

Earth First!

Samhain/Yule November-December 2009

\$4.50 US & Canada

Shutting it Down in Copenhagen! *Prelude to the COP 15 Protests*



Shut It Down action in Copenhagen

BY ROCKSLIDE

On September 26, the people of Copenhagen, Denmark, joined in the growing phenomena sweeping Europe—mass actions to shut down coal-fired power plants. Fifteen hundred people marched to the local coal and biomass-fired power plant with a clear message: “Talking is over; *shut it down!*”

The plant is owned by Vattenfall, a notorious energy company in northern Europe and one of Denmark’s largest emitters of carbon dioxide. The action was organized by the Shut It Down action group. It had been widely publicized for months.

The plan was simple: march to the power plant, enter the grounds and lock down to the coal conveyors. The two main color blocs, as well as the stealth ninja swimming bloc, were all prepared, but ran into a wall of about 500 police officers who had fortified the plant from the inside like a medieval castle.

While initially outflanked by the Earth destroyers, the protesters pulled a flanking maneuver and carried out some serious fence cutting, which allowed for the penetration of the plant perimeter. Shortly after getting inside the grounds, though, the police descended and

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BY JEFF HENDRICK

Despite a temporary victory in 2008, the Tohono O’odham sacred site near the community of Quitovac, in Sonora, Mexico, is still threatened by toxic pollution and other industrial activities. A movement to gain permanent protection for Quitovac and its vicinity needs to be built.

In 2006, O’odham activist Oflia Rivas and the O’odham Voice Against the Wall first began to notify the public about a toxic chemical waste dump that was being planned in Sonora by the Mexican company, CEGIR.

The proposed dump site was designed to potentially treat and separate up to 45,000 tons of hazardous waste materials annually, including asbestos, organochlorides and waste sludge from industries operating near the border. This dump was planned to be sited very close to Quitovac, a small community in Northern Sonora near one of the

O’odham’s most-sacred ceremonial sites and a natural oasis used by the people, as well as migrating birds and local animals.

The story of the planning of this toxic dump near Quitovac is a classic example of the type of environmental racism that the indigenous peoples of the Americas face constantly.

The O’odham were never consulted during the initial planning of the proposed dump, even though they are the ones who would have to suffer the effects of the groundwater pollution that inevitably results when toxic chemical dumps are

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Help Build the Movement for Permanent Protection of the O’odham Sacred Site Near Quitovac, Sonora



Beautiful mountainside in Quitovac

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal

Samhain-Yule November-December 2009

Listening to Our Instincts

There is one thing I've learned about ideology: if it is not pertinent to the logistics of our immediate survival, it is emotionally inaccessible and in most cases irrelevant to the majority of those unaccustomed to the lingo and various subcultures contained within whichever ideological box. I try to remind myself of this when contemplating the important issues of survival that we face. Whether they involve my friends and family, non-human beings or the very Earth we all inhabit, I know I must break away from the political, the ideological, and my own sub-cultural confines to reach others and keep it real. It is the revolt that I feel in my gut, not my intellect that I wish to act on.

Does this mean that I see no use in the intellect or in sub-cultural fashions? It would be a lie if I denied the huge influence that history books, theory, punk rock and zines have had on me, and many of my friends. But it brought me to a very new place beyond the book, beyond the show where I try to get serious about classism, about colonialism, about patriarchy, racism and every other oppressive trend of authoritarianism that is violently enforced by all governments, the global capitalist economy and all of us who do not confront it in ourselves. No one should fear calling a spade a spade no matter what their

educational or political background may be.

The will to dominate and kill until there's nothing left to dominate or kill is specific to our species. It's killing the Earth and it's killing our communities. This is the bottom line that leaves us with a biocentric perspective. If we try to recognize domination everywhere it exists, we see that it demands nothing less than total liberation. For me, these



feelings are rooted in emotions like compassion, anger and dedication. No college course, political party or punk band can satisfy these emotions. (The punk band comes closest, though!)

It doesn't take a high intellect or adherence to a dress code to feel injustice and desire to fight it. I want the Earth to survive the catastrophic abuse our species imposes on it. I want my loved

ones to survive encounters with police and other bullies. Hopefully, this issue of the *EF! Journal* reflects our intention to become better allies to all living things in their struggles for survival, in the ways in which we feel we can be most effective, ways un-regulated by any institution or rigid system of thought. This issue, we've tried to focus on various struggles of indigenous people here in Arizona and worldwide.

In 7th grade I found myself fighting on the side of trees and squirrels for the first time. Having sought mental refuge in local wilderness for most of my childhood, I naturally had a strong gut feeling of defensiveness when my township began to threaten a nearby old growth forest. Later on I learned that the Arowmen and Erinwonek tribes of the indigenous Lenape people inhabited this area before European settlers cleared the surrounding forests for farms, timber and fuel and forced them out. It was amazing to me that this little patch of woods used to cover the entire region of what are now the densely populated suburbs of Philadelphia. To watch as local authorities attempted to turn the last slice of wilderness left in our area into sports fields impassioned me with a fire still left lit. It is this type of resistance, the kind that I derive from my gut rather than my head, that is truly universal. This is what will keep me going for years to come.

-LUKE

Earth First!

Samhain-Yule

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

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

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

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

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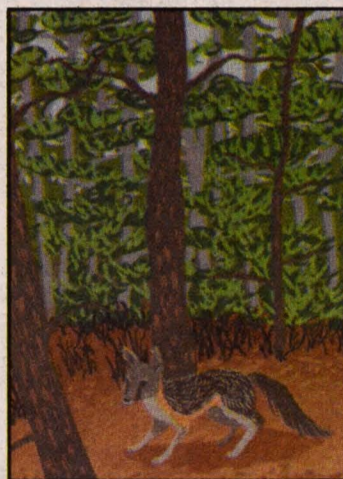
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SAVE THE PEAKS

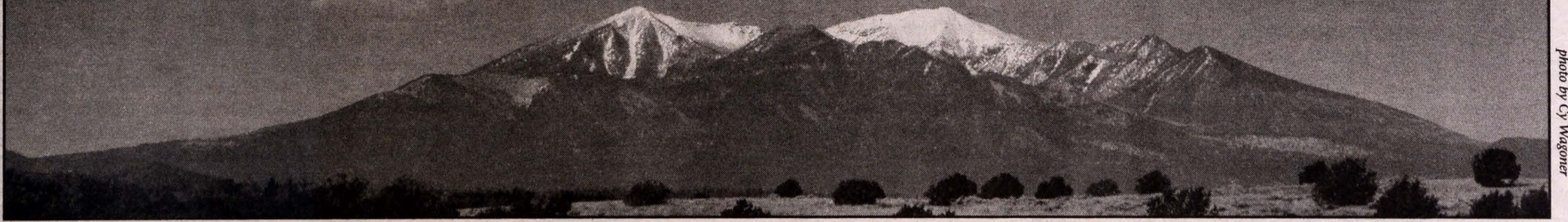


photo by Cy Waggoner

San Francisco Peaks

BY ELISABETH "BESS" CATHERINE BAIRD-BENNETT

The fight to stop the US Forest Service (USFS) and Arizona Snowbowl from making snow with reclaimed wastewater on the San Francisco Peaks continues.

On September 21, the Save the Peaks Coalition filed suit in the US District Court for the district of Arizona to challenge the USFS Final Impact Statement and its failure to adequately address the potential harm of human ingestion of reclaimed wastewater.

A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled against the Forest Service in March 2007, stating it violated the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) in its decision to allow snowmaking on the Peaks. However, the en banc court—an 11-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court that reheard the case—dismissed the claim, stating it was improperly filed at the district court level.

After the en banc court ruling, attorney Howard Shanker, who represents the Coalition, said the reasons why the NEPA claim was thrown out were not clear to him, and expressed his intent to re-file the claim at the district level.

According to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, A+ treated sewer water may contain fecal matter in three out of every 10 samples taken, and the EPA currently has no regulations in place for monitoring levels of pharmaceuticals, hormones, endocrine disruptors, industrial pollutants and narcotics in treated water.

The Save the Peaks Coalition formed in 2004 in response to the USFS allowance of the expansion of Arizona Snowbowl, a

private, for-profit entity operating on federal land under a special use permit.

The Save the Peaks Coalition has since worked to protect the religious freedom of the more than 13 tribes that hold the mountain sacred and to protect from the environmental degradation that the unprecedented use of 100 percent treated sewage effluent would produce.

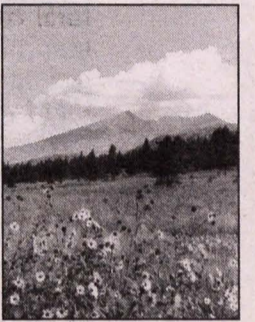
"The cultural survival of more than 13 indigenous nations is directly intertwined with the environmental integrity of the holy San Francisco Peaks," said Jeneda Benally, a volunteer with the Save the Peaks Coalition.

The Flagstaff, Arizona, city government has set no motion forward to protect its own unique ecology and the pristine environment of the San Francisco Peaks, and still maintains a contract to sell 180 million gallons of reclaimed sewage effluent in the Winter to the corporate shareholder-owned business, Arizona Snowbowl.

Claims about the benefits toward the Flagstaff economy have motivated many people not to challenge the ultimately racist action of agreeing to defile the mountain for profit. The Arizona Snowbowl, however, lies outside of the city and does not contribute to city taxes. No evidence has been produced to correlate a successful ski season with the over-all economic health of the city.

Currently, the Obama Administration has the authority to stop this development and uphold the Federal Religious Freedoms Rights Act, establishing a precedent for environmental and sacred site protection.

Please visit www.savethepeaks.org for further ways to help and more information.



Greetings From Black Mesa Indigenous Support

BY BLACK MESA INDIGENOUS SUPPORT

We are excited to inform you that a caravan of work crews will once again be converging from across the US in support of residents of the Big Mountain regions of Black Mesa. On behalf of their peoples, their sacred ancestral lands and future generations, these communities continue to carry out a staunch resistance to the efforts of the US government, which is acting in the interests of the Peabody Coal Company, to devastate whole communities and ecosystems and greatly de-stabilize our planet's climate for the profit of an elite few.

By assisting with direct, on-land projects, you are helping families stay on their ancestral homelands in resistance to an illegal occupation. These courageous communities serve as the very blockade to coal mining! More than 14,000 Diné people have been forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands due to spin created by the US government and Peabody Coal, under the guise of the so-called "Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute." Families are now in their *third decade* resisting this travesty and, as you can imagine, many residents are very elderly, and Winters can be rough. With their guidance, the aim of this caravan is to honor the elders and to generate support in the form of direct, on-land support: chopping and hauling firewood, doing minor repair work, offering holistic health care and sheep-herding before the approaching cold Winter months arrive.

"The Big Mountain matriarchal leaders always believed that resisting forced relocation will eventually benefit all ecological systems, including the human race," says Bahe Keediniihii, Diné organizer and translator. "Continued residency by families throughout the Big Mountain region has a significant role in the intervention of Peabody's future plan for Black Mesa coal to be the major source of unsustainable energy, the growing dependency on fossil fuels, and escalating green house gas emissions. We will continue to fight to defend our homelands."

At this moment, decision makers in Washington DC are planning ways to continue their occupation of tribal lands under the guise of extracting "clean coal," which does not exist. In 30 years

of disastrous operation, Diné and Hopi communities in Arizona have been ravaged by Peabody's coal mining, which has taken land from and forcibly relocated thousands of families, has drained 2.5 million gallons of water daily from the only community water supply, and has left a toxic legacy along an abandoned 273-mile coal slurry pipeline. Peabody's Black Mesa mine has been the source of an estimated 325 million tons of carbon dioxide that have been discharged into the atmosphere. Coal from the Black Mesa Mine could contribute an additional 290 million tons of carbon dioxide to the global warming crisis! Ignoring protests from Diné and Hopi communities and their allies, the US Government (Office of Surface Mining) has permitted Peabody Energy to extend its massive strip-mining operations until 2026 or until the coal is gone. Peabody Coal plans to seize another 19,000 acres of sacred land beyond the 67,000 acres already in Peabody's grasp at Black Mesa.

Peabody Energy, previously Peabody Coal Company, is the world's largest private-sector coal company, operating mines throughout North America, South America and Australia, and is the twelfth-largest coal exporter. In addition, Peabody is proposing new coal-fired power plants in several states. Peabody's coal mining will exacerbate already devastating environmental and cultural impacts on local communities and significantly add fuel to the fire of the current global climate chaos!

We are at a critical juncture and must take a stand in support of communities on the front lines of resistance now! Indigenous and land-based peoples have maintained the understanding that our collective survival is deeply dependent on our relationship to Mother Earth. Victory in protecting and reclaiming the Earth will require a broad movement that can help bridge cultures, issues and nations.

Black Mesa Indigenous Support wishes for this caravan to be an important opportunity for people of all backgrounds to listen and work with the families of Black Mesa to generate more awareness that relocation laws and coal mining need to be stopped, that these communities deserve to be free on their ancestral homelands, and to come together to strengthen our solidarity and find ways to work together to protect Black Mesa and our Mother Earth for all life.

Join the
Caravan
in Support of
Communities on
the front lines of
resistance at Big
Mountain, Black
Mesa, Arizona.

November
21-28

www.blackmesais.org

Dear Shit Fer Brains

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hey there, ya'll! Just wanted to send you a letter telling you thanks for the zine. Sometimes, people seem to fall from the face of the Earth when we come to prison. Glad to know there are still some true-blood punx with their heads screwed on right. I just got the zine today and I have to say the picture from Cascadia with the van over-turned stirred some suppressed emotions—not to mention one hell of a smile.

Hopefully, more and more people will come to understand that this fight to stop the destruction of our planet has got to move forward like never before. With floating islands of plastics in the Pacific, deforestation, nuclear power and other catastrophes waiting to happen, the destruction is moving forward ten-fold.

So, so should the fight. To all my brothers and sisters involved in this fight, I salute you. Keep up the fight, forever and a day and a night! Peace out!

—JEFF BROWN

website that most of the responses to this article were limited to arrogant, high-handed critiques of Maria's writing style: a particularly obnoxious form of classism known as "intellectualism." It's no wonder we have such difficulty getting people of color to talk with us—much less listen to us, as we struggle for the Earth, Life, Freedom and Justice. Thank you again, Maria, and keep the feedback coming. We can't make it without you!

—STORM

Dear SFB,

Wow! What a lovely and spiritual letter you all sent me. Your love for nature shines on through, as does your passion for social change to save the planet and the magnificent proliferation of life on it. I hope your roadshow was a big success. You may well be running into a lot of passivity as many people are still waiting for Obama to save us. But of course, the problems we face are much deeper than who's in the White House; they're systemic

all life! And fast. There's no time to waste on other eco-issues. Why don't you EFlers swarm parents' night at a local school and hand out condoms to show how much damage parents are doing to the Earth by getting pregnant? As you know, there are too many fucking human beings fucking without birth control, making too many fucking babies fucking up the biosphere. And it is illegal to state this truth! So, please use the donation to teach classes on how to properly enjoy oral sex without pregnancy and the severe damage it causes the Earth. Save the forests, fellate and go muff diving! Every environmental action must make a point about the population explosion and birth control! It's time for a "Save the planet, sterilize yourself!" sticker, or "Timber companies chainsaw your balls!"

—ANONYMOUS

Dear Shit fer Brains,

This is a response to Gedden from the May-June 2009 issue. Human breeding is no more "selfish" than the reproduction of any other species. We have as much right to be here as any other species, and our reproduction isn't an affront to the natural world because guess what, we are part of the natural world. Children are the future. We will breed, because we must go on, as all life forms must go on. Umm, may I point out the obvious fact that not breeding would eventually lead to extinction? But let me guess, you probably think that would be a good thing.

Our children will have the answers to the problems of the future because they will be of that time period, not ours. There is no species that stops breeding all together. There is hardly room for new animals of every species on our planet, yet what do they do? They keep breeding. It's called hope. The consequences of our overpopulation will continue to be severe for a long time, because our environmental crisis was set in motion a long time ago, unfortunately. Self-hate for our species is not the answer (and by the way, your perspective is very white and gentle-

centric: indigenous peoples' and Jews' problem is not overpopulation, but underpopulation). This is how environmentalists marginalize ourselves. Count me out.

—SIRI

Dear Cats for Brains,

This is in response to "Researchers like to watch coyotes eat cats" in Mabon's Environmental News of the Weird. I found the comments of our dear *Journal* staff to be surprising and disappointing, and to read more like something in a right-wing rag than something in a seasoned, cutting-edge environmental journal. Domestic cats have, in many cases, been single-handedly responsible for the decline and eradication of wildlife populations—particularly migratory songbirds—on a global scale. This is no secret. I'm not sure what to attribute the staff's comments to: the current, more urban, animal rights emphasis of the movement; a general distrust of research scientists; or a job description that does not entail staring at a computer all day being deemed abnormal. In any case, if it takes quantification to convince cat owners to keep their feline killing machines indoors, then more power to it. To see if I was missing something, I read the offending article, and could have understood if the staff's beef was the study's methodology, which involved radiocollaring—in my mind always questionable. However, this wasn't the case, and I wonder whether the staff even read the article or was simply handed its opinions from lame news outfits, which so often have no environmental clue. I suspect the latter, since the article itself had some strong environmental/conservation statements. I came away celebrating the coyote, who has managed to thrive in an urban landscape, and applauding the scientists, who may actually effect some change through "writing little numbers in notebooks."

