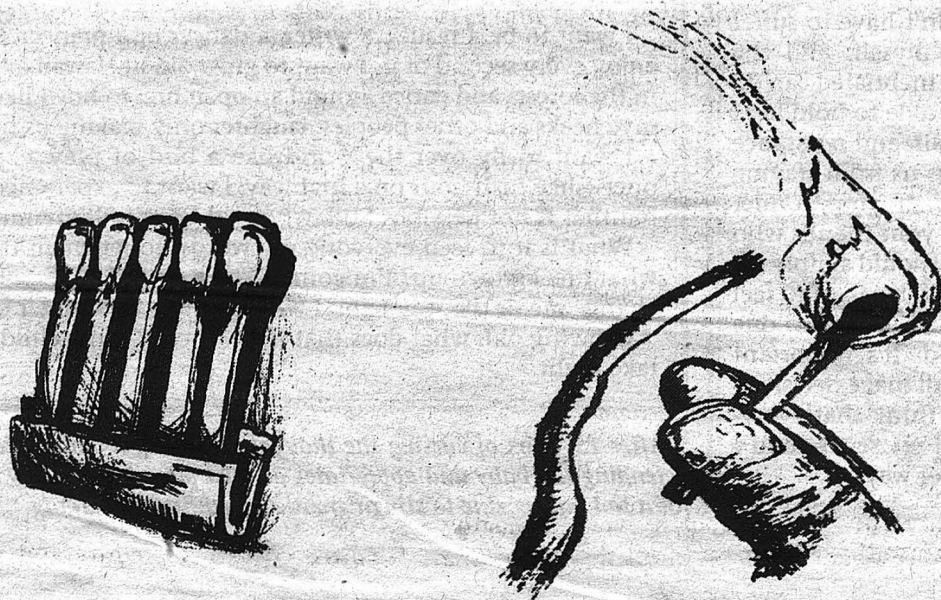
Many opposed the choice of arson as a tactic by the ELF against Vail. Nonetheless, it seemed to blaze the trail for direct action against the resort. At the time, the only other resistance was paper pushing. It is interesting to think how support would have played out if the actions were blockades and treesits instead of arson.

Increased amounts of action can produce an array of results. For the people involved in them, they can be drastically life changing. For the community, they can be bonding or bond-breaking. Actions have endless potential to shift thought and inspiration within communities at large.

Hesitations and reservations can sometimes dominate others' desires. Dreaming up wild and elaborate actions or taking freedom-risking actions is not easy. To always have to reach consensus in what actions should take place can be limiting and disempowering.

As we look for strategies on dealing with the destruction of the Earth, fighting in solidarity with the animals or confronting oppression, let's not limit ourselves—or others. You could actually be stifling an entire community or movement. We all have our own place in things, so don't be invasive. If people wanna fuck shit up, let 'em!

Magdalinius enjoys soft black hoodies, spray paint, running through the night, confronting oppression at it's doorstep, and supporting herself and friends.



Security Resources

BY SECURITY CONSCIENCE

Right now, we are in the middle of an escalated attack against our movement. Since the the Green Scare began in 2005, we've witnessed many of our friends stolen from us by the state. The unfortunate truth is also that some of our friends have switched sides and become snitches.

In an attempt to keep everyone safe and strong, we want to propose a list of security-related resources. This list is preceded by a brief excerpt from the zine, *Security Culture: a Handbook for Activists*, which can be found online at chukshonef.wordpress.com/security-culture. We hope that these resources help us all stay on the outside, capable of enacting healthy sabotage, and supporting our friends and comrades stuck within the state's clutches.

So, What is Security Culture?

Security culture is where people know their rights and, most importantly, assert them. Those who belong to a security culture also know what behavior compromises security and are quick to educate those people who, out of ignorance, forgetfulness or personal weakness, partake in insecure behavior. This security consciousness becomes a culture when the group as a whole makes security violations socially unacceptable within it.

What Not to Say

To begin with, there are certain things that are inappropriate to discuss. These things include your involvement or someone else's involvement with an underground group, someone else's desire to get involved with such a group, asking others if they are a member of an underground group, your participation or someone else's participation in any action that is illegal, someone else's advocacy for such actions, or your plans or someone else's plans for a future action.

Essentially, it is bad practice to speak about a specific individual's involvement (past, present or future) with illegal activities. This is an unacceptable topic of discussion, regardless of whether it is based on rumor, speculation or personal knowledge. Please note that this is not to say that it is inadvisable to speak about direct action in general terms. It is perfectly legal, secure and desirable that people speak out in support of monkeywrenching and all forms of resistance. The danger lies in linking individual activists to specific actions or groups.

Three Exceptions

There are only three instances where it is acceptable to speak specifically about actions and involvements. The first situation would be if you were planning an action with other members of your small group (your "cell" or "affinity group"). However,

you should never discuss these things over the Internet (including email) or telephone phone, through the mail, or in an activist's home or car, as these places and forms of communication are frequently monitored. The only people who should know of this discussion would be those who are actively participating in the action. Anyone who is not involved does not need to know and, therefore, should not know.

The second exception occurs after an activist has been arrested and brought to trial. If they are found guilty, the activist can freely speak of the actions for which they were convicted. However, they must never give information that would help the authorities determine who else participated in illegal activities.

The third exception is with anonymous letters and interviews with the media. This must be done very carefully and without compromising security. Advice on secure communication techniques can be found in other publications. These are the only situations when it is appropriate to speak about your own or someone else's involvement or intent to commit illegal direct action.

Security-Violating Behavior

In an attempt to impress others, activists may behave in ways that compromise security. Some people do this frequently; they are habitually gossiping and bragging. Some activists say inappropriate things only when they consume alcohol. Many activists make occasional breaches of security because there was a momentary temptation to say something or hint at something that shouldn't have been said or implied. In most every situation, the desire to be accepted is the root cause. Those people who tend to be the greatest security risks are those activists who have low self-esteem and strongly desire the approval of their peers. Certainly, it is natural to seek friendship and recognition for our efforts, but it is imperative that we keep these selfish desires in check so we do not jeopardize the safety of other activists or ourselves. People who place their desire for friendship over the importance of the cause can do serious damage to our security.

The following are examples of security-violating behaviors:

Lying: To impress others, liars claim to have done illegal actions. Such lies not only compromise the persyn's security—as cops will not take what is said as a lie—but also hinder movement solidarity and trust.

Gossiping: Some weak characters think they can win friends, because they are privy to special information. These gossipers will tell others about who did what action, guess at who they think did what action or spread rumors about who did it. This sort of talk is very damaging. People need to remember that

rumors are all that are needed to instigate a grand jury or other investigation.

Bragging: Some people who partake in illegal direct action might be tempted to brag about it to their friends. This not only jeopardizes the bragger's security, but also that of the other people involved with the action (they may be suspected by association), or the people who they told (they can become accessories after the fact). An activist who brags also sets a horrible example to other activists.

Indirect Bragging: Indirect braggers are people who make a big production about how they want to remain anonymous, avoid protests and stay underground. They might not come out and say that they do illegal direct action, but they make sure everyone within ear-shot knows that they are up to something. They try to be more sophisticated about it by pretending to maintain security. However, if they were serious about security, they would just make up a good excuse as to why they are not as active or why they can't make it to the protest.

To view these resources safely, use www.anonymouse.org, or another internet protocol scrambler or proxy, please!

Other Resources

A one-stop shop for some super-informative links is the American Hunt Saboteurs Association's security culture web page. It can be found at www.huntsab.org/safety.htm. Here is a breakdown of some links from this website.

In "Creating a Culture of Security," the first part talks about living under surveillance. This link delves into how to use counter-surveillance techniques for travel, communications and meetings. In "Preparing for a Raid," there are suggestions about ways to protect information in the case of a search and seizure of one's belongings. This part deals with computer-related information, as well as files and cell phones.

"Without a Trace: A Forensics Manual for You and Me" is an article discussing everything from fingerprints and surveillance to blending in and getting away. There is also a "Surveillance Guide for Understanding Gestapo Interrogation Mindgames." In this part, there are 26 detailed descriptions of varying interrogation methods. It explains how they are used and ways to avoid being trapped by them (like just being silent).

The Hunt Saboteurs webpage also provides a list of computer-security and legal-advice webpages, as well as an excellent "recipe" for security culture by CrimethInc.

Another incredible resource for playing it safe can be found at security.resist.ca. The webpage is broken down into easily digestible sections such as an introduction to security, general security, computer security and



Scumbag



Scumbuster

others. This computer security page is possibly one of the best on the net!

After "What You Need to Know," there are subsections that range from using anonymous e-mail services and surfing the web to employing encryption techniques and maintaining the overall security of your computer. There is even a humorous-yet-serious campaigner's computer maintenance mantra. This is not to be taken lightly. Their "Recommended Reading and Resources page" is a must see. It is packed with highly helpful computer resources.

The Earth Liberation Front Press Office's resource page also contains very useful links. It can be found at www.elfpressoffice.org/resources.html. The following few links may spark your interest.

"If an Agent Knocks" explains everything from the FBI's roles in information gathering to dealing with threatening phone calls and grand juries.

"A Basic Introduction to Security" is a zine on security culture that covers interesting subjects like avoiding memory lane, remaining anonymous while in action and practicing computer security.

"Bugs, Taps and Infiltrators" offers a more in-depth look into the realm of security. This pamphlet depicts how to handle security-breaching topics, such as spying, burglaries, phone and mail trouble, and infiltrators.

"War at Home" illustrates the four main ways operations like the FBI's counter-intelligence programs have been used to break folks down. This resource covers infiltration, psychological warfare from the outside, harassment through the legal system, and extralegal force and violence. Ways to cope with these four topics are also included.

While we can try our damndest to stay on this side of the state's fortresses, it is always important to be realistic and confident that you can handle the repercussions of any action that you are taking in case you do get caught. To help with that, take a look at the *Rolling Thunder* #6 article, "You Are Going to Prison," which can be found at www.crimethinc.com/rt/.



