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Earth First!

Lughnasadh July-August 2009

\$4.50 US & Canada

From the Trees



A climber traverses tree-to-tree. Traverse lines are a tool that is used to save large groves of trees.

Humboldt Earth First! Canopy Communique

#1



Perched between branches on a web composed of climbing-rope

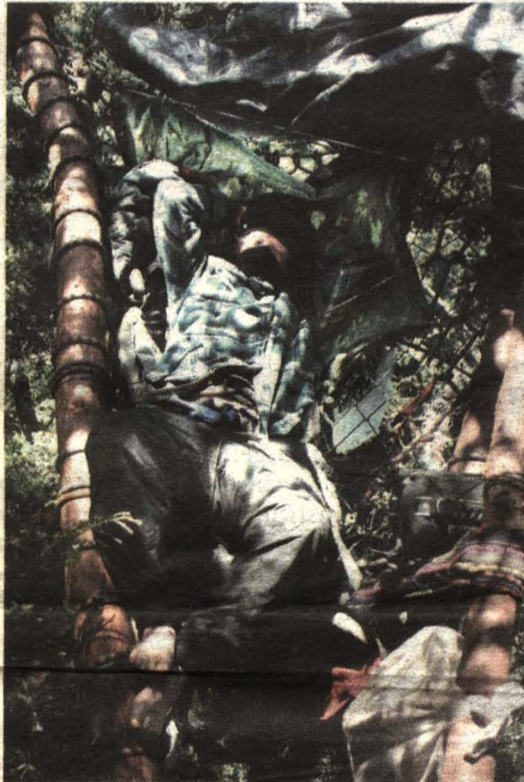
BY GAMBIT

Cutten, South Cascadia, the McKay Tract canopy. The landscape unfolds below us as a patchwork quilt of war. Looking west, one sees the suburb, progress enacting its will upon the occupied countryside. More development is planned, but it is not yet happening. We have primarily met friendly people who live here, and enjoy hanging out in the forest. We asked them if they want their suburb to grow, to continue to "develop," and they emphatically do not.

Among the second- and third-growth trees to the south lay a few erroneous mini-mansions encroaching upon the landscape, with stumps in their yards wider than any of the three SUVs in their driveways. The residents enjoy a quiet life until one of them starts running powertools.

We look east and see the tops of enormous old-growth redwoods towering above the hundred-year-old second growth. Some friends live here, including spotted owls, ospreys, turkey vultures, black bears, newts, voles, flying squirrels and arboreal humans.

To the north lies a clearcut. Three years ago, Green Diamond (GD), formerly Simpson Timber Company, came in and cut down every last tree in the unit, leaving a few huge burned-out



Reclining amongst the redwoods

with traverses to protect them with our own bodies from being cut down. Tree-sitting has been used to defend forests in Humboldt for decades, and traverses enable a few humans to defend a large number of trees without leaving the canopy.

We chose this grove because the trees stand directly against the march of Leviathan in the form of suburban development, and the neighbors (in house down below) stand with us, and give us love and support. The other grove, (also slated to be clearcut), features an osprey nest, at least one spotted owl nest, flocks of turkey

snags. Pampas grass and milkweed grow to human height in the trees' absence, but this area is dry and getting dryer.

They planted a few baby conifers, redwoods and others after they cut. Those trees are now three years old, meaning they can cut a couple more units and then start re-zoning the land from timberland to residential. More mini-mansions are planned. So it goes....

However our forest friends disagree with these plans. They want to live, and our solution is to live with them. For the past several months, we've been occupying two tree villages in the McKay, tying in as many

continued on page 11

Free Hugh and Tiga

BY CHAD BRANDLER

Those who've followed resistance to Interstate-69 (I-69) in southern Indiana over the last 20 years are familiar with the Indiana State Police (ISP)'s outrageous antics and zealous repression of protesters. On April 24, in an over-the-top move by the ISP, two activists were arrested in what is obviously the culmination of years of surveillance, harassment, and repression (see *EF!* September-October). Tiga and Hugh, two longtime Indiana residents, are each being charged with two counts of intimidation (misdemeanors), two counts of conversion (i.e. theft, misdemeanors) and one count of corrupt business influence (i.e. racketeering, a class C felony). If convicted, they would each face 12 years in prison.

Tiga was arrested on the morning of April 24, following a court date in Evansville, Indiana, for a prior anti-I-69 action this last Summer. A

few hours later, the car Hugh was traveling in pulled off at an ice-cream stand just north of Indianapolis. Minutes later, he was arrested by a plainclothes US Marshall, tazer drawn, in front of families and children enjoying their ice cream. Both were interrogated by Feds and/or the ISP, including the n'er-do-well Brad Chandler, a recurring character in our saga who's employed full-time to harass activists.

While felonies and jail time aren't anything to snicker at, it's hard not to snicker when one looks into the nature of the charges. The main felony of racketeering stems from an antiquated mob-era charge, part of Indiana's version of the federal Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Business Act. This law was enacted to suppress "organized crime," and the current charges claim that Tiga and Hugh are known to be "leaders of the criminal enterprise Roadblock Earth First!, and that they "conspired to commit an office eviction, treesits,

lockdowns, threatening blog postings and meeting disruptions." The misdemeanor charges are in reference to a staged "eviction" of two I-69 planning offices in July 2007. To recap, furniture and records from the planning offices up and walked out of

continued on page 7

Anti-I-69
Repression
Continues



Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Lughnasadh July-August 2009

The Road to Short-Terming

I feel like I have landed in a wonderful, meaningful place. When I joined up with the *Earth First! Journal*, I had already befriended the collective, attended my first EF! gathering, other EF! events in Tucson, and was familiar with a few of the *EF!J* procedures. After spending about eight months in Tucson, I have found that the *Journal* has become a part of my everyday life. Last issue, I took up the role as a "super volunteer," and short-terming was a natural progression.

Spending time in the office while the collective was searching for another person to short-term with me, I was looking forward to a cool two months of working at the *Journal* with the coming short-term—*a persyn* who expressed much enthusiasm to come out to "Abbey Country." Things in the Sonoran Desert are never that cool, though. The other short-termer totally bailed on us without warning. Still, even with the other short-term editor gone, our collective bonds grow stronger.

Working with the *EF!J* has affirmed my sense of community through our hard times. People we know are being arrested, and we are all persecuted. None of us can presume to have any privacy. We are regularly slandered by a patriarchal culture that has pervaded the mass media, and labels our feelings immature or irrational, while its cruelty dominates our whole social environment. Still, we are free together. We fight with our comrades; we fight with our homemade kombucha; we fight with the strength that a million dollars worth of food stamps could never buy (trust us, we know!).

Most of all, in tough times, we have to stay focused. I feel like this issue has an especially balanced selection of content in the context of a very tumultuous time. The prisoner support section is exceptionally important, as we feel the pressing urgency of community calling to us from the other side of legal institutions now more than ever. At the same time, the cultural richness of this issue represents the strength of the *EF!* community on

the outside. We included a song, an explanation of the significance of Lughnasadh, and the long-awaited return of Nedd Luđ! In the middle, I hope you will find a pleasing array of sound *EF!* reports.

When we howl, "Earth First!," we take up the strength of conviction that this world on which we live can never be dominated. If we try to dominate the world, we only subvert our nature, and extinguish the great fire of freedom that burns in the heart and arteries of this Earth. Whether or not it's too late is not the point. Struggle is a way of life. Let our accomplishments, our pride and our shame all be forgotten. Whether behind bars or hitchhiking on an onramp in California, from those of us who know what it is to live in service of the wild (no matter what the cost), to those of us who are still considering picking up the proverbial monkeywrench, I hope we'll all agree by the end of this issue that this movement is unstoppable. It will not be stopped. Our best years are yet to come.

- S@SH@

Earth First!

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

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

Submission deadlines are the 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 1 FROM THE TREES
HUMBOLDT EARTH FIRST! CANOPY COMMUNIQUE #1
- 1 FREE HUGH AND TIGA
- 3 VICTORIES IN VIRGINIA
- 3 CAMP BLING
- 6 SUMMITS AND TRENCHES
- 7 ONLINE PARANOIA IN THE SWAMPS
- 8 BRITISH COLUMBIA'S GATEWAY PROJECT
- 9 HOW FORAGING CAN SET YOU FREE
- 10 SOMEWHERE IN THE SANTA RITA MOUNTAINS
- 14 PLANE STUPID
BRINGING THE AVIATION INDUSTRY BACK DOWN TO THE GROUND
- 15 THE INS AND OUTS OF PRISONER SUPPORT
- 16 CHECKING IN WITH
FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF DANIEL MCGOWAN
- 19 FREE HUGH AND TIGA PULL OUT POSTER
- 21 REVOLUTION IN SERVICE OF THE WILD
FRANKLIN ROSEMONT OBITUARY
- 23 ELEGY FOR CACTUS ED
- 23 SHUT UP AND LISTEN? NEVER!
- 24 NO DUMP ON O'ODHAM LANDS
PROTECT SACRED SITES!
- 25 GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION FACES A SET-BACK
SERIOUS FAILURE IN THE UK
- 27 SHAC IS WINNING

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SECTIONS

- 2 EDITORIAL
- 4 DEAR SFB: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS
- 5 LUGHNASADH EXPLANATION
- 9 SHORTS
- 12 FRONTLINES
- 13 DEAR NED LUDD
- 20 ARMED WITH VISIONS
- 21 EARTH FIRST! SONGS
- 21 DOOMSDAY MOUNTAIN EF!
- 22 BARE BONES
- 23 WOLVES AND POODLES
- 26 PRISONERS IN THE STRUGGLE
- 28 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 28 UPDATES
- 31 EF! DIRECTORY

Victories in Virginia

BY WILLIE

In the past several months, three efforts that Earth First! (EF!) has contributed action and energy to in Virginia have gained significant victories. In each of these cases, our involvement has been relatively small compared to the efforts of other groups, and all credit is due to them for doing the un-sexy, demanding work of dragging these industries through the courts and regulatory processes where these victories were ultimately won. While we envision and work to create a world where destructive projects are stopped by sheer force of grassroots direct action, we do indeed believe in using every tool in the toolbox. Here's a brief synopsis of some of those tools being put to work over the past two years:

The first action taken by the current incarnation of Blue Ridge Earth First! (BREF!) was a demonstration at the home of a developer driving efforts to build a Wal-Mart in Blacksburg, Virginia. There was never a long-term direct action strategy hashed out to defeat this project. While an emerging community group developed support and momentum towards legislating and later litigating their opposition into law, our action served chiefly as a reminder that civil discourse with those who would desecrate our communities for a buck is no virtue. The demonstration was also the coming-out party for a new EF! chapter ready to give some teeth to the environmental movement in the hills of Virginia.

As BREF! shifted our focus to other projects, efforts to stop the Wal-Mart through any well-mannered, government-sanctioned and truly boring means necessary, persisted and ultimately reigned triumphant by way of appealing a local zoning ordinance all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia. While the parade of Earth First!ers making merry in developer Jeannie Stosser's front yard played a small part in the whole turn of events, it is nonetheless a gratifying victory for our more well-behaved allies and a pleasant reminder that, when pressure builds, it eventually breaks.

On the mountaintop removal (MTR) front, a bittersweet victory was won on May 7, when the Army Corps of Engineers, responding to a prompt by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), rescinded a permit for A&G coal's Ison Rock mine. Over the past several years, the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, a local community group has clogged regulatory processes and spoken out loudly against this mine. In 2004, A&G's failure to conform to the laws for exactly how a mountain is supposed to be destroyed resulted in a boulder rolling off of a MTR mine and killing a three-year old boy asleep in his bed, prompting Katuah Earth First! to chain, lock and glue the gates to that mine closed. In 2007, this same corporation was the target of sabotage at one of its Wise County mountain-top removal sites by a group calling itself the "Committee to Defend the Land and People."

The Ison Rock mine would have totaled 1,300 acres in scope and would have buried three miles of streams. This is the first time that a MTR permit has ever been rescinded due to intervention by a federal regulatory body—evidence that the mounting and increasingly militant opposition to MTR of the past several years is having an effect on policy decisions. The EPA and Army Corps reasoned that the sprawling mine would violate the Clean Water Act if it dumped mining waste into streams, a practice that always accompanies MTR operations known as "valley fills." The bitterness of this win comes with the fact that, shortly after Obama's EPA rescinded this and five other permits, the coal industry applied pressure for the administration to give word on 42 other pending MTR permits, which resulted in the EPA declaring that they're all fine to proceed. Why are six MTR/valley fill mines in violation of the clean water act and 42 aren't? Politics. They're throwing us a bone here. We'll take that bone, and then we'll beat them senseless with it. All MTR buries streams! Until all MTR permits are revoked, we won't stop!

In another case of the Clean Water Act finally being enforced, Dominion Power's

plans to add a third reactor to its Lake Anna nuclear plant were thwarted by a lawsuit brought forth by the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) in February. Lawyers for BREDL, an organization supporting environmental justice struggles throughout the southeast, proved in court that operations at the plant are raising temperatures in Lake Anna to over 100 degrees in the summertime. This is the same power plant where EF!, Rising Tide and others staged a sit-in during last summer's Southeast Convergence for Climate Action.

In the nearly two years that our small EF! collective has existed, we've made a deliberate effort to execute direct actions with a timing and sensibility that work concurrently with the campaigns of our friends, neighbors and allies who have the stomach to tangle up the state within the parameters of its own procedures. We do not have the time, taste, expertise or resources to spearhead these efforts ourselves but we see how they can be utilized effectively. The problem with any victory won by virtue of state approval is that the state retains the power to reverse that judgment. By bypassing the "designated channels" to express our dissent and employing actions that directly disrupt the operations we oppose, we demonstrate a readiness among the general public to reject the rules of our oppressors and defend ourselves as is our natural right. This presence reinforces the truth that favorable government actions are forced by the will of the people rather than being handed down by the benevolence of the ruling class. If we treat these wins as the end of a story and allow the hard-earned and slowly-built grassroots power that produced these victories to wither, then this is as close to justice as we will ever get. If, instead, we understand them as markers in the movement towards achieving all power to all people, then onward. It is the propagation of this sentiment as well as the specific points of impact resulting from our actions that we contribute to the environmental movement in the mountains of Appalachia.

Anarchy on the King's Burial

BY SQUEERSH ON BEHALF OF CAMP BLING

This is the story of the Camp Bling road protest which took place between September 2005 and the summer of 2009, in Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Despite being some ten years after the British anti-roads movement and daring to attempt to save an unfashionable part of the world, something resulted that we believe was much bigger than the original issue it stood for - a small but vibrant counter-cultural protest community was born in the middle of the London commuter heartland.

In terms of the road scheme, plans to widen the A127/A1159 Priory Crescent/Cuckoo Corner to dual carriageway status were never welcomed by local people, with over 12,000 signing a petition against it in the early 1970's. Under threat was the famous and historical Priory Park, donated by local benefactor Robert Arthur Jones. The 30-acre site included a Cluniac Priory, fishing lakes, and was bounded by an area rich in local archaeology discovered over previous years.

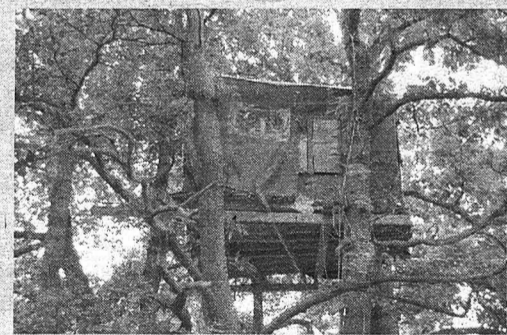
In the spring of 2001, the public became aware of the latest proposals by Southend Borough Council to widen the 870-yard stretch of single carriageway between Cuckoo Corner and the Southend-London Liverpool Street railway line. On the table was a plan to build a new traffic junction scything off the northern section of the park and land to the east, plus a new railway bridge to connect to the east

of town. The campaign soon sprung into life with Parklife and the Priory Park Preservation Society forming to convey public dissent and to put pressure on the local authority to cancel the controversial scheme once again.

You would probably be familiar with much of what then followed: More than 20,000 signatures were collected against the scheme by the date of the local public inquiry in early 2005. The road was rubber stamped at each stage of the decision making process, against the wishes of the great majorities public opinion. People marched, tied yellow ribbons, joined hands around the park, wore masks, scaled trees, and temporarily occupied the threatened land.

This was all to no avail. The inquiry inspector voted in favor of the scheme, and all seemed lost - until two activists from Parklife attended the Earth First! Summer gathering in Derbyshire later that year. The Parklife strategy had always been to try everything to influence the decision making process. A visit to the Bronze Age stone circle, the Nine Ladies, quarry protest site provided inspiration for what would follow at our site, where the East Saxon king's burial had been discovered late in autumn 2003 during investigations on the route of the proposed road widening. Could stage a similar protest down south? Maybe not on the scale of the Derbyshire site, but we felt that it was worth a try.

Over the course of a week in September 2005 a single, low tree house was constructed



Camp Bling's tree house

in a Poplar tree overlooking King Saebert's burial on a narrow, 200-yard-long patch of land located between the existing road and railway line. Two people occupying a platform just 15 feet in the air didn't seem likely to lead to much, but something remarkable happened.

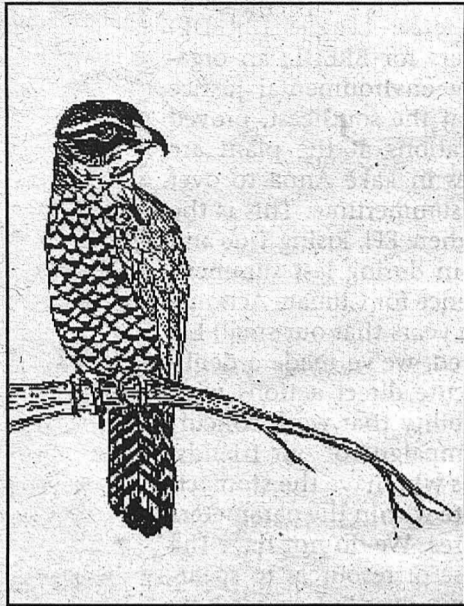
People turned up. Lots of people, plus materials, food, interest and support. The moment was right and it had just required someone to take that small-but-significant initial step. The first important thing to consider at this point was the timing. In this case, although the local authority had all the necessary planning consents, it didn't have the cash. This was still awaited from the Department for Transport, with costs spiraling all the time, and now security and eviction of protestors was another factor to consider. Apparently, the last eviction at Dalkeith Country Park had cost \$150,000 per day.

continued on page 8

The Making of the Camp Bling Road Protest

Dear Shit fer Brains

letters to the editors



Dearest Turd For Brains,

After not receiving the *Journal* for some time, I was excited to find the Beltane issue in my pile of mail and catch up on movement happenings. I was especially glad to see the ink devoted to coal—the TVA protests, debunking of clean coal and the critical analysis of the D.C. Climate action in particular. Thank you for the coverage of continued Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act-inspired repression in Utah and for the blurb on where I currently live—"Little Guantanamo"—or the Communication Management Unit (CMU) at Marion United States Penitentiary. Those who want to know more or join the struggle to close the CMU should check out www.supportdaniel.org/cmucmu.

The topic of *Ask an EF! Lawyer* (the Good Time Bill) was spot on but allow me to give some further background. This bill would benefit 13 of the 16 current environmental and animal liberation prisoners (the three state prisoners wouldn't benefit), roughly 10 of the political prisoners on the Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Jericho movement list and a significant majority of the 204,000 people in the Bureau of Prisons (people with life sentences and those sentenced pre November 1, 1987 wouldn't benefit). You can view sample letters, statistics, the bill itself, links and your representative's info at www.goodtimebill.info. Stu is right. The bill is part of a trend toward more rational sentences and reductions in prison populations (this includes the recent crack sentencing guideline change, the repeal of New York's Rockefeller drug laws and passage of the second chance act in 2007). Yet, without consistent pressure and advocacy, this bill won't pass. It'll just be another

good idea. While I share an antipathy toward asking politicians to do anything. This represents a concrete way to show your solidarity for environmental and animal liberation prisoners and address the severe crowding in federal prisons.

The quick update is that I am doing well, keeping busy with correspondence, reading and exercise. And I just hit my two year mark in prison. Legal efforts to challenge the CMU continue and if you can show some love for the lawyers at the Civil Liberties Defense Center (www.cldc.org) for all the help they've given me and other prisoners.

Take Care and in Struggle,
—DANIEL MCGOWAN

Dear Folks at Daily Planet Publishing,

Thanks so much for the book sent to me here, *What We Leave Behind*, by Derick Jensen. I'm just starting to read it and am enjoying it a lot. One of my first environmental campaigns was to block the construction of a trash incinerator (at the time, the worlds largest). The campaign went on for ten years, with some temporary and some minor victories, though in the end we lost to disposable culture. I'm looking forward to learning and enlightenment (and often tangential inspiration) that I always get when I read Jensen's writing. Thank you again for sending it.

Thank you for all that you do to make people think!

Solidarity,
—MARIE MASON

Letter to the people,

I am an inmate at the Idaho Correctional Institute-Orofino. I have been incarcerated in Idaho since November, 2004. Recently, I was moved to the "Givens Hall Work Camp." This is a minimum-security unit where inmates are sent on work crews for "incentive pay," which is discretionary. We are housed here under the understanding that any attempt to not participate in "work projects" will lead to our being sent to the closed-custody unit regardless of our custody levels. There we will be housed with prison gang members and other maximum security inmates. In essence, we are housed here under duress, forced to work for discretionary wages.

These things disturb me, particularly that at any time

they may ask me to work a job that is contrary to my political views. The thing I most resent about my forced housing situation is that they do not have a vegan or vegetarian diet available to us. Another inmate and I recently requested transfer to the medium security unit where we can get a vegetarian meal for religious or political reasons. We never received an answer from our unit sergeant.

Today (April 16, 2009) I put in a concern form requesting an answer to my previous request. If I do not receive an acceptable response by April 24, I feel my only available option will be to hunger-strike and refuse to participate in all work projects and programs.

My previous attempt was blown off. This is only a temporary solution to a permanent problem. Unfortunately, this will not make vegan diets available here and it may or may not fix my situation. My goal is to create a permanent policy change at this prison.

I am Matt Harris, I have been known for many

years as Moses and lent my support to various causes while advocating for human rights and re-wilding. I now ask for support of anyone willing to show me solidarity. I have no family backing or means. I rely on being steadfast and stubborn. I will pursue this issue doggedly. I ask that anyone with a spare moment call this prison (Idaho Corrections Institution Orofino) and speak to Warden Carlin about forcing labor under the duress of closed custody housing and forcing inmates to eat meat products or starve over their religious or political beliefs. Hopefully, through persistence, we can affect a change in the policy of this prison.

Any letters you wish to send me personally may be addressed to Matt Harris 74357, ICI-O GVH-A-25-B, Hospital North Drive #23, Orofino, ID 83544.

All support is greatly appreciated.

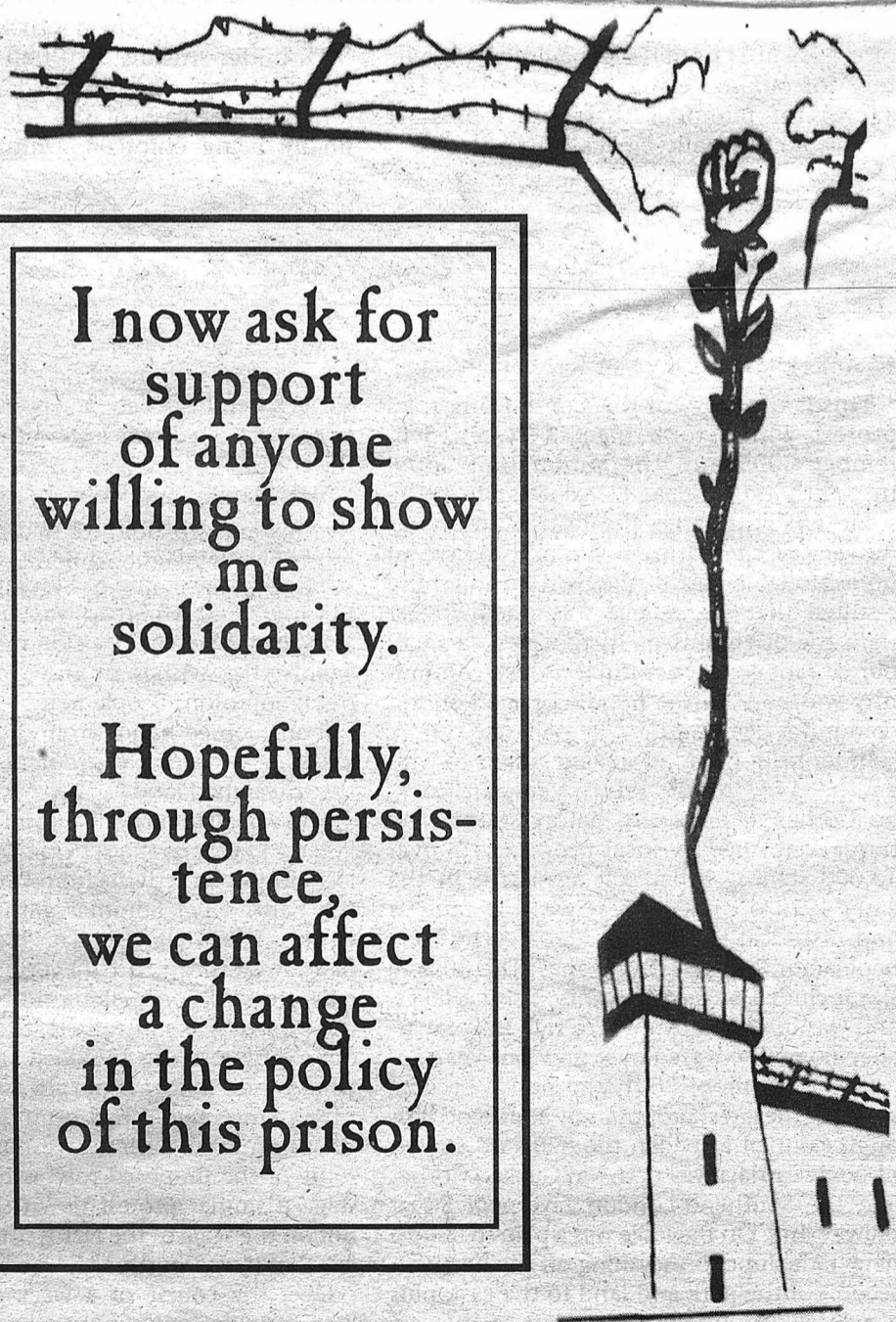
—MATT HARRIS

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hey I am getting mixed signal from all the old time EF! folks I know about the

Journal moving to Asheville—actually they are not mixed at all but pretty point blank. I am not in the communication loop on this at all. So what I am about to write is a lot of "if's." But if the *Journal* for some reason cannot make Asheville work I believe here in Knoxville we have the assets to keep the *Journal* going. We have the cheapest printing on the East Coast as we are home to the 3rd largest printing press on the East Coast.