For the wild,
—A SCIENTIST WHO WOULD LOVE TO DOCUMENT A WILD CREATURE'S PREDATORY EVENT ON YOUR OUTDOOR DOMESTIC KITTY



Artwork by Karen Coulter, Wildcrafts HCR 82 Fossil, Oregon 97830

Endangered species of California

Dear Racism for Brains,

Many thanks and much gratitude to Maria for her *EF/J* Submission "Practical Ideas for an Anti-Racist Radical Ecological Movement." It is just this sort of feedback that the white, working and middle-class activists, need in order to confront the insidious forces of racism (and classism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc.) that lurk creepily amidst our communities. While getting together amongst ourselves with appropriate literature and exercises to work on these issues is critical, we can only accomplish so much by ourselves without practical input from those individuals and communities most impacted by our own (often unrecognized) shortcomings. It's a bit like a circle of schizophrenics meeting to discuss and process their mental illness—useful and productive, but can only go so far without the aid of a therapist. I noted on the *EF/J*

and ecological—economics and war crises are mounting. So, it's urgently important that we plant seeds now so that we have some of those willows, that Nicole eloquently cited, to withstand the storms. I'm in good health and good spirits, and feel very connected to the work that you do. Clinton is located in the Adirondacks, like Ashland in northern Wisconsin, a totally gorgeous area. The contrast between this ugly prison sitting within these beautiful mountains is a good metaphor for both what we have to overcome and the basis we have for life to flourish.

Please keep up your good work.
One love,

—DAVID GILBERT

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Hang a giant condom from a bridge to gain attention about the population explosion that must be reduced to one billion to save



Recently, some subscribers may have been notified in a bulk e-mail sent out from Ben Rosenfeld that the Journal decided to "censor" one letter he had repeatedly submitted. In other words, our editorial collective did not consent to its inclusion, as we have done to many submissions, every issue, for years. That's our job. If this is censorship, than every publication that doesn't print every single thing they receive (which, I guess I have to mention, is impossible) is practicing it. You can read Ben's original letter online at www.indybay.org/newsitems/2009/10/02/18624234.php. Ben subsequently submitted a second letter in response to our decision, a nearly 900-word letter challenging our "censorship" and condemning the Journal. He'll probably make his second letter available as well. (Which, if we somehow prevented, rather than simply declining to publicize it, would actually be censorship.)

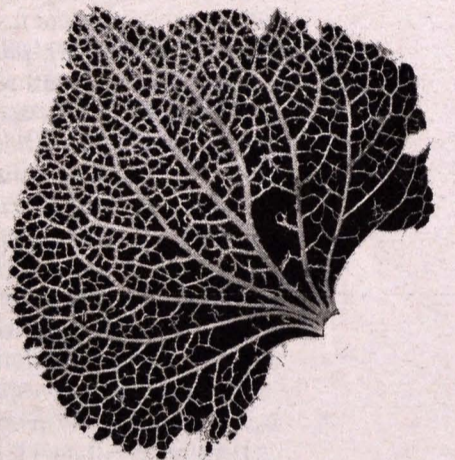
These emotional and divisive issues should require level headed, mutually respectful attitudes to work out. Ben has now expressed his intention to wage a "fight" against the Journal. He has so far suggested, in more than one e-mail, that the Journal is being run by provocateurs. Out of all of those whose submissions and letters are never printed, it is troubling that it's an experienced first amendment lawyer who winds up behaving this way. Regardless, we hope his issues, which we do understand represent many other's concerns, can be dealt with in a respectful fashion in future issues of the Journal.

Issue Explanation Samhain

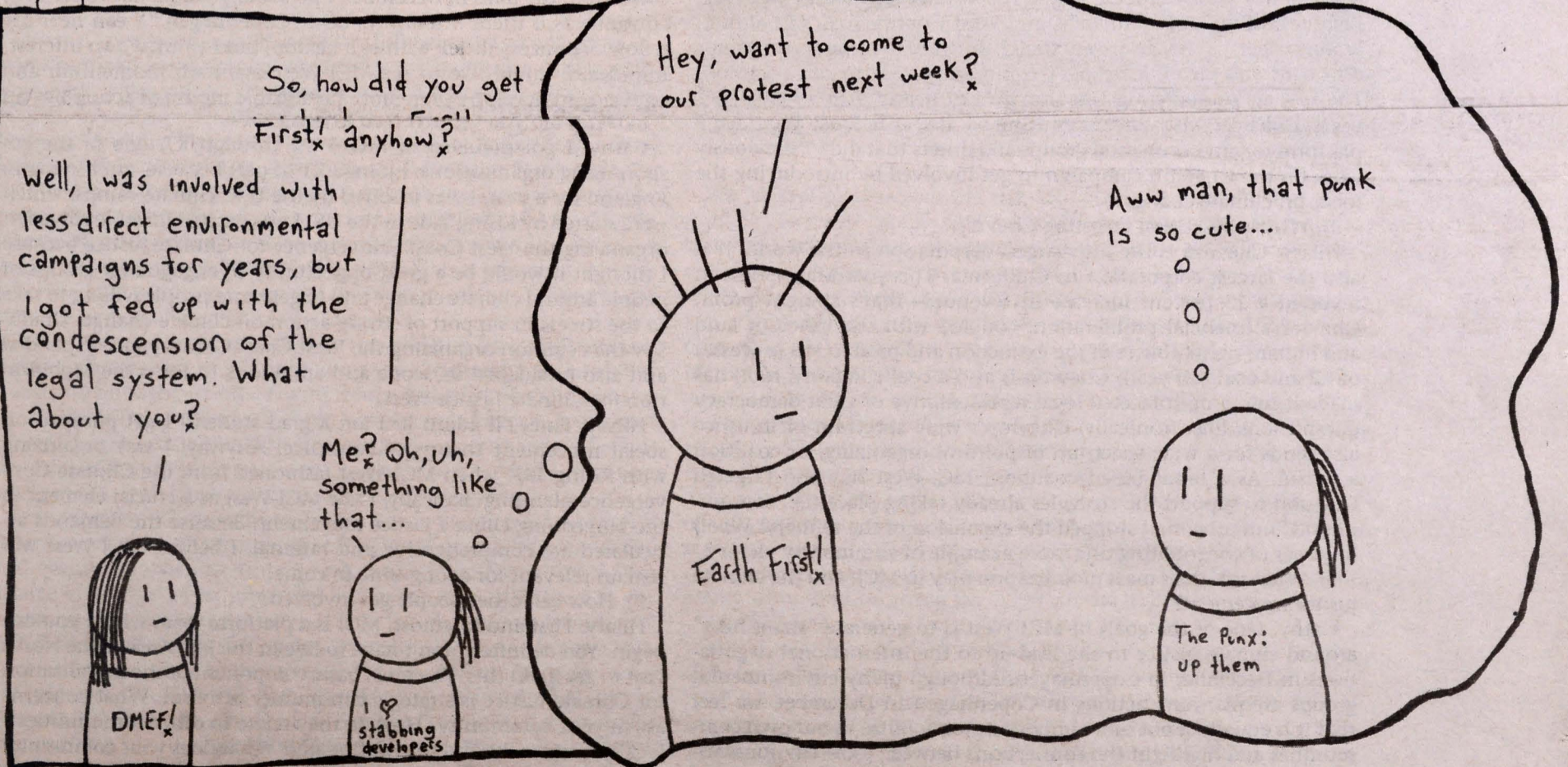
Samhain represents, among other things, the end of harvest season. Samhain is Irish Gaelic for "the Summer's end," and is pronounced "sow-in." The first month of the Celtic year was called Samonios, meaning "seeds fall." The gardens have typically died off by this time of the year, and where we once saw lush green plants, there is nothing left but dry, dead stalks. The perennials have shut down for the season, too, going dormant to return to us in the spring. It's a time to gather, rest and share what we've accomplished in the past year.

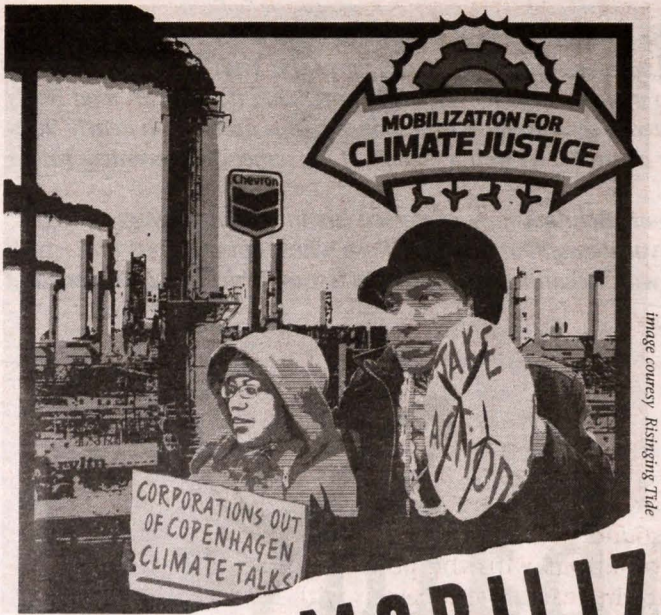
Samhain is a time to celebrate nature's cycle of death and renewal, along with remembering our loved ones who've passed. After devoting boundless amounts of effort to projects and campaigns throughout the heated months of Summer, we can take some space to rest and celebrate the work of fallen friends, such as Judi Bari, David "Gypsy" Chain, Avalon and Sali Grace Eiler, among many others. While our energy may appear dormant during periods of reflection, these moments can manifest into more-focused actions later, just as the perennials will return bigger than ever next Spring. Samhain also marks the beginning of the Celtic New Year. It is a prime season to reassess our goals and strategies, so we can bring in a greater harvest of victories and accomplishments next year at this time.

A new season of chilly weather and black hoodies will soon be upon us once again. As nighttime begins to fall earlier and earlier, nature will use this weather to renew itself. The darkness of Winter will soon creep up. Now is the time to take a moment to drift and rest. Bonfires and potlucks are the perfect way to celebrate Samhain. Through these celebrations, we will find rejuvenation and renewal.



doomsday mountain earth first!





WEST COAST MOBILIZATION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

BY CATHY AND HILLARY

Cathy & Hilary are members of Rising Tide (RT) Bay Area and the Mobilization for Climate Justice (MCJ)-West Coast. What follows is a brief overview of the MCJ, followed by our personal thoughts and experience with US climate justice activism. Thanks for reading!

The MCJ-West is a coalition of 35 Bay Area environmental and community organizations that was formed in 2009 in the lead-up to the December 2009 international climate negotiations in Copenhagen. The goal of MCJ is to connect local environmental justice struggles to the broader movement for climate justice and emphasize the role of community-led solutions in addressing climate change. The global climate justice movement recognizes that the impacts of climate change fall most heavily on poor communities and that true solutions must come from those same communities on the front lines. But to give you a better sense of what it really means to be involved in organizing with MCJ-West, we thought it best to share our personal experiences and ideas.

1) Why do you feel it is so important to involve community groups in the movement?

Hilary: I think community groups are the voice of the movement. I also think there are three basic components to the climate justice movement: science, anti-capitalism, and activism (social and ecological justice). The activism component is where community groups and initiatives bring a certain kind of personal reality to the conversation. The role of community groups in the climate justice movement is about connecting the lived and felt experience of injustice. The community-based framework is also a great place to look for diversity and creativity in solutions; as we all know there isn't a silver bullet to get us out of this one.

2) How did we build such a diverse coalition? How does MCJ fit into past mobilizations in the Bay Area?

Cathy: The Richmond community's struggle against Chevron is one of the longest running and most prominent environmental justice struggles in the Bay Area. Because there are already a number of community groups organizing against Chevron (Communities for a Better Environment, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Richmond Progressive Alliance, and West County Toxics Coalition, among others), it was relatively straightforward to bring those groups on board and create a stronger community base in our coalition. The coalition's focus on Chevron also fit neatly into a long series of years. However, MCJ-West is exciting because it has also provided a platform for environmental groups and others that didn't previously work on the Chevron campaign to get involved by introducing the focus on climate change.

3) Why is MCJ-West targeting Chevron?

Hilary: Chevron is the fifth-largest corporation in the world. It is also the largest corporation in California. This past May, Chevron reported a 25 percent increase in revenues—that's straight profit. Chevron's financial proliferation, coupled with the inherent land and human rights abuses in the extraction and production processes of oil and coal (oh yeah, Chevron is also a coal company, too!) has made it into a multifaceted local representative of what democracy doesn't look like. Ironically, Chevron's wide spectrum of injustice also lends for a wide spectrum of political organizing, or coalition activism. As a broad-based coalition, MCJ-West has also targeted Chevron to support the struggles already taking place (i.e. community-led initiative that stopped the expansion of the refinery! Woo!) in hopes of contributing one more example of community victory.

4) What role does mass mobilization play in MCJ, and the climate justice movement?

Cathy: One of the goals of MCJ-West is to generate "street heat" around climate justice in the lead-up to the international negotiations in December in Copenhagen. Although many environmental groups are planning actions in Copenhagen in December, we feel that it is equally if not more important to mobilize in our own communities and highlight the connections between local environmental justice issues and the global struggle for climate justice. Because the voices of frontline communities and others representing environmental justice concerns are marginalized in the international

negotiations, we feel that the best way to give voice to those communities is through direct action and mass mobilizations. Generating media attention in order to inject the notion of "climate justice" into the public debate is one of the core goals of the climate justice movement and MCJ-West.

5) How are MCJ's actions building?

Hilary: There is an action every month, starting in August, leading up to the UN climate talks in Denmark this December. The idea is to build energy with every event, driving home the idea of a people powered movement that demands just and effective climate policy and realistic solutions. MCJ-West's first event was a mass mobilization on August 15 at the Chevron oil refinery in Richmond to protest both the expansion of the local refinery and Chevron's strong lobbying efforts against effective climate policy. Our second event was the 2009 West Coast Convergence for Climate Justice and Action, a three-day skills-building convergence in Richmond, followed by a non-violent direct action. Our next action is October 24, an international day of action put on by 350.org. In the Bay Area we are organizing public education actions at Bay Area BART stations and transit hubs, a 350-mile bike ride, 350 surfers. The following action is November 30, the ten-year anniversary of the WTO protests in Seattle. Ideas are brewing...

6) What are your expectations around N30?

Cathy: The November 30 action is a unique opportunity, since it is also the 10-year anniversary of the shutdown of the WTO in Seattle. We should use this opportunity to more strongly engage the anti-globalization movement on climate change and also to build public opposition to false, corporate solutions to climate change. We are hoping to see lots of affinity groups organize to do direct actions in the Bay Area on November 30 around the "corporations out of Copenhagen" message. In keeping with the previous MCJ-West mobilizations, Chevron will again be a key target of the actions. High visibility demonstrations are being planned for downtown San Francisco.

7) Where do you see the movement headed after Copenhagen?

Hilary: MCJ-West has just started to have this conversation. At this time, nearly everything, even the climate justice movement itself, is very much focused on Copenhagen (What will be the agreement? Do we even want an agreement? Or more recently, will Copenhagen even happen?). Since we can safely assume nothing spectacular will come from the talks in December, I personally would like to see MCJ continue as if there will always be a "Copenhagen." I can hear my fellow organizers shriek with exhaustion, but I think it's an interesting idea. I would like to see MCJ-West maintain momentum and continue to develop other, more sustainable modes of action like an

8) Why did you get involved in MCJ-West?

Cathy: I got involved in MCJ-West through RT, one of the co-sponsoring organizations. I joined RT in part because, after living in England for a year, I was inspired by the U.K. climate camps, which were started by Rising Tide in the UK. I was excited to get involved in organizing the West Coast Convergence for Climate Justice because I thought it would be a great opportunity to engage new groups of people around climate change and to get more people willing to take to the streets in support of strong action on climate change. Gradually the coalition organizing the West Coast Convergence expanded and also broadened its scope and ambitions to form the Mobilization for Climate Justice-West.

Hilary: Fine! I'll admit it: I am a grad student! I get pumped on social movement theory and practice! Anyway, I was organizing with Rising Tide when MCJ-West fashioned from the Climate Convergence planning. Basically, I saw MCJ-West as a crucial element in the burgeoning climate justice movement. Because the demands articulated are comprehensive and rational, I believe MCJ-West will remain relevant for a long time to come.

9) How can other people get involved?

Hilary: First and foremost, MCJ is a platform from which you can begin. You definitely don't have to live in the Bay Area or the North East to get in on this. The most basic component of the mobilization for Climate Justice is strategic community activism. What concerns are in your community? How do they relate to other communities—locally, nationally, and internationally? What does your community need now, in a year, in ten years? Please feel free to contact anyone in MCJ with any questions. May the mobilization be with you!