Watch yer' back.

Animal Defense and Earth Defense

Compassionate Bedfellows

BY MIKE JAYNES

After spending the shortest amount of time investigating, it is apparent the Earth and animal advocacy movements are rife with buzzwords. For better or worse, members of both movements are highly skilled in rhetoric. Having published dozens of animal advocacy pieces and having spoken at certain animal rights conferences, several things regarding the animal and Earth advocacy movements have become clear.

I agree with many others who feel the two movements are so closely related that they are, in essence, the same movement. Earth liberation, by its very nature, cannot exclude animal liberation concerns. The truly informed animal advocates understand advocating for animals requires advocating for the Earth. The destruction of old-growth forests by Pacific Lumber, for example, displaces an outrageous amount of species who have the intrinsic right to be in those old forests. Lest we overlook these species, protecting the redwoods intrinsically involves protecting the animals residing within them, and vice versa.

The significant overlap of the Earth and animal advocacy movements is not the only revelation I experienced at the 2008 national Animal Rights conference, in Washington, DC. After months of speaking to rooms full of well-educated white people who are concerned about animals and the Earth, it is shockingly clear that our movement is painfully monochromatic and socioeconomically limited in scope. In my experience, it seems there is a significant and most unfortunate lack of minority involvement with animal and Earth defense. It would be a good and important step for the movement to lessen this racial limitation involved in the liberation of the Earth and its animals. By no means am I declaring the movement racist; I simply think we need to expand our sphere of discussion on how to include a more representative active "membership" in the movement.

All social justice movements involve one set of individuals gaining moral consideration and being included into the sphere of "personhood" by the dominant humans, most always educated, moneyed, straight, Christian white men. These new rights are invariably recognized by the majority once that majority evolves to a more comprehensive circle of compassion and respect. Slaves were emancipated, women's liberation was begun, and now, animals are being rightly recognized as sentient

individuals with certain intrinsic rights. This movement is becoming global, and the United States is the world's hot bed of animal rights activities, as well as Earth liberation outfits. Unfortunately, animal and Earth liberation is often seen as a quasi-rebellious stage of well-educated, middle-class white Americans. Simply because it is too often seen as a prerogative of the well-to-do, young white crowd, animal and Earth liberation are frequently dismissed by members of the powerful status quo.

In academia, I explore ecofeminism and the humanities. Ecofeminism is one of those words with which many people may not be familiar. Ecofeminism, generally, seeks to unite feminism with environmentalism. It seeks connections between the domination of the Earth and nature with the domination of women. More specifically, ecofeminists understand a specific relationship that connects the oppression of women with nature's degradation. Similarities between the domination of nature and sexism are valid to seek, although relatively few people are doing so.

Globalism and corporate expansion, and their unchecked destruction of the resources of the world, are largely seen as primary degraders of the natural environment. It is valid to also examine the patriarchal aspect of globalism and corporate expansion, and to examine the traditionally "male" values behind such expansion. I don't want to go too far down the soapbox road, but for centuries, the masculine model of "success" was that of acquiring land ownership and goods, and through the acquisition of expensive technology, to live further removed from nature. Not too long ago, tanned and darker skin represented a lifestyle void of the privileged luxury of being indoors all of the time. The masculine model moves away from nature and toward anthropocentrism (the belief that humanity is at the core of existence and primary importance is attached to it). The feminine model moves closer to nature and seeks a more biocentric symbiosis with the surrounding Earth.

Ecofeminist writers like Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva explain that the material success of the global north (the developed countries often thought of as "western") subjugates the indigenous people of the south

in a brutal system of oppression. Male-dominated globalism perpetuates the idea that the "third world" poor can one day "catch up" to the developed north if they work hard enough. This, sadly enough, is quite impossible. There are not enough raw materials in the world to manufacture the average amounts of trinkets, gizmos, doo-dads and material items each US citizen owns. Ecofeminism calls for a widespread paradigm shift to understand

the people of the third world are bearing the brunt of the labor, pollution and slavery created by the capitalist expansion of the developed world. Rich white men have traditionally trampled women

and trampled the Earth.

I have been called many things by the readers of my work. Primarily, my animal advocacy writing falls deep within the world of elephants. However, I've been labeled a "vegetarian ecofeminist," an "animal rights activist," a "social provocateur" and other things. Sometimes, these labels are more negative in tone. Disdaining labels of all kinds, I think the one they all boil down to, the all encompassing one I would most proudly wear, is that of "biocentric." Once humanity realizes it is an integral part of a greater system, a symbiotic biosphere, it will adopt a more sustainable and compassionate paradigm mindset, and relationship with the Earth.

I maintain that Earth advocates, especially feminist Earth advocates, need to make the ethical connection between Earth rights, the rights of animals, and the rights of women and all other marginalized people. However, some people fail to acknowledge the interconnectedness of these social movements. An excellent example is the frequent divide between feminism and animal rights. A brief discussion of "vegetarian ecofeminism" is in order.

Vegetarian ecofeminism maintains that it is illogical and ethically inconsistent for a feminist who fights for the oppressed minority and the downtrodden fodder of a patriarchal system to eat meat. In other words: for an abused, marginalized faction of the dominant status quo mindset (woman) to support the wholesale slavery and slaughter of an abused, marginalized faction of the dominant status quo

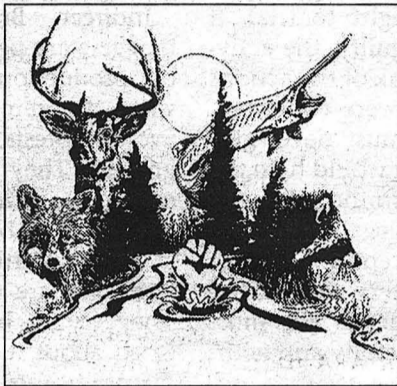
mindset (animal) appears to be flawed. I feel the same when I see feminists lecturing in leather or fur. One could argue this sentiment is vegetarian ecofeminism in a nutshell. Vegetarian ecofeminists, or "vecofeminists" as I call them, also argue that speciesism (bigotry based on species membership) is as equally repugnant as racism, sexism, heterosexism and other forms of bigotry, and it promotes ethical vegetarianism as a compassionate goal.

Carol J. Adams (author of *The Sexual Politics of Meat*, *The Pornography of Meat* and others) is the leading authority on vegetarian ecofeminism and has been publishing her writing on the subject since 1975. I have been honored to have several conversations with her in which she has helped me refine my views and better understand how I can help two groups of individuals that my white male ancestors have been destroying; women and animals.

The question remains of how to expand the Earth advocacy movement to include more minorities. It seems an odd question, since some of the most brilliant thinkers and activists are indeed minorities. Of course, most of the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) activities are carried out by women. As told to me in confidence by an active direct action animal liberator, "as far as the ALF goes, most often, the man behind the mask is really a woman."

Spreading the movement to less affluent communities is also problematic. If one has enough income, one can easily maintain a vegan diet. However, the corporate food subjugation of the poor by the global fast food suppliers makes it very difficult to convince a struggling family of four to care about animals and the Earth. The dollar value menu is cheap, easy, convenient and available. The impoverished majority of the US's citizenry is highly unlikely to adopt a more planet-friendly diet and lifestyle. So, how do we reach these other racial and socioeconomic citizens not yet active in our movement? That is the question the movement should be addressing, as opposed to bickering amongst itself over specialities and minutia, as it often does.

Of course peaceful solutions are the longest-term answer, and with legal pressure being exerted on direct action animal activists due to the passing of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act and the FBI's attitude toward all Earth Liberation Front activities, the times are getting tougher. Therefore, I maintain that the cause of compassion that is Earth liberation should stay non-violent and within the confines of the legal world.



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Confronting Liberalism and Privilege in Our Movements

BY MICHAEL NOVICK

Brandon Darby—a longtime organizer in New Orleans with Common Ground and in Austin, Texas, with various causes—recently confessed to having worked undercover for the FBI. It seems that, at the least, Darby reported to the government since February 2007, but some speculate his complicity goes much further back.

Darby has been discovered to be "Confidential Human Source 1" in the affidavit filed against Bradley Crowder and David McKay ("the Texas 2"), two activists facing charges of possessing Molotov cocktails ("unregistered firearms," according to the government) during the Republican National Convention protests this past Autumn in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. It appears that Darby had taken the activists under his wing and encouraged them toward taking militant actions while he was working for the FBI. Previously, Darby faced numerous complaints of improper sexual conduct while he was an organizer with Common Ground.

The following piece was written by an editor of Turning the Tide, an Anti-Racist Action (ARA) publication, in their January-February 2009 issue.

Long before achieving notoriety as a snitch, Brandon Darby got a lot of media attention and coverage as a "movement star" (check Google Images for Brandon Darby). I'm wondering to what extent he ever got called or checked on his elitism or sexism before he made what he calls the "choice" to be a snitch for the Feds.

The questions we need to start asking ourselves are about the role of liberalism, and white and male supremacy in this kind of deviation. By "liberalism," I mean people in the movement being liberal with each other, "cutting each other slack," seeing problems in others or experiencing problems in ourselves but not confronting them. This is not exclusive to any nationality, class or gender, but in my experience in the so-called "white left," it's related to white and male supremacy, class privilege, elitism, etc. People who'd rather not be held accountable for change in our own individualism, attitudes and practices are unlikely to challenge others constructively about them.

I doubt Darby was a plant in the first place, but instead much more likely someone who flip-flopped and then dug deeper

into a state-mole role. History is replete with people who moved right from the left, naming names and justifying it, becoming staunch reactionaries in the process. This is not unheard of among black, Mexicano, native, Asian and Puerto Rican radicals (all of whose movements have suffered from infiltration and turncoats). Unfortunately, it's widespread in the white left, going back to the US Communist Party and Trotskyists, but also in the "new left" (Students for a Democratic Society et al), and more recently has plagued the militant environmental movement. The whole Green Scare phenomenon has been chock full of people ratting each other out, to the point where those who stood strong almost seemed to be the exceptions in some cases.