Unlike Asheville, Knoxville is not a hippy Mecca—though it is much larger and has a much larger music scene. Our housing is cheap—half what you pay in Asheville. We are also dead center between the North and the South and the Mississippi and the East Coast. We also have five major interstates which converge here—all roads lead to Knoxville which is why so many major communication hubs move here. We are also have the largest purchaser of coal in North America here—Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)—and are



smack in the middle of the fight against mountain top removal for coal—which is not happening in North Carolina. Also we have two former short-term editors of the *Journal* that live in Knoxville.

Just another option—choices are beautiful. Like I wrote—I am out of the loop completely on the discussions all I am hearing are from the old time EF! folks who have been active in Asheville for a decade or so—nothing from the new people. We even have an empty trailer at our disposal on a farm here.

Consider us a last option if you need it. I have been going through my wife's complete set of *Journals* and its renewed my determination that the *Journal* should not stop printing. I have no doubt that if you all needed this option that the community here in Knoxville would have to meet—and would have some conditions. Mainly they would be based on the software programs we use to print at our press—less of a margin I think on the edges—tweaky stuff that comes from switching a press and a community.

But no need to get into this if the Asheville thing is a go. I just wanted the *Journal* staff to know there is another workable option. If the subscriptions and info was handed off we might even be able to do it without any of the previous *Journal* staff having to move to Knoxville as we are a grubby little industrial town that might not be as attractive as the hippy Mecca of Asheville.

Just a backup plan I wanted to mention if Asheville doesn't work out.

—CHRIS IRWIN

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

Thank you so much for covering The Good Time Bill, aka H.R. 1475, in *Ask an EF! Lawyer*. It seems in an ideal world that environmentalism and prison reform would be entirely separate issues, but recently and unfortunately, the two are very connected. With the help of federal prisoner and activist Daniel McGowan, we have set up www.goodtimebill.info to provide updates on the bill and provide some basic facts about the federal prison system and its dangerous state of overcrowding. We encourage anyone with an interest in political reform or with a friend serving time to look closely at the history on the issue of prison overcrowding, and how many unjust political factors have created a prison system where a large percentage of non-violent convicts, including some of our activist friends, are serving sentences without the possibility of parole (while illogically, prisoners convicted of violent crimes in the state and county systems are eligible for parole, or time off for good behavior). The bill was submitted for Judiciary Committee review in March, 2009. We urge you to contact your local representatives—especially if they are on the Judiciary Committee—and insist on the importance of this bill passing. More info on action

you can take is available at www.goodtimebill.info/news.html

Thanks again!

—ALEXANDRA FLETCHER,
BROOKLYN NY

Dear SFB,

Hello, hey I think you can take me off as a contact for the *Journal*. I wish you all the best, and still consider myself an Earth First!er, committed to deep ecology and biocentric anarchism, but I have been growing more and more discouraged by the way the *Journal* is handled and when I read the editors comments, I can't say I agree with them more often than I don't agree with them....I would not use it [*Journals*] or the newer primer as a tabling tool, because I don't agree with much that is in it... In its current state I think it hurts the global radical environmental movement, more than it helps...what I

see is not radical environmentalism, but immature punk rock politics...maybe I have changed but as I try to find a place for myself in this movement today, *Journal* articles and even slide shows of the roadshow seem to be very exclusive, telling many that they are not EF!ers, including myself. It seems unless you are a traveler youth without a job, you are not an EF!er. I think this is saddening and silly.

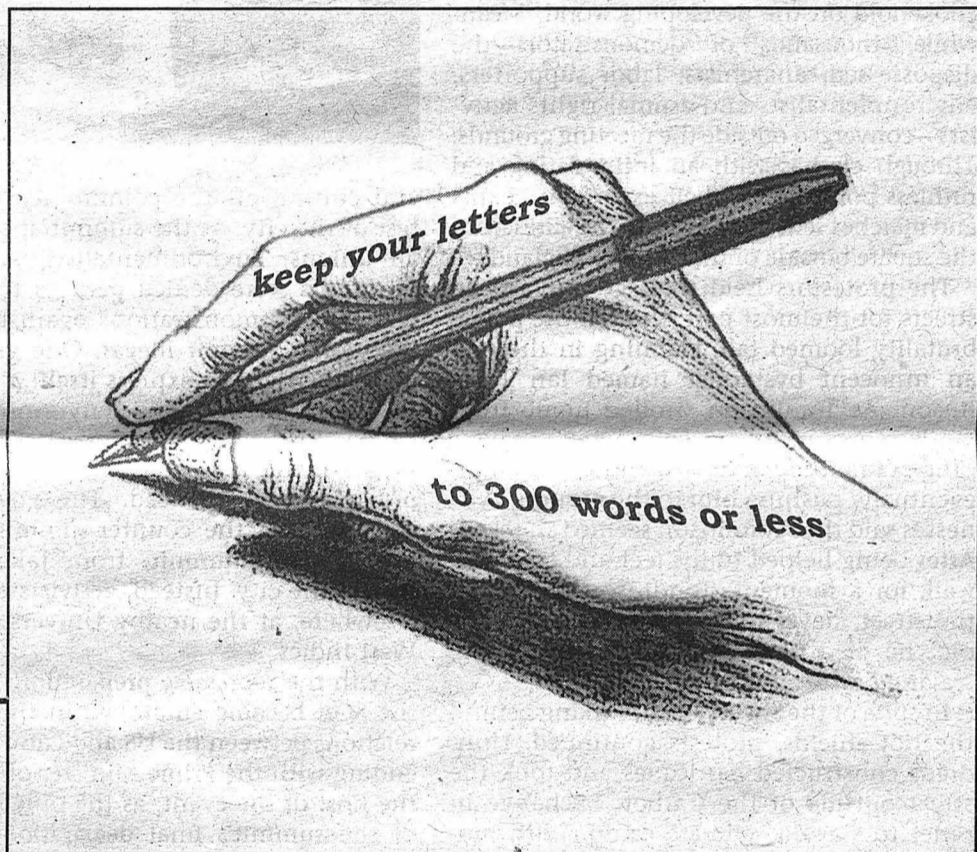
I think Earth First! was most strong when it expected everyone from the recycling housewife to the permaculturalist to the insurrectionist/primitivist to the animal rights, nonviolence advocates, even those folks with mainstream religious views. It seems more about punk lifestyle now and being so "radical" not having or remembering its roots. EF! was started by frustrated lobbyists from NGO's,

many of which went on to found other NGO's. These non-governmental organization's are just as essential as the lobbyists, EF!, the Earth Liberation Front, and the conservative environmental groups—together they make a holistic environmental movement—all essential, all strategic, all having there place... with people that may cross often between them...putting on the proper hat for the essential movement of each campaign. Maybe encourage folks to pick up some of the books on EF! out there and radical environmentalism, including strategy like *Earthforce*. Maybe you all need to try being more inclusive, not try so hard to separate from everyone else, because it is very alienating to many that are trying to do good work.

I wish you all the best.

Love and donuts,

—GROMMIT...



Lughnasadh,

A Mighty Harvest

It's time for urban and wild foraging of ripening fruits and grains! The July-August issue of the *Earth First! Journal* coincides with Lughnasadh, a festival associated with the sun and seed collecting. It is celebrated during the first day of August in the Celtic solar/lunar calendar. The date is the first of three harvest dates of the year. It is also a festival of gratitude.

If you want to celebrate this year's harvest, gather what you have in abundance, as Lughnasadh (of Lammass, as it is also referred to) is traditionally the time to take a break from our labors and enjoy the ripening seeds of the sun. We suggest visiting your favorite bakery dumpster, and harvesting enough bagels and loafs to share with your community. If this is not how you gather your grains, make some fresh loafs in time to eat them warm with your loved ones! You could also

bake a cake and include the first-harvested berries from your neighborhood.

This is a time for feasting, traveling, trading and making the most of good weather! Many of us will be traveling to the Cascade Mountains for the Round River Rendezvous in early July! While adventuring, take this time to visit farmer markets (ask them if they have seeds to share), community spaces, infoshops and instigating camp outs! Bring all ages together to find the true heart of your community. Take time from cities and projects to share songs and stories. Liberate yourself from modern time, and rejoice in the goodness of the sun. The time you take this Summer to connect with your community and those with whom you are active can strengthen bonds and create more-sustainable relationships. Lughnasadh reminds us to take the time to celebrate what

we achieve as a group, the importance of community and, in turn, solidarity.

Lastly, a great way to celebrate the abundance of Summer's harvest is by collecting the first seeds of your next harvest or by tearing those nasty genetically-altered crops out from under the biotechnology giants' feet! When collecting seeds, pick the least-toxic seeds you have access to on a dry day, separate them from the seed cases and place them in envelopes to keep for sowing in the Spring. Include information on the envelopes to help you get the best harvest. Hardy plants can be planted right away—mark the spot so you don't lose them. Remember, every year, we lose species of crops to the modernization of the food industry. Empower yourself and your community by sharing seeds and planting gardens together.



SUMMITS AND TRENCHES

BY [Sic] STET

As economic pressure builds, the year 2009 has proven that *anything* can happen. Ecological movements continue to demonstrate against the international power elite, and repression is only building against dissent and direct action. The outcomes of the G20 Summit, the Summit of the Americas, and the Business Summit on Climate Change show that politicians are continuing to move in the wrong direction, against the popular outcry.

One could feel the spirit of the Greek revolt sweeping through Europe like embers from a burning police station, drawing tight the tension through the streets of London as protesters met the G20 Summit on April 1. Engaged behind closed doors, representatives from the 20 richest nation-states of the world convened to discuss important matters.

Regardless of the electric storm of controversy brewing outside, they pledged to increase support for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, a kind of globalized bail-out program for international financial institutions to tighten their chokehold on the developing world. Meanwhile, thousands of demonstrators—the dispossessed, anarchists, labor supporters, environmentalists and animal rights activists—converged outside the meeting grounds. Through clashes with an intimidating and ruthless police force, their exuberant chants and marches sent challenges to the elites from the square outside of the Bank of England.

The protestors held their ground in the streets for the most part, though the police brutality loomed tall, claiming in the end an innocent bystander named Ian Tomlinson. As Tomlinson strolled home from work, hands in his pockets, agitated police officers randomly harassed and shoved him, eventually pushing him to the ground. Witnesses said that Tomlinson seemed shocked. After being helped to his feet and trying to walk for a moment, Tomlinson fainted to the street, never to reawaken. At 47 years-old, he died of serious internal bleeding, leaving a wife and nine children.

In spite of the sheer danger lurking behind the riot shields, protests continued. Hundreds constructed barricades and took the street outside of the Carbon Exchange in order to stage a climate camp. With music, workshops and festivities, the Climate Camp addressed sustainable models for

and cutting off the community from the rest of the city. As the summit approached, all unions, environmentalists, and other protestors were denied permits to protest, rendering demonstrations against the billion-dollar summit illegal. One group was given the right to express itself: a coalition of small farmers and environmentalists called the Truth Drummers. However, the moment the drums began, the riot police ordered them silenced. The government even banned the counter-summit, named the Peoples' Summit, from taking place within the city. Instead, activists convened elsewhere, at the nearby University of the West Indies.

With the repressive preparations in place, the SOA became embroiled in the crisis of relations between the US and Latin America, ending with the Prime Minister of Trinidad, the host of the event, as the only signatory of the summit's final declaration. Obama used tactful scheduling to reach out to Leftist leaders of Venezuela and Bolivia, Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales, but beyond the restoring of ambassadors between Colombia and the US, few conclusive decisions were made. Engaging in talks on loosening regulations against Cuba, Obama seemed to be soaring to new heights of grandeur in the eyes of many leftists. Still, the corrupt miasma coming from the corporate conomics of the past eight years hung amiss over the talks and leaked into the ether of public discourse after the close of the SOA.

In spite of President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe's, complicity in the assassinations of union leaders and his plan to turn eight percent of Colombia (including the region of El Chocó, which environmentalists consider one of the top nine ecological hotspots in the world) into a massive palm-oil plantation, the Obama administration charged out of the gates with forceful rhetoric pushing the passage of the Colombia and Panama Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) before the end of the year. As the new leftist government of El Salvador faces a challenge under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) from a mining firm for delaying contracts and California faces an imminent North American Free Trade

Agreement (NAFTA) challenge for refusing to accept fuel from the Canadian Tar Sands, free trade seems to be continuing the regime of environmental impunity. Labor and environmental leaders from the US see an FTA with Colombia as the worst possible initiative. Meanwhile, with Obama supporting the militarization of Mexico and Colombia, exploitative trade practices seem like only the tip of the iceberg.

The most recent summit, the World Business Summit on Climate Change, took place May 27 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Inside, Royal Dutch Shell, the number one producer of carbon emissions, topped the list of dignitaries, while Duke Energy (number twelve), and BP (unlisted) also enjoyed the empty promises of new technology. Outside, about 300 protestors marched through the city to peacefully demonstrate their dissent. In the ensuing conflict, the police arrested 71 people. With dissent brutally repressed, the corporate participants in the summit declared an immediate success for business as usual.

Underneath the elitist pomp and circumstance, where rhetoric overshadows the continuing disintegration of real, political solutions, breakthroughs in social change continue to gather steam. The preposterous grounds of arrest in the case of two Earth Firsters in May indicate that the environmental destruction of development on the NAFTA superhighway in Indiana is an increasingly sensitive issue. With the Panama FTA looming in the wings, the completion of the so-called "Plan Pueblo Panama" infrastructure project to build free trade routes throughout North America has become paramount among the US's paranoid national-security plans. Without the passage of the Panama FTA, the Colombia FTA may be dead in the water, and, with it, the accelerated devastation of crucial rainforest and wetland areas. Though it is difficult to continue through the adversity presented by apparently impenetrable fortresses of power, Earth First! plays an important role in expressing what the politicians continue to misrepresent within the currents of public opinion. We have the opportunity to prove that we will not be terrorized or play their game! Together, we have a chance to stop I-69, the FTAs and the global meltdown.

[Sic] Stet supports fair trade and self reliance.

EARTH FIRST! PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EXPRESSING WHAT THE POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO MISREPRESENT



THROUGH CLASHES WITH INTIMIDATING, RUTHLESS POLICE, THEIR EXUBERANT CHANTS AND MARCHES SENT CHALLENGES TO THE ELITES



Obama and Uribe 'informally' meeting about the FTA



London Police Assaulted Non-Violent Protesters During the G20 Summit

ecological change until, at 7 pm. Totally unprovoked and by surprise, riot police attacked. Beating people who, with their hands in the air, chanted, "This is non-violent," the police battered their way through the crowd with batons, dispersing the last of the protestors after five hours of abuse. Of course, mass media deemed the summit a success, ignoring most of the disturbing police violence.

close of the SOA. In spite of President of Colombia, Alvaro Uribe's, complicity in the assassinations of union leaders and his plan to turn eight percent of Colombia (including the region of El Chocó, which environmentalists consider one of the top nine ecological hotspots in the world) into a massive palm-oil plantation, the Obama administration charged out of the gates with forceful rhetoric pushing the passage of the Colombia and Panama Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) before the end of the year. As the new leftist government of El Salvador faces a challenge under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) from a mining firm for delaying contracts and California faces an imminent North American Free Trade

* SOA is also the acronym for the School of the Americas, where the US trained right wing militants to torture and massacre.

BY EVERGLADES EARTH FIRST!

A couple of us have been working hard on building up the Everglades Earth First! website; you know, adding the bells and whistles and the videos and the swamp swinger stories and campaign zine pdfs. Go to our site and you'll find out who we are, what our past actions have been, whose on our shit list, what we think folks interested in Florida ecology, history, and politics should be reading, as well as links to other campaigns. You can even listen to tracks from our EEF! music comp. True, the rev won't flow through the interwebs, and we'd damn sure rather be picking daisies than lurking around online, but it is a great way to outreach to lots of folks we'd never have the chance to touch base with. We get a good bit of our legal defense funds through our paypal link on the site to boot.

About a month ago, we decided to put a web tracker on the site. It was free and it offers lots of weird statistical analysis: this nameless user used such-and-such web provider, used

these search terms or clicked this hyperlink to access the EEF! site, they went to these pages, downloaded these documents, and then exited through such and such a portal. Wow! It's actually really creepy and sort of makes you feel like a cop to go through the lists. Of course actual names aren't given. We can see the city and country as well as the web host. This is where it gets interesting. It turns out that most big corporations use their own self-titled host. So, when we read through the visitors' path logs, we started seeing some near and dear arch enemies. Florida Power and Light has visited our site over 20 times on various occasions. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's office, as well as the Delray Beach police, have stopped in. We've been looked in on by Florida Municipal Power, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Road Development LLC, Penspen Onshore and Offshore Drilling, Phoenix De-watering (a "clean coal" slurry thickening company), and various city and county government hosts. Two

brand protection service providers, Ketchum Communications and New Media Strategies, which function to protect corporations "from the effects of negative perceptions or attacks," have visited on a pretty regular basis.

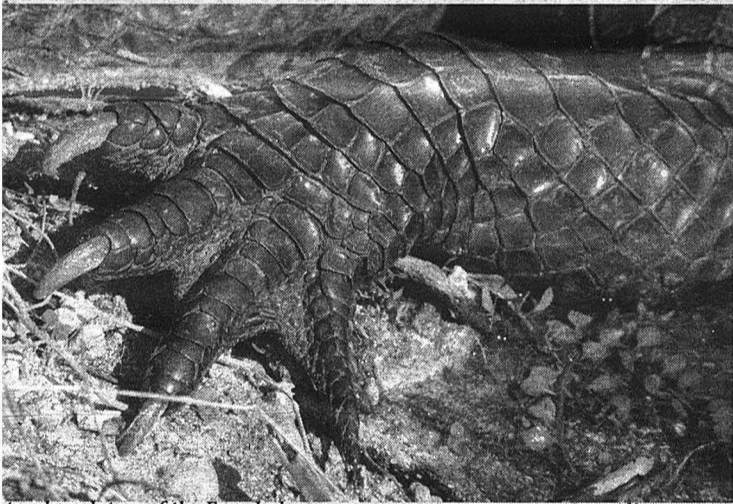
And now it gets creepier. Scripps Research, a biotech and vivisection corporation headquartered in La Jolla, California, has dropped by our site at least a hundred times and downloaded all of our info on their vivisection labs at a Florida Atlantic University campus in Jupiter, Florida. Another visitor, Global Assets Tactical LLC, which trains law enforcement agencies in "counter-terrorism" (aka state terrorism) and hosts a five day course on informant training, has left the creeps on us pretty heavy.

But who is paranoid? It appears that each and every one of these dubious visitors are checking the playing field. Perhaps Scripps is searching to see if we've crossed that bullshit line created by the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) by creating "threatening" flyers. Perhaps Penspen is thinking about the financial repercussions of setting up offshore

drilling any where near an eco-resistance movement. Sure as anything, those PR corporations are checking our info, our angles and arguments, and coming up with media campaigns to counter act them. And you know what the cops are doing at our site! They must have misspelled the web address of their favorite porn site and stumbled on us... those creepy, lazy scumbags.

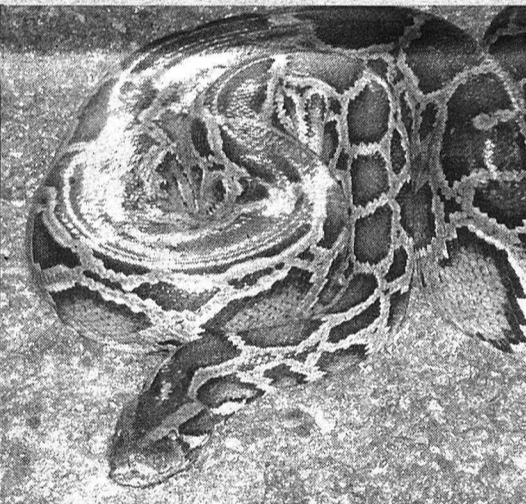
So should EEF! be paranoid? Uh, sure, why not. But we can't let it stop us from spreading our message, from carrying out resistance to the murderers that are attacking us all through their attacks on the wild. The US. government and the vile corporations that prop it up and run it will keep their eyes on us. We must continue to hold them in our scopes. We must continue to set the record straight on the ground and across the web.

So check out our site, email us and tell us what you think, and update us with info from your campaign that you'd like us to post. We want to carry the information war forward.



Natural predators of the Everglades

Alligator paw



Burmese Python



Red-shouldered hawk, occupant of everglade sky

Repression in Indiana Continues

continued from page 1

the offices and plopped themselves down on the sidewalk, and an eviction notice appeared on the office doors. This was a response to the commencement of evictions of hundreds of farmers and landowners on the proposed new route of I-69.

These arrests appear to be nothing more than an attempt to intimidate and harass those who dare to build communities of resistance and oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement. It's painfully obvious that the state had to dig awfully deep and use obscure outdated laws to pull these charges out of whatever dark place they had been lurking.

However, the government's harassment isn't really proving to be effective. The community has come together stronger than ever, and the \$30,000 needed to bail Tiga and Hugh out was put up in slightly more than week. Support (financial and otherwise) has been pouring in from across the US and overseas. This said, estimated legal costs are in the tens of thousands of dollars and benefit events are still very much needed. It's up to all of us to make sure that the ISP really has bitten off more than they can chew.

Chad Brandler really doesn't want these folks to go to jail. For more information on Tiga and Hugh's case, to read their arrest warrants and to find out how to support them, visit, www.mostlyeverything.net.

I-69 will result in at least 400 families being evicted from their homes, the destruction of more than 7,000 acres of wild land, the increased globalization of capital, depleted resources, increased sweat-shop goods and the deaths of thousands of animals.



BY GATEWAYSUCKS.ORG

Shouts of "Don't need it! Don't want it! Won't have it!" rang out from the working-class dock lands of Surrey, near

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on Coast Salish territory, as a diverse group of protesters massed at the riverfront in January to oppose the Gateway Project.

A \$10 billion freeway and port expansion plan, Gateway includes a ten-lane "super-bridge" to replace the five-lane Port Mann Bridge, the regional widening of the Trans-Canada Highway, a new truck freeway dubbed the South Fraser Perimeter Road, and a major expansion of the Roberts Bank Superport (also known as Deltaport). The project is part of the "Asia-Pacific Gateway Corridor Initiative," a colossal fossil-fuel scheme to spread global trade via the west coast.

The chant in Surrey was led by Ned Jacobs, the twinkly-eyed son of revered freeway-fighter and urban re-thinker Jane Jacobs. In 2005, Ned was one of 24 heroes arrested in the standoff against the Sea-to-Sky Highway project at Eagleridge Bluffs near West Vancouver, the first major act of resistance connected with the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. (Also arrested at Eagleridge were First Nations elder Harriet Nahanee, who died shortly after falling ill in jail, and "grandma of the woods" Betty Krawczyk, who served nine months for violating the injunction against the blockade.) The Bluffs were ultimately bulldozed in spite of widespread protest from the First Nations, by British Columbia's megalomaniac Transportation Minister, Kevin Falcon, who is now hell-bent on building the behemoth Gateway. However,

As Resistance Blooms, a he may find that the Bluffs were only a taste of the burgeoning resistance.

The Gateway Project proposes a cancerous sprawl of highways designed to speed truckloads of toxic, disposable, plastic goods through the region toward the Walmarts of eastern Canada and the southern US Facing destruction are First Nations sacred sites, orca pods, fertile farmlands, salmon streams, urban wildlife corridors, migratory bird sanctuaries and Burns Bog—the largest domed peat bog in western North America, known as the "lungs of the lower mainland." Environmental assessments have been fast-tracked. Public and scientific objections are routinely disregarded.

As the public face of Gateway, Minister Falcon is notorious for his admiration of authoritarian methods. Observing that China, "really has the ultimate Kevin Falcon government structure."

"They don't have the labor or environmental restrictions we do. It's not like they have to do community consultations. They just say, "We're building a bridge." and they move every one out of there and get going within two weeks. Could you imagine if we could build like that?"

To make way for Falcon's freeways, demolitions of working class homes along the alignments have recently begun, while land barons make millions from property flipping and industrial rezoning. Independent polling shows that public opposition has grown to a very strong 69 percent, creating a receptive mood for direct action. A number of small, vibrant riverside communities face obliteration, and it is in these places where Vancouver's history of grassroots freeway fighting is being revisited.