Oh, and: www.actforclimatejustice.org/west

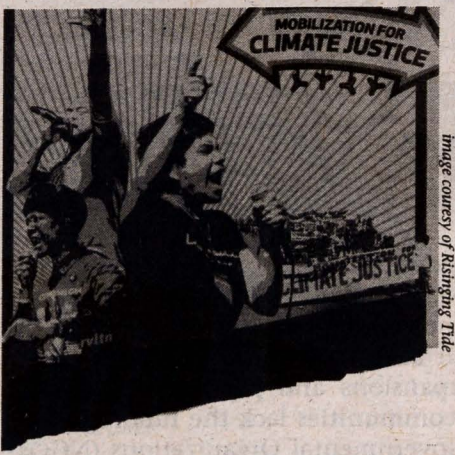


Image courtesy of Rising Tide

OUR CLIMATE IS NOT YOUR BUSINESS:

Rising Tide Takes the Fight for Climate Justice to NYC and Beyond

BY RISING TIDE

After a Summer-long lull in actions, Rising Tide (RT) and its allies have switched into high gear. With the United Nations (UN) Climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, around the corner, the corporate greens and their buddies on Wall St. are working overtime to paint capitalism green and push through bullshit climate legislation that would do more harm than good. In response, Rising Tide has set its sites on fighting the corporate greens and their market solutions.

Folks in New York City fired the first shot across the bow at the UN General Assembly, where high-level climate talks were taking place. Members of Climate SOS and RT did a creative disruption of the Danish Climate and Energy Minister's talk at Columbia University. Dressed as a pirate, a man going by the name Cap'n Trade and his unnamed deck hand, took the floor to unfurl a 14-foot banner representing the Waxman-Markey climate bill. The banner depicts a \$2trillion note, the size of the new market in carbon-dioxide emissions allowances that would be established by the Waxman-Markey climate bill that passed the House of Representatives in late June. The centerpiece of the banner was an image of a bewildered Al Gore, monkeywrench in one hand, compact fluorescent light bulb in the other, debating the virtues of direct action versus corporate solutions. (Gore introduced the concept of tradable emissions allowances into the UN process in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997.)

The Waxman-Markey bill gives massive handouts to the coal, nuke, gas and oil industries; allows companies to buy offsets instead of actually reducing emissions, and would usher in a whole new regime of false solutions. To make matters worse, the bill would only reduce emissions one percent below 1990 levels. NASA climatologist James Hansen has even gone so far as to say that this bill would "do more harm to the environment than doing nothing at all." Yet, the corporate greens are throwing millions of dollars at lobbyists to get it passed.

Cap'n Trade, a proponent of the bill, lauded its ambitious plans to loot and plunder poor communities around the world while filling the coffers of polluting industries. Before exiting the stage, he proclaimed, "If these lily-livered politicians aren't ready to do something about the climate, those scurvy activists on the streets of Copenhagen are going to make 'em walk the plank." We can only hope events such as this will transpire in December.

The next day, the same crew went out to deliver the \$2trillion bill to some folks who should be familiar with it: Environmental Defense, National Resource Defense Council and the Nature Conservancy, all major proponents of corporate-friendly free-market solutions and backers of the climate bill. Folks briefly took over the lobby of Environmental Defense, entered the Nature Conservancy's office and hung a banner off of NRDC's flagpole.

The real icing on the cake came the following morning when activists dropped a massive banner from a bridge, under which a UN motorcade was passing. The banner read, "Cap and Trade is a Dead End," and caused the motorcade to briefly come to a halt. Hundreds of handbills attacking free-market climate "solutions" rained down on the motorcade, as well. They read, in part, "As a people, we cannot define the systematic destruction of our environment, the unprecedented extinction crisis and oncoming impacts of climate catastrophe as a money-making opportunity. We will not forget or forgive those who mindlessly, selfishly advocate a cap-and-trade system. The false solutions agenda of the corrupt circles of government at home and abroad will meet resistance."

Just as folks in New York City were wrapping up their shenanigans, things were starting to get pretty tense in Pittsburgh, as the streets were fortified with National Guard troops and riot police in preparation for the Group of Twenty (G20) summit occurring on September 24 and 25. The Three Rivers Climate Convergence made a valiant attempt to set up a climate camp in Pittsburgh, though, due to a number of factors, it just never quite got off the ground.

On September 23, a small but lively climate march wound through downtown Pittsburgh. It stopped at PNC Bank, a major funder of coal, and eventually meandered its way down to Point State Park, where a large corporate green jobs rally was being held. We stood at the entrance, with banners declaring, "Our climate is not your business" and, "Green jobs are not enough." Of course, we also held the \$2trillion bill banner while handing out flyers attacking green capitalism.

September 24 was the big, unpermitted anti-capitalist march. Around 1,000 people gathered in Arsenal Park with the intention of marching to the G20 summit to disrupt it. After a half-hearted attempt by the police to prevent the march from getting out of the park, people took to the streets and started heading toward the summit. However, the park was an unfortunately long distance from

downtown and the G20. After moving several blocks, police blocked the protest from getting any further, began to fire tear gas, and for the first time in the US, deployed the Long Range Acoustic Device, which emits a loud, irritating sound.

So began continuous confrontations with the police until after midnight. People responded to the tear gas and batons with rocks, bottles and rolling dumpsters. About 20 banks and chain stores had windows smashed out, as well as a police substation and several cop cars.

Eventually, people regrouped at Schenley Park, where the G20 leaders were having a state dinner at a nearby venue. Again, battles broke out with police. This time, protestors' ranks were swelled by interested college students checking out the commotion. In all, about 50 people were arrested that day.

On the morning of September 25 the Pittsburgh Resistance Project called for decentralized actions around the city. RT attempted to disrupt a press conference put on by the US Climate Action Network, a pro-carbon-trading coalition that is currently lobbying hard for the Waxman-Markey bill. The group includes organizations everywhere on the spectrum, from Environmental Defense to Rainforest Action Network. Unfortunately, our slacker asses arrived too late to pull off our action.

On the other end of the city, a group of Vermont farmers and students blockaded a Whole Foods and built a guerilla garden in its parking lot. Banners in the background read, "Whole communities, not Whole Foods for one half the people," and, "Grow gardens, not corporations." Unfortunately, not many other actions happened in the morning.

The afternoon saw nearly 5,000 people hit the streets, this time for a permitted march organized by the Thomas Merton Center. While the crowd ranged from Tibetans fighting for their autonomy to health care advocates, the overall sentiment was strongly anti-capitalist. After nearly a decade of tired anti-war messaging, it was refreshing to be part of such a large crowd with a more-radical analysis. In addition, a 200-strong Climate Justice feeder march, complete with green and black flags, infused a strong ecological message into the main march. The march ended without confrontation, due in part to the large anarchist contingent respecting the Pittsburgh Principles, which called for mutual respect for tactics at different groups' events. Later that night, street fighting once again broke out at Schenley Park after a crowd of about 500 people came together to fight the G20 policies.



Image by Rising Tide

Rising Tide's Trilly-Trilly

We, as radical eco-defenders, are facing an unprecedented assault from the forces of capital. This is no wise-use movement, with their blatantly anti-environmental agenda. We are talking about the massive re-branding of capitalism as a clean, green, climate-change-solving machine. The people responsible for destroying the Earth are no longer just the multinational corporations. A whole new front has been opened by their collaborators: Environmental Defense, World Wildlife Fund, National Resource Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy and countless other corporate green groups. These groups are so entranced with getting a seat at the boardroom table and so obsessed with passing any climate legislation, no matter how bad it is, that they have become perhaps our most formidable foes. If the big greens and their corporate allies succeed in trading away the future of the planet with their carbon markets and offsets, we are screwed. It is of the utmost importance that we resist these corporate schemes that seek to convert all life into capital and continue to build real community solutions from the hoods to the hollers.

Rising Tide encourages everyone to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Battle of Seattle by taking direct action at the root causes of climate change. Groups around the world are making plans for hard-hitting actions on November 30, as well as the UN climate talks in Copenhagen, running from December 7 to 18. Don't go to Copenhagen. Stay in the US and help us grow this ulcer in the belly of the beast.

Rising Tide recently released a 16-page newspaper, Deal or No Deal, that examines the Copenhagen climate talks from an anti-capitalist and climate justice perspective. Write distro@risingtidenorthamerica.org for a copy.

Tar Sands: *The World's Most Destructive Project*

BY ANANDA TAN

In the first quarter of 2009, with the world reeling from a global financial meltdown and entire nations declaring bankruptcy, the world's largest oil companies (Big Oil) were reeling in some of their largest quarterly profits ever. The real irony is that while terms like "sub-prime mortgage" and "credit crisis" were being bandied about, this colossal collapse was actually being induced by the very same Big Oil and their hedge fund friends, in a rush to exploit one of the craziest debacles of our time, the Alberta tar sands.

The single largest industrial project in human history—the Alberta Tar Sands is likely to become the most destructive—if ongoing plans for investing hundreds of billions of dollars in the project's expansion continue.

Often called "The Saudi Arabia of the North," the Alberta tar sands are the largest untapped oil reserves in the world, according to a 2007 report, with potentially over two trillion barrels of oil in an area the size of the state of Florida. Since the start of the war against the Iraqi people, the tar sands have emerged as the number one source of US oil supply—a supply that comes at a massive cost to the planet and its people. Located on sovereign First Nation (Indigenous) territories, the extraction of crude oil from tar sands serves to entrench Canada's colonial legacy of destroying indigenous communities and alienating them from the ecosystems they have inhabited and protected for a millennia.

The tar sands also represent the fastest-growing industrial climate change threat in North America. Tar sands crude represents three times the carbon-intensity of conventional oil production.

The tar sands area also has one of the highest deforestation rates on the planet (second only to Amazon rainforest destruction), and massive destruction of rivers and waterways. For each barrel of oil, five barrels of water are used. Additionally, for every barrel of oil produced, four

barrels of toxic water are dumped into tailing ponds that have now flooded hundreds of thousands of acres of forest and peat-lands. There are also severe toxic impacts on boreal wildlife and ecosystems. By now, you've all heard the story about the 500 ducks that died on one of the toxic tailing ponds. Severe health impacts to local frontline (mostly Indigenous) communities, including high incidences of rare, often fatal, diseases have also been found in this area. This is all a massive drain on Canada's public purse.

Big Oil Leverages, Trade Policies & Hedge Funds

Asking why such an industrial nightmare was allowed is a moot point when facing the wealthiest, most powerful and least regulated corporations on the planet. What may be more relevant is how they went about creating it.

Since the atmospheric rise of oil prices started in 2004, every major western oil company has jumped aboard the Alberta tar sands project. This has also spurred the largest construction boom of oil refineries and pipelines that the US has seen in more than 25 years. In order to gain both political and market

support for the most expensive oil extraction scheme in the world, Big Oil likely got the ball rolling for the next round of North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations, the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), and lined up some of their wealthiest friends on the planet.

NAFTA, Deep Integration and the SPP

Since the NAFTA was ratified in 1994, it has primarily served to allow multinational corporations better access to valuable natural resources across the borders of Canada, the US and Mexico by eliminating policies protecting the public interest. Under NAFTA, Canada cannot, A.) sell national energy resources at rates lower than sold to the U.S. and, B.) reduce Canada's levels of export to the US (as laid out in the NAFTA proportionality clause). As a result, Canada now exports 70 percent of the oil and 61 percent of the natural gas it produces each year to the US while having to import 55 percent of its domestic oil needs from Algeria, Venezuela and Norway. This monopoly of tar sands crude has been effectively sold as a key strategy to establishing US energy security and independence.

Big corporations on both sides of the US-Canadian border are continuing to push for further deregulation of their activities, and lobbying for "deep integration," a term used to define the dismantling of borders between Mexico, Canada and the US and harmonizing (or neutralizing) policies governing food, water, energy, services and consumer commodities. One of the central strategies of the SPP is to expedite the construction of the infrastructure required to quadruple current tar sands oil deliveries to key industrial hubs in the US. Where military and business empires find common cause, speculative capital is quick to follow.

War, Oil Prices & Global Economic Crisis

Big Oil's control of planetary oil is as fundamental to the war economy as industrial pollution is to climate change. Acceptance of this has not required a global scientific consensus. Hence, the assumption that an escalating war would boost oil consumption and bolster a demand for oil that has otherwise stagnated in recent years. Meanwhile, major oil producing countries enforce caps on oil production and raise royalty rates, claiming a greater portion of revenues for the public purse under their nationalization programs. This serves to dramatically reduce the global market share of Big Oil. In a desperate bid to regain this market share, these companies began to seriously look to all remaining unconventional oil sources. Of these, the tar sands looked the most promising.

The only problem was that, despite the war effort, extraction of this oil remained expensive. In order for tar sands to be truly profitable, prices needed to jump significantly. This is where Big Oil's buddies on Wall Street stepped in. In the coming months, there may be a growing number of investigations on how oil price surges were largely induced through long positions taken by hedge funds. North American banks did their share by sending signals about "one of the most promising long-term themes buoyed by the rapid industrialization of emerging economies," then cited an attractive value, a return on equity and profit momentum from investment in oil drilling, refineries and marketers.

In short, Big Oil obtained the capital support required and guided an investment frenzy squarely focused on figuring out how to get the dirtiest oil out of the hardest-to-reach places.

What's Needed: Mobilizing a Network of Allied Communities

Communities across North America are rising up to take on the world's richest,

most powerful forces. A handful of small First Nations communities are leading the resistance in Canada. However, like many of their allied communities fighting refinery expansions and pipelines in the US, these communities lack the funding of big Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). What makes them strong is their experience: history of resistance, ties to the land and dedication to the futures of their children. However, just as Mother Earth needs their resolve, they need our support and solidarity.

The resistance has to be strategic. In short, we need to seek to cut off the three factors of production:

1) Land: The tar sands project cannot expand without access to land—pipelines across land and refineries on land. There are already a number of communities and groups in the US opposing the plans, proposals and construction of this infrastructure. One may be in your very own backyard. Seek them out and help them organize. If you need help finding them or need more information on the Tar Sands, visit the Indigenous Environmental Network at www.ienearth.org/cits.html, Global Community Monitor at www.gcmonitor.org, Rising Tide North America at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org and Oil Sands Truth at www.oilsandstruth.org

2) Labor: Unlike the big forest defense battles of the 1980s and '90s, this scenario has many allies waiting to be engaged. Organized workers know that the writing is on the wall for refinery jobs. They also know that when the well runs dry, the Man ain't stickin' around. It's time that rank-and-file unions step up to their militant traditions while the plants are still running. "The boss needs you. You don't need him!"

Communities that take on Big Oil need to be communities that are willing to reclaim their economy, starting with a commitment to the poorest amongst them. Frontline communities need to meet with the sleeping giant in the Canadian House of Labor to discuss their common burdens (health impacts) and promised benefits (just transition to green jobs). Find a union near you, then find your local Environmental Justice group. Always remember, "An injury to one is an injury to all." Communication, Energy & Paperworkers at www.cep.ca, the United Steelworkers at www.usa.org and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters at www.teamster.org.

3) Capital: Even the richest (Big Oil) still need other streams of capital to build the billion-dollar hardware downstream. Go after the banks, the investors and the insurers. In their time of shame, they have no further business gambling with people's lives. While scaring away investors and insurers, remember to point out that Big Oil are the primary drivers of the economic collapse and should be accountable alongside Wall Street. For creative ideas, check out www.dirtymoney.org.

While all of the above angles serve to raise the cost of doing business, there is one durable strategy for seriously equalizing cost for the planet: mass direct action. Mass direct action contributed to the elimination of subsidies to nuclear weapons in the '80s. This is what will effectively turn the tide against coal and Big Oil. A good place to plug into mass direct action would be this year's Climate Action Camps. The West Coast camp will be targeting the Chevron Oil refinery in Richmond, CA.

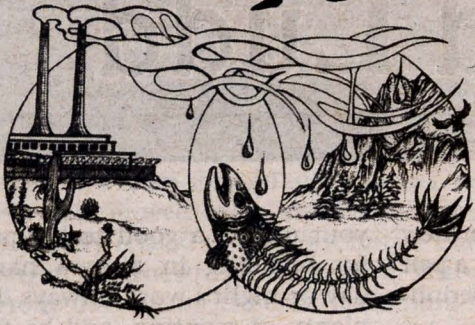
For more on mass action, visit the Climate Convergence website at www.climateconvergence.org or the Mobilization for Climate Justice at www.actforclimatejustice.org/wp.



The Alberta Tar Sands

Photo courtesy Google Images

10 most endangered rivers



BY DREAMER

American Rivers recently released its 2009 report on the most endangered rivers in the US. The rivers were highlighted because they exhibited at least one of these three criteria; there is no sizable threat to the river; a major decision point will occur in the coming year regarding that threat; and the regional and national significance of the river is large. Though the report only included rivers that are "possible to save [...] by persuading decision makers to do the right thing," some (if not many) were not mentioned because it was believed that it was too late for them. "Typical 'threats' include, but are not limited to proposed development projects, mines or dams," explained the report.

The Endangered Rivers

#1 - Sacramento-San Joaquin River System (California)

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River System has been contained by levees since the early '90s. These, however, are considered outdated and in need of repair. So, bigger levees and more river-control infrastructure are proposed to contain the flooding. However, by building these, the river won't have access to natural floodplains that help disperse the water and reduce flooding.

#2 - Flint River (Georgia)

In 1945, a series of dams was proposed for the Flint River, but was vetoed by Jimmy Carter. However, with the Southeast in the midst of a severe drought, the government is searching for other means to get water, including building dams and reservoirs. These proposed dams would destroy more than 50 river miles, slaughter generations of fish and severely impact other wildlife that depend on the river.