Why are we only now hearing about women "fleeing" Common Ground because Darby was a sexual predator? To the extent ARA people were involved in Texas or Louisiana, we need to ask ourselves why we weren't more on top of such a dynamic, why we weren't applying or expressing some of the lessons of ARA's own struggles with sexual predation in other related arenas of the movement. In New Zealand, an informant also had multiple sexual relationships with movement women, and engaged in other suspicious behavior, but people didn't feel enough trust in their own instincts until he was exposed. This is not to encourage a witch-hunt of accusations that so-and-so is an agent, but an atmosphere in which we struggle with ourselves and each other about elitism, privilege, and white and male supremacy—an atmosphere that is less conducive to infiltration or treason.

Self-criticism is vital. From long and sometimes bitter experiences in radical and would-be revolutionary movements, it's clear that all of us are in struggle at all times with aspects of ourselves that pull us down and back toward complicity and compliance with the system. It's not about one or two deceitful bad apples, who in their secret hearts are willing to betray their ideals, their friends, whole movements. Revolutionaries develop out of the social, emotional and psychological makeup of people created in a dog-eat-dog, me-first system that infiltrates all of our psyches. The class struggle goes on not only between classes, but also within oppressed



and exploited classes, and within individuals in those classes.

The inducements and seductions of the system, the affinities we feel for the system, the attractions of male bonding, white-skin privilege, identification with the oppressor, neo-colonialism, elitism and careerism are not only bombarding us 24-7, but they live inside us consciously and unconsciously. Unless we sustain and persevere in pretty open struggle and acknowledgment of them, they are going to win out. There were literally millions of people in the '60s who spent time street fighting, engaging in various illegal forms of protest, and certainly tens—if not hundreds—of thousands who styled themselves as revolutionaries. They did not all become snitches, but far too many made their separate peace, found a niche at a non-profit or surrendered in some way to the Empire.

The occasional glaring snitch or traitor like Darby obviously does a lot of damage. However, the larger substrate of "liberalism" that allows people en masse to backslide and sell out is more dangerous, and is the context in which the Darbys operate.

To contact Turning the Tide, write antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com; POB 1055, Culver City, CA 90232. A free sample copy is available upon request.

Education is the key. If I did not believe that, I would immediately resign from my university and go live in a tree.

Consider the words of the former ALF political prisoner, Gary Yourofsky. When asked what he thought the next step should be for the ALF supporters' community and the ALF in general to develop into a serious political front for animals, Yourofsky stated, "First off, education is always the most effective form of activism. With this being said, opening a cage and liberating an animal from a concentration camp is just as important and effective, except less animals—in the long run—become liberated. Each person eats an average of 3,000 land animals throughout their lifetime. When you lecture in a class of 25, 50, 100 or even 450 students, five or 10

or 50 or more people decide to go veg. Multiply the number of new vegetarians/vegans and the animals they will no longer eat, and you can see how no liberation can equal that. When you give 95 lectures in colleges for 6,000 students like I did in the Fall semester of 2003, around 1,000 new vegetarians/vegans were born. Without education there can be no liberation. Yet, without liberation there can be no education."

As for the current American Earth defense situation, the Orwellian rhetoric is in full gear. Meat industry insiders will often infiltrate animal rights organizations, conferences and presentations as agent provocateurs. In fact, as I previously mentioned, I am no elephant expert, but I am an avid elephant advocate who writes and researches on circus'

treatment of endangered African and Asian elephants in American captivity. Apparently, I've made some sort of short list with a certain very large circus and was even told there were agents from this particular circus at my appearance in the animal rights conference in Washington DC, this past Summer. I can only assume this is a rumor. However, with the current attention the world is placing on captive and performing elephants, perhaps it is not.

Regardless, the Earth and animal defense movement is moving from a traditionally fringe position into a mainstream focus in American society. Because of this, we are all under scrutiny from a public at large that wrongly assumes that we want to harm humans to save animals, and that we care more about trees than we do about

unborn human infants. They are watching and waiting for us to act like the monomaniacal, uneducated "terrorists" that the mainstream press and dominant mindset makes us out to be. Our education and charisma can help soften this public perception and, in the end, save the world.

Mike Jaynes is an animal advocacy writer specializing in elephants. Also deeply concerned about all animals and the few remaining wild places in the world, he teaches ecofeminism, humanities, and English at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. His book in progress, *Elephants Among Us*, focuses on the inherent wildness in humanity, and the plight of the 600 or so captive and performing elephants in American circuses, zoos, magic acts, theme parks, and else where. It will be finished in early 2010.

Updates

Preliminary License for Brazilian Dam Pulled

The Brazilian environmental protection agency, Ibama, granted a preliminary construction license for the Jirau Dam, located on the Amazon's main tributary, the Madeira River. Ten days later, a federal court judge suspended it. The judge stated that granting a preliminary license is prohibited under Brazilian law. This decision ceased construction until a final license can be issued by Ibama.

This current attempt by Brazil to pass an illegitimate license for the proposed 3,300 megawatt project is one among many. Numerous lawsuits are swimming their way through Brazilian courts. A petition for an injunction was also filed by the Brazilian Forum of Nongovernmental Organizations and Social Movements for the Environment and Development. This petition called for the revocation of the shady preliminary license, as well.

Ibama's decision was made without any additional environmental impact assessments. The proposed Madeira dams have been drawing widespread resistance because of the stress they would place onto the local ecosystem. The dams would block the transport of sediment and interfere with fish populations' ability to travel freely. Indigenous people would take the brunt of the dam (humyn-wise) through the flooding and displacement of their homes.

Black Mesa Project Passes

December 22 marked a grim day for the people of Black Mesa, with the passing of the Black Mesa project.

A Hopi and Navajo delegation traveled to Denver, Colorado, before the announcement was made in an attempt to delay the decision that the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) would be making. The 35 tribal members met inside OSM's Denver headquarters to talk shop face-to-face. As many as 60 local supporters joined the remainder of the Navajo and Hopi folks outside in a supportive rally. A 10-by-16-foot banner, read "Navajo and Hopi Say No Coal Mining!" OSM's phone and fax lines were also tied up with messages of support for Black Mesa residents, thanks to solidarity calls from across the country.

Some of the detrimental impacts of the Black Mesa project are: establishing permanent mining rights until the coal runs out, or until at least 2026; substantially accelerating global climate change disruption and causing an ecological meltdown; destroying thousands of acres of pristine canyon lands, causing animal and plant ecology, and cultural sites to vanish; increasing the detona-

tion of coal on a daily basis, affecting air quality, the health of miners, local residents and their livestock despite the already-scarce water tables and regional aquifers that are essential to residential survival; and uprooting and relocating families from their ancestral homelands due to coal mining expansion.

For further information on resistance to the Black Mesa project, visit www.blackmeais.org

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project Swamped and Stalling

Nine years ago, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) was passed by Congress. To this day, it has not evolved passed being simply words on a piece of paper. None of the 60 proposals have come to fruition.

The Florida government has repeatedly put forth funding, but the federal government has yet to move forward with the project. Apparently, restoring the Everglades has not been a priority of either George Bush or his brother, Jeb, the former Governor of Florida.

It took seven years after the bill's approval for Congress to belatedly pass legislation authorizing three projects. The Indian River Lagoon has been the only project to move forward at all. The project will lead to the removal of multiple canals and roads to restore water flow.

The Everglades are the only subtropical wilderness of this kind remaining in the US. There are 68 threatened or endangered species that find refuge within the Everglades. If CERP were to go into full effect, it's implications would reach far past Florida.

A critical flaw in the progress of this project is the approach of funding for single projects within it. The success of the entire project depends on all of it going into effect together. Funding has been a tremendous hurdle for CERP. The full cost of the project stands at a towering \$10-12 billion. Beginning projects sooner, rather than later, would help cut cost increases.



Shorts

RNC 8 Charges Lessened

Attorneys representing eight Republican National Convention Welcoming Committee organizers that have felony charges (RNC 8) received encouraging news on December 13. The lawyers received a letter from the Ramsey County attorney's office in Minnesota, amending the complaint against them. The new complaint reportedly lists the charges as follows:

Count 1: conspiracy to riot in the second degree in furtherance of terrorism (the original charge)

Count 2: conspiracy to riot in the second degree (without terrorism enhancement)

Count 3: conspiracy to damage property in furtherance of terrorism

Count 4: conspiracy to damage property (without terrorism enhancement)

Many believe that this decision was influenced partially by the call-in day of action that happened the previous week.

Oregon LNG Opponents to Challenge FERC Decision in the Courts

After staging a massive rally against liquefied natural gas (LNG) in January, opponents of the Bradwood LNG terminal vowed to challenge Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) in federal court after the commission rejected their request for reconsideration of the terminal's approval. Without discussion, the five-member commission dismissed challenges from the states of Oregon and Washington, as well as the Columbia River Treaty Tribes and the Columbia Riverkeeper.

Dan Serres, a Columbia Riverkeeper, highlighted the importance of the Oregon government's role in the wake of FERC's decision.

"FERC approved this project over the objections of Governor Kulongoski without evaluating whether we need or can afford LNG," said Serres. "Oregon can take this problem into its own hands with a new bill announced in Salem, Oregon, this week. The bill would require a needs analysis before giving LNG companies state land or water rights. We shouldn't allow the Bradwood project to condemn land, harm salmon and increase our greenhouse gas emissions when there is clearly no need for the project in Oregon."

George Exum, a marine engineer and chair of Wahkiakum Friends of the River, lives across the Columbia River from Bradwood and was disgusted by FERC's decision.