Throughout the region, people who never saw themselves as "activists" express outrage as

"Done Deal Comes" Undone their voices are ignored. First Nations people are represented along with early settlers, recent immigrants, farm folk, city folk, the rich, the poor, elders, kids and everyone in between. In March, resisters engaged in a week-long blockade against house demolitions in Surrey's Bridgeview neighborhood, which successfully resisted government attempts at mass relocation for a similar project a generation ago. A steady stream of supporters from near and far stopped by the blockade, bringing coffee, cookies, camping gear and *good cheer*.

Bernadette Keenan, a Bridgeview single mom and civil servant, put in many long hours on the blockade. A newcomer to activism, she has assumed the moniker Bernadette "No Trucking Freeways" Keenan and now campaigns tirelessly against the freeway, which is planned to be built half a block from her neighborhood school. "I'm worried about my daughter's health, about all the children, about the river," she said as the bulldozers roared in. "Civil disobedience is a last resort, but we may have no choice. I never knew how brave I was until now."

Days later in nearby Langley, farmers barricaded the office of a local politician with their tractors, demanding the cancellation of an overpass proposal. Meetings in the nearby towns of North Delta and Tsawwassen have drawn huge crowds who have clamored for direct action. In April, activists dumped a load of sand from a Gateway pre-construction site at Minister Falcon's office, and guerrilla gardeners recently took up a position on the freeway alignment in Bridgeview.

In a shady ravine on the bank of the Fraser River in North Delta, professional firefighter, Brad Major, prepares to defend his home from the onslaught of a

highway that would expropriate his house for an overpass, and destroy the rare ecosystem he has lovingly tended and reforested (search YouTube for "SFPR Parts 1-4" for videos). With friends standing by to help, he is just one of many "regular folks" now realizing that direct action may be what is needed to turn the tide when all else fails.

One Surrey resident, who helped spearhead the Bridgeview blockade, sees increasing direct action against Gateway as the best way to fight the destruction. "If they try to bulldoze through North Delta a few months from now, we might just have to confront them at every house, every stream, every sacred site. Squat by squat, the atmosphere will grow festive, a celebration of life. The world will be watching in 2010."

Meanwhile, pre-construction is underway. Neighborhoods, forests and wetlands need defending. We engage now in struggle to defend our homes and the community of life around us. We honor those who went before us—like Harriet Nahanee who died at the hands of the Canadian state. We stand with road resisters everywhere, but especially at Eagleridge Bluffs, Bear Mountain and I-69.

The Gateway Project was declared "a done deal" from the moment it was unveiled half a decade ago, but it will be a minimum of two years before concrete can be poured, in part due to the bogginess of the local terrain (even the Romans knew better than to build roads on bogs!). With broad local support and the meltdown of global capitalism, we have the power to shift everything.

Now is our time of greatest opportunity, and the ranks of the movement must swell to meet the challenge. Join us Shut the Gateway! No pasaran!

BRITISH COLOMBIA'S GATEWAY

Anarchy on the King's Burial: The Making of the Camp Bling Protest

continued from page 3

The second factor that we feel really worked in our favor was that most of the people involved with the camp were local and had been involved for some time. Not that we were parochial in our outlook, but we had a protest site linked directly into the local campaign, with the added strength of skilled people coming in from outside to support. The local council appeared unable or, at least, unwilling to do anything about our presence. The camp continued to grow steadily throughout the first winter leading into 2006.

People visited from other sites, and a trip from Brighton led to the start of Camp Titnore near Worthing, fighting development down on the south coast which continues to this day. Although much of the energy was now channeled into building up the camp as a very direct threat, various other campaign activities took place at strategic points. Direct action took place at the Government Office for the East of England in the spring of 2006, and in 2007 much embarrassment was caused when over 100 local people busted a

local awards ceremony to acknowledge the discovery of the East Saxon burial which would soon be covered by a road embankment.

Embarrassment is possibly a key factor here, and this, combined with the still-rising costs, led to the council revising the scheme significantly in June 2007, cutting it in more than half from \$41 million to \$17 million to "protect" the burial. This move was rejected by campaigners who had always opposed the road in its entirety.

Meanwhile, as radicalized as we had become, it was clear that the overall environmental situation was changing far more rapidly than most of us had imagined possible. What had begun as a simple, single-issue protest had now delved much deeper into the workings of our culture, holding a mirror up to the way that most of us live, challenging people to confront their reality. It was time for a relaunch. We decided to make a conscious choice to use what was now a long term and well trusted campaign as a platform to be counter-cultural. In September 2008, on the third anniversary of the camp, www.

campbling.org went live specifically with this intention.

The third factor that enabled all of this to happen was a core group of experienced people throughout the campaign, maintaining the continuity and learning that we had picked up along the way. People were always both our biggest strength and weakness. The internal politics can be difficult to manage when people who have never lived this way come together. For us, consensus decision making, and developing our own site rules helped in what was both an ongoing, ever-changing situation.

There were, of course, many highs and lows along the way. We were arsoned, threatened and abused. We had to deal with some very difficult people. Many struggled to come to terms with how little most are prepared to do. The fourth winter on the road was an especially long and tough one for these reasons. Probably the biggest lesson from this type of campaigning is that one will spend long periods of time simply holding the fort, as the every day world moves along apace outside.

Late in 2008 we got wind of the council positioning themselves to obtain funding once again. A Freedom of Information request on our part led to yet another spate of bad media for those behind the scheme and the pivotal point of the campaign. Against all the odds and expectations, it was announced in April 2009 that the road was cancelled. Enough funding was clearly not going to be made available, and, possibly, the continual presence of the camp was becoming too much.

Did Camp Bling stop the road? We would all like to think so, but at this point that probably isn't so important. What matters is that we were prepared to face up to the consequences of our choices and actions, and to show others that they could do the same. Bling was never completely low impact, and it certainly isn't the answer, but it was part of our path and we now go back out into the world with a new perspective and some very different questions. We'll be back at the EF! gathering this year to talk about it.

Visit campbling.org; www.savepriorypark.org.

How Foraging Can

Set You Free

BY WILDGIRL

For five days at the end of May, I lived exclusively on wild food in Portland, Oregon. There was no dumpster diving, nothing from gardens—instead, I ate weeds and wild plants growing in parks, wilderness areas, yards and sidewalks within the city limits. My purpose was to explore questions of sustainability and survival while indulging my desire to experience what it feels like to be a wild person in an urban environment in 2009.

Before this project began, I sometimes fantasized about being a feral hunter-gatherer. I thought of it as a romantic possibility suspended in the annals of eras past and perhaps awaiting me at some uncertain point in the future, post-collapse. After this experience I see that we can create the reality we want to live in right now. We are as free as we ever were. Our plant friends are still offering themselves as nourishment and medicine, beckoning us to rediscover our primal relationship with them, even in the city, even with all the concrete and asphalt.

This is not to say that we have enough wild land to support foraging exclusively on a large scale, especially living in a city. Still, wild food can be a supplement to an otherwise-local diet, and knowing about it could save your life in a crisis. Besides, to eat a weed is to honor it—and your own wild nature—in a most intimate way. It is a positive, direct action that reaffirms your place in the web of the great Gaia.

I lived on stinging nettles broth, burdock root, thistle and wild carrot; the raw greens chickweed, miner's lettuce, dandelion and red clover; and teas made from rose petals, pine needles, wild chamomile, cleavers

and lemon balm. I had wanted to last a full week, but because the project took place after the mushrooms disappeared and before the berries and nuts come out, there was very little in the way of calories. I did not want to hunt or fish, so I found myself too weak to continue on day five and had to stop. At first, I felt disappointed and discouraged by the early ending. However it was a fantastic turn of events, because it gave me an opportunity to reflect on what I had learned: the importance of knowing your local terrain, storing food, studying the native ways and embracing community. I might not have recognized these things if I had made it the whole way through with ease.

Meet Your (Plant) Neighbors

If you want to be able to survive on wild food, pay attention to where each plant species grows and its availability. Looking for



Foraging in action

food can waste valuable time in a crisis. So, I write down what I find in my 'hood and pinpoint the intersections. I also note growth patterns that could offer clues in unfamiliar habitats. For instance, pineapple weed likes sunny places and wild ginger prefers forest cover.

Store With the Seasons

What grows ubiquitously during the first week of May may have vanished by the last

Pounce on food items when they become available and store them.

Eat Like the First People

The land in each region offers a limited selection, quite unlike a grocery store. This means that you've got to conform to what it gives you. So it is a good idea to study what foods the native people ate in your region and in what proportions. Wild vegetarianism is unlikely to work out in many places, including Cascadia, due to lack of available calories and protein from plants alone. (If you can prove me wrong, awesome!) Anthropological literature suggests that the native people in Portland ate few carbohydrates and relied heavily on fish, clams and deer. They ate an array of berries and some roots—especially camas bulbs—but most of their vitamin and mineral intake came from plant sources we rarely consider eating these days (such as the inner bark of hemlock and cottonwood trees).

Community

Foraging is fun, yet surprisingly tedious. It has a low return for the amount of energy you have to put into both locating and gathering food. This is where community can help. While one person might spend four hours looking for and gathering burdock root, three others can use that same time to go out and get three other kinds of foods in three other places. Together, we can do so much more than one person can accomplish alone. The opportunity to share our knowledge and barter or share goods are also huge benefits. Maybe you didn't save enough acorns last fall, but your neighbor has more than she needs. Maybe you don't know where to

go to catch bass, but your friend does. When it comes to naturalist skills, there is an overwhelming amount of information to grasp. That's good news, too—it means you don't have to know



Stinging nettles

everything to survive. You just need a group of people who are all in it together.

The more you learn about ancestral ways, the more powerful you will become. You will acquire the ability to recognize hidden abundance, to see things that were previously invisible to you. For instance, where I once saw a nondescript green mass lining the roadsides, I now recognize cough medicine, fiber to weave mats with, and even emory boards. Where I once saw unkempt yards, I now see salad greens. Those weeds coming up through the cracks in the sidewalk? Tea. Every single plant on Earth has a gift to offer. Some are medicinal, some are nutritional. Even poison hemlock is homeopathic in small doses. What might be growing in your backyard?

For information on safety, plant identification and further resources on wild food in general, such as books, photos and other learning opportunities, visit my wilderness-skills blog at www.firstways.com. And check out the fantastic primer called "Feral Forager: A Guide to Living Off Nature's Bounty in Urban, Rural and Wilderness Areas," available for download at www.zinelibrary.info.



Shorts



- Affirming the path of direct action, a recent study in the magazine, *Environment*, confirms that international promises of "green" aid are most-often diverted to mysterious ends, and there is no "generally accepted definition" of what an environmental project actually means.

- According to a new report, Canadian mining company, Gloldcorp Inc.'s recently closed catastrophe-of-a-mine in Honduras will continue to pollute the region for years, thanks to toxic spillage, leaking tailings, and poisonous waste. Plans for reforestation of the area may be

overly ambitious, as the official discourse is shifting to protect the waters of the Siria Valley, preventing illness in the communities and farms in the area.

- A popular groundswell of resistance has emerged from concerned members of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe despite the Tribal Council's acceptance of \$10 million to permit the Enbridge pipeline to pass through their reservation. About 9,800 people have signed a petition to stop the pipeline, which is set to

take oil from the tar sands in Alberta, Canada, to Superior, Wisconsin in the US.

- Ohio Fresh Eggs, LLC pled guilty to clean-water violations coming out of its three-million-chicken-strong factory farm in Marseilles. They will pay \$300,000 in penalties.

- According to a new report, commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund, the "coral triangle," which covers one percent of the planet, has shrunk by

40 percent in the last 40 years. Extending from Southeast Asia to the Pacific, the ecosystem's collapse would affect at least 100 million people living in the region.

- In a not-so-stirring new report, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared that greenhouse gases "endanger public health and welfare." "So what?" you ask? This declaration may be the first step in upcoming environmental legislation.

- More than 3,200 folks gathered in New York City on May 2 to exchange ideas on sustainable food networks at the Brooklyn Food Conference.

Somewhere in the Santa Rita Mountains

BY MAMA SPITFIRE

Ensnared in the beautiful arms of the Santa Rita mountains, Earth First!ers from around the country rubbed the sleep out of their eyes, cracked their knuckles and hunkered down for an epic strategy session at the 2009 Earth First! (EF!) Organizers Conference (OC). Through games and activities set up by the workshop facilitators, heated conversations, and breakout groups, we broke down where we have been and where we want to be going in our continuing struggle to defend the planet.

We did several exercises, one of which helped us unpack an issue that has been a source of tension. We were asked to identify whether we lived in urban or rural spaces, and whether we prioritized wilderness defense or infrastructure campaigns. While most people who identified as urban prioritized infrastructure campaigns, and the smaller rural contingent prioritized wilderness defense, some did not fit the mold. Several people saw no conflict of priorities, in the "diversity of tactics" tradition, some pointed out that many infrastructure campaigns are based in rural areas, and others pointed out that wilderness defense is an urban issue, as it is the resources of wild places that are stripped to build and fuel cities. In any case, it was good to talk about the different positions from which we do this work, and help those who feel tension around these issues understand the perspectives and campaigns of others.

After these activities, we broke up into four groups, each with a major goal for the Earth First! (EF!) movement that we hope to work toward: bridging the urban/rural gap, increasing membership and participation in the movement, shaking off our racist and classist baggage and reputation, and becoming a leader in the environmentalist movement. From here, the workshop organizers split us into two groups, each with a broader goal to encapsulate the four we had discussed: How can we broaden and diversify the movement?

Additionally, what kind of outreach will attract new members and retain old ones? Here is what we came up with:

Working With Other Environmental Groups

Putting aside our judgments about what other environmental groups use as campaign tactics can help us build powerful coalitions. Sometimes they have more resources to do research about current environmental destruction than we do. Often, "mainstream" environmentalists have to compromise their beliefs in order to retain their jobs or access to that work through their non-profits and might appreciate a co-operative relationship with a group such as EF! who can approach an issue from a no compromise position. Last, building good relationships with other environmental groups can give us an air of legitimacy in the public eye than can benefit our campaigns, especially in the media.

Shaking off our Racist and Classist Baggage

If we operate under a model of mutual aid, then we won't have to scratch our heads in the empty meeting room or at the poorly attended action, wondering what went wrong. In the context of our crashing economy, it is strategically advantageous for us to be aware of what issues resonate with people. Going to a neighborhood meeting about rent hikes or proposed developments means meeting new people and becoming aware of the issues affecting others. The personal relationships we form through such networking builds alliances that give us a broader base to call on in the event that we need a jail solidarity demonstration or at a public meeting, when we need many strong voices to oppose a power plant.

On the small scale, this can be done by attending local suppers, fundraisers and church services; on the national and international scale this can be done through anti-war work or attending national events sponsored by social justice movements. This work can be done by offering support to the campaigns of others

through child care, data entry and cooking meals. Sponsoring community building events such as potlucks, barbecues or public hikes is also a great way of bringing people together. Sharing spaces with other groups has been a fiscally and politically successful tactic, such as when an infoshop shares a rental space with a labor union. By becoming interested and involved with the struggles of others, we can begin to cross the race, class and urban/rural divides that have given our movement a bad name and has left us feeling isolated and alone.

Taking Care of Each Other in Order to Prevent Burnout

A movement that continually loses its elders and experienced members has to reinvent the wheel over and over. Providing logistical support for people, like helping in times of financial crisis and providing child care for families are ways to alleviate some of the burdens that cause people to drop out. Practicing good conflict resolution and being courageous enough to face up to personality conflicts and power struggles within our working groups helps retain our members, and that's worth taking some time out of the rev to process. Making sure people aren't taking on too much is important, as is recognizing where our boundaries are in regards to our workloads. Honest, loving communication, and mutual support, whether that looks like a midnight crisis call or a loan to cover the rent, can go a long way of keeping us fighting together.

Mentoring and Giving Space to Grow

One of the concepts discussed at the OC was the idea that we need to train our replacements. Simply put, we need to get better at mentoring people who come into the EF! movement. That means not only providing trainings and workshops, but having the patience and compassion to walk folks who are new to activism through tasks, whether it be a press release, a banner drop or how to set up an outdoor kitchen. Mentorship does not

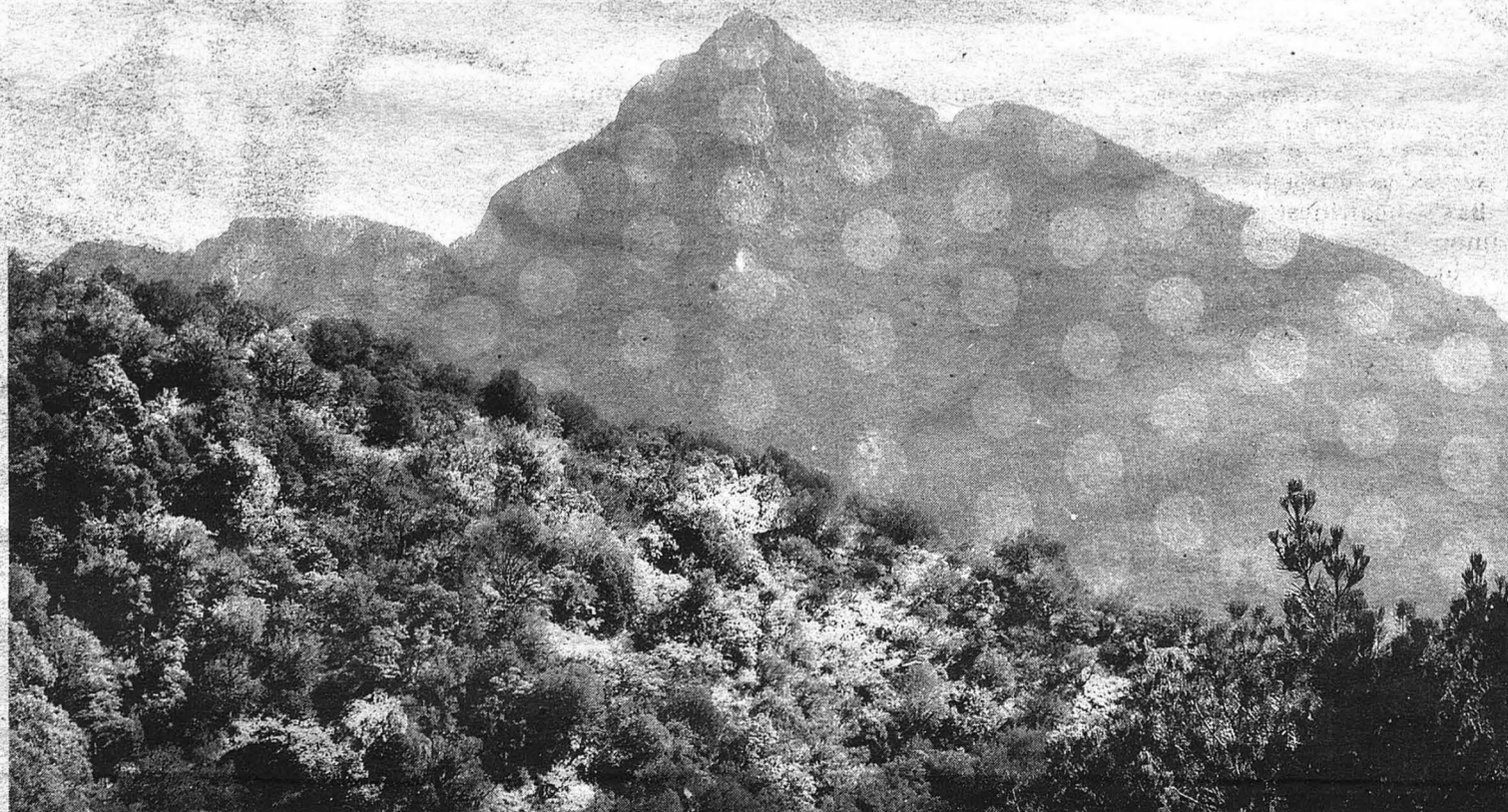
mean that there is a hierarchy. Having a monopoly on knowledge, doesn't give you the right to act as a boss. Helping people learn the ropes and taking on fulfilling exciting roles in your community means giving people the space to make mistakes and learn on their own. Yeah, maybe the banner is illegible, but learning from our mistakes is far better than learning from a teacher's lecture. Experienced activists must learn to walk the thin tightrope between being a resource for others and controlling the process. Conversely, throwing new folks into situations they aren't prepared for can lead to failure and disempowerment. New people need to be challenged with important roles in order to feel invested in the work, but this needs to be done with compassionate mentorship and guidance.

Back into Wild Spaces

Public hikes, picnics and campouts are a great way to get people connected to the wild. It's one thing to participate in theoretical discussions about biocentrism, it's another to stand on top of a rugged mountain or to see a moose for the first time. People are more likely to defend land that they have a relationship with, and it is easier for others to understand our commitment to the earth when they have opportunities to connect with her. Also, public hikes and events are wonderful ways to build community, as well as positive media opportunities.

Finding Balance Without Alienating People

It helps to have working groups who have a diversity of appearances; that way the folks who look "normal" can be the face at town meetings and the folks who have the blue hair can hang with punks at the teen center. More seriously, the question of hiding our identity came up often in our discussions. In the post 9/11 nation and in the face of the Green Scare, the name EF! is sometimes seen as synonymous with violent eco terrorism to those who don't know who we are. But, EF! is a network of determined individuals who have



Somewhere in the Santa Rita Mountains



Strategy

chosen to defend the only home we know and the fauna and flora who have every right to live on this beautiful planet free from human destruction. Our biocentrism is the core of this movement, and we shouldn't hide it. It is a place of strength, strategically, because it occupies a place in discourse that would be unheard otherwise, and most major social issues and struggles of this time can be traced back to the lowest common denominator of human greed and excess, which in turn, is why the Earth and her children are in peril. Last, while we do not want to alienate new communities by not being inclusive, there are elements of this movement that can be incredibly inspiring to those who first see it. Among our midst we have artists, poets, musicians, and more. Some of our first moments of connection to this movement were around the campfire, hearing inspirational songs about the struggle that we longed to be a part of. A big part of recruiting new folks and retaining old ones is staying inspired and in love with each other by revitalizing EF! culture through music and art. We don't want to alienate folks through insider/outsider dynamics. But being proud of who we are and our movement, is essential to organizing inspiringly.

From Theory to Practice!

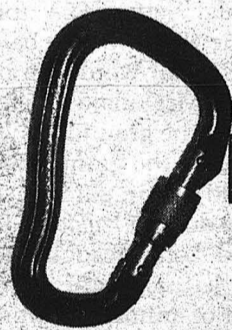
An important desire that came out of the OC strategy session was a motivation to move from the theoretical to the concrete. We laid out

goals for the following year using the tools at hand: the *Earth First! Journal*, the roadshow, and the Summer Round River Reandevous. Besides the printing of this article, one idea was to use the "blank wall" (the center four pages of the *EFJ*) to showcase bioregional campaigns as an outreach tool and to illustrate the way these strategies have played out in the field. The Earth First! Roadshow, while revitalizing EF! culture around the country, can research what other environmental hot spots are happening out there and bring them back to the table.

It was suggested that the Rondo have two specific workshops to address burnout and recruitment, how to start your own EF! Group, and how to retain activists as they age. It was also suggested that anyone organizing with the Summer Rondo make an extra effort to invite our movement elders and local community groups to the event.

Long-term goals give us something to work toward. Having a national strategy gives us a sense of cohesiveness and purpose that it can be hard to find alone. With the sun sinking, and the air growing cold, we tucked our notebooks and note-filled cardboard under our arms, feeling tired, but with a sense of purpose and satisfaction. Listening to the creek wash by through the desert-mountains, it was easy to remember what we're fighting for.

Mamaspitfire is a North Woods dweller who loves wildcrafting, midnight strategy sessions and stopping greedy corporations from destroying her forest ecosystems.



Humboldt Earth First! Canopy Communiqué

continued from page 1
vultures circling overhead, a trail and campsite used frequently by bears, and a creek that serves as watershed for the Humboldt Bay's healthiest population of Coho salmon. These critters have also shown much love to the treesitters, particularly the flying squirrels who share our food at night and the owls who hang out, provide moral support and watch us climb.

GD, is now the most-active transnational timber corporation remaining in Humboldt. They have clearcuts scheduled every year across the Northwest, and have largely escaped public scrutiny by a process of 21st-century greenwashing and alliances with the state. For example, the GD Habitat Conservation Plan for spotted owls gives the owls a vague, constantly shifting zone of "habitat" on GD land and a few remaining "wildlife trees", usually of low monetary value, on land that they clearcut. In return, GD

gets a bunch of "incidental take" permits for owls, which is a license to kill them at will. The GD plan for the McKay Tract is clearcutting, followed by residential development to double the size of Cutten, California, adding more residents to the near city of Eureka.

So far, no chainsaws have fallen upon the McKay this year. However, Summer operating season is upon us, logging could begin any day of any week. Neighbors are continuing to raise their voices in support. They hike, bike, and ride horses along the logging roads in solidarity with residents of the forest. Treesitters are still needed to live in the canopy, protecting this last refuge of wild creatures from the perpetual war that is human progress. Anyone wishing to spend part or all of the summer up in trees is encouraged to contact Earth First! Humboldt at (707) 834-5170; www.efhumboldt.org.

"May the forest bewitch you," the canopy ninjas of EF! Humboldt.



Nestled up in their home, putting the Earth first!

FRONTLINES

"Green Condos" Attacked in Solidarity with Anti-I-69 Campaign

On May 2, the night of the arrests of Earth First! activists Hugh and Tiga, activists in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, struck back against the destruction of "development." Calling themselves "the wild ones," these anarchists smashed some of the windows and glued the locks of four condos in the neighborhood of Riverwest. Explaining in a communiqué posted on socialrupture.blogspot.com that "the most revolutionary form of solidarity is to deepen the conflict," the wild ones do not claim any connection to Hugh and Tiga excepting autonomous affinity with the cause of eco-defense. "We have identified the same faults," they declare, "and are glad to be the contradiction that will rip them wide open."