#3 - Lower Snake River (Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

Four major dams and more than 140 miles of slackwater reservoirs on the lower Snake River already exist. These dams are known as Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor. The dams are preventing salmon from migrating to and from the high-elevation spawning and rearing habitat in southeastern Washington, northeastern Oregon and central Idaho. Fifty to eighty percent of juvenile salmon and steelheads would be killed because of these dams.

#4 - Mattawoman Creek (Maryland)

Though it is one of the few tidal, freshwater tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay that remains unspoiled and healthy, the Mattawoman is being threatened by a proposed highway. The Intercounty Connector is planned to bring commercial growth and further development to thousands of acres of forest and wetlands in the Mattawoman watershed.

#5 - North Fork of the Flathead River (Montana)

Cutting right through Glacier National Park is the Flathead River. Though "protected" in the national park, the north fork of this river is in British Columbia. It is here, at the river's origin, that it is being threatened with industrial energy projects. One is a full-on mountaintop removal mine. The other is a coal-bed methane project. Both of these would, of course, have terrifying effects on the water systems around them. The nearby

forests around them would be cut through with a maze of service roads and power line corridors, along with flaring and pumping stations. The mining, itself would release heavy metals like selenium and other toxins into the water system.

#6 - Saluda River (South Carolina)

This river is being choked to death in human crap. Phosphorous can cause algae to grow unchecked, and human waste is full of it. With higher levels of algae, the oxygen in the water is depleted suffocating fish and other wildlife. What's worse is that the government has tried to fix this—not by drastically dropping the amount of human waste put in the river, but by filling it with lots of toxic herbicides, killing local flora in and around the lake. This, of course, has also greatly affected the wild life of the Saluda River watershed.

#7 - Laurel Hill Creek (Pennsylvania)

Over the decades, the Summer stream flow of Laurel Hill Creek has been getting lower and lower. The reason for this is extensive water withdrawals. With lower stream flow, the temperature of the creek has risen, causing the destruction of the wildlife to that watershed. Somerset Municipal Authority is responsible for taking water from that watershed to the Borough of Somerset and two state prisons. Along with this are two major ski resorts that use the creek water for hotels, condominiums, two golf courses and its snowmaking machines. To add even more to the destruction of this water system, energy projects also are impeding the river's right to exist. Coal mining companies have submitted "intent to explore" applications, and thousands of proposals to extract methane have been given to the state. This is happening all over Appalachia and is now coming to Laurel Hill Creek.

#8 - Beaver Creek (Arkansas)

More than 200,000 acres are under consideration to be transferred to Doyon, Ltd. from the Yukon Flats Refuge for oil and gas developments. If this happens, it would mean (are you ready?) pipelines, airstrips, drilling pads, gravel mines, satellite fields, development wells straddling Beaver Creek and at least 600 miles of roads. These roads and pipelines would cross the creek and run alongside it. Let's not forget that large quantities of water would be stolen from this river and other bodies of water near it. The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that more than 275 gallons of surface water would be required for exploratory and development wells. If a summer oil spill were to happen in Beaver Creek, the toxins would, in two days, travel 148 miles and contaminate vegetation and soil along the way.

#9 - Pascagoula River (Mississippi)

This river is under attack from a Strategic Petroleum Re-

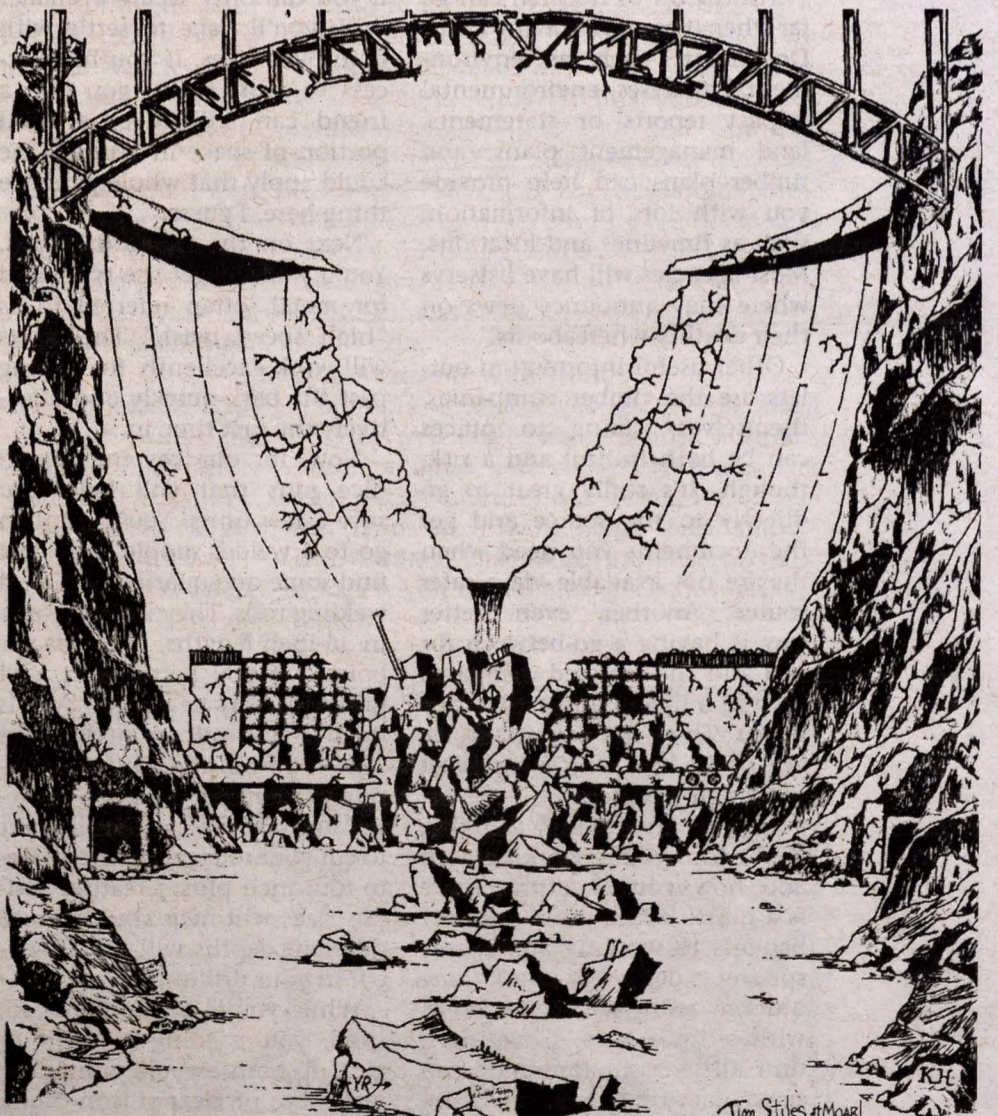
serve called the Richton Salt Domes Project. Back in 2007, the government decided to eventually hollow out the natural Richton salt domes so that they could be filled with up to 160 million barrels of oil. What this means for the river is that 50 million gallons of water per day for five years would be used to dissolve salt from the domes. Once dissolved, the water would move through a pipeline to an island in the Gulf of Mexico, where it would be deposited. Between taking the water from the river, disposing of it in the Gulf, and distributing the oil to and from the site, 330 miles of pipeline would need to be built.

#10 - Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Minnesota, Wisconsin)

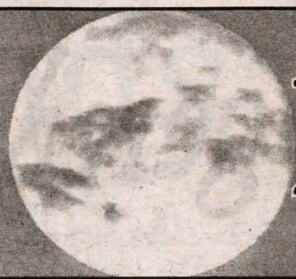
Back in 1968, the Upper St. Croix River was added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Four years later, the lower 52 miles were protected as the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. However, local government has now zoned the lower St. Croix River for development. State governments of Minnesota and Wisconsin have, of course, ignored their principle zoning rules of not building within 100 feet of the river. Doing so has caused erosion and countless other problems for the wildlife of the area. With no developmental safeguards (or resistance), it will continue to get more and more developed, causing more horrors to the natural environment around the St. Croix River.

After reading these summaries one could feel discouraged and overwhelmed. However, there are some points to be made here.

Something to keep in mind is that this is all theoretical. The dams aren't built yet. The mining is still in planning. If resistance to these threats start now, you might be able to save that bail fund for more stuff later. Besides, if the world didn't always feel like it was being ripped apart, we wouldn't really be environmentalists, would we?



GLEN CANYON DAMN



Dear Ned Ludd

Dear Nedd

I have been really excited, hearing about all of the recent forest-defense efforts over the past few years. It's too bad most of it isn't working though. Whatever happened to the whole tree spiking thing? I thought that was one of the next steps in defending our forests. I remember when that used to be all the rage; spikers were everywhere from California to Indiana. Could you give us a little refresher on the whole tree spiking thing?

*Seriously Sinning,
Pinning A. Tree*

Well, my friend Pinning, you're right. It seems as though the art of tree spiking and its many technical variations has become somewhat of a lost art. There are many things to consider when tree spiking.

There is definitely room for strategic timing with spiking. You should always plan and act safely—acting earlier in a project's time frame is usually a pretty safe calculation. The longer you wait and more controversial things get, the more likelihood there will be heightened security. Spiking trees sooner will also allow for time to naturally cover the impacted area on the tree.

Locating your target can sometimes be problematic. The great thing is that most governmental agencies will clearly map out their plans of devastation for the forest. Logging always occurs in units, as well, additionally, trees will often be clearly marked with paint to easily tell which ones will be cut.

A little bit of research can go far when it comes to saving units. Documents such as environmental analyses, environmental impact reports or statements, land management plans, and timber plans can help provide you with lots of information, such as timelines and locations. Most agencies will have listservs where they announce news on their deathly whereabouts.

Other useful information outlets are the timber companies, themselves. Going to offices can be both fruitful and a risk, though. It's really great to go directly to the source and get the documents you need when they're not available via a safer source. Another, even better way is having a go-between for you and the targeted company, such as a liberal forest-advocacy group. They can sometimes be one of the best sources for sweet topographical maps.

As with any action, thinking about who you're working with and how you're getting there is a must! While there are clear benefits to working alone, tree spiking is definitely a task done quicker and more effectively, with a little help. Covering a unit all by your lonesome can seem daunting or overwhelming. Close friends make great

lookouts are a benefit to sharing the fun with close friends. Coordinating a friendly get-away driver can also help.

Now, it's about time to talk shop. The technique for spiking I'm fixin to share is the fine art of tree pinning. The classic, must-read book for any spiker, *Ecodefense*, goes into further detail about this technique and many others. Here is a rundown of the tools for the tree pinning trade.

Just in case you aren't familiar with shopping for these types of parties purchasing tools ahead of time is often a smart approach. Also, try to acquire your tools from a somewhat-safe distance from your target. Nowadays, people like to ask you for a zip code while buying things. So you might want to have a fake one ready, instead of freaking out and getting paranoid. For your own safety's sake, be discrete about purchases! Go somewhere that folks will have a harder time remembering you, and try to look normal—for real.

When your out in the woods, you're going to need a cordless power drill. While there are many routes to go to for this product, I'm gonna suggest getting your hands on a nice, strong one with detachable battery packs. The higher your drills rpms (revolutions per minute, can't really write that without a laugh) and torque (how hard something is rotated), the quicker your fun will go and the more space will be covered with ease. Worry not if you can only secure a smaller drill; you'll have to settle with doing less trees. If you have access to more drills, you and a friend can still cover a good portion of space in a unit. One could apply that whole patience thing here, I guess.

Next on the list is drill bits. You'll want to get the type used for metal, often referred to as "high speed twist." These bits will work excellently for getting past the bark quickly and effectively the first time in.

Now, for our key ingredient: nice pins that will help you save a few units. You'll want to go to a welder supply shop and find some one-quarter-inch steel welding rods. They usually come in 36-inch lengths, two rods per pound. If you become an avid pinner, it may be safer to switch it up a bit and use a threaded steel rod from the hardware section of a lumber-yard.

Using a hacksaw, you'll want to cut your rods down into three-to-four-inch pins. Creating various sizes will help you, because different depths will usually occur in your drilling.

While you're at the hardware store, you're going to want to pick up both a caulk gun and a few tubes of clear silicon-caulk. A nice pair of safety glasses will

also go a long way in your new line of work. Be sure to get a pair that doesn't affect your peripheral vision.

A little bit of experimenting can be done at this point. A good apron will come in handy for holding your pins and wiping your dirty silicone-covered gloves on. A healthy grip of rags, by the way, will help you stay cleaner while gettin' down and dirty in the woods. Just make sure to securely dispose of anything linking you to your nocturnal hobby.

Before I move into the next steps of your successful sabotage, let's talk about a few things. If pinning is done safely, the chance of injuring someone is next-to-impossible. That is why we talk about strategic placement. The main point of tree pinning and spiking is to deter loggers from cutting in the first place. Talking through precautions and respecting the possible dangerous ramifications of this action will significantly decrease the chance of anyone being injured.

Now, we come to the good stuff! Let's talk pin placement. Driving nails as many feet up the tree as can be done with ease and effectiveness is the safest approach. If spikes are placed at the base of trees, you are literally putting loggers at risk. If their blade were to hit a pin, it could possibly cause physical harm to them. If a pinned log does make it to a large-scale mill, most saw operators are a lengthy distance from the log. Also, larger mills will have shields for protection.

Tree pinning is done best with a friend, following a simple five-step approach. Citing *Ecodefense*:

1) Drill a hole at a slight downward angle in the tree. Your drill bit should be slightly larger in diameter than your steel pins.

2) Use the caulk gun to squeeze clear silicon into the hole.

3) Insert the steel pin. If the hole is more than four inches deep, use a four inch pin. If the wood in a particular spot is too tough, don't force it. Use a three or even two inch pin in a shallower hole. Use another piece of steel rod, from six to 12 inches long, to push the pin to the bottom of the hole. Glue the pin in place with the silicon (otherwise a powerful magnet could pull it out).

4) Place another dab of clear silicon at the mouth of the hole. This seals the hole against invasion by bugs or disease.

5) Camouflage the opening with a chip of bark stuck onto the silicon.

A couple notes on security: You and your team should develop solid routes for your entrance, exit and escape. A plan should already be in place for any possible mishaps that may arise in your adventure. Stashing a hiking pack nearby in

your unit is a good technique for blending in after a hard day or night's work. Always do plenty of scouting, and be familiar with your target before jumping into action.

One of the most important parts of tree spiking is the need to announce your pinning. Letting logging companies, the media and logging unions know about your efforts can change situations drastically. This will leave it up to the logging company and the state to determine if they want to try locating the spikes or not—sometimes, they may scrap a project all together. By notifying the media you are able to have clear messaging of why that unit shouldn't be cut, and the company can't pretend that it didn't know about the spiking, knowingly putting it's workers at risk. Also, loggers have the opportunity to refuse cutting spiked trees, and the mill workers can refuse to mill it.

Embraced by many from the beginning of the tactic's use, some began to question how non-violent spiking is. The tactic of spiking came under debate from injuries that occurred because logging companies choose to ignore reports of spiked units. In light of these injuries, groups such as Ecotopia Earth First! openly denounced the tactic. At the same time, other Earth First!ers stuck to their guns, believing that the tactic was still employable despite the disagreements.

A brief note on spiking's strategic tenants: Spiking is a tactic that can be employed from the point of initial interest in harvesting a unit of forest to after trees have been felled and are stacked up neatly, calling for you to spike them. While I only mentioned one technique here, *Ecodefense* shares oodles of variations for you to explore. There are even approaches to spiking that involve ceramic spikes that can't be found by metal detectors.

Remember, always spike safely and practice good security culture. Develop advanced ways to communicate in the woods. While technology can be our enemy at times, there are other times when those fancy walkie-talkies and what-not can help us attack! With that said, don't you think it's about time for a hike?

Dear Ned Ludd has been an irregular column in the EF!J 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!J necessarily encourages anyone to do the things discussed on this page, which should not be legally construed as anything other than mindless entertainment. Please write to Ned via the EF!J with your top tips on *ecodefense*.

UK Vandals Take Action Against Climate Criminals

A group under the name, Autonomous Activists for Earth Liberation, sunk their teeth into four different buildings that are home to climate criminals. On September 4, around midnight the World Coal Institute had its door handles chained together and expanded foam sprayed into its locks. Activists next moved on to an EON building (a company related to the UK Climate Camp's target, Kingsnorth, power station). The same group also hit up D1 Oils, PLC and a Starbucks coffee shop with nearly identical acts of excited vandalism in the name of Earth Liberation.

Disarm DSEi Arms Fair Gets Hectic

Nearly 150 people mobbed the streets of London on September 8, to confront the DSEi arms fair. Protestors formed a black bloc and first met with Barclays, dropping a banner nearby and shouting, "bankers have blood on your hands", while throwing shoes at them. Next, the Legal and General building was visited before the bloc invaded the BT building. Evading the police, they next converged on AXA where windows were smashed, paint bombs were thrown, and messages were written in chalk and taped to the building. For photos and video of the day's festivities visit www.lasthours.org.

Not-So-Random Acts of Vandalism Spill Across the US

Some friends out on a late night stroll in Denver, Colorado, on September 5, visited their favorite McDonalds for a second time. They ordered broken windows—not only at the store but also at the windshield and windows of the two cars of the managers, who were still working. The vandals said they yelled at the managers once they were discovered and ran away. They said it was a good night.