"The decision is absurd," he said "FERC doesn't even have completed studies or designs to evaluate the impacts on endangered salmon. We know that Bradwood LNG will kill salmon, and we are relying on the states of Oregon and Washington to protect the residents of Wahkiakum County and the Columbia River from this destructive project."

- On January 18, a US district court judge ruled to block the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from leasing 110,000 acres of Utah wilderness. This ruling prohibits the BLM from issuing oil and gas permits on Utah wildlands until the lawsuit is resolved sometime later this year.

- In Germany, upper-class cars are being targeted in the new year. Within the last year, the police registered 87 politically motivated arson attacks, 67 of which have been on cars.

- Norwegian philosopher, writer and mountaineer Arne Naess has died. Naess is best known for launching the concept of "deep ecology," promoting, among other things, the idea that Earth as a planet has as much rights as its inhabitants to survive and flourish. He was 96 years old.

- The Environmental Protection Agency is now reconsidering whether to limit the amount of toxic rocket fuel allowed in our drinking water.

- The drivers of the Industrial Workers of the World-affiliated United Truckers Cooperative held a four-hour work stoppage on December 8 outside of Weyerhaeuser Mills in Plymouth and Vanceboro, North Carolina. They demanded better living conditions and wages.

- In an alarming, yet little noticed series of recent studies, scientists have determined that Canada's 1.2 million square miles of forests have become so stressed from the damage caused by global warming, insect infestations and persistent fires that they have crossed an ominous line and now pump out more carbon dioxide than they take in—according to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

- Norwegian communities and conservationists launched a campaign to ban oil exploration and development from parts of their Arctic coast, linking World Wildlife Federation-supported campaigns already underway in Alaska and Russia to protect vulnerable fisheries and communities.

- Essentially acting as super-predators, humans are forcing changes to the body size and reproductive abilities of some species 300 percent faster than they would naturally occur.

- During the week of October 21, a swarm of 1,000 moon jellyfish clogged the water intake system of two different reactors near San Luis Obispo, California. The unit two reactor was completely shut off, and unit one's power was reduced for three days.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous

The Peaks

Thunderous bellows climb from her inner chambers, playing harmonic rhythms for a synchronous dance in which the towers of ominous clouds spin lightning cracks across the sky like shock waves.

Here, creation begins with electric thrusts, just a shadow of the lava and fire she breathed so many eons ago.

Eternity echoes midnight moon sets, sun rises, snowflakes flutter, moon rises, sun sets.

Powerful beyond measure, she stands sentinel like a lighthouse in the distance guiding her warriors back home from the lands they have traveled to.

Each and everyone protected by her massive presence, encouraged by her constancy, awed by her radiance,

Always reassured that when she is done with her private affairs conducted behind a veil of dense grey clouds, she will reveal herself to us once more in even greater splendor and luminescence than before.

Katchina spirits call her name, pound their bare feet in the dust of her wake, bear her tears in leather buckets of water, bow their heads in prayer as they attempt to put into words and motions and song how important she is to everyone she protects.

Stars crowd around her head and she beckons to them, come, hear my song, come, join in my dance, come, feel my motionless movement as I march with my sister mountains into your memories and bodies and hearts.

—Left-Handed Hunter Kachina

All This

The frogs don't have to be
Smaller than my fingernail
To be dwarfed by the husky grasshoppers
but they are.

Here where the grasshopper's antennae
Are times longer than its body
Where catfish skulk in puddles
Boardwalks above the rainy season lagoon
Where the frogs are smaller than the insects
Where some of each are still unnamed
by modern man.

Those most modern of men would trade
all this

For oil and cars.

A million miracles of tiny frog
A billion streamers of leaf cutter ants.
All for the monotonous monoxide
Of cars and oil.

Listen: this is an addiction unlike any other
In that you're killing all life on Earth.
This is an addiction like any other
In the way you are sick
And need guidance
To love life again.

You are very ill and need first
To have power wrested from your hands
And if the oil fire in your eyes ever dies
We will welcome you
Into the world we build without cars
A world that starts today
Or your crime is the end of history.

—Jenny McBride

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

Fossil Fuel

Dinosaur Provincial Park, Alberta

A flick of starlight from an unearthed tooth—
As I breathe deep of breeze and sagey night
And stretch beside my car in brief respite
From a long weary road of roaring brutes.

Refineries glow all night on the horizon—
Tar sands evolving into tanks and profit.
I shiver, thinking of the hot green blanket
We're weaving to choke us between here and heaven.

Stars, wind, and sand endure—and grinning skulls
Of million-year-old beasts who know the price
Of oil. Humor abides, too, for I smile
As I drive toward Hope, at every passing diesel's
Rush and clatter of intake and valves—doomed bones
Where ancient lips trumpet extinction tunes.

—Richard Arnold

Lesson For A God

"The first precaution of
intelligent tinkering is
to save the cogs and wheels."

—Aldo Leopold

Starflowers out in thousands on the trail,
badges of northwest spring, with ringing thrush
and robin and the keen fresh beams
that slant to me this early Sunday morning.
I drop to my knees in bright new bracken fern
to ponder the flowers, their five-point petals
on spidery filament, wondering whimsically
what system of invisible beings might
need them for shelter, food, even beauty?
I snip one for the vase above my sink:

Instantly a tiny tremor in my hand,
woods go hushed, the light seems dimmer
as if somebody's sun had just exploded.
I drop it, rise, move on. Much later
the broken peace of forest heals behind me.

—Richard Arnold

Greening Pig Shit

In PR laboratories the corporate alchemists no
longer try to create gold from base metals.
No, they are working to convince us that CAFO
waste lagoons emit pure oxygen instead of methane gas.

Polluting industries are all singing PR lullabies
to put us to sleep and convince us that they are
environmentalists. They coined the oxymoron "clean coal"
and sing that tune on TV commercials.

Pig factory owners are also in on the act.
Local TV spots depict kids playing by a
pristine stream and insinuate it runs through
their farm. The farm wife is shown in the uniform of a girl
scout master.

Oil field debris of old tank batteries and well sites
are converted into pastoral scenes and announce it
is done by the oil and gas industries.
They fail to mention it is a result of a government mandate.
PR greening claims to fight global warming.
The hired alchemists are working on new illusions
to project into our homes.

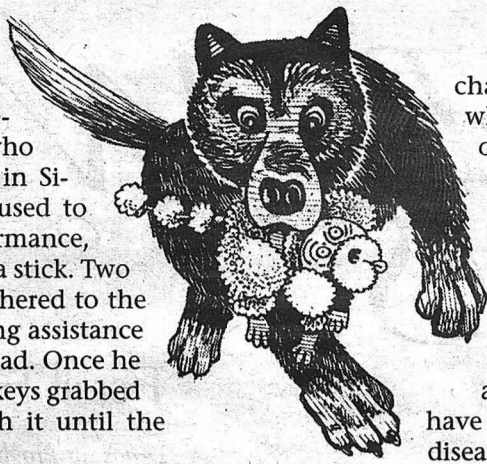
I expect to see a pig factory wife hugging a piglet named Babe
wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with PETA
on the front.

—Sid Bridges

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Wolves and Poodles

A **sometimes-karma-comes-in-the-form-of-a-stick-to-the-head wolf to three monkeys** who fought back against their trainer in Si-zhou, China. After a monkey refused to do stupid tricks in a street performance, the trainer beat that monkey with a stick. Two other monkeys, who were also tethered to the trainer, saw their compadre needing assistance and started tearing at the man's head. Once he dropped the stick, one of the monkeys grabbed it, beating the trainer's head with it until the stick broke.



"They were once wild, and these performances don't always come naturally to them," the trainer told the gathered crowd. "They may have built up some feelings of hatred toward me."

You think, jackass? Hopefully, the trainer's brain was knocked around enough that he'll forget about the idea of beating monkeys into submission for spare change.

A **bringing-the-oil-war-home wolf to youths** in Okuntun, Nigeria, who attacked a pipeline carrying oil out of their bioregion and into the waiting facilities of multinational oil companies. The youths blasted a large hole in the Italian-owned pipeline on January 2, presumably taking inspiration from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), a local group that has successfully made the Niger Delta an inhospitable place for foreign investment. MEND denied having a role in the attack, but said it would like to work with more communities to help enact future attacks. MEND offered training and more powerful explosives to help achieve that goal.

Undoubtedly, the Nigerian youths must have been listening closely when Skid Row sang, "Since I was born, they couldn't hold me down—another misfit kid, another burned-out town." Who knew these

words from a jerk like Sebastian Bach would inspire attacks on pipelines 20 years after he wrote them?

A **so-great-they-can-fight-climate-change-just-by-pooing wolf to fish**. Those "kittens of the sea" are defecating their way to a better world. (According to PETA, people won't eat kittens. So, if you call fish "sea kittens," then people won't want to eat them, either!) Anyway, an article in January's *New Scientist* discusses the recent finding that lumps of calcium carbonate excreted by bony fish play a much larger role than previously thought in maintaining the ocean's delicate and essential pH balance.

Before this discovery, scientists assumed that most marine carbonate was formed from the external skeletons of plankton. As climate

chaos picks up, plankton populations are expected to crash, which would lead to many devastating results. However, lovers of the aquatic world can rest easier in the new knowledge that plankton aren't as important as people have believed them to be. Instead, they can thank the bony sea kitten for being a true hero of the bounding main.

A **Nazi-doctor-wannabe-cutting-lives-short-because-they're-evil poodle to a team of Australian researchers** who are experimenting with ways to kill mosquitoes earlier than nature would otherwise have it. Concerned about the spread of malaria and dengue fever, these scientists have found that older mosquitoes are more likely to transmit these diseases. So, mosquitoes are being genetically engineered to carry a fruit fly parasite that will cut their lives in half, reducing the chances that they'll spread diseases to humans. The scientists are hoping infected parents will pass this parasite to their children.