Actions in Anticipation of 2010 Olympics

Resistance to the scramble of development on unceded indigenous land continues. On April 22, activists broke the windows of a building owned by the gentrifying speculator/developer, Podmajersky, Inc., in Chicago. They also damaged the main window of a Standard Bank, and defaced a three-sided ad that exploited the bodies of athletes for the gains of capitalist investors motivated by profits to "develop" the world through industrialization.

On the April 19, Santa Cruz anarchists smashed five windows of a McDonalds, citing, as their main reason, McDonalds' sponsorship of the 2010 Olympics, projected to take place on indigenous land in British Columbia.

Another action took place in Santa Cruz on May 1 against a Wells Fargo bank in solidarity with First Nations, breaking at least 13 windows and a glass door to demonstrate against investment in the ICE detention centers, the products of a violent, ecocidal North American hierarchy.

Brazilian Landless Movement Wins Victory

The Brazilian Landless Movement (MST) won legal rights to tens of thousands of acres of unused land for 700 landless families. After six years of demonstrations, the MST finally secured what some consider to be their most crucial victory in 40 years. The farmers who will occupy this land will likely utilize it for sustainable, subsistence purposes, as opposed to the eucalyptus-pulp corporations, which have pillaged Brazil's natural wilderness for generations.

Squatter Movement Still Blowin' Up

On May Day, the squatted island of Ravens Ait was evicted by 100 commandos arriving in 27 black zodiac inflatables. Ravens Ait is a small island in the River Thames, London, England, and has been officially "abandoned" since December. Squatters had constructed a tree house, installed do-it-yourself solar panels, and were making plans for conference center promoting "moving off the grid."

In Montreal on May 30, about 100 squatters from Centre Social Autogéré (CSA) occupied an abandoned building in attempts to create Montreal's first permanent, autonomous social center. Their intentions of building a community based on sustainable ecological practices like urban permaculture and free bicycle maintenance were thwarted by riot squads, who, breaking their promises of diplomacy, brutally evicted the peaceful demonstrators by surprise. In the presence of riot squads, the squatters moved the demonstration outside, and were joined by more folks before occupying another building. The second squat was evicted quickly, and the crowd finally dispersed.

Rising Tide Brings the Ruckus to the Parliament House Down Under

In a particularly poignant demonstration of nonviolence,

10 members of Rising Tide Newcastle disrupted a post-budget luncheon televised live from the House of Parliament in Australia on March 13. Demanding increased finances for environmental programs, two activists loudly interrupted Treasurer Wayne Swan's speech to the high-brow lunchers. Seven women then staged a sit-down protest in the foyer, arm-in-arm, chanting "We won't walk away from climate change." Two protesters climbed down the front edifice of the historic building and hung a 24-foot-long banner reading "carbon budget blow-out" just below the national coat of arms that adorns the peak of the facade.



Two tripods in Glengad

Glengad in Full Effect

Attaching themselves to the pinnacles of two 20-foot-tall tripods, two Shell to Sea campaigners blocked access to Shell's illegal Corrib Gas compound in Glengad, Ireland on May 14. Shell has extended their compound to the public beach, raising the hackles of environmentalists who have backed up the legal proceedings with direct action (see *EFJ* January-February 2009).

17 days later, 200 locals stormed Shell's compound, attempting to dismantle the whole thing. More than 60 notoriously aggressive private guards drove back the popular forces, arresting at least five in the struggle. Assurances have been made that further actions are in the works.

Can't Kill Whales Without a Boat, Can You?

On April 23, the clandestine group, Agenda 21, used a monkeywrench for what it's worth. They disassembled the salt-water intake valve on the whaling ship, Skarbakk, effectively scuttling the ship and sending major losses to the ship's Norwegian underwriters and international investors. This is the fourth vessel that Agenda 21 has scuttled since it took over the privilege from Sea Shepherd Captain, Paul Watson, in 1996.

In a nice gesture, Agenda 21 left a short note at the site of the sinking, explaining, "We came to Henningscaer. We saw the Skarbakk. We sank the bastard-Agenda 21."

Saboteurs Shock Telemex

Environmentalist saboteurs, under the titles Earth Liberation Front and the Luddites Against the Domestication of Wild Nature, sabotaged thirty telephone lines by placing small incendiary devices in three Telemex control boxes in different towns around the State of Mexico. Taking place in late April, the actions were deliberate attacks on the telecom empire of billionaire Carlos Slim, who has cooperated with governmental authorities to pollute the environment and spy on the Mexican public.

ALF Gets Very, Very Busy in Latin America

On April 17, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) of Mexico, better known as the *Frente de Liberación Animal* (FLA), continued



MST demonstrates against oppression.

Action "Developing" in the First World, Too!

On a dark night in late April, the ALF liberated several lambs from captivity in an animal breeding farm amidst piles of dead and rotting lamb bodies and forcibly inseminated mothers, trapped in narrow pens no wider than their bodies. On May 6, a young piglet was liberated from an intensive farm, and, two days later, the ALF totally destroyed a pheasant pen and a birdcage belonging to a shooting estate in the UK. That same day, Aussie ALFers glued locks and painted slogans on the walls of Ralph's Meat Exporters in Melbourne, Australia.

More recently, ALF activists left messages on the garage door, sidewalk and street of the furrier, Michel Grama, in Bordeaux, France. The messages read, "Grama=furrier=murderer" "ALF hasn't forgotten you," and "Grama, furrier, murderer at number 16," respectively. Meanwhile, in Finland, during the months of April and May, activists attacked two furshops and two furniture companies with paint bombs and hammers. (These furniture companies use feathers ripped from living birds, and have become subject to attack since a televised exposé.)

Californians Get Down

Unfortunately, it wasn't out of his window, but the husband of notorious primate vivisector, Edythe London, was temporarily evicted in late April during an emergency response to fake bombs delivered by the ALF to his Los Angeles high-rise building. London was exposed for accepting bribes from Phillip Morris while addicting primates to nicotine, amphetamines, and other drugs before killing them, but has not been met with legal accountability.

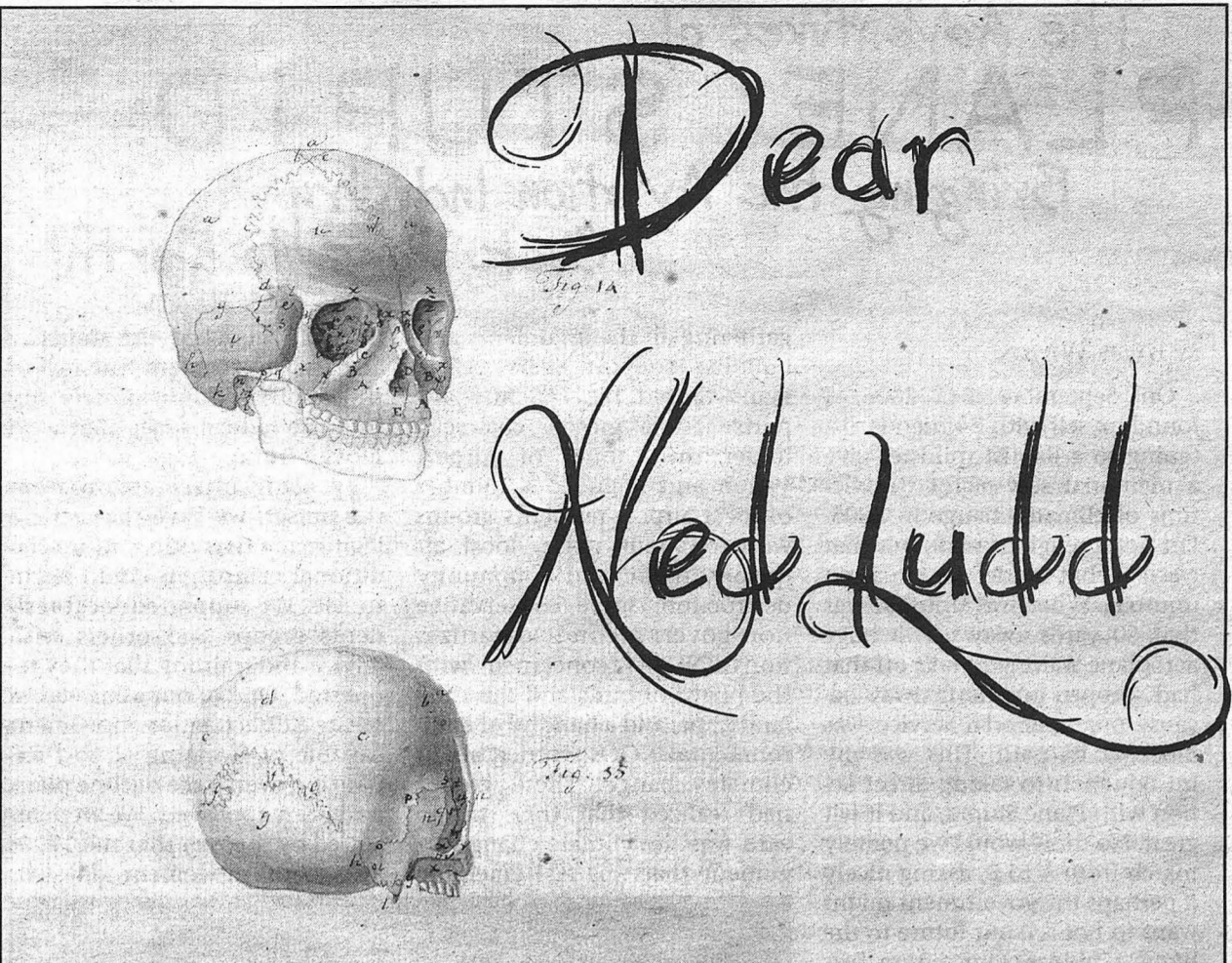
Not to be outdone, ALF San Francisco glued the locks and/or smashed the windows of two meat markets and 10 fast-food restaurants in May.

More Than 2,000 March Against Vivisection

The streets of London resonated with the chants and cries of more than 2,000 marchers during the World Day for Animals in Laboratories on April 25. For 15 years, anti-vivisectionists have commemorated this day, attracting a growing crowd for the annual march through London. In attendance, of course, were members of the ALF, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty and various prisoner support groups.

High Country EF! Gets Crackin'

High Country EF! in the Rocky Mountains declared the start of the anti-I-70 campaign. The expansion of I-70 in Denver would destroy over 300 acres of habitat to mule deer, white tail deer, bald eagle wintering grounds, prairie dog homes, and much green space. To protest, activists hung a banner over the Colorado River Overpass reading, "Stop I-70 Expansion," on May 26 during rushour traffic.



Dear Ned,
I've been reading about people taking direct action against agricultural bio-technology, and I must confess that I'm intrigued. How does one go about "crop-pulling"?

—Sandra

Dear Sandra,
It just so happens that there is a wonderful publication called *The Nighttime Gardener: A Guide for the Shy Gardener in North Amerika*. that can answer all your questions. You can find it online via the North American Earth Liberation Press office Resources page.

Sections include: evening attire for the nighttime gardener, the nighttime gardener's toolbox, the best time to go, how to spot your crop, what to do when you get there, and appendices. Wow, what a read!

I also want to share a few snippets about this subject from a recent conversation I had with a brave cropper lass, who said, "It's really amazing how easy it is to sabotage a genetic engineering research crop. The test sites can be found through Internet research without much difficulty, the locations are usually remote or at least afford good access, and the actual "decontamination" process, though at times physically grueling, is straightforward, empowering and just good clean fun!"

She added that there are two critical elements to success: forethought and boldness. By the first, she meant that people need to carefully consider every aspect of an action prior to carrying it out, from acquisition of tools to the entry/exit of a site. Regarding the second element, she said, "We think like guerrillas and strike where and when we are not expected... because of that, we own the night!" And so can you and your friends, Sandra.

—Ned

Dear Ned,
I'm pretty upset about genetic engineering. It seems that these

crazy scientists are hell-bent on twisting and manipulating Mother Nature, no matter what the cost. I'm at the point where I'm ready to put a bit of heat on those jerks, if you know what I mean. How would I learn to do such a thing?

—Franklin P.

Dear Franklin P.,
I think I know what you mean. It's pretty upsetting to read about how these scumbag doctors are creating glow-in-the-dark monkeys and super-trees that can withstand massive doses of Monsanto's Roundup.

As you know, arson was a favorite tactic of mine, along with

equipment sabotage way back when our merry band struggled against the old Industrial Revolution in England. About the same time on this continent, Native Americans often used fire against US Army forts and outposts because it helped to level an uneven playing field. However, these days, even in the Earth First! movement, it remains a controversial tactic setting inanimate objects aflame.

After the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) torched the Vail, Colorado ski lodge, many folks were upset that the *EF!* printed instructions on how to make incendiary devices. There is no consensus among EF!ers on whether these tactics are appropriate to use or not, much less where or when.

However, Franklin, you are in luck because a publication exists which seems to suit your needs. It's called, "Setting Fires with Electrical Timers—An ELF Guide." You can find a PDF of this zine through a safe scroogle.

org search (remember practice safe computer security culture.)

Remember, Franklin, arson is a very serious tactic to use. You may consider it an appropriate response to the destruction of our great, green Earth, and that's your call. Still, please carefully consider the strategy involved with its use, the validity of a target, the timing of a strike, the best way to communicate your message, the way an action may affect other activists or groups, and definitely take every precaution to avoiding causing physical harm to yourself or others. This is all incredibly important.

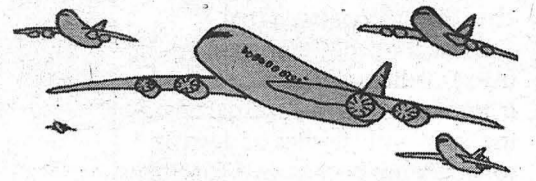
—Ned



Let's all give our buddy, Ned, a big, howlin' "welcome back" to the *EF!*. "Dear Ned Ludd" has been an irregular column in the *EF!* for many years, and the material in the book, *Ecodefense*, largely comes from this space. It serves as a forum for the discussion of creative and diverse means to effectively defend the Earth.

Neither the *EF!* movement nor the *EF!* necessarily encourages anyone to do the things discussed on this page, which should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment.

The Adventures of PLANE STUPID: Bringing the Aviation Industry Back Down to Earth!



BY BARRY WILTON

On September 24, 2006, I found myself with 24 friends, listening to a Baptist minister give a memorial service for the victims of climate change in 2005. I'm not a religious man, but that wasn't what made the situation unusual. What was unusual was that 50 yards away was a huge aeroplane waiting to take off that had stopped on the taxiway because our memorial service was blocking its path. This was my introduction to taking direct action with Plane Stupid, and it felt great. No more would we politely march from A to B, asking nicely if perhaps the government might want to not sell our future to the highest bidder. Our future was definitely not for sale.

I listened to the service over the roar of jet engines slowing to a halt, with a police helicopter overhead and airport security all around us. I heard how aviation was the fastest-growing cause of climate change. According to the UK's government, aviation accounted for at least 13 percent of the UK contribution to climate change in 2005 and that the same government had plans to treble the size of the industry by 2030. This would mean that sometime between 2030 and 2050, aviation would use up the UK's entire carbon budget by itself. That is before we'd produced any food to eat, powered our trains and buses, or switched on the lights in our schools and hospitals.

Since we sat on that taxiway, the aviation industry has become one of the major targets of the UK eco-justice movement and one of the main environmental pariahs in the eyes of the British public. Polls show an increasing recognition of the need to collectively restrict the amount we fly in order to avoid runaway climate change. There is an unprecedented, broad opposition to the key feature of the UK's expansion plans, the building of a third runway at Heathrow Airport west of London. The opposition ranges from the right-wing, pro-business Conservative Party to the Women's Institute, as well as every major candidate in the London mayoral elections of 2008—not to mention the UK's fast-growing, grassroots eco-justice movement.

The question is how did we do this and how could we have done it better? In the end, how will we finish the job, not just of stopping the aviation industry from contributing to climate change, but of building a grassroots, global eco-justice movement that will rebuild a better future out of the present shell.

First, Plane Stupid did not do it on our own. An assortment of anti-aviation campaign groups had been doing much of the hard work in setting things up,

gathering all the arguments and building support years before Plane Stupid blocked any airports. These groups coalesced under the banner of Airport Watch and included a number of local airport-residents groups worried about noise, local air quality, traffic and community destruction; some conservative non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with the plight of birds and the rural landscape; and a handful of environmental NGOs worried about climate change. These groups had realized that their trump card was the climate-change argument that was fast emerging



Lock-down to keep the plane down!

as a key political issue that could unite all of their more-specific areas of concern.

They had learned from the successful UK anti-roads movement of the 1990s that a united front was essential to avoid being labelled Not In My Back Yard. Despite this, Airport Watch was not getting the attention it needed for success, and it was missing the vital ingredient that had made the anti-roads campaign so successful. Direct action in the 1990s by networks like Earth First! and Reclaim the Streets kept the issue at the top of the political agenda, increased the cost of building the roads and attacked the corporate profits of the contractors. Direct action had made fighting road building and capitalist car culture sexy and radical. Plane Stupid hoped to do the same thing in the fight against climate change but, this time, the target would be the consumer bonanza in the growth of short-haul flights.

Even though Plane Stupid wasn't first to the party, we'd like to think we livened it up and attracted lots more people to come and dance. Once the direct action started, many more NGOs started to work on aviation or commit more resources to it. The diversity of the coalition was its strength. Every ecologist knows that diversity builds resilience. Those that would deride direct action as too radically extreme had to accept the more-conservative tactics, yet similar array of arguments, from the other groups. Whilst Plane Stupid drew the more reactionary

fire as it attacked the industry and the government, the rest of the coalition could quietly slip into the radical space that we'd moved from.

By using direct action from the outset, we gave the tactic a legitimacy that other, more-traditional campaigns could begin to use. We supported local-residents groups and others with advice and training that they requested. One of our aims was to create a direct-action movement capable of stopping airport expansion even once outline plans had been approved. We were inspired by the way that the 1990s anti-roads movement did this

by making it economically unattractive for investors, in part made possible by preventing construction of new infrastructure. Yet we wanted to win the campaign before construction began on most expansion plans so we had to use direct action to make it politically impossible to support airport expansion in general and plans for the Heathrow third runway in particular.

In order to do this, we resort to direct action to cultivate spectacles that would both communicate the issues and inspire others to become part of a direct-action movement. We would design actions that would identify and explain our key targets. Early on, we targeted the airports pushing for expansion and the short-haul flights that were creating the demand for expansion but could be realistically replaced by less damaging forms of transport such as road, rail and boat. We blockaded the offices of Heathrow owner BAA and the short-haul company, EasyJet, and shut down airport runways that served short haul destinations.

Later on, we would target government ministers and departments responsible for approving expansion plans. We disrupted their speeches at aviation conferences, threw green slime over ministers with key influence and dropped banners from the roof of the House of Parliament. Each time, we conveyed the point that key elements of government were colluding with the industry rather than acting in the public interest. All of our actions would always be framed and justified in terms of commonly held values,

such as the dangers of excessive consumption, or in terms of corruption and collusion between the government and the industry.

To successfully use spectacles to communicate our message, we required the media to get our message across. Sections of the anti-roads movement and the alter-globalization movement in the UK had their fingers burnt by the mainstream media's negative portrayal of their activities that undermined those movements over time. As a result, excellent alternative media has been developed as a necessary way of breaking the control of the mainstream media. In addition, the movement often chose to ignore the mainstream media, arguing that to do otherwise would only strengthen its corporate grip.

However, just because we ignored the media did not mean that they would ignore us. If we didn't want them to write that we were violent extremists, we knew we would have to use the mainstream media rather than be used by them. We had to understand how it worked and how we could manage it. Understanding the ins and outs of how the media industry works has enabled us to navigate a path that has, for the most part, communicated the messages we want rather than the messages the industry would want. There is a need to build relationships with sympathetic journalists, understand the internal politics of various media institutions and know what day of the week your action is likely to get the best coverage. In any action we planned, we would often spend just as much time on our media strategy as our lock-on strategy.

The result has been a very large and relatively controlled media profile. With this we have been able to communicate our key messages to a wide audience, but we have also inspired others to set up Plane Stupid groups all over the UK and Ireland. Furthermore, international campaigns invite us regularly to come and make links with those fighting airport expansion all over Europe. We even had a Plane Stupid action or two out in Australia. We get invited into schools to talk to kids about using direct action to fight climate change, and we get donations from all manner of sources. Additionally, it has proved a powerful defense against repression. When we discovered an industry spy in our network, we used our media contacts to set him up and publicly expose him. The humor of the story meant that the industry was embarrassed worldwide by the underhanded tactics it had used.

Now, Plane Stupid is not one group but a decentralized network of autonomous groups heavily linked into the wider

continued on page 24

The Ins and Outs of Prisoner Support

BY NORTH AMERICAN EARTH LIBERATION PRISONERS'
SUPPORT NETWORK

While originally printed in the *Earth First! Journal (EF!J)* Yule 2001, not a whole lot has changed about how to support prisoners. Perhaps the only thing that has changed is the immense amount of support due to prisoners currently. With hopes of aiding in the process of supporting our prisoners better the *EF!J* collective has chosen to re-run this story.

Leafing through the *EF!J*, most readers have probably seen the page devoted to Earth and animal liberation prisoners. The page contains names, addresses and short descriptions of individuals being held captive by the state for acts of Earth and animal liberation. The question that may be asked is: Why does the *Journal* list political prisoners, and why should I do anything more than give a short glance to its contents?

As the EF! and larger ecological defense movements have grown, more militant and direct actions have occurred, particularly in the last four years. The introduction of genetically engineered crops, the continued decimation of the last old-growth forests and the expansion of development projects into the last wild places have spawned a new generation of warriors more likely to physically destroy the opposition's machines and buildings than to hold signs or petition the government for change.

The proliferation of actions taken against industry (claimed by the Earth Liberation Front, Animal Liberation Front or unclaimed) is enough to warm the heart, especially after the reactionary stances taken by many radicals post September 11. As we have seen in the US Pacific Northwest, every action has a separate and equal reaction. The state apparatus is expanding rapidly in order to hunt down "terrorists" wherever they rear their heads. The FBI/ATF budget is expanding exponentially, and we have to come to terms with the fact that this war being fought against industry will yield prisoners of war. It would behoove us to do more than just cheer when we hear of wild horses being freed by elves in the night, McDonald's burning down or a beheaded Columbus statue.

The point is simple: No serious political struggle which has any chance of attaining revolutionary potential can afford to ignore its prisoners. To turn our collective backs on prisoners is to ensure that our movement will stay small, relatively mild and will never be a threat to biocidal industry. Who would want to take action if they knew their support would be minimal if they got nicked?

Below are some ideas on the many ways we can support the prisoners that are listed on the *Journal* prisoner page, as well as some guidelines for doing support work.

Corresponding with Prisoners

Letters quite simply help bridge the gap between the "inside" and "outside" worlds. They help inform the prisoner of what is going on in their movements, the world and even their community. The penal system exerts a massive strain on prisoners to break ties with the outside world. Communicating with prisoners helps work against that strain and ensures that they do not feel completely isolated.

Often people say, "What would I write to someone in prison? I wouldn't know what to say." It's simple. Remember: They are human. They have needs and interests like anyone on the outside. Share something about your life with them. Ask about what life is like on the inside and what they plan to do when they get out. Offer some assistance. An unexpected letter from a supporter can be a welcome break from the daily monotony of prison life. Don't feel intimidated by the person you are writing to—they are not a superhero; just someone that had the courage to act for what they believe in.

Consistency is paramount when communicating with prisoners. Commit to writing to one prisoner and do it well—they will appreciate it more than a short, hastily written letter. The examples of people attempting valiantly to keep up with writing to 10 prisoners and then having to scale down to one or two are innumerable. Consistent support is always better than short-lived "flash-in-the-pan" support. That being said, people should not feel the responsibility to commit to writing to prisoners for the length of their sentence. Prisoners will generally appreciate a letter with some kind thoughts and may not even have the time to keep a steady correspondence with everyone who writes them.

Keep in mind that there is a very good chance that what you write will be read by any or all of the above: prison guards, wardens, other prisoners, FBI, CSIS (Canada), the new Office of Homeland Security. You should assume that what you write can be used against the prisoner, yourself and your community, so be careful and have discretion.

Many prisoners are targeted by prisonrats for being political, receiving large amounts of mail or for the "subversive" content of the mail they receive. It is important to know the guidelines concerning prisoner mail. First, ask the prisoner what they may or may not receive. Usually, they have a fairly good idea of what is appropriate to send and what will not make it past the censors. Prisons are known for having strict regulations for what a prisoner can receive, i.e. new books only, first-class mail. If that does not work, write to the warden of the prison requesting a list of regulations.

A tool commonly used to disrupt prisoner support is the "Mail Violation Notice." They can (and sometimes do) reject mail for any reason they want, including the presence of a "circle A" on a zine or the use of the word "anarchy" in a letter. Don't be discouraged by these tricks—either file an appeal (which you have little chance of winning), modify the package to appease them (easiest and most likely to work) or send it again (hoping a different mail censor sees it). Whatever you do, do not give up and allow them to further alienate the person inside.