Late into the night of September 4, around midnight, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) visited the Miami home of Brooke Block, of Worldwide Primates, Inc., an importer/exporter of non-human primates for vivisection. Four tires were slashed and red paint was thrown over Block's car and the front door of the home.

At least 15 Hummers in the lot of Vic Alfonso Cadillac Dealership lot in Portland, Oregon were vandalized with acid or paint stripper on September 14. The Earth Liberation Press Office, while reporting on the unclaimed incident, had this to say:

"It is evident from the sabotage that this act was conducted in response to the environmental devastation caused by SUVs—and Hummers in particular."

We can only hope that more random acts of vandalism occur. Time will tell.

ELF Killin' the Air Waves

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) recently took it upon them selves to advance on an eight-year-long battle. On September 4, in Everett, Washington, the ELF felled two radio towers that were erected by radio station KRKO, despite public outcry.

The ELF Press Office reported:

"Due to Health and Environmental risks

associated with radio waves emitted from the towers, we applaud this act by the ELF."

Now, if we could just get a fund drive going to raise money for more radio tower attacks, we'll be another step in the right direction.

Migrant Uprising in Greek Prison

Migrant detainees started rioting, igniting fires in the courtyard of a Greek prison on September 22, around 4 p.m., and demolishing the center's exterior fence. The migrants were demanding their freedom and the special documents necessary to allow them to travel to Athens. Five hours later, the detainees were returned to their cells.

Shutting down this particular detentionment camp was one of the main demands of the recent No Borders Camp that took place in Mytilene in August.

Shell's Tar Mines are the Pits

Greenpeace activists entered Shell's open pit tar sands mine in McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on September 15, set up blockades, and dropped banners. Activists entered the site around 8a.m. and chained a pickup truck and giant shovel truck together. They then proceeded to occupy the two vehicles by chaining themselves to them. This coincided with the work on another team, which placed banners on the ground reading, "Tar Sands: Climate Crime." The blockade was held for more than 30 hours.

"The tar sands are a devastating example of how our future will look unless urgent action is taken to protect the climate", said Greenpeace.

European Saboteurs Definitely Know How to Party!

Animal Liberation Front (ALF) activists in Spain covered a meat truck in paint on September 19. The "covering" included every window and mirror.

A pheasant farm in Strada Uguzzolo Italy on August 23 had a tractor torched with incendiary devices. The arson was claimed by the ALF who said "Now it is up to the farmer.... We will go on setting the flames of animal liberation."

In Somerset, England, both the ELF and ALF have been layin' it down. In early September, two leather shops had their locks glued, and windows were broken at one of the shops. On September 20, a burger van was rendered useless from a fire. Both the ALF and ELF claimed the largest attack taken in Somerset, after three vehicles were sabotaged at an urban sprawl site. Electronic cables were cut, leaving the three Earth destroyers destroyed.

In Hanover, England, a refrigeration unit and a truck was destroyed by an arson that reached more than \$147,000 in damages. Police believed the arson was linked to protests against an animal testing laboratory owned by the pharmaceutical company, Boehringer Ingelheim.

On August 30, in France, pheasant trapping was confronted head on when the League for the Protection of Birds thoroughly trashed more than 200 traps and liberated dozens of birds who were caught inside the traps.

Three football field-sized fences were opened in a Brescia, Italy, hare farm on

August 2. The hares escaped, while spray painted slogans adorned the farmers barbecue, chairs and tables. His pool was filled with red paint.

Italy was the stage for arguably the largest late Summer European action. Flames shot through the morning air of August 21 as fire engulfed a van, two cars and a tractor. The fire also danced across other murderous machines and buildings, scarring them with permanent damage exceeding \$147,000.

In Luxembourg, on September 7 and 8, the Animal Rights Militia visited the homes of John Seil and Luc Hansen of BDO Luxembourg/Anchor Sub Funding (connected to Huntingdon Life Sciences). An incendiary device was left under the car of John Seil. Luc Hansen's house was tagged with slogans, and his garden was set on fire. Both sell and Hansen resigned soon after. Is it safe to say another one bites the dust?

Whats Up Down in Mexico?

As usual, the Frente de Liberacion (FLA) has been keeping it hot. Quoting FLA, "The explosive rage of the abolitionists filled the street when a bomb was detonated on September 14." This quote was in reference to an incendiary device being placed in a Max-Mara fur chain in Mexico City.

The FLA paid some special visits around Colima recently. Two meat markets and a fish market were glued shut, and five Telemax phone booths were left unusable. On September 16, seven meat markets and five poultry shops were glued shut by the FLA.

Climate Ground Zero Blasting the Mining Industry

Climate Ground Zero has definitely been using all of the tools in their toolbox to dismantle King Coal. Recently, from the frontlines of the coal wars, four protestors, ranging in age from 22 to 81, blockaded the road leading up to Massey Energy's regional headquarters in Julian, West Virginia. They were locked arm-to-arm by chains and plastic tubes from a guardrail and a light post.

Those who participated in the blockade were charged with trespass, conspiracy, destruction of property, disobeying a lawful order and resisting arrest. A journalist that accompanied the protestors was charged with trespass, failure to obey a lawful command, and conspiracy.

Also in the coal wars, on August 25, two tree sitters occupied two trees 80 feet in the air—only 30 feet away from Massey Energy's Edwight, West Virginia, mountaintop removal site and only 300 feet from the blasting zone. The sitters held off the blasting for seven days. The two sitters came down to face arrests after numerous violent threats, including Massey workers running chainsaws at the base of both trees. The two's bail was set at \$25,000 each.

ALF Action in Australia

Multiple animal exploiters of the meat business were tagged in Melbourne, Australia. Their buildings were painted with messages saying "Animals are not machines," "Factory farms are a living hell," "Meat stinks," and, "Animal Liberation." It's great to know things are on the up and up down under for the ALF.

Frontlines



Migrants at the gate of a Greek detention center during September's prison riot

photo's courtesy of Athens Indymedia

Bringing Green Scare Discussions Into the Open

BY USNEA

Earth First!ers (EF!ers) have the privilege of a certain knowledge that we pushed ourselves to find and learn. We are unique, because we discovered and searched, even if it hurt, to rid ourselves of blinders. We are the ones who know we need to fight. We have passion enough to overcome fears, to bind together and find affinity where conflict and disagreement often would be. Gathering courage to go out in the night, doing what needs to be done or meet in the morning at the blockade site. This fight and passion is what makes us different. We, for a multitude of reasons, feel it is necessary to stand up, speak out and fight. I am honored to call this group of people my community, and—feel great pride in us.

If one listens to our internal movement dialogues about how to deal with snitches/snitch supporters or individuals with mixed feelings about maintaining some level of contact with snitches, you don't hear the argument, "We should invite snitches back into our communities because it's the right thing to do." Instead, one hears about guilt or sadness.

viduals to deny those feelings or pretend they don't have them. I am saying that we need to prioritize our responsibility to the movement and hold people accountable for their actions.

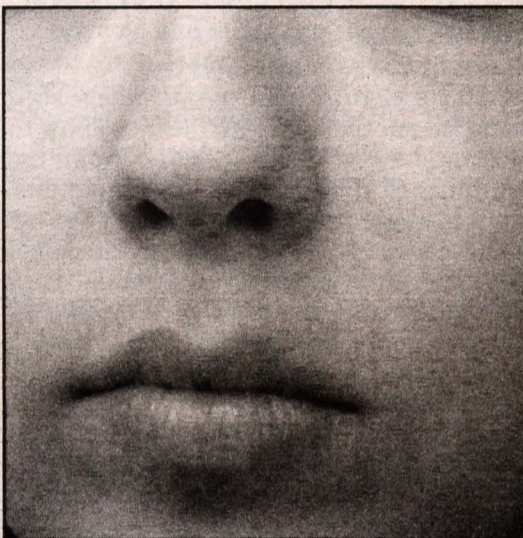
We have a duty to the fight we are in. We have a responsibility to one another and to future actions. We must stand with those who are bound behind bars in federal incarceration facilities or have had their lives torn apart because snitches named names and told tales. Most of all, we owe it to the Earth, to the integrity of our actions, and our movement.

I think I can safely say that most everyone was pretty ashamed with how parts of the Green Scare unfolded. Some activists, faced with charges, snitched on themselves and on their comrades, and things fell apart. Members of our community betrayed some of our most-valued, precious trusts and turned government snitch-for-life in the process. These individuals, will forever be at the beck and call of the state. They have agreed to, and are mandated *forever* to provide any and all information that they can to the state. These snitches are people who, when faced with prison time, chose to rat out their friends.

EF! philosophy. It is a tenant that we must keep if we are to continue our work as EF!ers and as radicals in larger struggles.

The snitches who rolled on others in order to get a shorter sentence made a choice to sacrifice their community for their own self-interest. Expecting that same community to be there when they get out of prison is hypocritical and senseless.

Though the Green Scare snitch debacle began four years ago, our response is crucial now. We have an opportunity to change the direction this has been going into one of which we can be proud. You don't have to pretend that losing old friendships is not extremely difficult or sad. Nor do you have to pretend that you don't have compassion for individuals and the repression they faced. However, I do feel that we owe it to each other and the Earth to discontinue relationships with folks who betrayed the causes for which we work. Have compassion if you want, but don't have relationships. You would not be OK with someone stopping to chat up a cop in front of the *Earth First! Journal* office or have a phone relationship with an FBI agent. Continued contact with people who turned state's evidence is no different. How-



Gathering courage to go out in the night, doing what needs to be done or meet in the morning at the blockade site. This fight and passion is what makes us different.



Although there is no excuse for informing, it is important to acknowledge the intense internal and external pressure that many of the snitches were under. That being said, if you transposed our situation to another analogous resistance movement, the decision of what to do when faced with continued contact with snitches would be simple; you would draw an unwavering line in the sand. Those that snitched have broken one of the core tenants of resistance movements. They have turned on comrades and become informants for life. It's pretty simple: a serious political struggle cannot afford to harbor untrustworthy individuals in minimal roles or even as friends of trusted comrades.

The issue of continued contact with informants changed when the particular situation moved from the objective to the subjective. This, however, is not a viable option. Some of the relationships we would give up by ceasing contact are long-standing affinities forged over years of collective work and passion. Those relationships were not easily made; they were forged in the crucible, banding together through intense conflict. People bonding over long security shifts at blockade sites, over hours of toiling through consensus meetings, and all of the actions and work that followed. There is love and history there. I'm not asking indi-

Some of the folks who informed on other activists during the Green Scare will be getting out of prison soon, indeed some already are. We have some tough, but important, decisions to make together. We need to take a stance presently as to what is acceptable and what isn't, so our movement can avoid being torn apart by it later. If not, we risk alienating individuals who should feel safe in our movement. We risk our security, and everything for which we've worked.

In a movement, when you make a commitment, it is integral to have follow through. That is how a community retains its strength and accountability. Where we have lost integrity, it is now our work to re-stitch that fabric of our community. One way that we can do that is to restate our collective commitment to never give up information or condone snitching. We are a rare movement that values various kinds of direct action. Some of those actions are public, and the specifics can be talked about a little more openly; still others are underground and the specifics of those actions should never be spoken. Those who chose to partake in underground action must commit to protecting and having the backs of their affinity group. I believe we should collectively reaffirm this rule that has been one of the backbones of

ever minute or trivial the conversation might seem, we know its repercussions can be severe. The cold hard fact is that, whether they were intimidated into those choices or not, they became agents of the state. Continuing contact with them, however minimally, is unsafe.

We must use this dialogue to help us analyze what actions we are willing to take and what kinds of pressures we believe we can withstand. We must act accordingly without rationalization or bravado. This dialogue, the choices we make as a community and the outward stance we take will reflect the roles we fill in the larger global movement. Do we want to be seen as a solid movement with principles, or unsteady and capricious?

While we all discuss this wicked-hard topic in our local communities and in the *Journal*, let us remember there is real strength and steel in our movement. We have made and continue to make incredible stands. For every person who ratted, there are many more who took a harder path and stood strong.

To all of those who kept *and continue to keep* their secrets; To those who are gone; to those who are incarcerated; and to those who are around, but not here: Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We have some tough, but important, decisions to make together.



We need to take a stance presently as to what is acceptable and what isn't...

The Green Scare, the State's Priorities, and Day-to-Day Repression

BY KRISTIAN WILLIAMS

When discussing political repression, the tendency is always to focus on the infiltration, raids, arrests and jailings—and, in the case of the Green Scare, the exaggerated sentencing. This makes sense as these are the most startlingly aspects of repressive campaigns. However, it also runs the risk of overlooking the larger fabric of repression in the society—the *normal* surveillance; the collection, storage, and analysis of intelligence; the libeling of opposition groups; the use of entrapment; and more subtly, the disruption of social bonds among populations that pose the threat of resistance. The routine aspects of repression—that is, in effect, the day-to-day work of policing—and the institutions responsible for it tend to fade into the background.

The pattern of abuse characterizing the Green Scare is familiar when looking at our nation's history. Following the Haymarket bombing of 1886 in Chicago, the police launched a series of raids, made wholesale arrests, planted infiltrators and provocateurs, and politically used the bombing itself to isolate anarchists from the rest of the labor movement—the ultimate result being, of course, the fraudulent conviction and execution of four anarchist organizers. During World War I, pacifists and socialists of all kinds were jailed for interference with the war effort. In the same period, "criminal syndicalism" laws were passed specifically to target the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) in 1919, Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer organized a coordinated series of raids to round up and deport thousands of immigrants suspected of radical sympathies—most famously, Emma Goldman. In the 1960s and '70s, the FBI counter-intelligence program, COINTELPRO, used a variety of dirty tricks to, as their directive put it, "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit or otherwise neutralize" the Left and the Black liberation movement, especially the Black Panther Party. COINTELPRO tactics included the use of infiltrators and forged documents to create schisms in the movement, cause logistical confusion, propagate faction fights, instill paranoia, break up marriages, get activists fired from their day jobs and falsely label leaders as government spies. COINTELPRO also produced a series of raids, arrests, malicious prosecutions and assassinations.

We should remember these most-dramatic examples because they remind us of the lengths the government is willing to go. However, we should also look past them, to the seemingly quiet periods. We can't afford to forget that repression is a constant feature of state action. Government campaigns directed against organized groups with an identifiable agenda are a relatively small piece of the state's overall strategy of repression. As counterinsurgency theory makes clear, the state's real aim is not to respond to unrest when it occurs, but to prevent oppositional movements from developing in the first place. This requires the continual monitoring of suspect populations, the co-optation of community resources for state purposes and the pre-emptive disruption of any potential source of independent action or resistance. In the domestic sphere, the police are the key to this strategy—not only the most obviously repressive aspects of policing, like crowd control and spying, but also the purely routine elements of patrol and arrest, and even (or, perhaps, especially) the friendly-seeming "community policing" efforts.

At its most basic level, the primary function of the criminal justice system isn't really dealing with crime, ensuring public safety or even enforcing the law. All of these are secondary. The chief function is the preservation of the existing distribution of power—keeping the rich and powerful rich and powerful and keeping the poor and powerless poor and powerless. The modern American police, for example, evolved from the earlier slave patrols, organizations whose explicit job was to control the slaves. Over time, their duties expanded in two directions—control of the entire black population (including free blacks) and governing poor whites, as well. Likewise, the penitentiary began in its European version as an institution for reforming the habits of the idle poor. It took on its distinctly American characteristics after the Civil War as a means of re-confining the newly freed black population. This legacy continues today with routine police practices like racial profiling and quality-of-life campaigns against panhandling and sleeping in parks. These efforts have no impact on real crime but they serve to remind the poor and people of color of their subordinate status, and to keep them under the continual monitoring and control of the criminal justice system. In this sense, the whole operation of the criminal justice system is political. It is one way that the state handles its troublesome populations—and one way that it protects the interests of the powerful.

It's only when viewed in terms of politics—not crime or public safety—that we can make sense of the priority the government has placed on Green Scare prosecutions. Though Earth Liberation Front-style sabotage has not killed anyone, and is specifically designed *not* to harm anyone, the FBI insists that "eco-terrorists and animal rights extremists are one of the most serious domestic terrorist threats in the U.S. today." As evidence, they cite "the sheer volume of their crimes (more than 2000 since 1979) [and] the huge economic impact (losses of more than \$110 million since 1979)." However, by

way of contrast, consider that in 2007 alone, the FBI recorded 7,624 hate crime incidents (representing 9,006 criminal offenses). These included 40 arsons, 2,915 acts of vandalism, 2,565 acts of criminal intimidation, 1,116 simple assaults, 2,565 aggravated assaults, 2 rapes and 9 homicides. Forty three percent of these incidents—3,275—were motivated by anti-Black prejudice, far more than any other bias category recorded. Yet, *this* campaign of terror warrants little official notice.

That's because it's not justice, the law, or human life that sets the state's priorities. It's the interests of the powerful. After all, what does it mean to have power if not that the institutions of society—and especially its coercive apparatus—typically operate in your favor and respond to your agenda?

If we want to end state repression, therefore, it is not enough to support the members of our movement who fall victim to it. It is not enough to launch legal and political challenges to draconian laws, or to defend existing civil liberties. We must do all of that, but we must also find a way to address the underlying systems of power that repression is meant to preserve.