Here's hoping that Opposite Day is around the corner—where healthy children are born and all of the scientists just increased their chances of getting malaria and dengue fever.

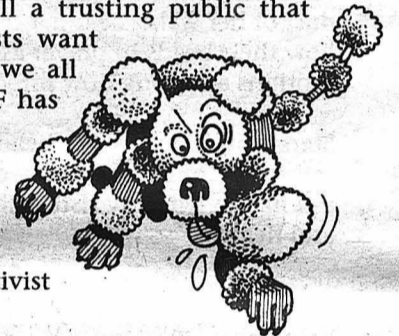
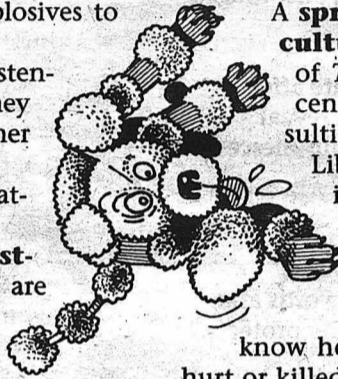
An **"Earth-First!-We'll-[mine]-the-other-planets-later!"-taking-seriously poodle to the Indian space exploration program**. India recently launched a spacecraft to help determine where on the moon would be good for uranium mining.

There are no plans for anyone to actually step on the moon during this voyage, which is good news—because the sooner they get Caterpillars and backhoes up there, the sooner we're going to have to figure out how to do lockdowns in a space suit! And we think court costs are bad now...

A **spreading-lies-and-rumors-to-help-keep-a-death-culture-in-power poodle to Nicholas Evans**, author of *The Horse Whisperer*. In his new book, *The Divide*, a central character is a "fugitive wanted for murder resulting from a 'fire-bombing' perpetrated by the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), 'an eco-terrorism group.'" This is why the feds can justify spending so much money prosecuting environmental activists—because scumbags like this tell a trusting public that environmental activists want them dead. Of course, we all

know how many people the ELF has hurt or killed: zero!

Robert Redford directed and starred in the movie version of *The Horse Whisperer*. If he gets involved in another Nicholas Evans project, I say we revoke his Rich Liberal Pseudo-Activist Club membership card.



Working with the Earth to Use Water Wisely

BY GLEO WOELFLE-ERSKINE

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volume 2, by Brad Lancaster, RainSource Press 2008.

To most people, rainwater harvesting evokes a tank and a complex web of pipes and pumps. In *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volume 2*, Brad Lancaster flips this idea on its head. "Earthworks store water in the soil—our largest and least expensive 'tank'—with the force of gravity and the living pumps of plants moving water through the system."

Volume 2 of the 3-part *Rainwater Harvesting* series elucidates dozens of variations on this theme as practiced in rural Indian villages, backyards from New Mexico to Connecticut, and streets and parking lots from Tucson, Arizona; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington. Primarily a cheeky how-to manual for eco-savvy gardeners, the *Rainwater Harvesting* series also appeals for a cultural transformation—what Spanish economist Pedro Arrojo Agudo calls a "nueva cultura de agua" (new water culture)—in the urban Southwest and beyond. Like *Volume 1*, door-stop worthy *Volume 2* also conveys Lancaster's respect for indigenous water knowledge and practice, and his lived experience with sustainable food and water systems.

Volume 2 introduces the "Eight Principles of Successful Rainwater Harvesting" through the philosophy of Zimbabwean water farmer and philosopher Zephaniah Phiri Maseko. The principles range from the procedural, ("Begin with long and thoughtful observation") through the practical, ("Slow, spread and infiltrate the water"). While touring Phiri's extensive hand-dug rainwater catchment system in 1995, Brad Lancaster had something of a revelation. Lancaster's hometown of Tucson epitomizes a pattern familiar to environmental activists.

"Growth was booming, but we had contaminated our aquifer, depleted groundwater supplies, run our rivers dry, and killed countless

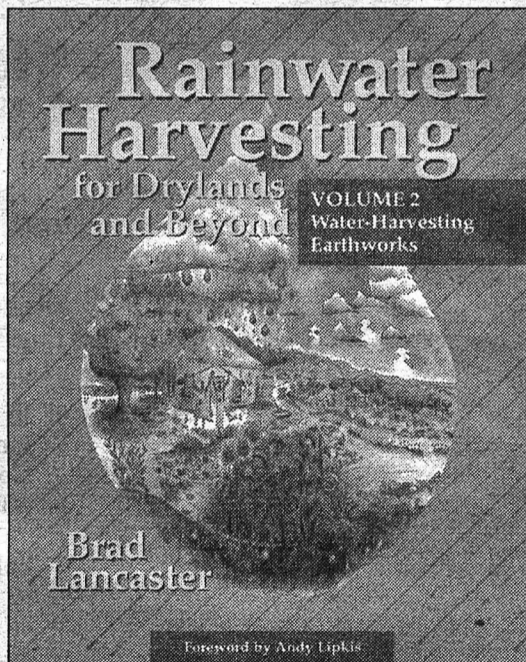


Image courtesy RainSource Press

springs and wells," noted Lancaster. "Then, we took water from other regions using elaborate canal, pump and water-right buyout schemes at great financial and environmental costs to feed our constantly growing demand for water. Tucson was killing itself—or, at least, its water resources and those of others. And everyone who lived in Tucson—everyone who drank, irrigated, built, bathed and washed with water—was part of that problem."

On Phiri's land, Lancaster found "a living, thriving example of a site stewarded by people that was improving with time." The experience convinced him not to run from the problem, but take Phiri's advice: "If we root ourselves and face our problems, we solve them."

Rainwater Harvesting succeeds both in showing readers how to design and construct cheap, effective systems to capture and infiltrate water into the landscape and in motivating them to do it. Lancaster avoids math, jargon and machinery ("Start with a shovel and a few friends")

and explains in great detail how to conceptualize and construct an integrated water harvesting system. Dozens of drawings, diagrams and photographs illustrate how water flows through the watershed of small urban and suburban lots; how to construct earthworks such as the "berm 'n basin" (aka swale), terrace, French drain, and infiltration basin; how to tear up your curb, sidewalk or driveway (and replace it with a water harvesting structure); the importance of mulch and vegetation; and how to intervene in the broader landscape using brush dams and other erosion control structures. Appendices cover how to read the landscape for evidence of water flow, simple explanations of key equations, plant lists and more.

Readers living in single-family homes with a large yards can likely pull off workable systems to harvest most of their rainwater and greywater using the strategies presented. In urban centers, where the pavement-to-dirt ratio is high, readers can draw on earthwork examples and brainstorm neighborhood-scale strategies. As Lancaster's study of Seattle's Vine Street case shows, implementation will likely require bonds, permits and lots of bulldozers. Rural dwellers will appreciate Lancaster's encyclopedic treatment of small-scale erosion control and infiltration strategies, but may want to consult with a practitioner (or start *very small*), lest they become discouraged by horse fencing wounds and blown out checkdams. Wherever you live, this book will transform how you see the rain and your own place in the water cycle. Read it. Your garden and your aquifer, will thank you!

For more information on the book and other extensive water-harvesting resources, visit website www.harvestingrainwater.com.

Cleo Woelfle-Erskine co-founded the *Greywater Guerrillas* (www.greywaterguerrillas.com) and edited the anthologies *Urban Wilds* and *Dam Nation: Dispatches from the Water Underground*.

Defend the RNC 8, or You Could be Next!

BY FRIENDS OF THE RNC 8

When they first wrote an open letter of support and inspiration to the readers of the *Earth First! Journal*, eight members of the Republican National Convention Welcoming Committee (RNC 8) were facing one felony charge of "conspiracy to riot in the second Degree in furtherance of terrorism" (See *EFF* November-December 2008).

Flash forward to December, when Ramsey County, Minnesota, Attorney Susan Gaertner (who is also running for Governor of Minnesota) added three more felony charges to the already politically charged case: second degree conspiracy to riot (without the terrorism enhancement), first degree conspiracy to commit criminal damage to property in furtherance of terrorism and first degree conspiracy to commit criminal damage to

property (without the terrorism enhancement). The RNC 8 are each facing 12 years in prison for being logistical organizers and even more frightening, for being anarchists.

More recently, the judge assigned to the RNC 8's trial recused himself for unknown reasons from the case, pushing the trial back to a later date—likely in the late Fall of 2009. At this point, it is unclear what effects this delay will have on the outcome of the trial or who the new judge will be.

The RNC 8 are being targeted for wanting to abolish the government. Just as it has been done to many political prisoners and arrestees in the past, the government is seeking to broaden the definition of terrorism to condone their malicious behavior and tighten their grip upon resisting communities and those that support them.

Much like the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty 7 (SHAC 7) case in 2006, it is easy to see that organizing publicly under a certain political agenda puts you at great risk. The government is using hyped-up evidence, the mainstream media and the corruption of our city's politicians to help set a dangerous, historical precedent for the future of not only anarchist organizing, but organizing of any kind that delegitimizes or begs to question the state's means.

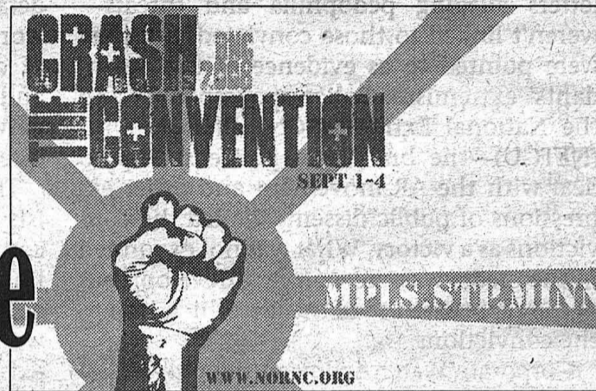
As we move farther along in our movements of resistance in North America and beyond, we must continue to fight for those who have already suffered in the chains of legal systems, whether or not we agree with the tactics behind their struggles. If we do not support and fight the political charges of those like

the RNC 8 or the SHAC 7 with every ounce of strength we have to give, we can't win. Closer to home, we could each be the next person sitting in the prison binds of Big Brother.