Fundraising

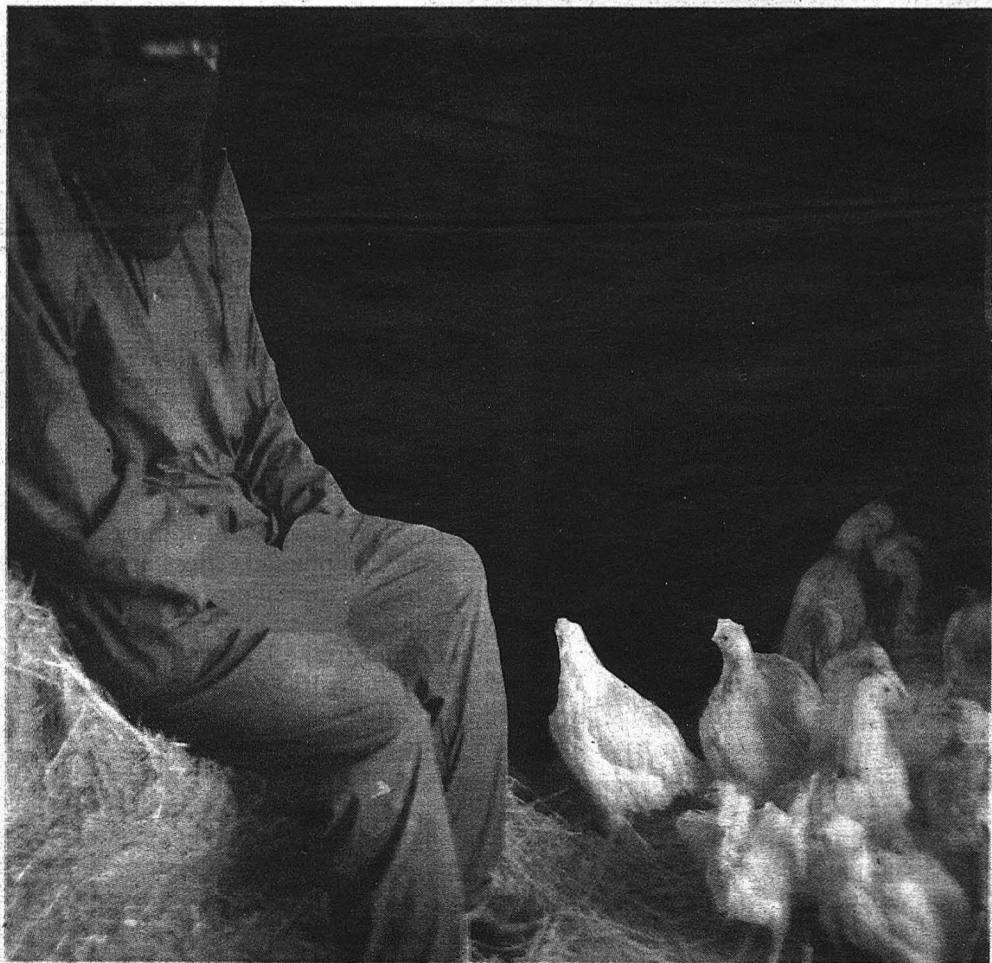
If there is one thing that all prisoners and those on trial need, it is a large amount of financial assistance. Legal fees are exorbitant and many political individuals will not receive any reduction in these fees based on their principles or the action they took. Prisoners often need assistance with setting up legal defense funds that will be maintained by trustworthy individuals who are prepared to make hard choices with little money. Because of their imprisonment, the act of setting up a bank account is impossible for a prisoner. It is important to set up a way for people in the movement to help out financially. Ideally, these accounts would already exist in cases of emergencies, but that is rarely the case. Setting up a bank account, a post office box for people to send checks to and a person/name who will act as a recipient of those checks is key and should be a high priority. The prisoner needs to be fully informed and in control of the money that is raised on their behalf. Never underestimate the generosity and solidarity of our movement and your own community. Thousands of dollars have been raised for people facing imprisonment from small benefit shows, zines and t-shirt sales.

Keep in mind that prisoners are always in the position of having to buy from the incredibly expensive (and monopolistic) prison commissary, which is the only place a prisoner may buy envelopes, stamps and even soy milk. A consistent flow of funds is one of those things that makes prison life bearable. A contribution of as little as \$10 a week can cover a prisoners' postage fees, thus allowing them to communicate with supporters and friends on the outside. Often funds can be sent directly to the prison and deposited into the prisoner's account.

Solidarity Actions

Many people will feel drawn not to writing letters or raising funds but to continuing the struggle that the prisoners are fighting. Some call this concept revolutionary solidarity—an action committed in solidarity with a prisoner that may or may not focus on a similar target.

Revolutionary
Solidarity
—an action
committed
in solidarity
with a
prisoner



continued on page 16

Checking in With Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan

In light of continuing repression within the radical environmental movement we bring you an interview with the political prisoner support group, Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan (FAF). Brendan and Andrew, both members of FAM provided separate insight on their work with FAF. FAF has been providing support for Green Scare political-prisoner—Daniel McGowan (with Daniel's help) since Daniel's initial arrest in 2005. In 2007 the EF!J collective interviewed Daniel (see EF!J November-December/January-February). It is our hope that this interview can help demystify the task of facilitating a political-prisoner support group.

—Jezzabell

Earth First! Journal: *Could you give a little background on your support group, such as when it originated and why?*

Brendan: Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan originated on December 8, 2005, the day after the arrests, when people who had come to his bail hearing went across the street to a diner to get on the same page about what we were doing. The support group originated for the same reasons as any other—so our friend who was (and is) getting targeted by the state for believing in a better world could get some organized support.

Andrew: Well, while not official, the group (Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan) started on December 7, 2005—the day Daniel was arrested. I was at home and received a call from Jenny (with whom Daniel is partners). It didn't take long to realize that Daniel was not in jail for something petty. The first meeting of what would become Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan took place in a diner across from the courthouse where Daniel was arraigned, before he was transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York, New York.

how Daniel supported Free and knew that in turn, the most important thing we could do for Daniel and the movements to which he was connected was to quickly organize support for him.

EF!J: *Since the Green Scare, prisoner support groups have become increasingly apparent in our movement. What were your experiences with gaining access to resources for starting a political-prisoner support group?*

B: I feel that Daniel and all of us were lucky, especially in the beginning when his case was getting loads of attention. I had some access to the political-prisoner support world from doing the work before, and other people had plenty of friends and connections, but being part of a support group for Daniel meant that, suddenly, a whole new world of people and organizations came out of the wood-work to help. It was wonderful.

EF!J: *Facilitating a specific prisoner support group is a unique role most people haven't filled. I feel like it is easy to have a rough idea as to how these types of groups work, but how does your support group actually operate? Is it more collectively-run? Do you feel as though work is distributed equally?*

B: For us, anyway, I think it would be impossible to distribute tasks equally. People have different skill sets, different kinds of things they like to do, and different amounts of time to devote to this work. For example, some people work full-time and others don't; some are overburdened with personal commitments, or political, or community work, and some are not. Among ourselves, we are very collective and democratic, and we make decisions that way. Some decisions are up to Daniel or up to his partner. Sometimes, Daniel will ask a certain person to do something specific. We are a collective when we can be, but we are also accountable to Daniel, his partner and his family. We all do what we can, when we can, and that means understanding that work needn't always be distributed equally as long as our relationships with each other are caring, principled and respectful.

A: Part of this group's success is due to the diversity of the involved folks' backgrounds. Many of us are anarchists; some are not. We have been really good at playing to our respective strengths—some are better at design work, some at talking to strangers, some at fundraising. Regardless, we have built enough trust in each other that many decisions come easily. For the most part, we make decisions based on consensus and consult/ed Daniel as much as is possible and lawful.

EF!J: *Proper exposure to your group seems like one of the key factors in successful advocacy for prisoners. Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan has made a large presence for itself. What do you mainly attribute this to?*

B: Daniel is a pretty popular guy. He has a lot of friends. He's working-class, but, through his work and his life, he is well connected to all kinds of resources through his friends and supporters. So, that has been extremely helpful. We tried to strategize around this, mapping out our connections to the resources

we had available and trying to figure out how to make them best serve our goals. We've also for a long time had the attitude that we'd do best by challenging ourselves to think beyond our immediate affiliations and subcultures—to think beyond the activist scene—and to organize like hell, and put our name and message out to the broadest populations possible; to run his support like a public-relations campaign or as if Daniel were running for office. Certainly, not everything we've done has been consistent

with that idea, but I think that all of the best things we've done have been a result of that kind of attitude and approach to the work. We've also simply passed out tons of flyers and stickers, showed up to countless events and had thousands of conversations with people.

A: Again, a lot of this comes from Daniel knowing so many people and known as a principled and dedicated person. Not to minimize the sheer volume of labor poured into his support, but without the work Daniel had put into supporting other prisoners, we would have been treading water for a while. The fact that Daniel and his co-defendants were among the first wave of the Green Scare roundups also played to our advantage.

EF!J: *From Daniel's initial arrest in 2005 up to currently supporting him in a Communication Management Unit (CMU) Daniel's specific needs have shifted significantly. How does your group identify Daniel's needs throughout all these different paths—especially at times where it may be a completely new task at hand for prisoner support groups.*

B: Despite the intense limiting and management of Daniel's communication in that unit, he is almost always able to tell someone what he needs. Supporting Daniel has always meant writing letters, visiting, raising money and getting the word out. It used to be we'd be working on something frantically, we'd make it happen, and then we could take a little break. Now things are more in the realm of organizing in the long haul. Now they've put him in an unconstitutional and still-somewhat-mysterious CMU, and his needs are bound up even more than before with other targets of the government's overzealously misguided "war on terror": other federal prisoners and other political prisoners. Besides the usual Daniel support and keeping up with our friend, the tasks at hand are to organize and spread the word so as to encourage legal and media investigation of the CMUs (supportdaniel.org/cmu), to organize toward Congress passing the Good Time Bill so federal prisoners can have a chance to be released earlier (goodtimebill.info), and to generally push forward the struggle to free all political prisoners and prisoners of war, and build a better world.

A: This support campaign has been long and emotionally draining, primarily for Daniel, but certainly for those closest to him. One of the only ways we have been able to adapt to Daniel's ever-changing needs is by taking care of ourselves and each other, and taking direction from Daniel, trusting that his perspective from the inside provides a lens that we are otherwise not privy to.

EF!J: *What has been your main tool for disseminating information about these needs?*

B: So far, it has been email, the web, the media, word of mouth and organizing events.

EF!J: *What types of hurdles have you encountered since initially setting up your support group? Do any of the same ones still exist, and how have you navigated through them?*

B: We've had our share of interpersonal drama, misunderstandings and frustrations. All of that is a lot better now just because we've been doing this together for a while now. The big hurdles that still exist are the fact that Daniel is in a CMU, and the fact that Daniel is still in prison, the fact that the government is still rounding up and, in some cases, locking up activists on flimsy pretexts and at any cost, whether they're old 1970s movement cases, recent actions and demonstrations, or so-called conspiracies for crimes that never happened. These are hurdles around which we have not been able to navigate.

A: Some of the hurdles have been losing core members to attrition and contending with the reality that, even among anarchists, Earth liberationists and political-prisoner supporters, attention spans are short. Keeping Daniel on their radar is a persistent challenge. The same central group has remained solid for the past year and a half or so, adding one person, but there was a period of time, right around when Daniel reported to



Raising awareness for Daniel on the streets of New York

EF!J: *What inspired you to set up a prisoner support group for Daniel?*

B: Personally, after working with him on political prisoner support and talking with him about how support needs to step up and get better, I knew I would be a crazy hypocrite if I didn't come through for my friend.

A: Daniel did. Before his arrest, Daniel was one of the folks putting in a lot of work around Free and was building bridges between political prisoner support groups from other movements. Many of us had watched

prison, that several people faded away. That is not only hard in terms of having fewer people to share the work, but emotionally, to see folks become less committed.

EFIJ: Running a support group for Daniel has definitely been a long-term project. How have you kept momentum going for your support group over the past four years?

"Prisoner support is a necessity, a responsibility and a great opportunity for all communities and people who believe in resistance."

B: It's tough. Not everyone who was around in the beginning is around now. We can't get the kind of attention or raise the kind of money we could in the early days. Doing primary support for years takes a toll on you. Having a friend in prison for years takes a toll on you. To keep it going, we have to remember to show each other lots of love and we have to continually reinvent our approach to supporting Daniel. We have to try not to stagnate and drag our feet. Keeping the momentum going is definitely a challenge. I have a deep respect for the people who have been supporting a loved one and/or comrade in prison for decades, especially the ones with life sentences.

A: Speaking only for myself, I think some of it has been building a certain routine. We know that twice a year we are having big events in New York City (NYC). Just as we forget how much work went into the previous one, it's time to start on the next. Tabling more conventional events, like the NYC Earth Fair, really helps also, as the attitude toward Daniel's case and radical environmentalism in general has noticeably changed in the three years we have tabled that event. I just got a letter from Daniel in which he told me a story of a letter he just received from someone who met me at this year's Earth Fair. He had never heard of Daniel and, after our discussion, the guy decided to write Daniel a letter. Knowing that a simple conversation with a stranger on a sidewalk by Grand Central Station can lead them to write to a prisoner certainly keeps me motivated to work on novel ways to talk with more folks about Daniel's case and the government's attempts to destroy the militant Earth and animal liberation movements.

EFIJ: The radical environmental movement talks a lot about supporting its prisoners within the movement. What role has the movement at large played in Daniel's support group? Do you feel as though you have been adequately supported by the movement?

B: It's a complicated question. On one hand, the radical environmental movement seems to really be supporting its prisoners and seems to recognize prisoner support as part of what it means to be in the movement. I can't say the same of all of the movements or tendencies with which I've worked. That said, the number of people who've been consistently present, supportive and helpful is still a small number. I think the community is better with short-term support than it is in the long term. Again, though, I can't really complain. I think this movement has been one of the best movements in recent history in terms of prisoner support, and I think Daniel has benefited as much as anyone from that support. I just also think it could be a lot better. I think there could be more support, more willingness to adapt to new situations, and more willingness to work with different kinds of people and movements. And that goes for everyone, radical environmentalist or not, myself included.

A: Among the radical environmental movement? Yes. Obviously, it's been disheartening to see groups like Greenpeace react so obnoxiously, making sure not to sour the deep pockets that keeps their bureaucracy well-paid. The fact that folks out there still call themselves anarchists and

don't see the total contradiction in supporting snitches is worse still. I, for one, am still waiting to see some of those sealed plea agreements that left Daniel, Jonathan Paul, Sadie and Exile twisting in the wind. Whereas the radical environmental movement has done a pretty good job of supporting its prisoners, it's not done so well with adhering to the

mantras we so often hear about what happens to snitches.

EFIJ: It can definitely be hard to assess our effects on situations we pour our heart into. Yet, looking at our work critically is necessary to help build stronger communities capable of providing each other with support. What benefits do you think your support group has provided for Daniel?

B: I really think Daniel's support group, as well as all of his friends and family, have been enormously helpful in terms of keeping him connected to a world outside of prison and has helped to sustain the inner-strength that he needs to keep believing in himself and in us as he does his time.

A: I think I'm way too close to Daniel and his support to be even remotely objective in answering this question.

EFIJ: From a different angle, what contributions do you think your group has added to the movement?

B: I think it's great we were able to help make it possible for his lawyers to negotiate that global plea agreement, so that everyone in his case who wasn't cooperating with the FBI could plea without having to risk going to trial and being put away forever. I think everything we've done has helped put forward the idea that prisoner support is a necessity, a responsibility and a great opportunity for all communities and people who believe in resistance. Hopefully, we're putting out stuff that has helped or will help other support groups, other political prisoners and other CMU prisoners, other prisoners in general.

A: As a group that has been really fortunate in terms of the support we've garnered, I think what we've been best at adding to the movements we are a part of are resources, advice and experience. Daniel has been really good about relating his experiences every step of the way, and we, in turn, have been able to offer this experience to other support groups. Also, I hope we have been able to offer "the movement" and those working late at night the piece of mind that if, by some bad luck, they get captured, there are folks outside to support them—that their actions are not in vain and that they won't be martyred, left behind, valorized and forgotten.

EFIJ: Providing active support in peoples lives who we care about can have a significant impact on our own. Looking more at the members of the support group, how has facilitating a support crew affected your lives? Has it lead to any day-to-day or longer-term changes in your lives?

B: Prisoner support used to be a small part of my life and my activism. Now, it's nearly everything to me. I have friends I didn't have before, and they're some of the best friends I've got.

A: It has certainly brought me closer to the folks who have stuck it out and it's introduced me to some that I might not otherwise have met. And while I knew about other political prisoners in the United States, I didn't make the direct connections between how the federal government uses the same tactics over and over again to effectively destroy movements. In some ways, the projects I am now a part of are the result of the altered trajectories resulting from the ongoing support work I do for Daniel.

EFIJ: Are there ever times when providing support for Daniel leads to you feeling burn-out mentally or physically? If so do you have suggestions as to how to prevent this and, if it hasn't, how do you think you prevented it?

B: I'm trying to fight off burn-out, for sure. I think others are, too. We've been doing so much all the time for a while, and I think it's finally catching up with us. I think that beating it involves taking the time to take good care of yourself and to take care of each other. I think it means sometimes saying no when someone asks for something.

A: I've felt very close to being burnt-out. I have certainly spent days, if not weeks, physically exhausted. Daniel actually sent a copy of patrice jones' book, *Aftershock*, to be read and passed along through the group, and I recommend it as a starting place to avoid, minimize or get through existing periods of burn-out.

EFIJ: Revisiting how overwhelming of a feat it could be forming a prisoner support group, are there any specific resources that you would recommend to people working on current support groups or setting up new ones?

B: For the pre-trial phase (before Daniel plead), I found Camilo Viveiros' essay "Ten Lessons From the Criminalization of Dissent," (see *EFIJ* March-April 2006) to be tremendously helpful. Also, some of the resources at www.abcf.net.

A: Look to organizations that focus exclusively on prisoner support—The Jericho Movement and The Anarchist Black Cross (individual collectives, as well as the continental ABC Federation). While much of their work centers around folks who have been in prison for decades, they are great resources and a powerful way to connect political prisoners from various movements and across generations.

EFIJ: Lastly, are there any specific things that people can do to help your support group or Daniel?

B: Visit supportdaniel.org. Join the announcement list. Donate money. Speak to someone about Daniel and his case, or include a mention of him in something else that you're working on.

Visit www.supportdaniel.org/cmu. Learn about the CMUs. Spread the word that these facilities exist and need to be investigated.

Visit goodtimebill.info. Join the email list. Become an advocate for the Good Time Bill. Pass the Good Time Bill in 2009! HR 1475, a bill introduced to Congress on March 12 would reduce the sentences of people in federal prisons by increasing the "good time" credit all federal prisoners receive.

Include any and all of the information and campaigns mentioned above in the organizations you're a part of, the work that you're doing, the messages you send out, and the conversations you have.

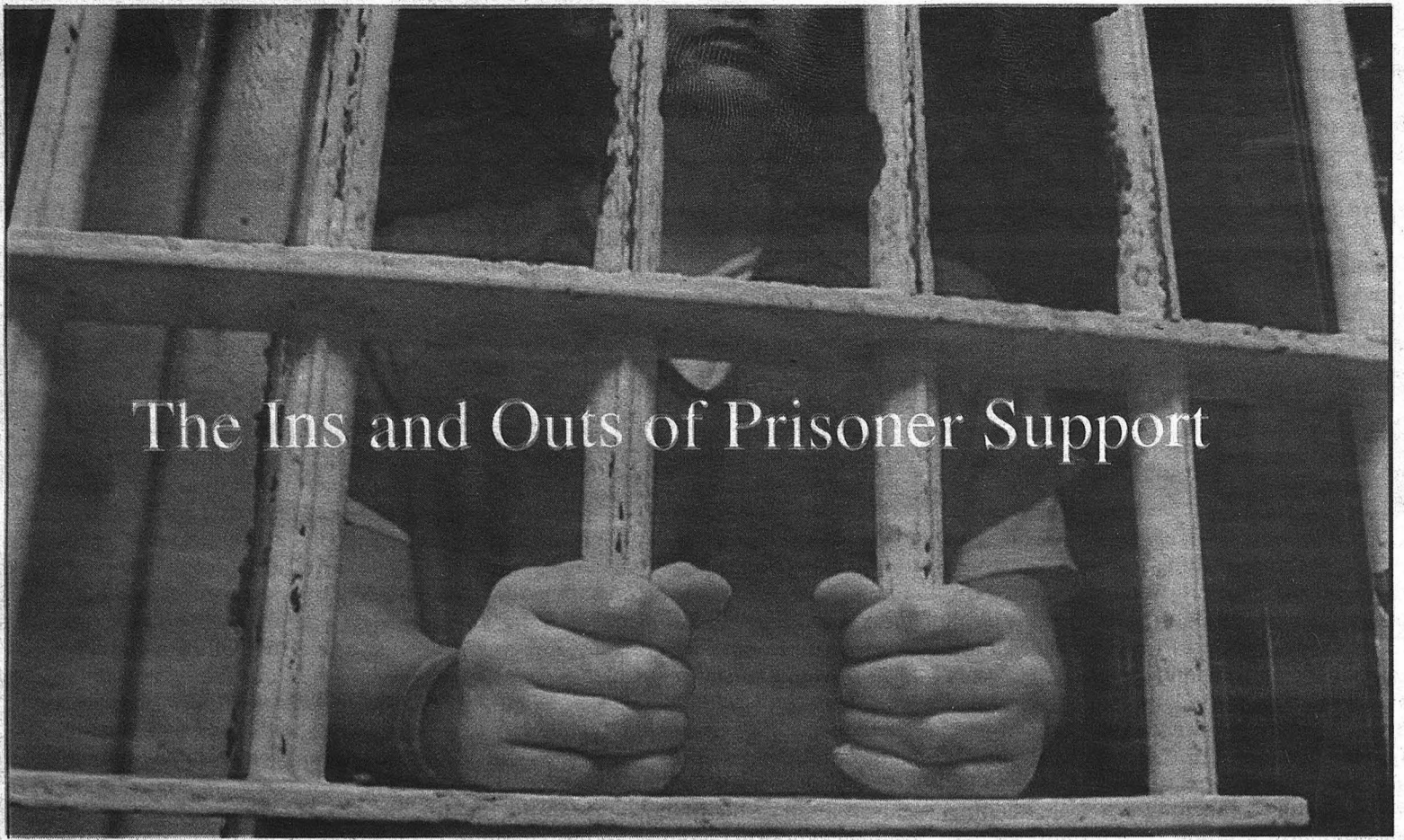
A: For all of the talk of Family and Friends of Daniel McGowan being largely composed of anarchists, we are currently working on trying to get a piece of legislation passed. Pragmatism is the rule of the day. The bill is called HR 1475, "Federal Prison Work Incentive Act of 2009," commonly called the "Good Time Bill." This legislation would increase the number of days federal prisoners could earn toward early release. This is the only thing that is going to get Daniel home sooner. Folks can check out www.goodtimebill.info for more information.

Otherwise, the best ways to support Daniel are to write to him and keep the movements you are part of militant and uncompromising.

EFIJ: For anyone that reads this interview is there anything else that you would like to add?

B: Feel free to get in touch at friendsofdanielmcf@yahoo.com.

**Keep your movements
militant and uncompromising**



The Ins and Outs of Prisoner Support

continued from page 15

When anarchist prisoner Nikos Maziotis was sentenced to 15 years for the attempted bombing of the Greek Ministry of Development, multitudes of actions were committed in solidarity with him.

Similarly, when Rod Coronado was sentenced for action relating to the ALF's Operation Bite Back, many felt that his jailing would stifle actions taken for animal and Earth liberation. The ALF responded with a series of fur farm liberations dedicated to him. Former prisoners have commented that the only thing that freed them was the pressure on the streets and the threats of continued action. A former Black Panther and political prisoner had this to say about this premise: "But I learned that the movement in the streets determined whether you languish in prison or are released, not the state. If it becomes strong enough, it can compel a favorable outcome, even if the officials swear that you will be executed or die in prison."

Here comes the tricky part: There really is no way to know the effect that an action or a communiqué can have on a prisoner's case. For example, three days prior to Jeffrey "Free" Luer's trial last spring, 36 SUVs were torched at the same car dealership that he took action against a year prior. The communiqué that came out stated that the action was done in solidarity with Free and Critter and against their unjust imprisonment. There is no way of knowing the impact of this statement prior to Free's trial, but these are Free's observations (from *Break the Chains* #9): "My critique is this: This act would have been just as significant and more beneficial to me if my name was not mentioned in the communiqué. That said, I would like to extend my revolutionary thanks to those persons unknown. To those responsible for these actions, please know my gratitude."

This is not meant to be a criticism of this action—just a reminder to people that we all need to proceed with caution when it is other people's freedom that we are dealing with.

Work on Projects That are Prisoner-Directed

The most successful prisoner support projects are those that are conceived of and directed by the prisoners themselves. Two examples of such projects are the Victory Gardens Project in Maine (started by NY3 political prisoners) and the Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network (APLAN—started by anarchist prisoner Rob Thaxton). They are successful and long-term because the prisoners themselves are leading them and working in conjunction with outside support to achieve their aims. Another prisoner-directed project is the publishing of prisoners' writings and artwork through zines. This could include receiving the letters, typing, copying, distribution and fundraising. It's a big task, but many examples exist of excellent prisoner-directed zines.

Some Prisoner Support Guidelines

Support prisoners and people facing imprisonment (and their choices) unconditionally.

Barring a major transgression such as—snitching on a co-defendant or other individuals, those facing heavy sentences need to be fully supported and without the "carrot and stick" approach. For example, say that a well-known activist gets busted for a number of different actions and is approached by supporters who want to help with her legal situation. When the activist decides that she knows what is best for herself and wants to take a plea bargain, she is attacked as not being righteous enough and unworthy of support. This dynamic, albeit slightly exaggerated, has played itself out before between people being held in jail and others who claim to want to lend assistance. People need assistance with legal options but do not need to be told what to do or how revolutionary their choice is. When it comes down to it, they have to deal with being in a cage, not you.