To end state repression, we must change the very nature of our society. To end state repression, we must end the State.



A TERRORIST

Approaches to Addressing Informants

BY WOLVERINE

At the Round River Rendezvous (RRR), in the Rogue Lumpqua Divide in Oregon, most participants engaged in an important discussion of what our movement should do to help prevent further dishonorable and destructive ratting on others (making things up about others to get ones own sentence time reduced by condemning others to loss of their freedom and civil rights, as with the recent Green Scare). The ramifications of Green Scare snitching continue, dragging our movement through the stench of cowardice, selfishness, vindictiveness and paranoia. Here are some positive ideas for reviving our honor, pride, and solidarity as a movement, generated by open public discussion at the RRR:

1) Training: We need to provide training for participants in our movement on police psychology, interrogation tactics and interrogation resistance.

2) Information should be made available on email, the internet, the Earth First! Journal, and local zines about known snitches for susceptible partners, friends, and for activist's parents.

3) Isolation: We need to isolate all who are informants from our movement and community; we can use our existing RRR nonviolence code for this.

4) Learning: We need to learn from other movements (i.e. the Puerto Rican Independence movement, the Black Panthers, the American Indian Movement, etc.) about refusing to talk and building a security culture.

5) Supporting: We need to support non-cooperating political prisoners and parents of activists.

6) Rebuilding: We need to rebuild our reputation as a movement.

7) Consider developing a solid protocol versus just information, training, learning.

8) Make Distinctions: Separate compassion from security and safety needs. Anyone who says they're sorry can live somewhere else, and send us money and vegetables as penance.

9) Accuracy: Get out the most accurate information—suggested resources like snitchblock.wired.com, whosarat.com, celdc.org

10) Next steps: Before the Organizers' Conference, start trainings, information consolidation, and work on bringing presenters to the O.C. from other movements on this topic.

Ideas for preparing for people getting out of jail or prison:

Jerricho Project helps people readjust to life outside. When people get out they need: solitude, sometimes housing, jobs, counseling and mental health help, real skills, compassion, supportive space, help with post traumatic stress, social connection—a way to plug in something meaningful to do. Don't ask them about the experience, sending them back to it mentally. Instead, help them with health care, keep in touch with them for more than a year out.

We need prisoner support in the long term for prisoners serving 20 plus years; for people like Eric McDavid and Marie Mason. Think in terms of one-to-five years out after prison for support.

Like these ideas? Then lets do what we can to start implementing them right away, and come to the OC to discuss them further and build on them!

Blast From The Past

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

The central insight of John Muir and of the science of ecology was the realization that all things are connected, related; that humyn beings are merely one of the millions of species that have been shaped by the process of evolution for three-and-a-half billion years.

With that understanding, we can answer the question, "Why Wilderness?"

Is it because wilderness makes pretty picture postcards? Because it protects watersheds for downstream use by agriculture, industry and homes? Because it's a good place to clean the cobwebs out of our heads after a long week in the auto factory or over the video display terminal? Because it preserves resource extraction opportunities for future generations of humyns? Because some unknown plant living in the wilds may hold a cure for cancer?

No. Because wilderness *is*. Because it is the real world, the flow of life, the process of evolution, the repository of that three-and-a-half billion years of shared travel.

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

Even more important than the individual wild creature is the wild community—the wilderness, co-evolution, the stream of life unim-

Deep Ecology

peded by industrial interference or humyn manipulation.

These twin themes of interconnectedness and intrinsic value form the core of the ideas of such pioneer ecological thinkers as John Muir, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson, and are the basis for action by Earth First!ers. This biocentric worldview, as opposed to the anthropocentric paradigm of civilization (and the reformist position of mainstream environmental groups), has been recently developed into the philosophy of Deep Ecology by philosophers such as Arne Naess of Norway, John Seed of Australia, Alan Drengson of Canada, and George Sessions and Bill Devall of the United States, among others.

Naess and Sessions elaborated on the basic principals of Deep Ecology:

1. The well-being and flourishing of humyn and non-humyn life on Earth have value in themselves (synonyms: intrinsic value, inherent value). These values are independent of the usefulness of the non-humyn world for humyn purposes.

2. Richness and diversity of life forms contribute to the realization of these values and are also values in themselves.

3. Humyns have no right to reduce this richness and diversity except to satisfy *vital* needs.

4. The flourishing of humyn life and cultures is compatible with a substantial decrease of the humyn population. The flourishing of non-humyn life requires such a decrease.

5. Present humyn interference with the non-humyn world is excessive, and the situation is rapidly worsening.

6. Policies must therefore be changed. These policies effect basic economic, technological, and ideological structures. The resulting state of affairs will be deeply different from the present.

7. The ideological change is mainly that of appreciating *life quality* (dwelling in situations of inherent value) rather than adhering to an increasingly higher standard of living. There will be a profound awareness of the difference between big and great.

8. Those who subscribe to the foregoing points have an obligation directly or indirectly to try to implement the necessary changes. (*From the book, Deep Ecology-Living As If Nature Mattered, by Bill Devall and George Sessions and available through Earth First! Books.*)

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

This article originally appeared in the EF! Yule Edition, December 22, 1987. Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 29-year set for \$500.

Seminole Wind by John Anderson

Em G D A
Em G D A
Em G
Ever since the days of old
D A
Men would search for wealth untold

Em G
They'd dig for silver and for gold

D A
And leave the empty holes;

Em G
And way down south in the Everglades

D A
Where the black water rolls and the sawgrass waves

Em G
The eagles fly and the otters play

D A
In the land of the Seminole;

Em G
So blow, blow Seminole wind

D A
Blow like you're never gonna blow again

Em G
I'm callin' to you like a long-lost friend

D A
But I don't know who you are

Em G
And blow, blow from the Okeechobee

D A
All the way up to Micanopy (pronounced: Meh-can-o-pee)

Em G
Blow across the home of the Seminole

D A
The alligator and the gar

Em G D A
Em G D A
Progress came and took its toll
And in the name of flood control
They made their plans and they drained the land
Now the Glades are goin' dry
And the last time I walked in the swamp
I stood up on a Cyprus stump
I listened close and I heard the ghost
Of Osceola cry

Em G
So blow, blow Seminole wind

D A
Blow like you're never gonna blow again;

Em G
I'm callin' to you like a long-lost friend

D A
But I don't know who you are;

Em G
And blow, blow from the Okeechobee

D A
All the way up to Micanopy

Em G
Blow across the home of the Seminole

D A
The alligator and the gar

{half time}

Em G D A

EF! Song

Shutting It Down in Copenhagen!

continued from page 1

approximately 170 people were arrested after an hour or so of cat-and-mouse action in the fields. Surprisingly, only 10 people will ultimately face concealment charges, while the rest were released in about five hours.

While the day of mass action was not successful in shutting down the coal plant, it was seen by many as the first act in what will be a major showdown in December, as protesters from all over the world will descend on the COP15, the UN climate change talks happening in Copenhagen on December 15. Though the police were successful at defending their fortified position, they seemed reluctant to use excessive force and heavy-handed tactics, which had been much discussed in the days before the action. This may be due to tight budgets in the Danish police force, another upside to the current financial debacle.

The atmosphere in the protest itself was upbeat, and the wide spectrum of people involved in the action indicated the spread of radical climate politics beyond the environmental movement.

Indeed, the COP15 protest mobilization will highlight the climate crisis as an issue that reaches beyond environmental concerns. The mobilization is being discussed as a resistance to the heart of the problem—capitalism—and, specifically, the manufacturing of the new form—green capitalism.

In Copenhagen, world leaders and corporations will meet to discuss how to “stop climate change,” but also how to profit from the climate crisis and allow the continuation of capitalism, exploitation and out-of-control consumption. A wide array of networks have come together to confront the COP15 process, and to take away the ability of those in power to push false solutions and green capitalism down our throats.

While Copenhagen may be a bit too far for many people from the US to travel (hop a barge, anyone?) rest assured that, come December, the streets of Copenhagen will be flooded with people wanting to not just shut down one coal plant, but to shut down the whole damn system!

Rockslide has left the high country and is now living in Copenhagen. He looks forward to seeing anyone who makes it over to the protests in December.



photo courtesy Rockslide



photo courtesy Rockslide

No Dump on O'Odham Lands

continued from page 1

built near aquifers that people use for their subsistence. For its part, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) downplayed possible contamination from the dump in a 2006 report which concluded that “impacts to surface water emanating from the landfill that would reach the US border are considered to be unlikely.” This conclusion completely failed to address the possible contamination of ground water in Sonora and the toxic pollution of the sacred site near Quitovac that would inevitably result.

Since early 2006, the traditional O'odham residing in the occupied territories of Northern Mexico and the Southwestern US (and their international supporters) have persistently and patiently organized, protested and petitioned to try to convince the Mexican federal Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat (SEMARNAT) and the US EPA to stop CEGIR from building this toxic dump.

In July of 2008, a temporary victory against the proposed dump was achieved after years of organizing and direct actions,

which included everything from letter writing to petitions to gatherings to road blockades. As a result of the attention that was generated, Greenaction, an environmental justice organization involved with organizing resistance to the dump, received notification from the EPA that SEMARNAT was “no longer seeking to permit” the proposed toxic dump near Quitovac. Currently, there is no active permit that would allow the dump to be built. This temporary victory is a great example of what a determined and organized movement of people spanning many different cultures and regions can achieve when they come together for a common goal.

However, in 2009, information surfaced that the plans for the dump may still be renewed. In response, a gathering was held in Quitovac in March to begin organizing to achieve permanent protection for Quitovac and its vicinity to protect the sacred site and oasis from any future industrial assaults. The first action taken was an international series of protests which took place in May and June (see *EF!J* July-August 2009).

In the Summer of 2009 the permit to build the toxic dump near Quitovac officially expired. As of October, 2009 there is no new permit application pending for the toxic dump. For now, the dump remains defeated. If a new permit is submitted in the future, a new fight against it will immediately resume.

Help is now needed to build the movement for permanent protection of Quitovac. The next step in the outreach campaign will take place on the second weekend of November in Tucson, Arizona, when Ward Churchill, Ofelia Rivas, and others are scheduled to speak at a fundraiser for the O'odham Rights Cultural and Environmental Justice Coalition. For more information about this event please visit www.dryriver.org or www.solidarity-project.org.

For more general information, contact Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice at (415) 248-5010; greenaction@greenaction.org; www.greenaction.org. For additional background information on this and other issues affecting the traditional O'odham please visit www.solidarity-project.org.

Broken Windows and Flying, Flaming Dumpsters

The G20 in Pittsburgh



Activists rally in Pittsburgh Park

photos courtesy of Magpie

BY MAGPIE

The G20 met in Pittsburgh on September 24 and 25 to discuss top-down control of the entire world's economy. As grassroots environmentalists, we advocate bottom-up control of the economy (or, for some of us, the outright annihilation of industrial economics). Therefore, there was tension.

We didn't successfully shut down the G20, no. And yet, most of us protestors left with the distinct feeling that, for the first time in almost a decade, we won. Why is that?

Summit protests have drawn dwindling numbers of activists for years. After 9-11 scared off all but the most committed (mostly anarchists and organized labor), the FTAA protests in Miami in 2003 seemed the nail in our proverbial coffin. The powers that be proved they could erect such a massive police state that any traditional protest march would be unable to reach the summit. And for as long as this has been true, there have been folks calling for a "Plan B."

Look, we don't win when we confront the State head on. And finally, in Pittsburgh, we changed the rules of engagement to better suit our own strengths. The police (the apparatus of repression utilized by the State, also known as The Man) operate top-down much like the economists they protect. They don't operate well in chaotic situations. We're anarchists. We do. While they're radioing in for instructions, we're following whims and currents—sometimes to disastrous ends, but often to success.

The police wanted to contain us as we marched to downtown, away from spectators, where they could inflict a massive police state in peace. What we did was draw them out, force them to run (literally) through the streets of Pittsburgh, to show their true face to all the world.

On Thursday, the first day of protests, thousands gathered for an explicitly unpermitted march. And it wasn't just the usual crowd of black bloc folks, either—people from across the radical political spectrum were frustrated enough by the system to show up and protest unpermitted. The police thought they'd have us in a half-an-hour, but the protests and riots didn't stop until something like 2am.

Friday, a permitted march—also thousands strong—paraded through downtown and the assembled might of the state, restrained for the moment. But Friday night, the police set up a police state in a college campus that was devoid of rioters (other than themselves). Here, they teargassed, arrested, beat, and humiliated hundreds of mostly college students. In one notorious moment caught on YouTube, a dozen police force a student to kneel in front of the camera and then pose, as if it were a vacation photo.

Of course, my photos show something quite different. The ones printed here are to celebrate our gathered strength. Summit protests don't have to be a net drain on activist energy. We go to these things and emerge transformed. Sometimes traumatized, honestly, but often invigorated.

They don't operate well in chaotic situations. We're anarchists. We do. While they're radioing in for instructions, we're following whims and currents—sometimes to disastrous ends, but often to success.



Protest winds its ways through Pittsburgh



Anarchists find precious moments of liberty on the street

CONFRONTING RESOLUTION COPPER IN ARIZONA

By JEZZABELL

Indigenous people have been resisting colonization on this continent for more than 500 years. The stench of empire has polluted what's become the southwestern US for hundreds of years and continues to hold an eerie presence today. In the midst of an 1870 battle, US Cavalry forced Apache warriors to the edge of a cliff. With the taste of defeat in their mouths, standing eye-to-eye with their possible captors, more than 80 Apache warriors escaped, leaping off the cliff and through the air to their deaths. These days, at the base of that mountain, chunks of obsidian can be found. They are known as the tears of the Apaches. Apache Leap, that battlefield of the past, is once again the stage for a war against accelerated colonization.

What do you think of when you hear the word "copper?" For Freeport McMoRan and Rio Tinto, two multinational metal-mining giants, profits probably spring to mind. For a brain-washed green capitalist, you might think of solar panels. If you are indigenous to West Papua, you probably think of death, suffering and war.

In Superior, Arizona, San Carlos Apaches are facing the profit-driven attack on their land from Superior, based company Resolution Copper. Resolution Copper has their mind set on passing legislation to create the largest copper mine in North America on Sacred Apache land.

Talking Politricks

Spared in 1955 through Public Land Order 1229, the Apache Leap, Gaan Canyon and Oak Flat areas of Arizona are now under speculation for being reopened for mining. The piece-of-trash legislation, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act of 2009, introduced by Senators John Kyl and John McCain, would allow Resolution Copper, owned by Rio Tinto, to sink its teeth into this sacred land. Possibly, the grossest part of all of this is the complete lack of accountability.

Resolution Copper has openly admitted to the fact that their process of mining would create significant land subsidence. The ambiguity of the bill leaves an open playing field for un-ending destruction. Without the necessary research, there is no telling to what extent the land subsidence would occur or what current co-existing parts of the ecosystem would be lost in the process of their mining.

The bill would allow Resolution Copper to move forward with the project, void of any research on the blight it would cause. There is no discussion of water resource use, acquisition or disposal for the proposed mine at Oak Flat. The drilling of wells for water use with the mine would throw central-eastern Arizona's water table into a blur of instabilities in an area that already has severe water problems.

Bloody Skeletons in the Closet

Freeport McMoRan has been targeted with arson, roadside bombs and blockades since the 1970s, when they first began mining in West Papua. Connecting the dots from Resolution Copper to Freeport McMoRan and Rio Tinto is necessary to understand the level of blatant coercion, destruction of land and outright murder that is commonly associated with their mining projects. In 2003, news surfaced that Freeport Indonesia had paid more than \$11 million to the Indonesian army for "security" at its mine in West Papua. In efforts to ensure the mine operates fluidly, the Indonesian government began a heavy campaign of murder, political assassination, imprisonment, rape and torture.

After controlling West Papua through acts of insurgency, the Indonesian government came up with an act of free choice format for voting. This was only after notable international pressure to allow West Papua to decide their sovereignty (after having it stolen from them by Indonesia). The chosen "act of free choice" electoral process of the Indonesian government involved kidnapping selected male-bodied indigenous people, then torturing them at gunpoint and holding them for days until they voted for Indonesian control. How is this related to mining in Arizona? As you read this, the same company is once again working in concert with the US government to push another mine on another group of indigenous people. Since the initial Indonesian takeover, the US has leaked documents admitting that a pro-Indonesian takeover was inevitable.

Sacred Means Hands Off!

The areas in danger of being mined have been sacred Apache land for ages. Apaches use the land of Oak Flat to harvest acorns, which is part of their natural diet and their religious traditions. Resolution Copper's legislation would require Apaches to obtain a permit to continue the traditional bond they share with the Oak Flat region. Even more appalling is the fact that the current legislation would not allow any challenging to the use of Apache Leap for mining. It actually almost asserts the fact that Resolution Coppers mining project would destroy Apache Leap.

Past all of the questionable legal and environmental objectives lies the glaring threat of sacred Apache land possibly being further colonized. Not only would this land be stolen again from the Apaches, Resolution Copper current ambiguous plans would sacrilegiously render these lands unrecognizable. There is a monumental need for solidarity work to be done with this project. The same people who are



Apache Leap, Arizona



Banner drop downtown Tucson



Apache Leap from a distance

The battlefield of the past, is once again the stage for war.

killing indigenous people across the world for resources such as copper and gold now have their sights set on the Apache land. The time to act is now!