A movement builds or burns on its ability to sustain those that suffer the most from state repression. While we continue to strengthen our communities and fight the charges that have been wielded against many of our community members after the RNC; we must also continue to build a solid network of defense for the RNC 8 to defeat the Ramsey County prosecution.

For more information, or to donate or request literature visit www.rnc8.org.

2008 RNC Hall of Shame



BY EX-MEMBERS OF THE RNC 8 WELCOMING COMMITTEE

We are releasing this communiqué and information, because we have encountered confusion and uncertainty amongst others in the radical community—both in the Twin Cities and elsewhere—regarding the infiltration of the RNC-WC (Republican National Convention Welcoming Committee) and the status of the four RNC-WC infiltrators. These four self-described "members," attended RNC-WC meetings, were a part of our activist community, visited our homes, shared our food and befriended our comrades over the course of the RNC-WC's existence (almost two years). Without going into all of the legalities, that the repercussions of the actions of these individuals and the entirety of the police state before, during and after the RNC lead us to be discrete about the information we share at this time.

As the cases of those facing serious RNC-related charges progress through the courts in Minnesota—or as charges are dropped—more information about these informants will become public. We do not speak on behalf of any organization, but simply as individuals who participated in anarchist anti-RNC organizing, who continue to be involved in the RNC aftermath, and who are particularly interested in using our experience with these infiltrators to make our movements stronger and more secure.

And now, here they are—the 2008 RNC Hall of Shame:

Marilyn Hedstrom (aka **Norma Jean Johnson**), Ramsey County Sheriff's Department narcotics officer

"Norma Jean" entered the radical community through the Minneapolis Food Not Bombs with her supposed niece, "Amanda Clara" (see below) late in 2007. They soon began attending and surveilling RNC-WC meetings, as well as meetings of RNC-WC sub-committees, and the meetings and functions of other, non-anarchist organizations until the end of August. She is in her late 40s early 50s with curly blonde, graying hair and a medium build. She portrayed herself as divorced and becoming politically active for the first time. She was confirmed to be an infiltrator on September 1. Since then, she has been seen multiple times in uniform in Ramsey County District Court.

Rachel Nieting, pseudonyms "**Amanda Clara**" and "**Amanda Amey**" Ramsey County corrections officer

"Amanda" is in her early 20s and resembles a typical college student. She began attending RNC-WC and sub-committee meetings with Marilyn/"Norma Jean." Unlike her co-conspirator, however, "Amanda" ceased involvement in the spring of 2008; her role as an infiltrator appears to be the most limited of the four infiltrators known. Since the convention, she has also been seen in uniform. Her fake MySpace account is still being used. You can view it at: www.myspace.com/amandaclara. She also has a Facebook account at: www.facebook.com/people/Amanda-Amey/579453547.

Chris Dugger (real name), confidential reliable informant

Chris began attending RNC-WC meetings very early in 2008. He was also active in attending sub-committee meetings and meetings with non-anarchist groups through the end of August. Like Marilyn/"Norma Jean," he portrayed himself as participating in a radical project for the first time and avoided helping except for the most basic tasks. He is around 30 years old (but looks older), and is short with a very large, muscular build and several tattoos. He was confirmed to be an infiltrator on September 1 by observations of his behavior in downtown Saint Paul. Chris is not a cop, but an informant presumably paid or rewarded by some other means.

Andrew Darst (aka **Andy, Panda** and **Pandy**, online names **Warchyld** and **Killswitch**), confidential reliable informant

"Panda" began attending RNC-WC meetings around the time of the pReNC in the Fall of 2007 and stayed with the group through late August (including the second pReNC). He was introduced to the group as an avid urban explorer, and was (and still may be) active in the regional urban exploring scene as a participant and as an administrator on websites devoted to the subject. At the first pReNC, he attended the event with two other urban explorers who are known to be sympathetic to government agencies. He was first seen within anarchist circles at the CrimethInc. convergence three years ago, and has attended the convergence annually ever since.

Like the other infiltrators, he was active in committee meetings and attended functions of other, non-anarchist organizations. Importantly, "Panda" was also involved in anti-RNC activity independent of and unrelated to the RNC-WC. He participated and organized around Sector 5, and it appears that he remained on the streets in some form or

fashion throughout the convention protests. His relationship with Matthew DePalma was the basis for DePalma's recent RNC-related federal charges. "Panda" also appears in court documents relating to the "Texas-2," two Texas activists facing federal RNC-related charges.

Panda recorded various audio tracks of gatherings and meetings, including the second pReNC on May 3. His apartment in Minneapolis was wired for audio and video recording. He is around 30 years old with sharp features, and has dark brown eyes and hair. He is tall (around 6'2") with a large, stockier build. He was confirmed to be an infiltrator by observations of him assisting police in downtown St. Paul on September 1. Like Chris, he is not a cop but an informant presumably paid or rewarded by some other means.

It is important for us to use this case of infiltrators as a learning tool for our future activist excursions, especially in our home cities. The WC and affiliated communities made several mistakes regarding infiltration. The issues surrounding our mistakes should be part of an ongoing conversation that addresses the issues of state harassment within our circles. Everyone can and must use these experiences from the RNC to expand the effectiveness of our organizing and activism.

Currently, however, there is little to-no-structure within our communities to build substantial trust around ourselves and our comrades. Infiltrators have done their dirty deeds for decades, even centuries, and they will continue to do so. We urge our communities and our movements to take the threat they pose seriously, and understand that while we cannot allow the state's disgusting tactics to dictate the terms of our resistance, we do not have to put up with them, either. Clearly, even in an open, above-ground group such as the RNC-WC, they can wreak havoc!

We demand that the charges against all RNC arrestees, including the RNC 8 and the Texas-2, be dropped. The real criminals are those who attempt to destroy our communities and relationships through deception, greed and collaboration with state agents of repression.

We welcome comments and questions (within discretion) about this situation. If you encountered these individuals, we may be interested in your stories. They could potentially be used for the defense of those facing RNC-related charges. For guidelines on telling us your RNC informant experiences, email us at observations@riseup.net.

State Repression of Anti-Corporate Dissent:

Animal Rights Activists

Convicted of "Conspiracy to Blackmail"

BY CORPORATE WATCH

On December 23, four out of five animal rights (AR) activists on trial in England were found guilty of "conspiracy to blackmail" after a three-and-a-half-month-long show trial. The world's media, prompted by police press officers, were quick to condemn the activists by pointing to harassment against the employees of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) and their customers, shareholders and investors.

Actions against HLS—such as hoax bombs, letters alleging pedophilia and threats—weren't linked to those convicted, but they were pointed to as evidence of the defendants' extremism. Police spokespeople and the National Extremist Coordination Unit (NETCU)—the branch of police set up to deal with the AR movement and other expressions of public dissent—hailed the convictions as a victory. What was not examined in the media was the worrying development of the repressive use of the law which lead to the convictions.

Corporate Watch followed the progress of this trial since the beginning. The reason we are concerned is that we see this trial as part of a larger attack on the AR movement, motivated by the state's desire to protect private corporations against dissent.

In May 2008, Sean Kirtley, an activist involved with Stop Sequani Animal Torture, was sentenced to four and a half years in prison for updating a website with news about a legal, nonviolent campaign to close down Sequani laboratories in Ledbury, England. Still, NETCU was not satisfied with seeing AR activists locked up for four and a half years.

They chose to charge campaigners associated with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) with "conspiracy to blackmail," an offense carrying up to 14 years in prison. In May 2007, police arrested 32 people in raids dubbed "Operation Achilles." Since then, 15 people were charged with "conspiracy" and are being tried in two separate trials, of which this was the first.

The charges relate to six years of concerted campaigning against HLS, the largest contract testing laboratory in Europe. The defendants included people who had been involved in SHAC from the outset. Two of the defendants, Gerrah Selby and Dan Wadham, had been in their early teens and were only involved for a short time.

SHAC, an international group calling for the closure of HLS, has been painted by the police and the press as a "criminal organization," duping members of the public who are concerned with animal abuse into donating their money to further "a campaign of blackmail." In reality, SHAC's activities have been overwhelmingly lawful. The campaign publishes information about animal abuse inside HLS labs, reports campaigning activities, and issues action alerts calling on supporters to write polite letters to companies working with HLS and ask them to desist. If

those companies continue to do business with HLS, protests usually follow. All material on the SHAC website is checked by a barrister, and police are given prior notice of their demonstrations.

During the Summer, three defendants, all anti-HLS activists, pled guilty to "conspiracy to blackmail." During the trial, evidence recovered from both the campaign's and activists' personal computers was presented. Police found many documents believed to have been permanently deleted or shredded by their authors. This included a spreadsheet detailing names and addresses of people working for companies linked to HLS, details of direct actions carried out against them and a document containing a private chat between activists apparently talking about direct action.

This evidence may suggest that some activists had decided to take direct action against companies linked to HLS, but the evidence linking the defendants (who were found guilty on December 23) to these documents was circumstantial and, in some cases, non-existent. Even if some activists linked to SHAC did decide to take direct action, this does not make everybody within the campaign guilty by association.

The prosecution's case was that the entire SHAC campaign was aimed at closing down HLS (which is true) and that SHAC campaigners attempted to persuade companies not to work with HLS (which is also true). However, the prosecution's argument went on to imply that, when companies did not agree to cease trading with HLS, they were the subject of direct action. Often direct action did occur, but this was not under the banner of SHAC. Moreover, SHAC did not publish any information about companies that was not already in the public domain.