Drop Your Lifestyle Issues

One thing we need to get past is the focus on issues relating to a prisoner's lifestyle whether before their arrest, on the run or while in jail. For example, the ALF Support Group has a policy of only recognizing a prisoner as an Animal Liberation Front member/prisoner if they fulfill clause three, "One must be vegan or vegetarian." This archaic clause (written presumably by the people who started the ALF in England) creates a really absurd basis of support. What if a person eats meat but decides that they are going to destroy 12 vivisection labs, liberate 5,000 mink, spike a few timber sales and sab hunts? If they get nicked, who will be lifestyleist enough to tell them, "No, sorry. You are most definitely *not* a member of the ALF and will not receive ALF prisoner support. Please refer to clause three." This sounds exaggerated, but it really isn't too far from an actual example and could happen again in the future.

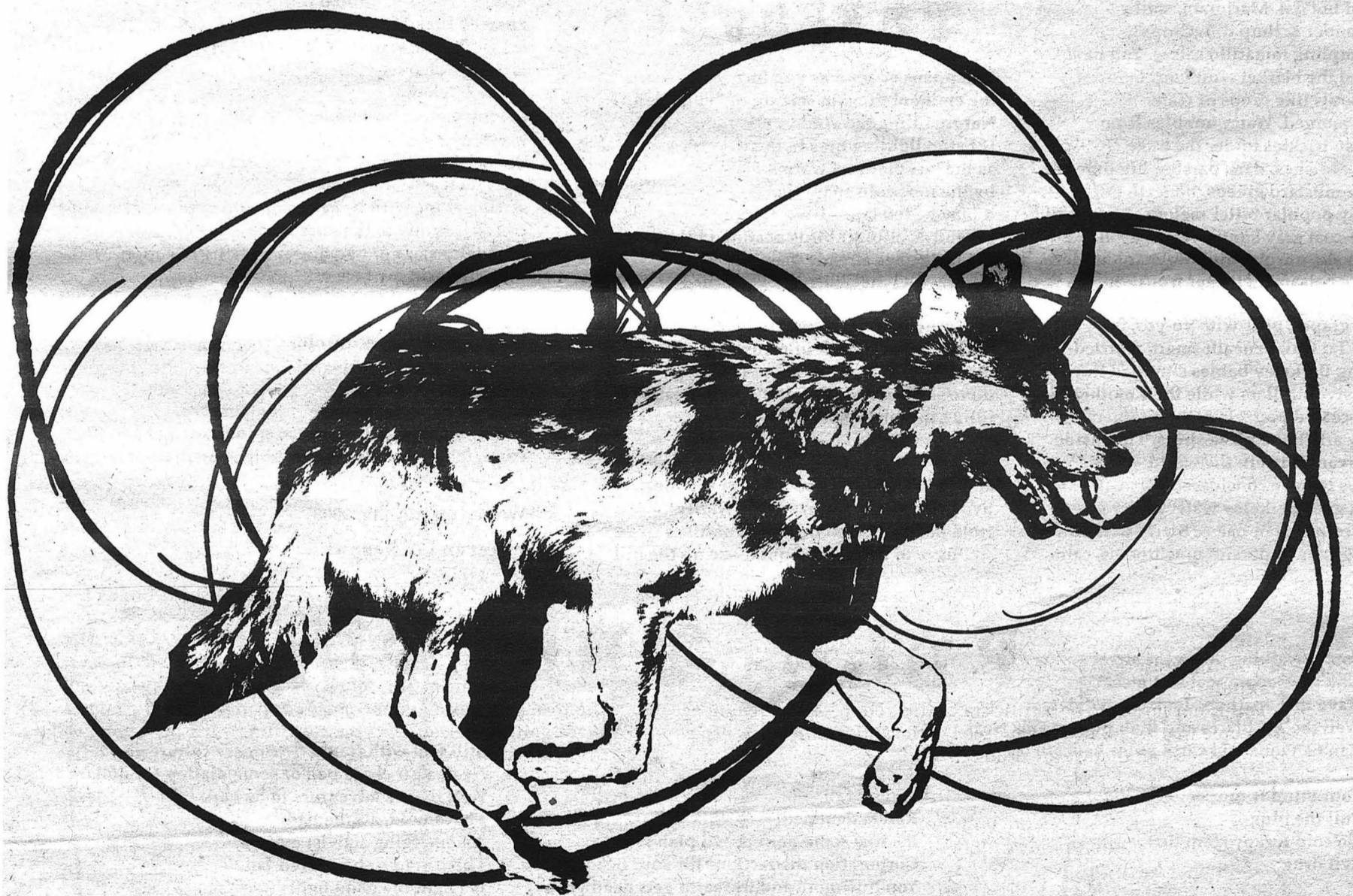
If we are going to enter into relationships with prisoners, we need to understand that they are not going to be carbon copies of ourselves. They will eat things we don't like, do things we don't like and we may even have enough time to spend sitting around endlessly dissecting the merits of their action. Those items are irrelevant when it comes to providing principled and strong support for prisoners. On that note, we would strongly suggest that the ALF support group (in every country it exists in) drop that clause as a basis of their support.

For more information on how to support Earth and animal liberation prisoners, for a copy of our newsletter *Spirit of Freedom*, or if you know about an Earth and animal liberation prisoner that needs help, contact the North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440; naelpsn@tao.ca; www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk. For additional prisoner resources see page 26.

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No serious political struggle which has any chance of attaining revolutionary potential can afford to ignore its prisoners.

Free Hugh & Tija



AS THE STATE'S WEB OF REPRESSION WIDENS
OPEN YOUR ARMS OF SUPPORT WIDER
IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL I-69 RESISTANCE

WWW.MOSTLYEVERYTHING.NET

ARMED WITH VISIONS

as clear as cut glass & just as dangerous

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BERKELEY WATER

The farmers' market is breaking down; fringed sagging canopies fold inward like the Renaissance. Wrestlers & jugglers enter the park; slightly soggy boxes are being flattened as pineapple guavas finally relax & a chill comes over the waist of autumn. From Happy Boy Organic Farms come bottles of thick-as-infinity apple juice with its ankles of pulp. Early tangelos, late plums, Shinko pears cut into tender celadon wedges, mute mache. Women in oversized aprons wash knives in Berkeley tap. Tap. Berkeley tap-tap. The run-off joins culverts of the creek & hurries to the Bay. Mists of elemental sense hover over crates of fruit as hybrids cohabit. Men too smart to pray talk with men too smart not to. Terraces of almonds, piles of ridged hazelnuts & tubs of hot dal. Marjoram, stalks of lavender & limp dill. Chips for sampling tomatillo salsas. You have entered the market with your beloved, your souls like drops of water easily merged. Water tumbles from the east, trickles under the huge blond radishes, dark parsley, big broccoli rabe & mustard greens, beneath only slightly popular bitter melons, baskets of trench-coat gray sunflower seeds, flat & curly kale, unruly rainbow chard, under raisiny balsamic vinegar from Sonoma & tables of Big Paw Olive Oil, violet grapes, girls with yo-yos, boys doing Tai Chi, beneath smart, worried-looking Berkeley babies slumped in very expensive strollers while their mothers eat carob-coated pretzels & their fathers eat floppy artichoke pizza slices. The inside of a dream is itself; the world is ways to have considered it. Down goes Berkeley water under jars of twice-born tan-oak & Sierra wildflower honey, trays of porcini mushrooms, calm

Shitakes & gold parasol chanterelles from secret locales. Everything that happens is so odd; it enters matter over & over as mystical names. Blue Heron Farms. Phonemes in water join sixteen kinds of Napa tomatoes all glitter & rondure next to nets of persimmons—the big kind that will ripen, the squat kind that can't. Wings of purple & green cabbages the size of musicians' heads open next to squashes with spiders pretending to be speckles. Sexy peaceful spinaches will be new next week as will the fennel smelling of licorice, lyric Fujis from Blossom Bluff Orchards round as depictions of time in dreams, globes of baby eggplants, pods of cardamom, planets of pocked oranges, chestnuts, & radical fabric hearts of pomegranates covered by motiveless fog—

—Brenda Hillman

FRIENDLY TAKEOVERS

It happens as soon as you turn your back—the eminent domain seizure of "your" land Nature filling the void. If I stop lighting fires in the woodstove as the weather first warms by the next cold snap it may be too late—bluebirds or blackbirds nesting in the stovepipe the little ones already peeping if I leave a wheelbarrow overturned in the lower garden because a tire's gone flat the next time I think of resurrecting it, casually flip it over as if I'm in charge, there's a thriving ant colony underneath filling the entire space and I have to flip it back over when I return from a week in the forest and go to the outhouse the next morning two yellowjackets buzz at me warily from newly created hexagons of hives so I have to use the old outhouse up the hill

after my next time away
I can't open the small cooler any more
because during three days
an enterprising mama spider
wove three nursery webs
out from the handle
and the little ones,
so tiny I have to strain my old eyes
to see them,
are already unfolding their legs
for the exodus
to take over the whole place.
Of course there's also the small green tree frogs
resting with the wild mushrooms
in the cool damp root cellar,
sometimes the big brown toad
or the yellow and red-striped garter snake
in the water trough
the thirty or so deer feeding in the grass all night
leaving pressed down grass beds
for me to find,
the cottontail rabbit I see
if I'm up early enough in the morning
scavenging left over dogfood
down by the trailer,
the woodrat once again
making chaos of spilled compost,
gnawed bread loaf
fallen dishes,
leaving a characteristic stink
in the kitchen.
the huge great horned owl
roosting somehow inside
the chicken coop
after its feast
staring at me with bewitching gold eyes
clinging firmly to the wire mesh
with talons
that could rip my face off
but don't...
what else should I expect?
I'm over half a century old,
reassured by thoughts
of leaving the earth
for the next generation—
of birds, ants, yellowjackets, spiders,
frogs, toads, snakes, deer, rabbits, woodrats and owls.

Written on July 8th, 2008

—Karen Coulter

PULL THE PLUG

You're walking down the street
And the people that you meet
Have that apathetic look of total defeat
Well the TV blares and their poor minds freak
Can't anyone feel earth pulse beneath their feet

Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

The land is alive
Its passions its embers
Warm a big city night
With a mossy kind of splendor
But the corporate state
Has the means and will
To suck up life and vomit swill
They climax yelling KILL KILL KILL

Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

Forests fall
Rivers dammed
It's like some perfect evil plan
Corporation distractions fill your head
You buy more and the earth gets dead yeah

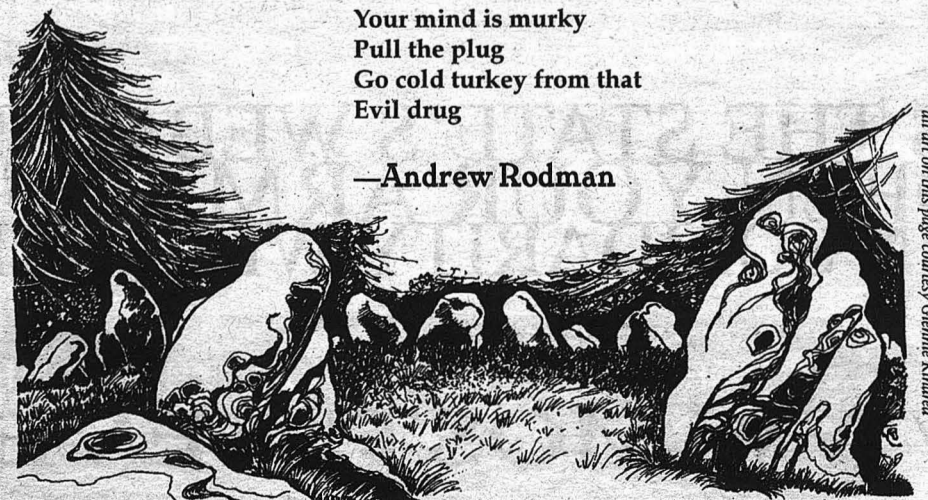
Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

Still feel withdrawn from mass culture ya yas?
Need a car chase bad or some dialing for dollars
Well there's adventure to be had
That's wild, a little bad
An emerging activist culture
This ain't no short lived fad
We fight the good fight
For what's left that's wild and free
We party every night and get as primal as can be

Yeah
Your mind is murky
Pull the plug
Go cold turkey from that
Evil drug

—Andrew Rodman

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



all art on this page courtesy Glennie Kindred

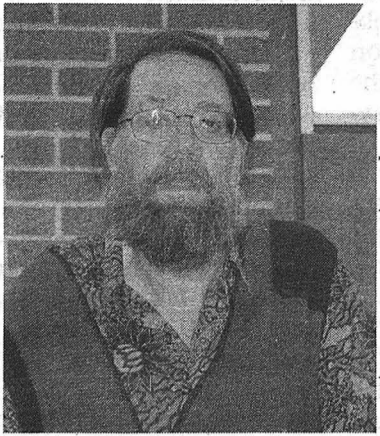
Revolution in Service of the Wild

BY L'ARCHIBRAS

One of the foremost authors of US counter culture, Franklin Rosemont, passed away on April 12, leaving us a breadth of brilliant work. With Paul Garon and wife, Penelope, he founded the Chicago Surrealist School, in solidarity with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) traditions and synchronized with the liberationist currents of the 1960s. Making contributions to a variety of movements—not least of which being Earth First!(EF)—Rosemont shared his special talent for writing with folks of all walks of life, deepening the struggles for ecstatic emancipation in keeping with the surrealist credo, “Revolution in Service of the Marvelous.”

As writers, both Franklin and Penelope, struggled to bring together an often fragmented counter culture. The two's projects in developing radical unity included the creation of Solidarity Bookshop, the Chicago Surrealist School, and the journal, *Rebel Worker* (for more, see Penelope Rosemont's wonderful book, *Dreams & Everyday Life*). In their writing, the Rosemonts worked to transcend the theoretical and emotional boundaries that divide activists.

Writing and editing books on topics ranging from Isadora Duncan to T-Bone Slim, from civil rights to surrealism, Rosemont's contribution to radical thought can not be overestimated. Among his most essential works are *Dancin' in the Streets*, *Haymarket Scrapbook*,



Franklin Rosemont giving a talk

and *Revolution in Service of the Marvelous*. His dedication to human emancipation rivaled only his devotion to the Earth, and he proved it by participating in and writing about EF! The Rosemonts participated in EF! struggles to save wolves, to stop the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago from imprisoning whales, and to protect Siskiyou Forest, using their notoriety to publicly defend direct action tactics like tree spiking.

In perhaps his greatest work, *Joe Hill: The IWW & the Making of a Revolutionary Workingclass Counterculture*, Rosemont delves deeply into the radical connections that so many activists share. He highlights EF! in particular, drawing connections to other counter cultural currents—for example, links formed between EF! organizers and the Wobblies (IWW) as well as the unique, historical bonds represented by the connections between the IWW's *Big Red Songbook* (which Rosemont co-edited) and EF!'s *Lil' Green Songbook*—in order to bring to light the importance of radical solidarity and historical remembrance.

As the *Earth First! Journal* will be including *The Hootenanny Song Book* in this issue, and hopefully future issues, of the *Journal*, it becomes important to recognize the traditions from which these songs flow and to remember the folks who worked to keep those traditions alive. Let's raise our voices for Franklin Rosemont, and to life—wild and free.

photo by Thomas Good/News Left Notes

End of the World



BY DANNY DOLINGER

G C9 G - C9
I've got a job and I've got a lot to do
G C9 G - C9
Think in this life my work will never be through
Em D
When Folks are aware and they just don't care
C
How so much is consumed by so few
G C9 G - C9
And I like to soak my feet in the Morning dew

Oh I like to sing and take time to play my guitar
Lie on a bank and watch for a falling star
Forget all the mayhem and utter destruction
that's tearing the planet in two
And I want to spend the end of the world with you

Well it's hard on my heart to see people who should have the best
give up so much to improve life for all the rest
Well I feel your heart ache and I'm proud that you don't break
And if your dream for the earth don't
Then I want to spend the end of the world with you

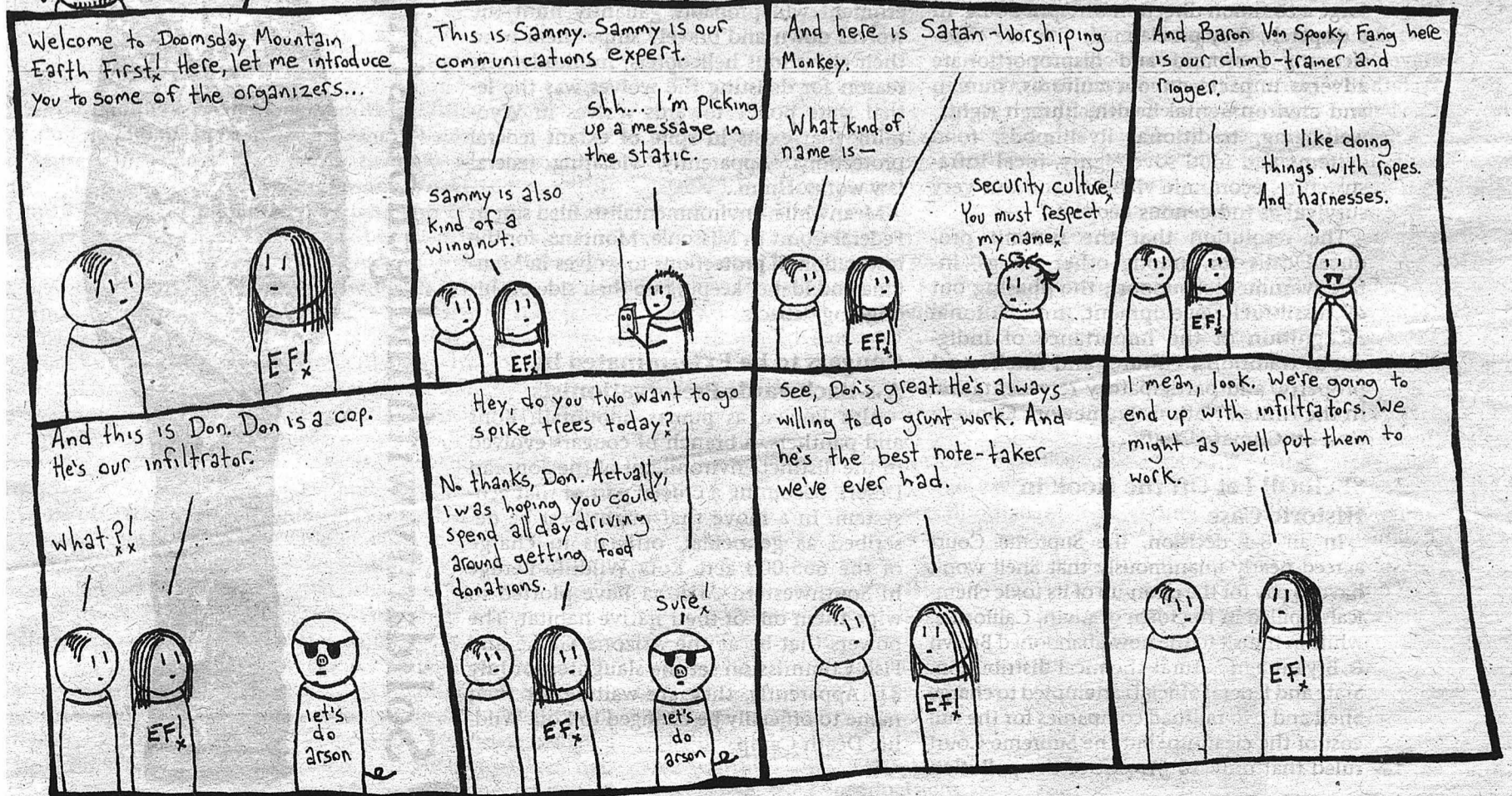
BRIDGE

Em D
Well there's so little hope, almost no way to cope
C
and often crying's the right thing to do
Am C
Or shouting in anger at the temples of power
G D
but laughter's important too...

So let's take today and go out and play in the sun
Dedicate one single day to nothing but fun
This may be the last Spring that we get a chance to
sing songs of gratitude
And I want to spend the end of the world with you

C9 G C9 - G
I want to spend the end of the world with you... With you

doomsday mountain earth first!



Bare Bones

Chimps Suffering Big Time

A recent survey conducted in the West African nation of Cote D'Ivoire shows that the chimpanzee population fell from around 8,000-12,000 individuals in the region to 800-1,200 over the past 20 years. The destruction of habitat in the area is cited as the primary reason for the steep fall, and primates are not alone in this holocaust.

In the 60s, 100,000 chimps coexisted with a myriad of animals in this dense and lush ecosystem. Today, nothing remains but the trappings of human civilization. The case of Cote D'Ivoire, which has seen a population growth of 50 percent in the past 20 years, is repeated throughout West Africa. Similar declines in animal population are likely.

Two New Victories in Alaska

Alaska just won two new key victories for wilderness. After a federal district court ruled to close the notorious 50-mile, \$374-million Juneau Road project, saying that the Federal Highway Administration refused to consider less ecologically invasive alternatives, Congress decided to halt the subsidizing of the so-called "Tongass Timber Pipeline." For ten years this pipeline has routed the forests of Tongass, thanks to the "soft market." Meanwhile, activists won a case against the Flathead National Forest in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, forcing the protection and maintenance of areas frequented by grizzly bears. If it comes down to roads or grizzlies, the court says, the grizzlies win.

Polar Bears Win Popularity Contest, Lose Protections

In a May 8 decision to maintain limitations on polar bear protections, the Obama Administration ensured that George Bush's legacy will be secure, warm and fuzzy in the bed of extinction it has made. The rule, which exempts all hazardous activities occurring outside of the polar bears' range from environmental review, has been criticized by more than 1,300 scientists, 50 prominent legal experts, dozens of lawmakers, 130 conservation organizations, and hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens.

The decision is seen by many as a gift to big oil and industry, whose lack of friends may be due to the role that carbon emissions play in the imminent destruction of the entire world, not to mention polar bears' natural habitat.

Indigenous Global Summit on Climate Change

Kicking off summit season with a subversive popular assembly, indigenous representatives from all across the world met in Anchorage, Alaska, to express solidarity and forge a common direction on April 20-24. In a dispatch, they proclaimed, "We are experiencing profound and disproportionate adverse impacts on our cultures, human and environmental health, human rights, well-being, traditional livelihoods, food systems and food sovereignty, local infrastructure, economic viability and our very survival as Indigenous Peoples."

The resolution that the summit produced calls for, among other things, intergovernmental support, the phasing out of fossil-fuel development, international recognition of the importance of indigenous traditions, cultures and intellectual property, and participatory representation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Shell Oil Let Off the Hook in Historic Case

In an 8-1 decision, the Supreme Court agreed nearly unanimously that Shell won't have to pay for the clean-up of its toxic chemicals, spilled in the town of Alvin, California, while in transit to the now-abandoned Brown & Bryant agricultural chemical distribution. State and federal officials attempted to charge Shell and two railroad companies for the full cost of the clean-up, but the Supreme Court ruled that only 10 percent of the pollution

cleaned up in the Alvin site was caused by the actual spill, so the costs would have been excessive.

In the sole dissenting opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg explained, "Relieving Shell of any obligation to pay for the clean-up... is surely at odds with [the law's] objective, to place the cost of remediation on persons whose activities contributed to the contamination rather than on the taxpaying public."

Many say that this case will set a precedent for corporate unaccountability. Others say that the precedent was set hundreds of years ago.

Public Notified That They Own the Allegheny National Forest

On April 12, a federal judge upheld a prior decision forcing corporations to get public consent before drilling in the half-million-acre Allegheny National Forest in Northwestern Pennsylvania. This decision will make the Forest Service conduct environmental analyses on proposed oil and gas drilling projects, postponing the exploration of about 440 oil and gas wells in the interim. Still, this is a mere drop in the bucket of the approximately 11,500 oil and gas wells already in production, none of which have elicited public consent or even been officially analyzed from an environmental perspective.

Legislation Sticks Up for Migratory Birds

The Act for Songbirds was officially signed into existence on May 7, 2009, International Bird Day. According to the report, "U.S. State of the Birds," released last year, more than 250 American bird species are in decline or facing severe threats. Supporters of the bill insist that ensuring the safety of migratory birds involves the prevention of barriers to migration like power lines and communication towers as well as the increasing of food sources, and expansion of habitats like migratory stop-off points.

Wolf-Hunter Hunting Season Begins!

Grey wolves are going to have a tough year, as their removal from the endangered species list in the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes regions went into effect on May 4. Even though only 200 breeding wolves survive in the Northern Rockies, hunters are already salivating over their new firearm catalogues, as the state of Idaho has repeatedly declared its intentions to facilitate the killing of hundreds of wolves. However, the wolves are radio-collared, and the government will probably gallantly hunt the wolves down and bravely snipe them from their chivalrous helicopters. Ironically, one reason for delisting the wolves was the lethal state policy towards wolves in Wyoming that exists in spite of extant federal protections. Apparently, violating federal law works. Hmm...

Meanwhile, environmentalists filed suit in Federal Court in Missoula, Montana, for the restoration of protections to wolves in Montana and Idaho, keeping up their side of this ongoing debacle.

Cougars to be Exterminated by Ass-Backwards Preservationists

Also known as pumas, mountain lions and panthers, a branch of cougars evolved in the distinct environment of the Sonoran Desert, becoming a crucial part of that ecosystem. In a move that might best be described as genocidal, officials in charge of the 665,000 acre Kofa Wildlife Refuge in Southwestern Arizona have plotted to wipe them out of their native habitat. The powers-that-be at the Arizona Game and Fish Commission set the slaughter for July 31. Apparently, they are waiting for their name to officially be changed to Kofa Wildlife Death Camp.