In Solidarity with the Minga (Global Mobilization in Defense of Mother Earth and the Peoples). A week of action in solidarity with the 517th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the Western Hemisphere) marked the Global "Minga"/Mobilization in Defense of Mother Earth and the Peoples, called by the IV Continental Summit of Indigenous Peoples Abya Yala. There were two banners hung in Downtown Tucson. The two actions were also done in solidarity with the Apaches' resistance against mining.

On the morning of October 16, a banner reading "No New Mines on Apache Land! Ya Basta!" was hung from the Tucson, AZ "Snake Bridge" over Broadway Boulevard. Also on October 14, a "No Mines" banner was suspended over a bridge in the middle of downtown Tucson.

For further information, please visit survivalsolidarity.wordpress.com.

Night of the Long Tree

BY JOHN SCHERTOW

Ever since the chainsaws arrived on the shores of Borneo, in 1946, the island's ancient rainforest has been shrouded by night, the roars of engines silencing the cries for what once was. The Dayak People, who first came to the island 40,000 years ago, have worked tirelessly to restore a life of safety and freedom, but, like the trees themselves, the Dayak have been forced to bear witness to their own demise and the destruction of everything they know and depend on for survival.

In 1941, less than two weeks after Pearl Harbor, Japanese imperial forces occupied Sarawak; the western region of Borneo, claiming for the Japanese Emperor what Muslim and Christian warlords had previously sought to possess. Japan held onto Sarawak until 1945, when they were finally forced out. Britain gained control of Sarawak the following year. The first industrial logging began soon after.

For the next 17 years, the Dayak People, in particular the Penan sub-group, looked on as their land was denuded of its forest cover. Then, in 1963, Sarawak broke free from Britain, in part due to the Dayak themselves, and joined the Federation of Malaysia. However, by this time the industrial mandate was firmly entrenched in Southeast Asia.

And so it went for another 23 years, with more than 9,652 miles of rainforest being cleared—a great deal of it on Penan land. In 1987, the Penan decided that they could no longer stand by as their ancestral land was decimated. At first they took a diplomatic approach, but that soon failed, leaving the Penan with no other choice but direct action. So, on March 31 of that year, the Penan organized their first blockade, on a logging road in the Tutoh River basin. One month later, another community set up a blockade of their own. By November, more than 2,500 Penan were holding 26 separate roadblocks across the state of Sarawak.

The Penan's effort single-handedly brought half of the logging industry's activities to a halt. It was an impressive success that few others have achieved since, even if it only lasted for a short time. The government, fearing the mobilization would grow further, brought in legislation to criminalize the act of building blockades on logging roads, attaching to it a punishment of two years in prison and a fine of over \$2,000. The Penan's first mobilization came to an end soon after.

History has been repeated many times since then, with the Penan acting as the rainforest's last line of defense; and the government doing or saying anything necessary to continue gutting the rainforest. As a result, according to recent

estimates, as much as 80 percent of the original rainforest has been cut down.

Through all this the Penan have been intimidated, culturally undermined, infantilized, discriminated against, incarcerated, displaced, and forced to abandon their traditional ways. According to government reports, Penan women and children have been abused, abducted, molested, and raped by loggers.

Allegations of sexual abuse first surfaced in September, 2008. The government quickly denied that anything was happening, claiming that it was just another "NGO plot" to undermine Sarawak. One official even went so far as to call the Penan "good story tellers." The report concluded that girls are "frequently molested" by loggers. At this time, no arrests have been made, and no formal action has been taken to ensure the safety of the Penan.

Day In, Day Out

The "night of the long tree" grows darker. And the Penan way of life may be gone before the final tree has been cut down. It's something the Penan know all too well, especially since the threat to forests has only increased with the advent of the palm oil industry in Sarawak. The government wants to "convert" 3,861 miles of rainforest into oil palm plantations by 2010—undoubtedly hoping to secure their position as a top supplier of palm oil or "palmitate" for the food and cosmetics industries, not to mention biofuel.

Hand-in-hand with this, the government is pushing to develop as many as 51 hydroelectric dams throughout the rainforest. The first and largest of these dams is the highly controversial Bakun dam. Sometimes referred to as the "monument of corruption," the Bakun dam will submerge an area the size of Singapore known as the Balui valley. The valley is of great historical importance to the Dayak People: it's a memorial for wars that took place centuries ago, the center of numerous uprisings against Japan, Britain, and other colonizing forces, and it is the birthplace of many famous Dayak warriors and leaders. The government will begin to submerge the valley some time in October 2009.

All of the Dayak's living history will be lost. The government will do nothing to preserve it for reasons they've so desperately made clear to the world. Simply put, they have been blinded by greed and the west's material definition of progress the government will drive the Dayak and their forests into extinction.

You can find more writings by John Schertow at his blog: www.intercontinentalcry.org. Also visit www.survival-international.org.



Blockading against logging in Borneo

Photo courtesy: Survival International

Blast From the Past

BY DENISE VOELKER

The following report from the Rainforest Action Network provides an update on one of the most important ongoing environmental campaigns in the world. The Penan people have been blockading logging activities in their rainforest home since early summer. For background information on the Penan fight, see Litha '86.

In November, the Malaysian government invoked their emergency "Internal Security Act" and commenced a 48-hour reign of terror which resulted in the closure of three international newspapers, the banning of all public rallies, and the illegal arrests of 103 citizens. In addition, 42 protesters of the rainforest logging operations in Sarawak, a Malaysian province in Borneo, including indigenous people of the Penan tribe and their supporters, were arrested. All logging blockades have been dismantled.

The government claims that those arrested were provoking racial tensions in

Malaysia. The detainees remain under arrest without being charged, and without being allowed visitors or legal counsel. Those newspapers still allowed are not covering the arrests.

In a speech before the Malaysian Parliament, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad described his actions as a result of the country's economic recession and what he perceives as the increased racial tensions the recession has produced. He remarked that political instability could lead to chaos.

Prime Minister Mahathir told Parliament last week that the 103 arrested were testing the government's "liberalism" at a bad time. Mahathir's critics adamantly disagree, claiming that Mahathir is using a "racial crisis" as an excuse to silence the growing public and official opposition to his leadership. Environmentalists have been arrested, because they have been outspoken on the issues of radioactive waste disposal and logging on Penan tribal lands in Sarawak. The Penan tribe, as well as Asian and Western environmentalists, have mounted a campaign to

Crackdown in Malaysia

expose illegal timber concessions on their lands. According to evidence presented by activists, people with close connections to the ruling political party and party members themselves hold shares in these illegal logging companies.

The 42 native people jailed are from the Penan, Kayan, and other tribes. Also arrested is the leader of the opposition party in Parliament, lawyers, activists, and Chandra Muzaffar, president of Aliran (the country's most active public interest and human rights body), as well as Meenakshi Raman of the Consumer Association of Penang, and Harrison Ngau of Friends of the Earth, Malaysia (SAM- Sahabat Alam Malaysia).

Critics world-wide are protesting the arrests. The International Commission of Jurists in Geneva, Switzerland, accused Malaysian authorities of abusing the law to silence their critics.

This article originally appeared in the *EF! Yule Edition*, December 22, 1987. Back issues of the *EF! Journal* are available for \$5 each. Order our near-complete, 29-year set for \$500.

Armed With Visions

Clear as cut glass

& just as dangerous

Cougar

Well now I've seen everything
From the coyote in the downtown Chicago
sandwich shop
To the cougar shot in the same city
Having walked all the way from South Dakota
To tell us that Earth is still alive.
Wild things bursting at her seams
Our planet glows with
The answers to our problems.
Life springing back to life all around us
Wild things running through our cities
On a relay of hope
The thrill of living

-Jenny McBride

Spend the Night

When my neighbor Clyde
was younger he went camping
with a couple of friends
in the Big Sur area & they settled into
a campsite ready to spend the night

His friends were going to sleep by the fire
but Clyde not wanting to wash
his sleeping bag if he didn't have to
walked away from the ashes & dust
to stretch out on the picnic table

When he awoke it wasn't morning he saw
but the snout & eyes of a black bear
its front paws on the table
its nose snorting his face in the darkness
& his own movements bagged up tight

He's not exactly sure what he did next
but whatever it was the bear
was so flabbergasted by it that it ran off
He says he felt like a bag of food
being sniffed for freshness

Then he & his friends built their campfire
up into blazes & weren't afraid
of making a little noise
There would be no more
nodding off for any of them that night

-Steve Toth

Coyote and the Full Moon

It was Coyote
I hadn't seen him in awhile

Wearing his buckskins
Smokin' a pipe

"Where's your cee-gar?" I asked
"Lost it hitchikin' near Bakersfield," he said
"I expect I'll find another"

"How you been?"
we asked each other
at the exact same time

"Well that's
the \$64 question" I said

It was nighttime
Getting cooler
and I'd been drawn out of the house
by the bonfire
Coyote lit
in the middle
of my cul-de-sac

"The neighbors
will complain," I said

"I sure hope so," Coyote said
"and by the way,
sixty-four bucks
is too damn cheap"

"You should come here
and dance
It's a full moon"

"I know," I said.
"I just had an owl fly over my head."

"You been listenin'
to your owls?" he asked, tearing down a picket
fence
to feed the growing flames

"Not as much
as I oughtta," I confessed

"You know," he said, watching the flames grow
"People think
I stole the secret of fire
so they could cook
food

"That ain't it
at all
I mean, nothing against a bowl
of venison stew
in fact
everything
for it

"But really,
I stole fire
so people could stay warm
at night

"So they could stay
loose
and limber

"the same damn
reasons
they should curl up

"With each other.
and I learned that,"
he added, ripping at some dried rose bushes
and putting them in
"Out on Highway 99
around the time
I lost my stogie"

"It's a cold world, boy
Don't stay in it
too long alone"

About that time
we heard the sirens

"Maybe we'd better go in," I said

"What? And miss the dance?"

-Mark Williams

Intruder

Travelling worn and turd-decorated deer paths i come
across a huge buck, surprising him.

Perhaps he'd been sleeping away the windy afternoon
and i'd shattered his rest like an alarm clock, or train.

We both froze, heartbeats accelerating in the sprinkling
of rain, and I apologized and backed away from him, hop-
ing he'd not judge my unwelcome appearance in his home
too harshly.

-Mark Stoddart

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

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Wolves and Poodles

Hey, did you hear the awesome latest news about sugar beets? No it's not another drunk punk's story about beet harvest. It's about **Boulder, Colorado residents** getting a **wolf** for squashing a group of farmers plans to infest public growing lots with genetically modified organisms (GMO).

When six farmers put in a permit for their GMO crops, they did not expect to get such a public uproar.

"This went from a campfire to a raging wildfire," exclaimed Famuer Rasmussen, one of the six farmers.

"Our questions are bigger," County Commissioner Ben Pearlman stated. "Do we allow GMO at all? If so, under what circumstances and what do we want to grow?"

"We do not want the human populace to be a science experiment." Steve Hoffman, managing director of the Boulder-based National Organic Center.

A **surprising wolf** goes to the **US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** for attempting to declare carbon dioxide a deadly pollutant. Go figure. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson insisted that the EPA would continue on the path that began two years ago, when the US Supreme Court ruled greenhouse gasses qualified as pollutants—a well-known fact that primary school students know and understand.



In April, the EPA began the process of regulating carbon dioxide in a new way. As it proposed declaring carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gasses to be pollutants that

jeopardize public health. I guess we'll see how long it takes to actually go into effect.

An **ultimate tear-everyone-and-everything-to-shreds wolf** goes out to our FTW friends **China**. Apparently, if China's carbon emissions continue barreling down the same track as they are now, by 2050, they would exceed an annual use of 100 billion tons of coal in 2050. That is significant, because it would exceed what the Earth's capacity could provide. So, if 2012 fails us China's got the eight ball in the side pocket.

Here **poodle, poodle, poodle**, let me get you some water. Oh, how cute, you're sitting next to your **NASA** friends, waiting for them to blow up the moon. Well, even though NASA blasted the moon with a missile in October, looking for water, they won't be able to find any for a while, we're sure. So, again, if 2012 fails us, hopefully NASA will have a third place shot for sending us all into collapse.

A **very large poodle** goes out to the **Ecuadorian government** for pushing indigenous people off of their land to make room for tourists. The Ecuadorian government has already pushed 1,000 indigenous people off of their land and are in the process of evicting more. Apparently, to the Ecuadorian government tourists seeing the Galapagos Islands are more important than the people who live there.

"We are being told that a tortoise for a rich foreigner to photograph is worth more than an Ecuadorian citizen," said Maria Mariana de Reina Bustos. She is a migrant from Ecuador's mainland who's daughter was recently rounded up by police and flown back to the mainland.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. F*** those f***** tourists a thousands times over.

In other **despicable, low-bagging, poodle-earning** news, the government of Uganda was revealed to be behind a carbon-trading scheme that is displacing the

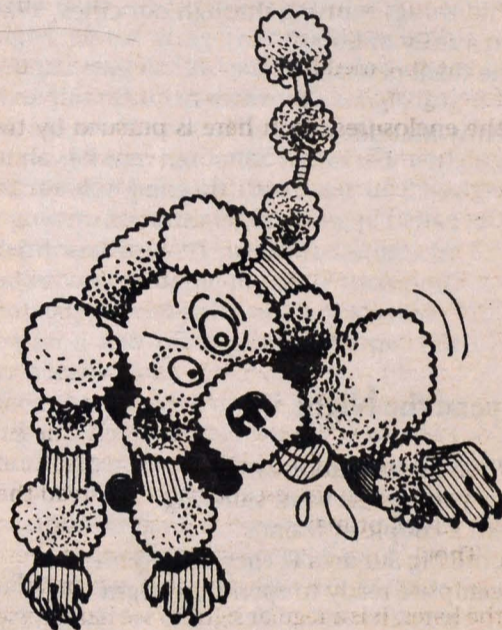
indigenous people who once inhabited Mount Elgon.

In 1993, a year before the Uganda Wildlife Authority's tree planting project started by the Ugandan government proclaimed Mount Elgon to be a national Park, ignoring the fact that it was the natural land base of the Benet Indigenous people.

Moses Mwangna, chairpersyn of the Benet Lobby Group that advocates for the Benet population said that the Ugandan government has forced the Benet people into harsh, unnatural, squatter-like living conditions, due to the armed land evictions.

"Whenever we want to access things like bamboo, which our people used to survive on, or land grazing for our animals, or if we collect honey, people are arrested. People have lost their lives," Mwangna said.

The foundation group, Forests Absorbing Carbon-dioxide Emissions (FACE), instead of honoring the rights of the Benet people, has been helping companies from Germany and the Netherlands offset their carbon emissions from coal plants and airline companies.



Croatan, Kat'uah EF!s

Join Forces to Defend the Globe

BY CROT'UAH EF!

At the beginning of September, folks from Kat'uah and Croatan EF!s came together to camp in the Pisgah National Forest in an area called the Globe. What brought us together was the Forest Service's plan to log this beautiful patch of woods in Western North Carolina. The Freddie's want to log more than 200 acres and spray herbicides on 250 acres. Included in the Globe timber sale is the plan to log about 60 acres of old-growth forest, which is extremely rare on the east coast. Trees range in age from 100-300 years old. There is widespread opposition to the timber sale, with more than 1,800 public comments opposing it and the nearby Blowing Rock, North Carolina town council passing a resolution against the project.

We spent our time in the woods getting to know the area better and familiarizing ourselves with the timber sale boundaries. As we walked the proposed cuts, we got to connect with this beautiful ecosystem that the Freddie's hope to destroy. Crawdads, salamanders and brook trout prowled the streams, and big leafed magnolias, oaks, tulip poplars and white pines towered overhead. Seeing what is at stake here in the Globe strengthened our resolve to defend this land.



Aside from the insanity of cutting some of our last remaining old growth, the Globe timber sale would likely have a devastating effect on aquatic communities. Previous timber sales in the area wiped out trout populations, including the increasingly rare brook trout, due to increased runoff. In addition, the massive application of herbicides would no doubt adversely affect the water quality. The Globe is home to sensitive bird species, including the wood thrush

and worm-eating warbler who would be harmed.

Currently conservation groups are pushing for 25,000 acres of land in the area, including the Globe, to be designated the Grandfather Mountain National Scenic Area. If this act were passed, the Globe would be protected from logging. However, we can't count on slow-moving legislation to protect this land. In the meantime, we are keeping tabs on activity in the Globe with regular monitoring trips, and we are brushing up on our blockade skills.

After the camp ended, a small crew went down to the regional Forest Service office to let them know that EF! is in town. Despite our small, rather non-threatening crew, the Freddie's took pictures, of everyone and their vehicles. We'll make sure they become familiar with those faces in the coming months if they proceed with the timber sale. We are planning an action camp at the Globe on Halloween weekend. There will be tree climbing, blockade trainings, and hikes through the proposed sales. Come on down and help us defend this old growth forest in the mountains of North Carolina.

For more information, contact: ncforest-defense@riseup.net, www.savetheglobe.wordpress.com



photo courtesy: banhoundsports.com

Hare Coursing in Ireland

BY JOHN FITZGERALD

Hare coursing consists of terrorizing hares (better known as jack rabbits in North America) by setting trained and "blooded" greyhounds in pursuit of them in a large, wired-off enclosure.