Much of the evidence in the three-month trial was in relation to lawful demonstrations against companies linked to HLS. This was particularly important in the instances of defendants who could not be linked to the uncovered computer evidence. Comments made by defendants during protests in earshot of the police were portrayed as linking them to the "conspiracy." Equally important was the fact that some of those convicted were linked personally to the defendants who pleaded guilty. Heather Nicholson and Gerrah Selby had both shared houses with them. This was obviously a factor in finding them guilty by association.

So, what does this mean for free speech and anti-corporate dissent in the UK? Campaigners might feel compelled to publicly distance themselves from acts of direct action, lest they find that, unbeknownst to them, those responsible for the covert actions are involved in public action, too, and the whole movement is charged with "conspiracy." In fact, the use of such charges is a classic police tactic aimed at spreading paranoia and convicting as many activists as possible for acts carried out by only a few. The aim is also to minimize public support for illegal actions by harassing and criminalizing those who speak up in solidarity.

The convicted activists are now facing long periods in jail. Heather Nicholson, who was held captive after her arrest in May 2007, has already spent more than 19 months in jail, longer than some people who are convicted of serious assaults or sex crimes would spend in prison. On the same day that Kirtley was sentenced to four and a half years in prison, men who beat a man until he was blind received two years.

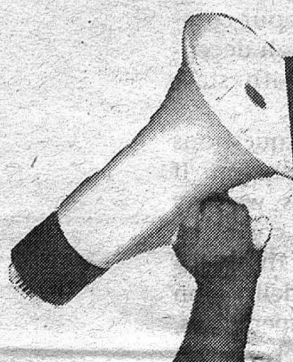
It's good to note that the attacks on AR campaigners do not seem to have limited their capacity to take action. Regular demonstrations are still taking place against companies linked to HLS. The Animal Liberation Front, which does not seem to be in need of "leaders," recently freed 70 turkeys from a UK farm. If anything, the global animal rights and liberation movements seem to be growing steadily.

The decision to try these campaigners for "conspiracy to blackmail" was obviously a political one. Huge amounts of police resources were poured into this prosecution and others like it at the behest of the Labor government. This is due to the effectiveness of the AR movement in confronting and challenging the power of corporations involved in animal abuse. The demonization of AR campaigners in the media, facilitated by NETCU press releases, only makes it easier for the state to repress them without public outcry. This recent set of convictions is yet another nail in the coffin of the public's right to voice their anger and dissent against corporate crime.

For more information on SHAC, visit www.shac.net.

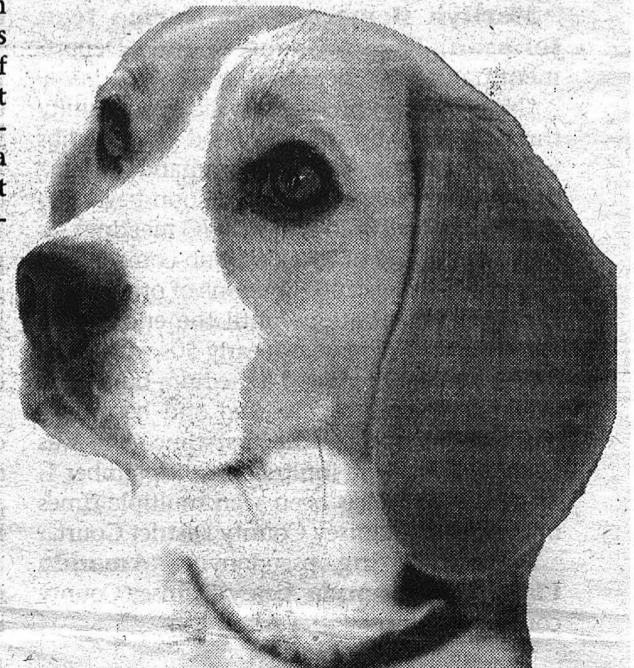
Editor's Note: On January 21, all of the SHAC activists were sentenced. The activists who had pled guilty months ago were waiting for the end of this trial, because the government wanted to sentence all of them together. Heather Nicholson received 11 years in prison, Gregg and Natasha Avery received nine years each, Gavin Medd-Hall got eight years, Dan Wadham got five years, and Gerrah Selby and Dan Amos each got four years. The guilty pleas were entered due to the likelihood of being convicted by a jury, not on the grounds of whether the activists are actually guilty.

A quick look at the steady rate of SHAC demonstrations reveals that this trial has done very little to actually slow down the movement to close HLS once and for all. Between the US and Western Europe, there were at least 65 demonstrations against HLS and its supporters just in the first few weeks of January. Some targets—like Barclays Bank, a major HLS financier—typically experience multiple protests each day. As recent history has shown, courts can continue to throw activists in prison, but HLS is only getting weaker and more isolated.



"YOU CAN'T PUT
OUR FRIENDS IN JAIL!"

"WE WILL DRIVE
THE FINAL NAIL!"



Ask an EF! Lawyer

*Dear Earth First! Lawyer,
Recently, activists on trial for trying to stop Florida Power and Light (FPL) from building a monstrous power plant in the heart of the Everglades used the necessity defense at trial. It did not work. Before then, we didn't really know that such a thing even existed. Now that we do, some questions have arisen. For example, what environmental situations would create a necessity defense? Does the necessity defense vary from state to state? Also, how are jury instructions for such cases determined? Is there a way to research these cases where there is a need for defense obviously present, and then move into attack mode?*

—Marge Douglas

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear Ms. Douglas,

As a former biologist for Everglades National Park, I passionately support your efforts to protect the unique Everglades from further destruction at the hands of FPL. Every state in the US adopted the necessity defense—or choice of evils law—from England. Since then, states have generally tweaked the necessity defense through their own judge-made laws (decided in individual cases) or through their legislatures in the form of statutes.

Florida's law, as is generally the case in other states, is very similar to the law developed by a judge in England in 1551 in *Reninger v. Fagossa*. According to legal scholars Wayne LaFave and Austin Scott, the defense can be summarized as a recognition that a situation "may confront a person in an emergency with a choice of two evils: either [she] may violate the literal terms of the criminal law and, thus, produce a harmful result, or [she] may comply with those terms and, thus, produce a greater, equal or lesser amount of harm. For reasons of social policy, if the harm which will result from compliance with the law is greater than that which will result from the violation of it, [she] is by virtue of the defense of necessity justified in violating it."

According to the Fourth District Court of Appeals in *McCoy v. Florida*, Florida's necessity defense requires that: 1) the defendant reasonably believed that his action was necessary to avoid an imminent threat of death or others, 2) the defendant did not intentionally or recklessly place

himself in a situation in which it would be probable that he would be forced to choose the criminal conduct, 3) there existed no other adequate means to avoid the threatened harm except the criminal conduct, 4) the harm sought to be avoided was more egregious than the criminal conduct perpetrated to avoid it, and 5) the defendant ceased the criminal conduct as soon as the necessity or apparent necessity for it ended.

Each of our 50 states and the federal government has its own set of rules, and each is likely to be at least slightly different from any other state. Still, they probably do not stray far from the criteria I provide above. I regret that I am unable to provide you with any rankings about what states have the strongest or weakest necessity defense law.

The classic environmental situation that would work perfectly for the necessity defense is the Dutch girl who puts her finger in the dike to prevent the town from flooding, even though the law prevented anyone from touching the dike. As is obvious, though, this is a very different scenario from the situation of protesters getting arrested in a Civil Disobedience action.

It is usually difficult to get a jury or judge to consider this and then find that the necessity defense applies in an environmental protest case, because courts tend to find that if the activity was legally sanctioned, it could not have been harmful in the first place. Juries might also find that if the person put themselves in a position where the law, or if no human's imminent death or serious physical

injury was threatened, the necessity defense would not apply (see *McCoy v. Florida's* first and second prongs above). Other problems are that the harm might not be seen as imminent or direct enough (two points the prosecutor in your case reportedly made). I think these problems are hard to avoid, given the nature of your action. So, shopping for the right environmental situation upon which to protest might not be the best strategy.

Maybe, then, the right strategy is to look at it from the opposite perspective: What is the best forum in which to sell the necessity defense successfully to the judge and jury? First, you would prefer a jurisdiction (like, say, another state) that has a more favorable law on necessity defense. Then, you might want to aim your action to take place where you're more likely to get environmentally sensitive jury members or judges. This usually means heading to a lefty urban area.

Even though I do not think it is the best strategy if you plan to win a case, the necessity defense is a great tool to communicate your concerns about an activity to the public. For example, only when using the necessity defense can you inform the court of all of the problems such a power plant will cause.

You used the necessity defense to its fullest at your trial by bringing in many environmental experts to teach the jury and the media about the enormous use of water, volume of carbon-dioxide emissions, impact of injected waste water and numerous other harms caused by FPL. Your concerns were heard then got written in the newspapers and distributed to a much

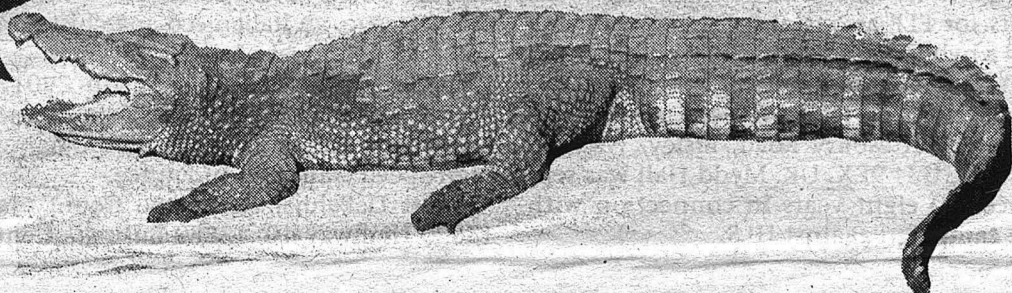
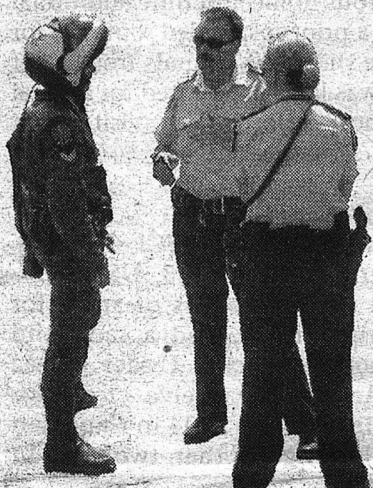
wider audience. Just for the sake of educating the public, then, the necessity defense can be the correct choice for trial strategy. Educating the public can turn out to be the best long-term strategy of all, even if the defendants get convicted along the way.