Hooray for the Pinnipeg Ban!

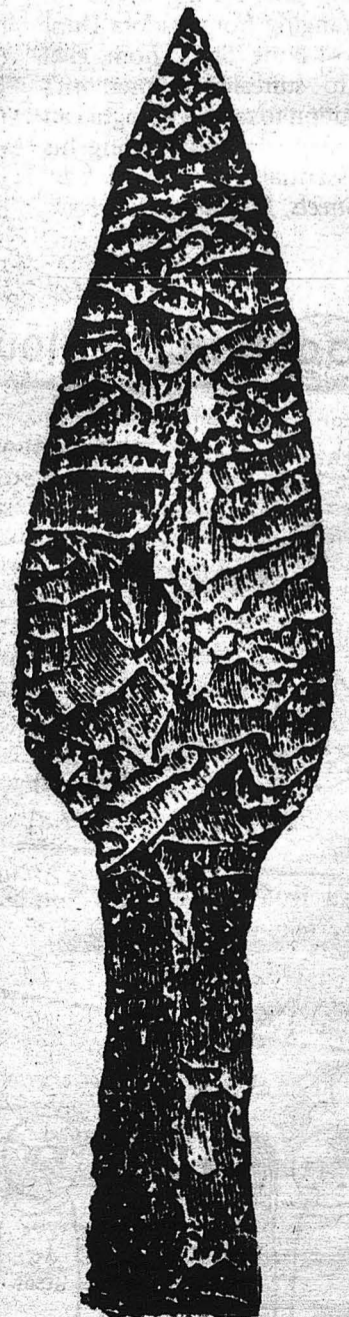
In a bold move, the European Union (EU) officially banned the importation of products made from slain seals and other pinneps like walruses and sea lions. Although Canada insists it deserves exemption since it "follows strict guidelines in place for humane and sustainable sealing practices" (e.g. not clubbing seals while they still have their white coats), the EU insists that bludgeoning a living creature over the head with a spiked club isn't humanitarian. Recent revelations showing that some seals are skinned alive did not help Canada's case. However, the seal clubbers' bloody trade will likely be protected (or at least avenged) once Canada sues the EU for violating World Trade Organization (WTO) laws.

Indigenous Resistance Rocks Peru

Speaking of the WTO, Peruvian indigenous leaders declared a hunger strike in Congress in early May to protest the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) recently signed with the US. Peruvian President Alan Garcia has expropriated huge tracts of indigenous lands for the FTA, which protects multinational corporations like Oxydental and ConocoPhillips while they loot of the natural resources of the Amazon.

Supported by eight catholic bishops and countless environmentalists, the hunger strike of indigenous leaders was followed by the mobilization of 30,000 people in 65 tribes blocking roads, waterways, and pipelines throughout the Amazon. After halting more than 41 energy industry vessels, the indigenous resistance was met by the Peruvian army under a state of emergency, which suspended the constitution for the expressed purposes of state repression. Going as far as denying the existence of various threatened indigenous tribes, Garcia has moved forwards with a military invasion of the Amazon, killing dozens of activists already in attempts to silence resistance. Much more was developing as of press-time. For up-to-date information, visit www.upsidedownworld.org/main/content/category/5/38/76/

Solidarity with indigenous struggle in Peru



shut up and listen? NEVER!

By S@SH@

Amidst the criticisms that a younger generation of bad seeds are sewing their radical antagonism within the ranks of bushy tailed, naive activists, we should stop and appreciate how Earth First! (EF!) continues to subvert the dominant paradigm.

One quick look at Edward Abbey's *Monkey Wrench Gang* exposes the racism and sexism that poisoned the movement throughout the 1980s. Its transparently patriarchal depictions of gender stereotypes show up throughout the book and are even more pervasive in Abbey's disturbing diary, *Confessions of a Barbarian*. Among the least offensive of his notes are the following fabrications: "a man can no more give up his ideas than he can give up his soul—they are one and the same," and, "Sex is one of the few outlets we have these days for a man's inherent lust for adventure." Abbey's strongly held position that ideology is incarnate in "man" led him to a lifetime of patriarchy totally inconsistent with Earth liberation. He would later claim that it even caused his tragic, early passing, writing, "my debauchery and arrogance have finally overtaken me."

Abbey's sickness — his sexism — was not his only failing. In a rant on immigration in 1988, Abbey called on US citizens to "militarize our borders." Calling immigrants "hungry, ignorant, unskilled, and culturally-morally-genetically impoverished people," Abbey proved an enemy to people of color, insisting ultimately, "I certainly do not wish to live in a society dominated by blacks, Mexicans, and Orientals. Look at Africa, Mexi-

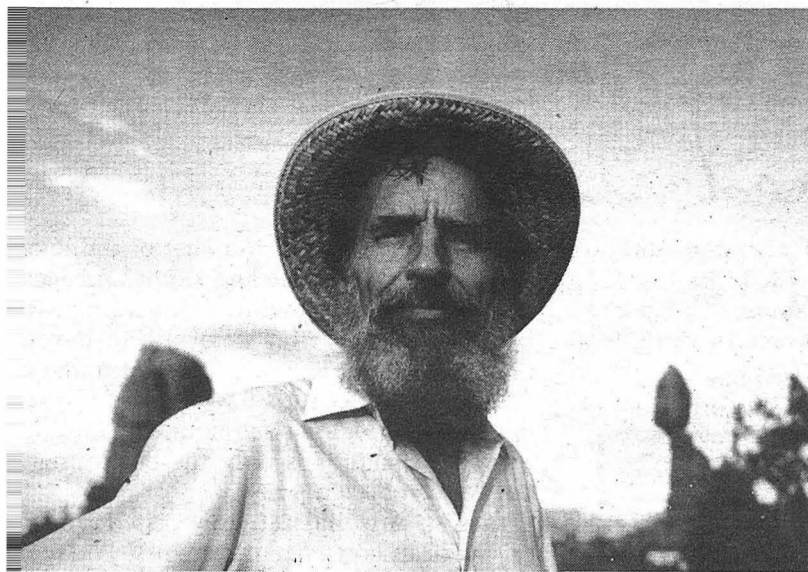
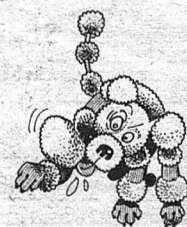
co, and Asia." These quotations are difficult to inscribe within this journal—like the *Earth First! Journal* itself, Abbey's writing has done much to inspire the environmental movement to direct action. We should recognize his contributions. To be sure, he was not alone in his oppressive beliefs; it was a different time, and they pervaded and hampered the whole EF! movement. Evidence of this can even be seen in some old issues of the *Journal* as they reflect Abbey's own writing.

Remember, the revolutionary presence that drove Abbey and his minions away created space for the philosophical introductions of eco-feminism, deep ecology and bio-centrism. We should never return to the petulant and puerile egoism of certain old traditions. Face it, as a movement, we've made some great strides. We should be proud of everyone in the movement, and stop blaming the youth, whose contumacious allegiance to anti-oppression would have impressed Abbey, himself. I definitely would not be a part of EF! if it weren't for the strong female-bodied persyns, not to mention LGBTQTTI folks like me who aren't afraid to raise their voice and express themselves to a self-described "older generation."

I know what's up—not all the older folks are down on the "younger folks," and lots of older EF!ers know the past and the present, and they support it all. Like them, I am all about the traditions and culture of EF!, but as for those who say that the younger generation should "be good, and shut up and listen," I say, "No deal, assholes!" Patriarchy is one tradition that I don't want to continue.

ated by the industrial process of hydrogen creation, and a totally blind eye is cast on the exploitation of unceded indigenous lands being snatched up by developers in preparation for the warped event.

A what's-wrong-with-this-picture? poodle to the West Texas county of Andrews. The county voted to not only allow a Dallas company to dispose their nuclear waste in its vicinity, but to fund the waste site as well. The company, Waste Control Specialists, is getting \$75 million in financing from Andrews County, which they promise to pay back with interest. The company claims that radioactive waste attracts jobs — and who doesn't want to work with sludge? The county ended up passing Waste Control Specialists' agenda by three votes.



elegy for cactus ed

BY J. ACEVES

Twenty years. Twenty years that have seen the transformation of the world: the collapse of the Soviet Union, the election of America's first president of color, 9/11. Two decades more of war, famine, pestilence—the usual miseries of life, as well as love, hope, fighting for one's beliefs, fighting for wilderness and especially the wide, wild desert. Twenty years since Cactus Ed rode off into the Sonoran sunset.

Edward Paul Abbey (1927-1989) was born in Pennsylvania and died sixty-two years later in the beautiful yet often inhospitable landscape that is the American southwest. Ed loved this arid land, this no-place-for-man, over-populated sand-and-rock paradise where grumpy misanthropists go to wear down the better half of an otherwise wasted existence. So it is with me, world-weary before my time, eyes squinting at the burning mirage of industrial civilization, raised on the words of fools for wilderness, the original earth defenders: Thoreau, Muir and Ed Abbey.

Desert Solitaire is Ed's masterpiece of wilderness memoir and human angst. It is his elegy for the wild southwest, for the wilderness that slips away like hot sand between our fingers. *The Monkey Wrench Gang* defined the terms of eco-defense (there were no terms: no prisoners taken, no quarter given). *Confessions of a Barbarian* summarized his angry "get off my fucking property" mentality—only all wilderness was his beloved front garden.

Ed Abbey wrote more than twenty books, married and sired offspring a number of times, pissed off governments and corporations alike with fell swings of his mighty pen, lived hard and drove his bright-as-sun art straight through the unforgiving earth. The story goes, he is buried somewhere in his magnificent desert, but I will not seek his grave. His words are his legacy, countless pages filled with not so gentle pleas to save what is left of the wild. Angry or content, I can find strength and courage and damnable conviction in the enduring literature of Cactus Ed. And I miss him. So should you too.



Wolves and Poodles

An **existentialist wolf** to **nuclear whistleblower, Vanunu Mordechai**, for following in the footsteps of Sartre by refusing a Nobel Prize nomination. Vanunu, who served an 18 year prison sentence for exposing Israel's nuclear secrets, cannot leave Israel without police permission or to contact foreign media. As the chief reason for his refusal, Vanunu said that he could not join the list of laureates that includes his sworn nemesis, Simon Peres, who has master minded several atomic weapon programs in multiple countries.

A **less-pretentious-more-wild wolf** to **Karta**, the orangutan, who built her own ladder, short circuited some electrical wires, and then climbed the fence that separated her from freedom. Terrified zoo-goers raised the alarm, and zoo guards quickly responded to the call, engaging Karta in a stand off that lasted for half an hour. Finally, the ingenuous orangutan

decided against the pre-mature breakout, and climbed back down into confinement to further plot her escape.

A **dam-the-man wolf** to **Klamath Justice Coalition** activists, who dropped banners off a local bridge to demand the removal of four hydroelectric dams from the Klamath River. More than a dozen activists unfurled three banners from Highway 101 to send their message to 24 stakeholder groups negotiating the settlement of dam removal.

As the stakeholders travelled by motor boat down the river to the meeting, they got some reading material to analyze, reading, "Open the river, close the deal!" "Undam the Klamath Now!" and "Enough is Enough, Bring the Salmon Home," the main banners were accompanied by activists chanting, "Open the river, close the deal! Let the Klamath River heal!" Downriver, activists stood with another banner, stating "Dams Kill Salmon, Jobs, and

Communities."

A **completely-underestimating-climate-change poodle** to **SkySails** for producing a remote controlled parasail to tug 10,000-ton cargo ships across oceans. We guess the chief engineer, Steven Wrage, doesn't realize that the majority of emissions comes from the commodities on the tankers along with the ships themselves.

Unless parasails can turn raw materials into unicorns and sprinkle Western Civilization with fairy dust, it looks like we're still up shit creek, parasail or no parasail.

A **zero-solidarity-for-zero-emissions poodle** to **liberals** who have extolled the 2010 Olympics as "the Hydrogen Olympics." Amidst the support for an \$18 million project to produce hydrogen for four transit buses, a car wash, and eight utility trucks, ignorance lingers over the byproducts cre-

NO DUMP ON O'ODHAM LANDS

protect sacred sites!

BY LUKE ROMANO

In a display of great disrespect to human and environmental rights, the Mexican government, along with a company called Centro de Gestion Integral de Residuos, SA (CEGIR), wants to place a hazardous waste dump near the village of Quitovac, Sonora, in Mexico. The proposal for the dump has been in the works for four years. Previously submitted plans were halted due to lack of information from the Mexican government and CEGIR. According to the 1983 La Paz Agreement, the US and Mexican government most communicate all information about hazardous waste facilities within 100 miles of the border. Quitovac is a sacred site to the traditional, indigenous Tohono O'odham of what is now called southern Arizona and northern Sonora.

The proposed dump would ruin the sacred ceremonial site of Quitovac and expose nearby community members and their children to dangerous toxins. These toxins would be released into the land and the air, and may possibly contaminate the underground well water that the community depends on.

Accordingly, the Mexican government has been met with resistance on both sides of the US-Mexico border. This imposed border divides the supposedly sovereign O'odham Nation. For an organized day of solidarity, on March 27 and 28, activists strategized and networked with residents of the O'odham community. A road blockade at a nearby highway held traffic for a short time on the morning of March 28, followed by a prayer walk that took place back into town. Later, during the meeting and update, a resolution was adopted by traditional O'odham from the US side of the border, international solidarity activists and O'odham elders from Quitovac. A first day of action was set for May 6.

On May 6, Phoenix, Arizona, saw an energetic collective of 11 people consisting of O'odham youth, anarchists, environmentalists and a legal observer. Two activists ran a five-mile spiritual run to the Mexican consulate, carrying the Quitovac resolution. Upon their arrival, the entire collective joined up and stormed the consulate in order to speak

with the Consulate General and present him with the resolution. A few activists posted up in his office with their banner, while the rest were met only by his secretary along with other low-level consulate representatives attempting to disrupt the action and call 911.



art courtesy D. Minkler

The group's resolution was denied, and they were asked to leave. They were told to send one representative back in five minutes. However, the consulate officials lied, and the collective was met with five Phoenix police cars and one Homeland Security vehicle. Consulate security guards surrounded the entrance, and Phoenix police informed the group that if anyone returned to the consulate grounds, they would be arrested for trespassing. The action ended with traditional O'odham songs around 11 a.m.

The May 6, action in San Francisco, California, drew a diverse group of around 50 people who were mainly networked from Greenaction, an organization that has worked closely with many indigenous communities for environmental justice. The group demonstrated in front of the Mexican consulate for almost an hour before initiating a march to the US Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) office, taking over a lane of traffic on the way. Lots of police and Homeland Security cops were waiting for them, along with two EPA officials who were presented with their demands. The group blocked traffic in front of the office for a few minutes and rallied in the street for a half hour. The message was sent that this is only the beginning if our concerns are not met.

Tucson, Arizona, activists visited the local Mexican consulate on the first Friday of April after the gathering at Quitovac. They brought signs and creative chants. On the May 6 day of solidarity, Tucson returned, this time with 25 people, who were watched over by a lone cop car. Informational flyers were handed out to everyone who approached the gates to conduct business. Anyone who arrived at the consulate had to be let in with a key, after the office was informed of the events that occurred that day in Phoenix. Eventually, two consulate officials came out and were presented with the resolution from the March Quitovac gathering.

Ofelia Rivas, of the organizations, O'odham Voice Against the Wall and O'odham Rights Cultural and Environmental Justice Coalition, has been instrumental in building opposition to the dump, and has spoken at various events around Tucson. These events have included the recent Earth First! Organizers' Conference, shows at the Dry River Radical Resource Center; and a fundraiser for the *Earth First! Journal*.

In Ofelia's words, "Our way of life is based on the land and living in harmony with the land. All of this has been violated and there is a tremendous imbalance." The fight to prevent further violence against and desecration of O'odham land will continue to grow, however. On June 5, another day of solidarity was organized outside the Municipal Office of Sonyta, where about 50 supporters shared speeches, held banners and delivered the resolution to the mayor of Sonyta. An election is approaching and we want to make sure the government officials know where the people stand. No matter how it turns out, though, one thing is clear: efforts to stop the dump will only continue to strengthen until the plans are once again halted—this time for good.

PLANE STUPID



continued from page 14
linked into the wider grassroots, eco-justice movements such as the Climate Camp that appear to be growing at an unstoppable pace. The network seeks to share resources, experience and ideas to help collectively construct its fundamental tenets. Plane Stupid is an open-source brand that other affinity groups can adopt without having to be already inside the network, as long as groups commit to using it for nonviolent direct action against the aviation industry. Thus, different groups have used different approaches that suit them. Plane Stupid Scotland has sometimes used more explicit anti-capitalist rhetoric. Recently, Plane Stupid Southampton pointed out the links between creating climate change and climate refugees. The Heathrow campaign has often focused on the way the immediate local communities will be bulldozed by expansion plans. Publicly, all groups commit to two basic demands of

ending UK airport expansion and ending short-haul flights.

So, why did they approve the third runway? Does this mean that our movement has failed? From the beginning, we always expected and prepared for the worst whilst hoping for the best. The third runway was the crown jewel of the UK government's aviation white paper, and it was always going to be approved. However, the success of the campaign has meant that it was approved to widespread and deep public disapproval, and that caused huge rifts, even in the Cabinet Office itself. The approval was much more limited in nature than what was being asked for, and many other expansion plans around the UK have either been watered down, shelved or dropped altogether. All the government has done is to give permission to the airport operator, BAA, to draw up detailed plans for the third runway at Heathrow. The final approval still has to be given by the next elected government that is likely to be different. All

other parties are committed to scrapping expansion plans.

The announcement has undermined the government's credibility and has massively swelled the ranks of those publicly committing to take direct action against it. Finally, Heathrow is one of the world's most famous and busiest international airports just outside of London, the capital of global finance and the potential global capital of carbon markets. If the third runway is not dropped, the campaign offers a great opportunity to create an international beacon that calls for global climate resistance movements around the world to unite in solidarity with each other. For us, nothing less than this will do.

The above represents the personal thoughts of Barry Wilton and not the Plane Stupid network as a whole.

Barry Wilton is a truck driver for a well know potato chip company in the UK. During the 2000 UK fuel crisis he felt that the truckers were being pitted against the global ecology and he also realized

the power of direct action when he helped bring the country to a stand still by helping blockadie UK oil refineries. Since then he has worked tirelessly to use direct action to stop the government and big business from exploiting the working people and planet in the name of money and power.



photo courtesy Plane Stupid

Moving lock-down tubes through the fencing at Heathrow Airport.

National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit

Serious Organized Crime and Police Act

Failure in the UK

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the National Extremism Tactical Coordination Unit (NETCU) have suffered a major blow in a hard-fought attempt to throw the book at four campaigners facing charges under the Serious Organized Crime and Police Act (SOCPA). The prosecution, involving numerous experts, several police forces and, according to one source, up to a million pounds in legal costs, was part of NETCU's ongoing attack on the animal rights movement and criminalization of activists linked to the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty campaign (SHAC). During the prosecution, it has become apparent that the police, terrified that the anti-vivisection movement might claim a success, have intervened to prop up a rabbit breeder on the verge of closing down.

On October 13, four people were arrested after their car was stopped in Lincolnshire, England. Closed Circuit Television footage later showed that they had been on the property of the Highgate rabbit farm in Normanby-by-Spital, Lincolnshire. The Highgate farm breeds animals for sale to Intervet and to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), Europe's largest animal testing establishment. This is where NETCU comes in.

Replacing the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI), NETCU was essentially set up to protect corporations from increasingly effective animal rights campaigns such as SHAC. NETCU monitors the policing of animal rights activists and other political movements; follows prosecutions through the courts and cultivates informants. Targeting animal rights campaigners with increasingly repressive new legislation in a series of show trials against the SHAC campaign and Stop Sequani Animal Torture (SSAT).

The four people arrested near the rabbit farm had not actually done anything save for enter the farm's property. Yet, they were later charged with "conspiracy to commit criminal damage" and section 145 of SOCPA, "conspiracy to interfere with the contractual relations of an animal research organization." The CPS alleged that the "conspiracy" had lasted from April until October 2008. The CPS attempted to bring the long history of protest and direct action against HLS into the case and obtained statements from Brian Cass, the managing director of HLS and customer of Highgate Rabbit Farm and Astrazeneca, one of HLS' customers.

Police Desperate to Keep Corporations in Business

On January 7, 2008, activists had broken into Highgate; 129 rabbits were liberated, locks were

glued, cars were trashed and up to \$160,000 worth of damage was allegedly caused. The owner of the farm later said in court that, following the action, he had resolved to close down his business. He sold his stock of rabbits to HLS and was in the process of winding up operations. At this point, the farmer said, he was visited by the police "and others" and was persuaded to keep the business open.

The closing down of Highgate would have been a major victory for anti-vivisection campaigners. Highgate is one of only five known remaining breeders of animals for laboratories in the UK. During the 1990s, campaigners successfully closed Oxford University Park Farm, Regal Rabbits, Sky Commercial Rabbit Farm, Shamrock farm, Consort Beagles, Hylyne Rabbits and Hillgrove Cat Farm. Darley Oaks guinea pig farm was also closed in 2006. NETCU, dedicated to demoralizing and criminalizing the animal rights movement, could not allow the closure of another breeder and appears to have intervened to keep the business open. This can be seen as part of a wider effort by the state to prop up private companies that are the target of anti-corporate dissent. To this end, HLS—under siege from an international campaign to close it down—has been allowed not to file its accounts; to operate without insurance; and has been granted banking facilities with the Bank of England. Legislation such as companies "house regulations" (laws against house demonstrations) were changed to accommodate the needs of the pharmaceutical industry and new, repressive laws were penned to silence dissenters.

The police intervention to prop up the Highgate farm had little to do with the farm itself, a relatively small business that the state would normally ignore. The motivation was to prevent the pharmaceutical industry losing confidence in its ability to carry on with animal testing in the UK.

One can only guess how the police persuaded the farmer to remain in business and who the "others" were who helped the police persuade him.

"Close Down or We'll Close You Down"

After the January raid on Highgate, police photographed graffiti on the wall of one of the rabbit pens saying "Close down or we'll close you down." Because of this, the person charged with the break-in was questioned for "conspiracy to blackmail," as well as "conspiracy to cause criminal damage" and "conspiracy to interfere with contractual relations." The use of the "conspiracy to blackmail" charge

follows on from the conviction of seven activists, alleged to have been involved in the SHAC campaign, for the same charge in December. They were sentenced to more than 50 years in prison between them. Police are eager to widen the interpretation of "conspiracy to blackmail" to use against campaigners who call for the closure of a business. One man has plead "not guilty" to all charges and will be tried later this year.

No Case to Answer

In April 2008, three of the four defendants in the Highgate "trespass" trial at Lincolnshire Crown Court pleaded guilty on the understanding that charges would be reduced to "conspiracy to interfere with an animal research organization." Two of the three were remanded in custody. Vikki Waterhouse-Taylor stuck to her "not guilty" plea and, on April 27, was put on trial for SOCPA 145.

Prosecutor Felicity Gerry opened her case by informing the jury that many of them would have "relied" on medicines that had been tested on animals. The CPS argument was confused; they argued that the trespass in the rabbit farm was intended to intimidate and, as such, "disrupt contractual relations." Gerry also claimed that the defendants were doing a recce for future actions when they were caught. The CPS, accompanied by a large team of plain clothes police officers, wheeled out soil analysts, computer experts and phone analysts, making much of any connections to the SHAC campaign they could find. Their case, however, collapsed when the farmer gave evidence. To make things more exciting, he was given a police escort to court, the public gallery was cleared, and he gave evidence from behind a screen. His evidence, however, was that no economic damage had been caused by the four defendants' visit. The prosecutor complained that she had not got the answers she wanted, and she would like to recall him, but the judge refused.

The defense claimed that there was no case to answer and, after a long, grudging, consideration, the judge agreed but went on to suggest that the CPS apply for an Anti-Social Behavior Order (ASBO) against the defendants: "I am not saying this in any way to exonerate, applaud or excuse the behavior of somebody who trespasses on another person's land, less so in camouflage in the middle of the night," the judge said.

SOCPA Fiasco

This failed prosecution will be a real setback for the UK's "political coppers," eager to use SOCPA to break the anti-vivisection

movement and criminalize those involved in public campaigns for animal rights. Since 2006, SOCPA has made it illegal to "interfere with the contractual relations of an animal testing establishment." Operation Tornado, where raids across the West Midlands lead to the trial of seven people for their role in the campaign against Sequani laboratories, was, on the police's terms, a failure. Sean Kirtley, who allegedly updated a website about the Sequani campaign, was sentenced to four and a half years in prison and a one year ASBO. The remaining six defendants were acquitted. It is questionable whether the huge sums spent on the raids and the prosecutions were justified by the conviction of only one person.



ALF member cutting open a cage at highgate

Following the acquittal of Vikki Waterhouse-Taylor, despite the huge police resources expended on the trial, the police may be losing their taste for SOCPA trials. In a comment on Indymedia UK, Vikki said the reason she plead not guilty and went through with the trial was "mostly because I was/am too stubborn to listen to anyone." That stubbornness paid off.

SOCPA is one of the most repressive new laws on the statute book and a serious challenge to our freedom to voice anti-corporate dissent. The 2006 amendments to SOCPA were specifically designed to protect one industry from widespread public dissent and to criminalize public campaigners who had not done anything that most people would consider illegal. Monitoring and challenging the use of SOCPA is essential if we do not want to see the walls close in on us any further.