Jury instructions must precisely instruct the jury on the law of the necessity defense. So in Florida, the jury instruction of the elements of the necessity defense would closely resemble the holding of *McCoy v. Florida*, provided above. The jury instruction would also include other elements the state must prove—such as the date, the state and the county the act took place in—in order to prove jurisdiction, venue and that the prosecution took place in a timely manner.

The necessity defense is an excellent way to communicate to the court the damage we're doing to the Earth and the need to stop that damage. It also is a great tool to make yourself human to a jury by explaining your passion and your broad concern for our world's common good. I have indeed seen defendants using it obtain not-guilty verdicts across the board. However, it's best use for trial victory is not for the purpose of obtaining an airtight defense when your action was planned, rather than an emergency forced at the spur of the moment by something beyond your control. Still, that shouldn't stop you from using a combination of strategies—along with necessity—to achieve victory at trial.

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

Mmm...
junk food!



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 Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Amos was sentenced to four years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS). For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportdan.

•Gregg Avery, TA7450, HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX, UK. Avery was sentenced to nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe St, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK4 4DA, UK. was sentenced to ten years for conspiracy to commit arson in connection with the campaign against Oxford University's primate lab. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/supportmel.

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Avery was sentenced to nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Byron Shane of Chubbock© Clan, #07909051, FCI Talladega, POB 1000, Talladega, Alabama, North America. Moved to the above address. 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.

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Terminal Island, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA. Moved to the above address. Conroy is serving four years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.supportjake.org.

•Rodney Coronado, has been released to a halfway house in Michigan. He was serving one year for distribution of information related to the assembly of explosives and weapons of mass destruction.

•Marie Mason, Clinton County Jail, 1347 E Townsend Rd, St Johns, MI 48879, USA. Mason was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months for committing arson, aggravated arson and conspiracy to commit arson in connection with a series of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions against genetic engineering and development. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Moved to medium security I facility. 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.

•Daniel McGowan, #63794-053, USP Marion, POB 1000, Marion, IL 62959, USA. Returned to the above address. Serving seven years for ELF arsons at a lumber company and a hybrid poplar farm. For more information, visit www.supportdaniel.org.

•Gavin Medd-Hall, WV9475, HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX, UK. Medd-Hall was sentenced to eight years in connection with the campaign against HLS.

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Nicholson was sentenced to 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Peltier was moved to USP Canaan, but has since returned to USP Lewisburg. Peltier, an American Indian Movement activist, is serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege. For more information, visit www.freepeltier.org.

•Rev. Edward Pinkney was released on bond. Pinkney was serving three to 10 years for "threatening" a judge in court by quoting *The Bible*. He has been the cornerstone of a campaign to prevent a resort from being built in a park in low-income Benton Harbor, Michigan.

•Andrew Stepanian was released to a halfway house in New York. He was serving three years for conspiracy charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.andystepanian.com.

•Dan Wadham, A5705AA HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB, UK. Wadham was sentenced to five years in connection with the campaign against HLS.

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.

•Dean Cain, WJ4309, and Luke Steele, WJ4308, HMP Lincoln, Greetwell Rd, Lincoln, LN2 4BD, UK. Awaiting trial on three charges related to interfering with animal research on a rabbit farm.

•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.

•Julien Coupat, N° d'Ecrou 290173, 42 Rue de la Santé, 75014 Paris, France. Awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a high-speed train line in France.

•Matt DePalma, Sherburne County Jail, 13880 Highway 10, 13880 Business Center

Dr, Elk River, MN 55330, USA. Plead guilty to unlawful possession of destructive devices at the RNC. He is awaiting sentencing.

•Francesco Gioia, Casa Penale, Via Lamaccio 1, 67039 Sulmona (Aq), Italy. Moved to the above address. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Il Silvestre.

•John Graham, Pennington County Jail, 307 St Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, USA. Awaiting trial on murder charges. Graham was framed by the FBI for the 1975 murder of fellow American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Anna Mae Pictou-Aquash.

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.

•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.

•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.

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

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

•John Smith, TB4887, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Road, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, DN7 6EE, UK. Serving 12 years for attempting to blackmail a farmer who supplied guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Sarah Whithead, VM47684, HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Rd, Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3JZ, UK. Serving 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.

Ecodefense

•Tre Arrow, 70936-065, FCI Herlong, POB 800, Herlong, CA 96113, USA. Serving 6.5 years 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

LEONARD PELTIER IS ATTACKED IN A NEW PRISON

BY BETTY PELTIER-SOLANO

I am so *outraged!* My brother Leonard was severely beaten upon his arrival at the Canaan Federal Penitentiary. When he went into population after his transfer, some inmates assaulted him.

The severity of his injuries that he suffered were numerous blows to his head and body, receiving a large bump on his head, possibly a concussion, and numerous bruises. Also, one of his fingers is swollen and discolored, and he has pain in his chest and ribcage. There was blood everywhere from his injuries.

We feel that prison authorities at the prompting of the FBI orchestrated this attack and thus, we are greatly concerned about his safety. It may be that the attackers, whom Leonard did not even know, were offered reduced sentences for carrying out this heinous assault. Since Leonard is up for parole soon, this could be a conspiracy to discredit a model prisoner.

He was placed in solitary confinement and only given one meal. This is generally done when you won't name your attackers. Incidentally, being only given one meal seriously jeopardizes his health because of his diabetes. Prison officials refuse to release any information to our family, but they need to hear from his supporters to protect his safety, as does President Barack Obama.

Leonard's attorneys are trying to get calls into him now.

This attack on Leonard came on the heels of the FBI's recent letter, prompting this attack by FBI supporters as an attempt to discredit Leonard as a model prisoner. Anyone who has been in the prison system knows well that if you refuse to name your attackers or file charges against them, you lose your status as a victim and/or are given points against your possible parole and labeled as a perpetrator.

It is not uncommon—in fact, it's quite common—for the government to use Indian against Indian. They still operate under the old adage, "It takes an Indian to catch an Indian." In 1978, they made an attempt to assassinate Leonard through another Indian man who was also at Marion prison with Leonard. However, Standing Deer chose to reveal the plot to Leonard instead of taking his life in exchange for a *chance* at freedom.

When Standing Deer was released in 2001, he joined the former Leonard Peltier Defense Committee as a board member. He also began to speak on Leonard's behalf until his murder six years ago. Prior to his murder, Standing Deer confided with close friends and associates that the same man who visited

him in Marion and told him to assassinate Leonard had come to Houston and told him that he had better stay away from Leonard or have anything to do with him.

We are aware that the FBI is actively seeking support for the continued imprisonment of Leonard and also seeking support from native people. So, please be aware, and keep Leonard in your prayers.

The FBI is apparently afraid of the impact we are having. If they will set Leonard up to blemish his record just before a parole hearing, what will they do when it looks like his freedom will become a reality? We need to make sure that nothing happens to him again!

Please write the president, and send it priority or registered mail. Send an email to www.change.gov, or email President Obama directly. Call your congressional representatives and write letters—not emails—to them. Do what you can to get the word out to insure that Leonard is receiving adequate medical attention for his injuries.

I am asking you, supporters of Leonard and advocates of justice, for help. I don't know what else to do. Please help! Thank you.

Betty Peltier-Solano is Leonard Peltier's sister and the executive coordinator of the Leonard Peltier Defense Offense Committee.

Editors' Note: In early February, Leonard was moved back to Lewisburg, the penitentiary where he was previously held. On his return, he received assurances from other inmates that he is now safe. Because the Bureau of Prisons can't seem to protect him, Leonard is demanding to be handed over to the nation of Turtle Island.

In Leonard's words, "I am angry that many of my friends have died in assuring my survival while I've been in prison. All of the men who were involved in my escape at Lompoc died mysteriously soon after: Dallas Thundershield at Lompoc; Bobby Garcia at Terre Haute; Rocky Duenas, whose body was never recovered; and Standing Deer, who gave away his life when he revealed the assassination plot against me. He lived under the shadow of death for years, waiting to be killed for defying the government, until he was eventually paroled to Texas. He was murdered soon after the same person who contracted him to have me assassinated warned him about his involvement with my campaign. Surviving this attack [at Canaan] brought back memories of those losses.... It is with tears of more gratitude in my eyes and in my heart that no one died this time. I don't ever want to lose another brother in protecting me; a human life is precious and important."



his sentence. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the ELF arson of SUVs. For more information, visit grantbarnes.wordpress.com.

•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.freefreemove.org.

•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.

•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.

•Michael Sykes, #696693, Handlon Correctional Facility, 1728 W Bluewater Hwy, Ionia, MI 48846, USA. Serving 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. For more information, visit supportmichael.wordpress.com.

•Briana Waters, #36432-086, FCI Danbury, Route 37, Danbury, CT 06811, USA. 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.

•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.

MOVE

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

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

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

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17932, USA.

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

Other Political Prisoners

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

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

Prisoner Support Groups

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

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

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

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—Coyote Three Feathers aka John Herron
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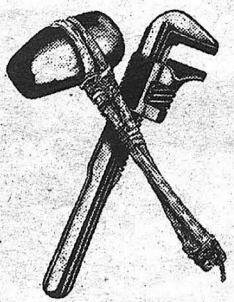
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