Despite the fact that she was acquitted it is still possible that Vikki Waterhouse-Taylor may be given an ASBO. The following week, the three people who had plead guilty and were on remand were released on bail. They will be sentenced on July 5.

NETCU's SOCPA Failure in the UK, originally written by Corporate Watch www.corporatewatch.org/?lid=3385. See page 26 for other legal updates.

In 2008 the ALF raided Highgate rabbit farm liberating 129 rabbits

Locks were glued, cars were trashed



Captive at Highgate

Up to \$160,000 worth of damage was allegedly caused.



Isles of rabbits

SOME FALL PRISONER TO THEIR ACTIONS

SOME FALL PRISONER TO THEIR INACTION

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 EFL Journal by sending a book of 10 42c 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

•Tre Arrow, Released to a halfway house in Oregon. Was serving 6.5 years for two counts of arson. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Julien Coupat, released from Paris, France. Was awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging a high-speed train line in France.

•Matt DePalma, #14126-041, moved to FCI Fairton POB 420 Fairton, NJ 08320 Sentenced to three and a half years in prison for unlawful possession of destructive devices at the 2008 Republican National Convention.

•Linda Greene #1300927, Century Regional Detention Facility, 11705 S. Alameda Street, Lynwood, CA 90262, USA. Being held on charges related to stalking and vivisection

•Joshua Harper, has been released to a halfway house in Washington. Was serving three years for charges stemming from his work with SHAC. For more information, visit www.joshharper.org.

•PI Noordsingel, Peter Janssen 5102880, Postbus 37066, 3005 LB Rotterdam, Accused of freeing mink from a fur farm.

•Kevin Olliff, #1300931, TTCF 161 D-Pod, 450 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, USA. Being held on charges related to stalking and vivisection.

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.

•Francesco Gioia, Casa Penale, Via Lamaccio 1, 67039 Sulmona (Aq), Italy. Moved to the above address. Awaiting trial for alleg-

edly 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.

•Bryan Griffiths, XW8892, HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, B97 6QS, UK. A hunt monitor on remand who is falsely accused of murdering a hunt supporter following a tragic accident. Griffiths was monitoring a hunt when he landed to refuel. A hunt supporter was hit by the helicopter and died. Despite this being a clear accident, Griffiths has been charged with murder.

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.

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, UK. Amos is serving 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. Serving nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Natasha Avery, NR8987, HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey, GU23 7LJ, UK. Serving nine years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences. Visit www.myspace.com/shacukprisonersupport.

•Mel Broughton, TN9138, HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, Bucks, MK4 4DA, UK. Serving 10 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.

•Jacob Conroy, #93501-011, FCI Terminal Island, POB 3007, San Pedro, CA 90731, USA. Serving four years for conspir-

acy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.supportjake.org.

•Donald Currie, A3660AA, HMP Parkhurst, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, POB 30 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.

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

•Jordan Halliday, #24836, 1225 West Valley View Highway, Suite 100, Logan, UT 84321, USA. Being held in contempt for resisting a grand jury investigation into Utah mink liberations.

•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 Kjønaas, #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.

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

•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.

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

•Sarah Whitehead, VM7684, 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

•Grant Barnes, #137563, San Carlos Correctional Facility, POB 3, Pueblo, CO 81002, USA. Serving 12 years for the Earth Liberation Front (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.freefree-now.org.

•Marie Mason, #04672-061, FCI Waseca, Federal Correctional Institution, POB 1731, Waseca, MN 56093, USA. Serving 21 years and 10 months for a series of ELF actions against genetic engineering and development. For more information, visit www.freemarie.org.

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium I, POB 5300, Adelanto, CA 92301, USA. Serving 19.5 years for conspiracy to destroy the US Forest Service's Institute of Forest Genetics, a cell-phone tower and power plants. For more information, visit www.supporteric.org.

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

SHAC is Winning

BY STILL TRILL

Huntington Life Science (HLS) has been getting beat over their head with the short end of the stick lately. Multiple businesses have been selling their shares of HLS stock and withdrawing financial involvement with HLS. International action against them has been non-stop and holes in prosecutions against Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) have arisen.

A recent communication from SHAC bore the encouraging news of Barclays Global Investors, Barclays PLC, Hartford Investment Management Company, Rice Hall James and Associates LLC, BNY Mellon and Wells Fargo all selling their shares in HLS. This came after much serious, relentless dedication to shutting down HLS.

Taken from www.shac.net:

"HLS are now (once again) in breach of their listing standards on the New York Stock Exchange ARCA, as their market value is now \$10.9 million instead of the required \$15 million, so please contact nyselistsings@nyse.com and urge them to kick LSR off once and for all."

Since the onset of SHAC, the financial grounding of HLS has been pretty shoddy (see *EF!* November-December 2007). Due to SHAC's efforts, HLS has lost banking, insurance and auditing options. It is only because of government backing that HLS is still in existence.

The clandestine movement against HLS is still hitting hard. In one night, militant forces sabotaged three different homes of HLS profiteers paint stripping cars, slashing tires, painting inflammatory slogans, pouring weed killer and leaving other unpleasant surprises. In Belgium, fun was had

playing a game of ding dong ditch. Except, it was done with an axe. In France, another three houses were vandalized in one night in actions against New York Stock Exchange Euronext profiteers. At the first house of Roland Gaston from NYSE Euronext International Board of Directors, slogans adorned the home with red paint. They also went the extra distance and cemented the gate shut. Next on the list was Xavier Jean-Pierre Pontacq, Atos Euronext Director. Here, saboteurs scaled a spiked fence to paint strip and slash a tire on a car. After that they painted a door and chained his only gate shut. The last visit of the night to Tarak Achiche Euronext Group Chief Information Officer was the hottest of all! They rolled up on his posh car and placed three incendiary devices underneath it. While these actions are separate from SHAC as organizations they are part of the same fight against HLS' bloody profits.

The success of anti-HLS action came with the international week of action against animals in labs. SHACer's hit the streets in Chile, Finland, New York, and Philadelphia. In Chile, they held a raucous demonstration outside the building where GlaxoSmithKline originated. Later that week, a crowd of 500 marched in the streets against vivisector scum. In Finland, they took the heat to Espoo, where Novartis and Bristol-Myers Squibb have their Finland headquarters side-by-side. In New York City, informational booths were set up on the sidewalk for a day. Later in the week, they took their crowd of friends to the offices of James Cornelius, chairman and CEO of Bristol-Myers Squibb; Michael Grobstein, director of Bristol-Myers

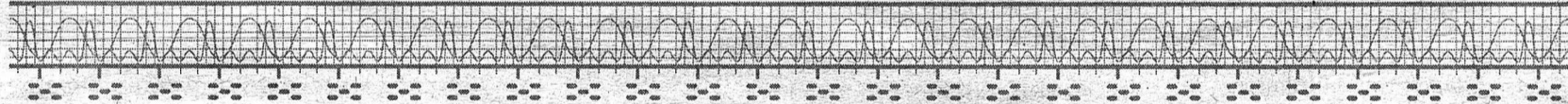
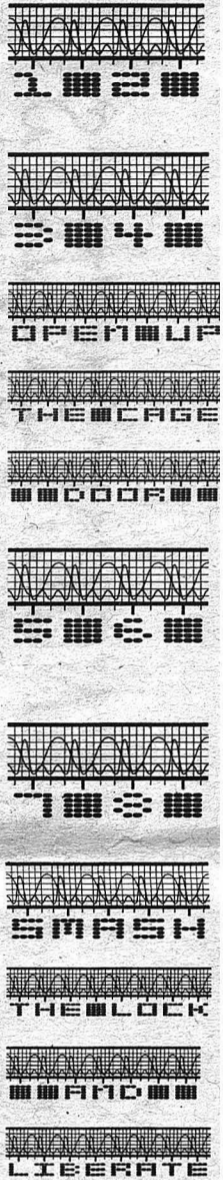
Squibb, and Robert Pelzer, president and CEO of Novartis.

Philly represented for the animals with multiple tours of demos throughout the week. The first round of demos was at the GlaxoSmithKline world headquarters. They next stopped at a Staples and finished off the demonstrations by visiting Bank of New York Mellon. Three days later, it was on to the home of Lisa Dettwiler, a corporate lawyer for the Bank of New York Mellon, then James Cecere, an asset manager for Vanguard, which is the second-largest investor of HLS and finished it off with visits to the homes of John Ameriks, a senior investment analyst at Vanguard, and Stacie Calad, a scientist for GlaxoSmithKline. On their last day of action that week, they posted an informational booth outside of Staples. The May week of mad science brought out SHAC'ers all across the world once again for action against HLS investors. (Visit www.shac.net for action report-backs.)

Another recent celebration for those in solidarity with SHAC and the animals came with the recent court ruling in favor of four activists that were caught on video trespassing at a rabbit farm that supplies animals to HLS (see page 25).

All and all, things are looking on the up and up for SHAC. Good news for us, bad news for Brian Cass (HLS managing director), who recently responded to business dropping support from HLS, saying, "Revenue levels are down from last year and the outlook remains uncertain."

We can safely say that SHAC is certain to one day shut you down, Brian! Done and done!



•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 popular farm.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron Shane of Chubbock© Clan, #07909051, FCI Talladega, POB 1000, Talladega, Alabama, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault of federal agents, escape and bank robbery. "Oso Blanco" funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Mexico.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837, USA. Serving life in prison after being framed for the deaths of two FBI agents killed during the 1975 Pine Ridge siege. For more information, visit www.freepeltier.org.

MOVE

The MOVE 9, members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30-100 years each.

For more information, visit www.onamove.com.

•Debbie Sims Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308, and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, 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, CCC 3151 Litton Dr, Chillicuthe, MO 64601, 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.

Animal Rights Conference
Los Angeles, California •
July 16 - 20

This is the worlds oldest and largest animal rights conference. There are 100 sessions, including workshops, raps, reports, 90 speakers from 60 animal protection groups in 9 countries, sessions on personal skills, activism, organizing, outreach, eyewitness reports on whale wars and the prop 2 campaign, presentations by leaders of other social justice movements, 80 videos with premieres, hundreds of free exhibits, networking receptions, delicious vegan cuisine. Newcomers are welcome. For more information visit: www.arconference.org.

19th Annual Ectopia Bike Tour • July through August

The 19th Ecotopia bike tour will take place this summer during July and August. This year's route covers Western Balkans: Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. With the UN summit in Copenhagen ahead of us, this years' bike tour will focus on climate change and energy. So besides cycling through beautiful landscapes and scenery, the bike tour will try to act upon important environmental issues that occur in the regions traveled through. They are currently looking for national coordinators for Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro. For more detailed information visit: www.ecotopiabiketour.net

Free Activist Witch Camp • August 1-7, 2009

Our bodies pulsing, bleeding, breathing, birthing, dying, cycling, harmonizing. Our Community warriors, healers, predators, prey, white blood cells, bacterial culture, mycelium. Earth's story turning, floods, fires, eruption, extinction, evolution, uprising, sacred balance. Our Path networks, veins, roots, trails, tributaries. To Home hearts, community kitchens, forests, villages, the multiverse.

Seeds of Peace are returning, providing two hearty meals a day, breakfast and supper. Donations of food are greatly ap-

preciated, and make our meals much merrier and will more abundant!

For more information, and to register visit www.freewitchcamp.org.

Twin Oaks Womyn's Gathering: A Multicultural Event • August 21-23, 2009

In Twin Oaks Community, Louisa, Virginia, women will be celebrating ourselves in community. There will be camping, workshops, dancing, drumming, swimming, creative activities, performances, a sweat-lodge, a mud-pit, ritual and movement.

Attendees are encouraged to bring your music, poetry, stories and artwork. Please register by August 10th to help us plan a great gathering. There is a sliding scale fee of \$40-140. It includes camping and workshops. Paying in the upper region of the sliding scale helps us subsidize women who can afford less.

For more information: call 540.894.5126 or fax 540.894.4112 during the week of the gathering call 540.894.5141.

G20 Summit Pittsburg, PA • September 24-25, 2009

For many, Pittsburg has become a symbol of the US's crumbling economy, not to mention the ecological disaster of industrialism. Even still, the powers that be have declared a new G20 Summit in the heart of the decaying metropolis.

Many groups have already called for people to come to Pittsburg, and protest the fools at the summit. To find out more, go here: www.organizepittsburgh.org.

Call to Action: The Mobilization for Climate Change Copenhagen, Denmark • December 6th

Rising Tide beckons you to Copenhagen for the fifteenth UN Climate Conference. This will be the biggest summit on climate change ever to have taken place. Yet, previous meetings have produced nothing more than business as usual. We call on all peoples around the planet to mobilize and take action against the root causes of climate change and the key agents responsible, both in Copenhagen and around the world. Read and pass on the Mobilization's Open Letter at www.ActForClimateJustice.org

Zero Carbon Caravan

The Zero Carbon Caravan (ZCC) will generate a mass movement of individuals and organizations to carry the message of action on climate change to the UNFCCC talks in Copenhagen (2009).

We are making our way to Copenhagen without using fossil fuel transportation. Along the route we'll connect with local groups to establish an itinerary of "zero carbon conferences" to build momentum for zero carbon awareness.

If you would like to get involved in any way please contact ZCC organizer, Chris Keene, chris.keene@zerocarboncaravan.net.

Two Earth First! Roadshow Folks Arrested

Two Earth First! activists were arrested at a Home Depot the morning of May 27, in Glendale, Colorado. The arrests followed a banner drop from the roof of the store, reading, "Dam Home Depot, NOT Patagonia!"

The banner-drop action was intended to remind both the public and the company, "We've fought Home Depot before and won." Almost 10 years ago, EF! groups around the country, with Rainforest Action Network and others, forced Home Depot to remove oldgrowth from their shelves. Today their work on the HidroAysen project in Patagonia, Chile shows their commitments to "green business practices" are only empty Public Relations.

The Earth First! Roadshow has been snaking it's way through the US with the Round River Rendezvous as it's last stop. For updates or to see if these wide-eyed-eco-warriors will be near your town soon, visit www.earthfirstroadshow.wordpress.com.

AETA, File Motion to Dismiss

On May 21, in New York City, the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) joined a motion to dismiss the US government's indictment of four animal rights activists under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA).

"To characterize protest and speech as terrorist activities is ludicrous," said CCR cooperating attorney Matthew Strugar. "It is not just animal rights activists who are in danger here. The AETA is so broad and unclear it could be used to suppress lawful protests and boycotts by any activists across the spectrum, no matter what the issue. The law must be struck down."

The activists referred to as the AETA 4-Joseph Buddenberg, Maryam Khajavi, Nathan Pope and Adriana Stumpo-were accused of conspiracy to commit "animal enterprise terrorism" under allegations of protesting, writing with chalk on the sidewalk, chanting, leafleting and the use of "the Internet to find information on bio-medical researchers" (see *Earth First! Journal* May-June 2009) These activities are protected by the First Amendment. As of press-time, their next court appearance is scheduled for July 13.

Julien Coupat of the Tarnac 9 Released

On May 28, French authorities authorized the release of Julien Coupat, who has been detained for more than six months under suspicion of sabotaging high-speed train lines.

The last of the 10 suspects arrested in November to be released from custody, Julien has always maintained his in-

nocence. He is alleged to be the author of the anarcho-autnomist zine, "The Coming Insurrection," and remains under for organizing terrorism-related destruction of property and sabotage.

In a written interview with the French publication, *Le Monde*, Coupat described his detention as a "petty revenge, which is quite understandable given the means that were deployed and the extent of the failure."

In late April, a Tarnac 9 supporter was detained for 96 hours by Paris police.

Battles in the Coal Fields

The past few months have shown us that the battle against coal is still only heating up.

On April 20, 44 activists were arrested in Charlotte, North Carolina, protesting Duke Energy's plans to add massive additional coal burning capability to the company's Cliffside plant.

A month later, on May 23 three separate anti-coal protests saw seventeen arrested West Virginia First, eight people were arrested for hanging a "Never Again" banner and locking down to a dump truck at a mountaintop removal mine on Kayford Mountain. Next, two were arrested for boating onto the Brushy Fork impoundment pond and floating a banner reading "No More Toxic Sludge" on it. Lastly, seven people were arrested for attempting to enter Massey Energy's Marshfork mining complex.

On the front lines of the legal battles, in Mingo County, West Virginia, 760 residents filed a class action suit against Massey energy and it's subsidiary Rawl Sales & Processing. Plaintiffs suffering in various ways filed suit siting personal injury, wrongful death, property damage and nuisance. The problems started with coal slurry contaminating drinking water.

Barrick Still in Melt Down

Twenty-eight protesters were arrested on April 12 at Barrick Gold's mine in Lake Cowal, New South Wales, Australia, reported Sydney Indymedia. Permitted to enter the site at dawn by the Wiradjuri native tribe, protesters climbed the bund walls into the open-cut pit whilst Wiradjuri performed a smoking ceremony and 15 other protesters blockaded the front gates of the mine.

Later, on April 27, Barrick torched homes in Papua New Guinea. Without prior warning, the indigenous land owners of the villages surrounding Barrick Gold's Porgera open-pit mine were violently evicted by 200 PNG troops at the behest of Barrick execs.

Households of third-generation landowners were purposefully razed to the ground, causing residents to flee for fear of their lives. By April 30, community reports put the number of houses torched by Barrick's minions at close to 600.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIGHT
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G20

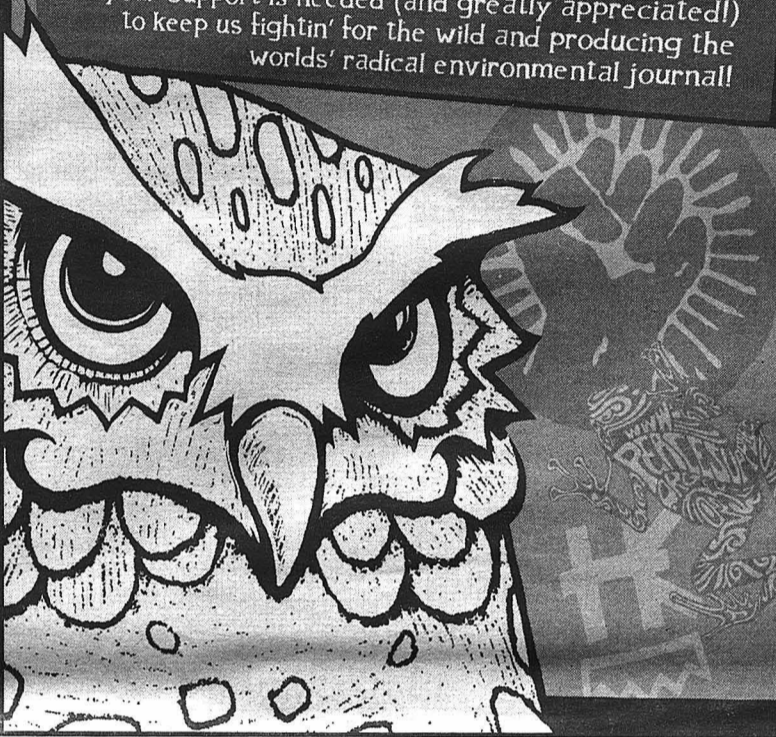
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Every order over \$40 gets loads of free goodies, including the 20 year anniversary Edition of the Earth First! Journal. This Winter we will be 30 years in print and your Support is needed (and greatly appreciated!) to keep us fightin' for the wild and producing the worlds' radical environmental journal!



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Short-term editors are needed to be an essential part of our collective in Tucson, AZ. Short-term editors spend a couple months in production on a single issue of the *Journal*. While living in the Sonoran desert you will be surrounded by mountains, and during your stay you will have time to explore them! We have a comfy house for short-termers to share, provide bikes, free organic food from the local co-op and the dumpsters dreams are made of.

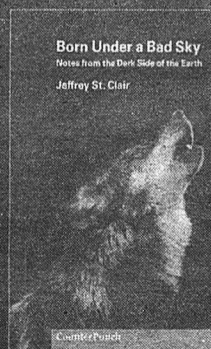
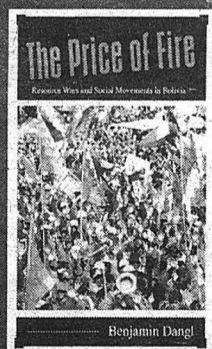
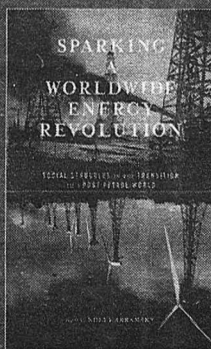
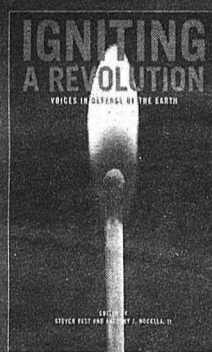
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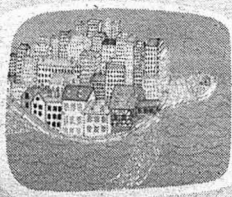
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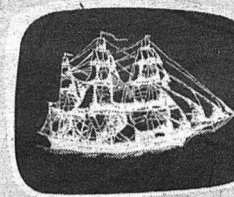
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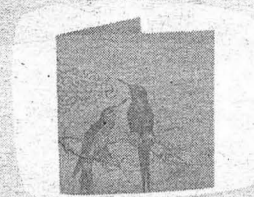
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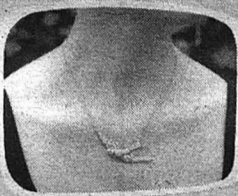
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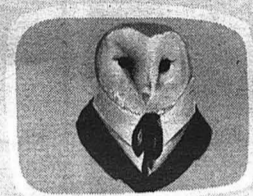
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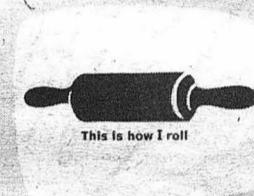
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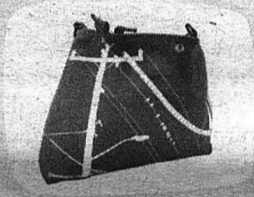
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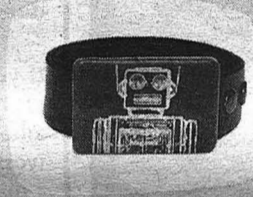
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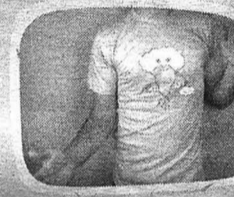
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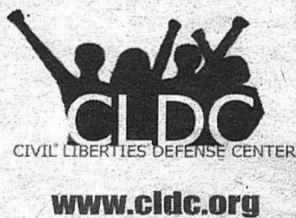
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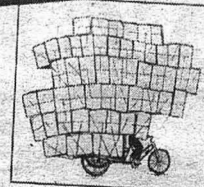
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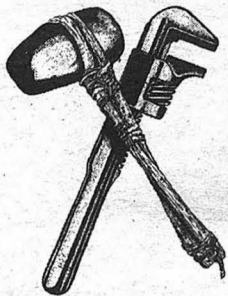
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www.chukshonef.wordpress.com

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www.savingiceland.org

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GroenFront! Netherlands

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Ecodefense!

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0112-44-84-43

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Green Korea United

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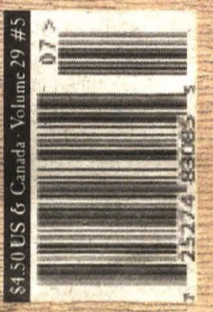
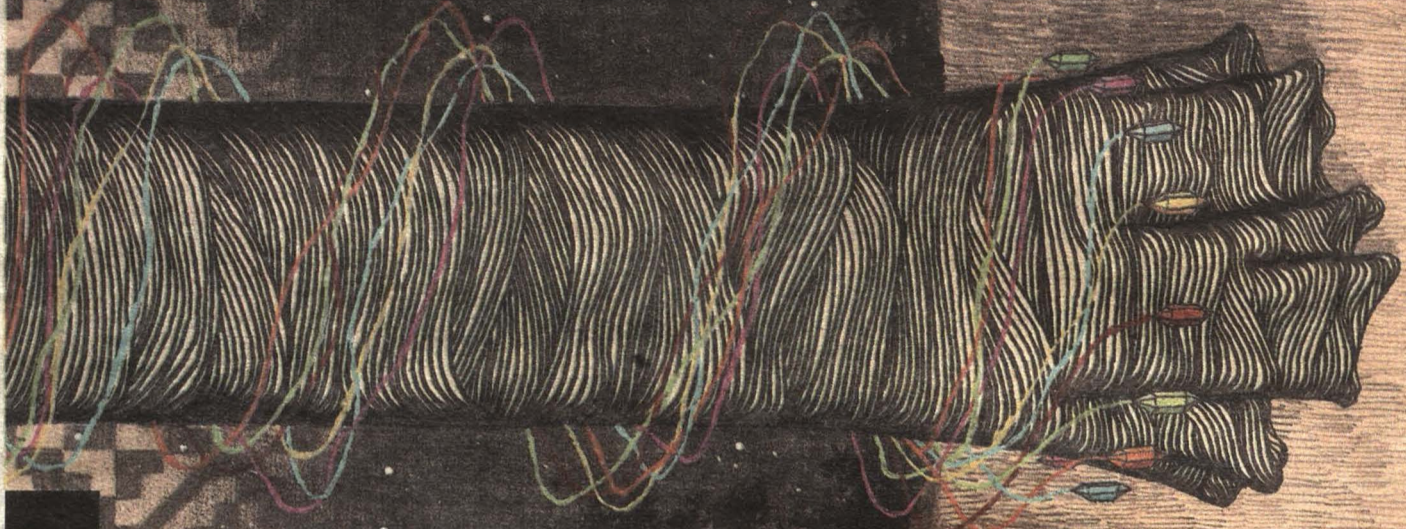
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