The so-called Irish "sport" revolves around forcing captive hares to run for their lives in the enclosures. Each hare is pursued by two greyhounds. Every coursing event has about eighty "courses," with that many hares being baited by pairs of greyhounds.

The aim is to see which greyhound will be the first to "turn" the hare, to divert her from her straight run to an escape hatch at the opposite end of the enclosure.

The dog that causes the hare to run sideways is declared the winner. If the hare manages to reach the escape hatch, she survives to run again. However, many hares do not make it to the escape hatch; instead they are struck or mauled by the greyhounds.

Though the dogs at official coursing events are muzzled, they still routinely kill or injure the hares. It is a regular sight to see hares tossed into the air by the competing dogs. A brittle-boned creature, the hare cannot recover from the wounds and bone breakages inflicted.

Gamblers, greyhound owners, hunters and other coursing fans laugh and applaud as the hares are forced to perform for their amusement.

At pre-coursing "trials" (dress rehearsals for the official events) at which no rules apply and the public is kept away, un-muzzled greyhounds are unleashed against hares, resulting in live tug-of-war spectacles in which the animals are literally torn asunder.

The hares' plight begins before coursing day. Their suffering commences about a month before the day they are taken to the coursing (baiting) venue. This is when the coursing clubs scour the countryside in search of hares for their baiting sessions.

These coursing clubs use large nets to capture the animals. Many hares are injured while being netted. This renders them unsuitable for coursing. These injured hares are commonly used in a training method called "blooding," a viciously cruel practice in which hares, rabbits and occasionally cats, are fed live to greyhounds to give them a taste for blood and, thus, boost their performance in the coursing arena.

There are 78 coursing clubs in Ireland, all committed to this organized cruelty to animals. Approximately 10,000 hares

are coursed each year, with an unknown number being killed, mauled or injured in the process.

Independent marketing surveys show that a majority (75 percent) of the Irish people oppose hare coursing and want it banned, and Britain has already outlawed it. Still the Irish government, yielding to pressure from the powerful coursing clubs, permits this barbarism to continue.

Not only are coursing clubs allowed to abuse this beautiful and inoffensive creature—they also actively encourage visitors to Ireland to attend the sickening events and promote hare coursing as a tourist attraction. They hope to attract like-minded people from nations where the blood sport is banned or does not exist, in much the same way that bullfight organizers promote their form of animal cruelty.

For more information, visit <http://www.myspace.com/banharecoursingireland>.

John Fitzgerald is a leading animal rights activist in Ireland who is currently lobbying to have the blood sport of live hare coursing and other cruel practices banned. He also has a book called Bad Hare Days, which focuses on the ups and downs of his animal protection campaigning.

MAXIMUM INSTRUCTION, Not Maximum Addage

BY KEYOTE

Operation Bite Back, by Dean Kuipers (Bloomsbury USA, 2009) is a biography of longtime Sea Shepherd, Animal Liberation Front and Earth First! activist Rod Coronado. More specifically, it is a detailed description of his campaign to cripple the fur industry, and also of the radical environmental and animal rights culture from which this campaign arose. Many of us know the generalities of what occurred during that time period, but *OBB* gives us a whole new dimension of detail and flavor. This alone makes it worth reading. In this book, we get to experience a level of complexity of emotion, as well as context, that is largely unavailable anywhere else.

I have read *Memories of Freedom*, the zine written if not exclusively by Rod, then with the assistance of other ALF comrades, and his own zine, *Strong Hearts*, written during his four-year prison sentence, a number of times. So, I was already quite familiar with many of the events as described by the actual participant(s). Even so, these descriptions had to necessarily leave out a lot. So instead of the near-fearless bravado of communiques and zines, we see the full anxiety and trepidation experienced by those activists. We find out how the passionate fury and intimate knowledge that drove Rod to commit these audacious acts also drove him to bouts of recklessness – bouts that could have, and sometimes did, contribute to his eventual capture by the state. That's right, even the great Rod Coronado, one of the most successful and revered direct action activists of the 20th century, committed serious breaches of security culture. *OBB*, then, is required read-

ing for anyone interested in using direct action, or in being an ally to those who do. We can all learn a lot from it.

That is not to say Kuipers' work is not without some serious problems. Journalistic objectivity certainly has its place, but sometimes it's okay to have a little bias—speaking as a person heavily biased toward life and the continuation of it here on this beautiful little blue gem. In fact, if anything, the author is at times biased *against* Rod and his partners-in-righteous-crime. He falls over himself a number of times to defend the hideous animal experiments performed by some of Rod's targets. In the true "objective" fashion of a mainstream media journalist (Kuipers, after all, is an editor at the *Los Angeles Times*), he implies both that the experiments performed actually have application for humans, and that they are intended to and will in actuality *help* animals. For anyone with half of a brain and/or a third of a conscience, this is a nauseating and ludicrous premise. He makes a number of factual and logical mistakes that only an outsider—and a negligent outsider, at that—could make. These are so numerous and weighty that it almost seems as if they are done to intentionally discredit a section of the radical environmental and animal rights movements.

For example, he mentions a car bombing done allegedly by the Animal Rights Militia in Britain during the 1980s. He comes out strongly against it, saying it is reprehensible violence and "murderous." What he fails to mention until several chapters later is that this car bombing has been widely discredited, and is now believed to have been the work of provocateurs. This is a convenient

omission. Similarly, he totes the mass media and vivisection industry's rhetoric in calling the 2008 firebombing of a University of California at Santa Cruz vivisectionist's front porch "attempted murder." Something tells me if those responsible were attempting to murder the vivisectionist, they would've done a lot more than leave a molotov cocktail on a fire-sprinkler-equipped porch.

He brings up the incident in 1987 where, at a Cloverdale, California, sawmill, a tree spike snaps a saw blade and severely injures the mill worker. He does not mention that this tree-spiking was almost undoubtedly *not* done by an environmentalist, and therefore, proper precautions were not taken. This is another convenient omission used to discredit eco-radicals.

He calls Murray Bookchin a "green anarchist," a laughable and foolish claim to anyone in the know. Additionally, he revels in the fact that he's witnessed Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society chowing down on steak a number of times. These days, the lovably rotund Watson travels around the world heavily (no pun intended, ha!) promoting veganism for environmental reasons, and all current signs strongly suggest Watson now maintains a vegan diet. Likely, Kuipers' is speaking from very outdated experience here.

Despite these serious problems, *Operation Bite Back* is, overall, a very well-researched project. It contains a bevy of information that is both interesting and very useful to all in the radical environmental or animal liberation communities. Read it with a dash of proverbial salt, but read it nonetheless.

WASHINGTON DC RISING TIDE FORMS

BY DC RISING TIDE

The struggle for climate justice is growing in the belly of the beast, otherwise known as Washington, DC, where local DC residents and activists formed a new chapter of Rising Tide North America, DC Rising Tide (DCRT). DCRT's first action took place on March 26 at the national Coal-to-Liquids conference where the usual suspects were at it again. The fossil-fuel industry had arrived in DC to promote Coal to Liquids (CTL) technology that, if developed, would be used to fuel the US military machine, and potentially, the entire transportation sector (cars, trucks, airplanes, etc.) with oil and gasoline derived from coal. CTL technology poses a serious threat to the health and well-being of the planet, the global community and communities located in the coalfields.

Moreover, application of CTL technology would lead to a massive new market for coal and would further entrench the power of the coal and oil industries in the political economy of the US.

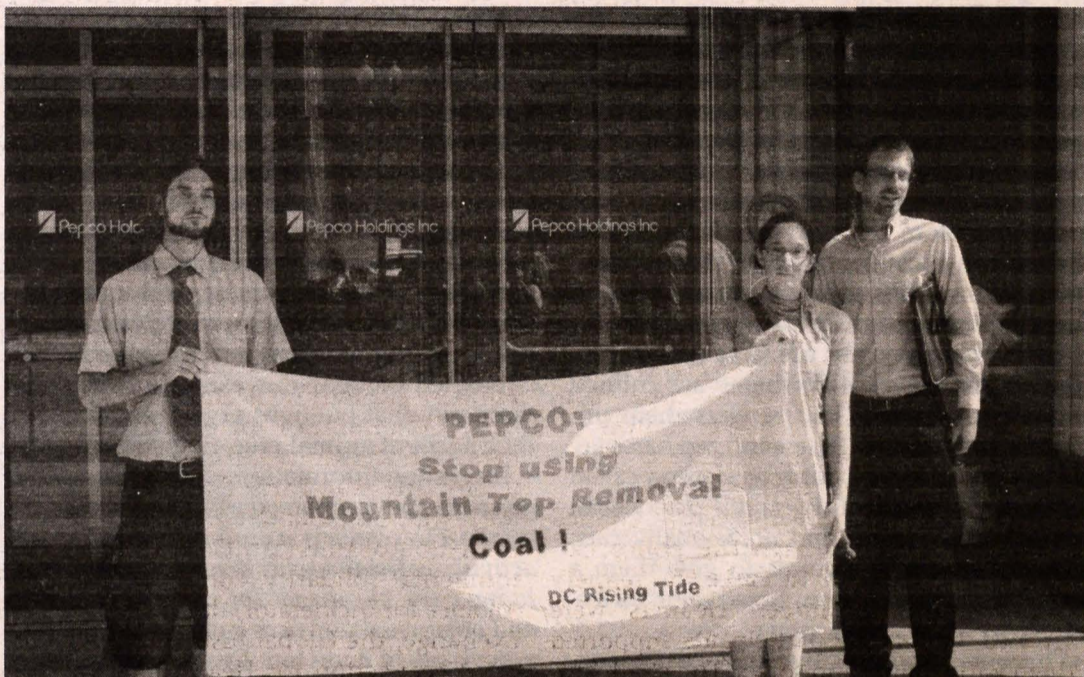
DCRT spoiled the fossil fools' conference with a "peoples filibuster" exposing and confronting the absurdity of CTL. Activists infiltrated the conference and loudly presented speeches to refute the statements of coal and oil executives from Chevron, the World Coal Institute, the World Petroleum Council and Consol Energy. DCRT called for an end to the use of fossil fuels and for adoption of clean, renewable, community-based energy sources. Protesters deployed three banners in the conference to highlight that "coal kills" and "coal takes lives," thus the need for "renewable energy now." That was just the beginning.

Since the CTL action in March, DCRT has been hard at work doing outreach and research, developing a campaign and supporting other actions in the region. DCRT activists were arrested in actions at Duke Energy's headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, and in Twilight, West Virginia, where activists shut down a Massey Energy Mountaintop Removal (MTR) mining site. On September 21, DCRT launched its Stop MTR campaign targeting the Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO), an electric utility that delivers power produced mostly from coal- and oil-fired power plants to almost 800,000 homes and businesses in DC and the Mid-Atlantic region. Four DCRT activists went to PEPCO's headquarters in DC and handed the staff of Joe Rigby, PEPCO's CEO, a letter with demands.

The letter ordered PEPCO to stop sourcing MTR coal, publicly state its opposition to and refusal to source from MTR coal mining, replace that supply with renewable energy and halt the construction of any new fossil-fuel power plants. MTR is a horrific idea, involving an insatiable appetite for energy, corporate states controlled by the coal industry, massive environmental destruction and the decimation of Appalachian communities.

The deep social, cultural and environmental scars of MTR in Appalachia are grotesque reminders of the costs and impacts of our consumption of coal. As of today, PEPCO only generates four percent of its energy from renewable sources and openly states on its web site that its goal is to reach a pitiful 8.8 percent by 2020. DCRT is now gearing up to hold PEPCO accountable for fueling climate change and for the destruction of the environment and communities in Appalachia.

To stay up to date on DCRT's campaigns, and other DCRT actions and events, visit www.dcrisingtide.blogspot.com.



DC Rising Tide activists in front of PEPCO's headquarters in DC

Review of Hoodwinked in the Hothouse

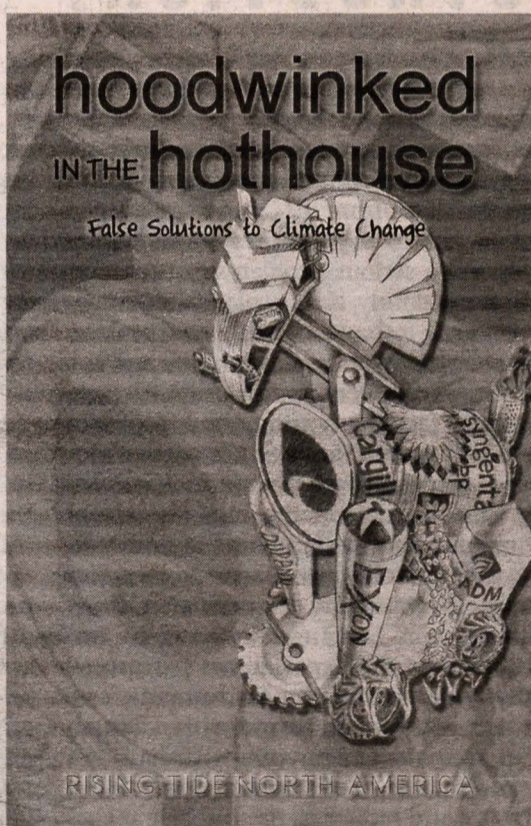
BY ATTILA

Hoodwinked in the Hothouse, Rising Tide North America, 2009.

While it is exciting to see thousands of students and climate activists out in the streets, the movement shares an uneasy relationship with the corporate sector and the non-governmental organizations that work on the corporations' behalf. The climate justice movement has done a great job of stirring up energy around stopping climate change, but it has yet to properly address false solutions. Rising Tide's new booklet, *Hoodwinked in the Hothouse*, outlining false solutions, comes at the right time.

The road to Hell is, of course, paved with good intentions (and cuts through indigenous lands). If corporations and governments, initially goaded by activists, are addressing climate change, why are things getting exponentially worse? A quote from Simone Lovera, an activist with Friends of the Earth Paraguay and Global Forest Coalition sums this up well: "If we hold up banners saying climate change kills and we want more government action, the very power groups driving the destruction will cheer and might give us even more carbon finance and agofuels. Instead, we need to mobilize against the false solutions and for real, meaningful actions that will actually cut emissions and deliver climate justice.... The time for marching for 'global action on climate change' without denouncing false solutions and the drivers of climate change is over."

Corporations and governments have gotten the point: We are concerned about climate change. Not ones to give up their old ways, they have spent their time coming up with lucrative schemes that further exploit peasants and indigenous people, destroy primal forests and do absolutely nothing to eliminate the fossil fuel industry. The booklet explains in clear, accessible language the dangers we face from corporations cashing in on the climate crisis. It includes a



good mix of artwork, though some of it may not show up once it has been through the copier a few times. It avoids subcultural jargon and carries an aura of credibility with it, doing so by relying more on the experience of people on the ground than on science or economic equations. Corporate Watch, the World Development Movement and other activists across the world contributed writings and artwork.

The booklet covers programs and proposals that hide behind trendy buzzwords but have horrific consequences in the real world. Have you had trouble explaining carbon credits to your capitalist friends? Are you confused as to what a Clean Development Mechanism is and why it doesn't work? This booklet has the answers you've been seeking to be a more coherent climate activist. Part of the struggle we face is to match the well-funded corporate greenwash campaigns promoting these climate cash-ins, and we can't do that if we don't understand what they are proposing or what it looks like when it is carried out.

The booklet also properly directs the conversation around what to do about climate change to focusing on building social movements that can end capitalism, and challenge growth and consumption as models for society. It avoids the misguided argument that many people have

gotten caught up in where we argue over which technologies are sustainable, instead of framing the debate around economics and decision-making.

You can order these booklets for free from Rising Tide by writing falsesolutions@risingtidenorthamerica.org. They ask that you cover the shipping costs if possible. You can also download the booklet at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org/special/fsbooklet.pdf. Make a bunch of copies and hand it to all of the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed climate activists who are fresh off the bus from Powershift. Or roll it up and use it to whack your idiot roommate who is flying to Central America to plant carbon offset trees.

Attila thinks it's time for student activists to stop working on behalf of corporations by asking for corporate wind farms, and instead challenge industrial capitalism itself.

500 Protest Chevron Richmond Refinery

Cap the Crude

BY MCJISTA

On August 17, hundreds of Richmond, California community members joined climate-justice advocates, public-health experts, and local government and labor leaders in a colorful march, protest and non-violent civil disobedience at Chevron's Richmond refinery. After a festival outside of the Richmond BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) station with music, dancers and speakers, and an hour-long march that wound through the streets, a mass die-in and nonviolent civil disobedience took place at the refinery's gates. 13 people were arrested.

The actions outside of Chevron were organized by a new coalition. The Mobilization for Climate Justice, West, whose goals are to get Chevron to "cap the crude" at its Richmond refinery and to get all corporations, including Chevron, out of the international climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark in December. Chevron wants to process heavier crude at its Richmond refinery. Refining heavier crude will result in more air pollution, greater greenhouse gas emissions and disease.

"Chevron has the opportunity to do the right thing," said the mayor of Richmond, Gayle McLaughlin. "They just need to agree to capping the crude at the level they currently refine. We want them to put Richmond's residents to work modernizing and replacing the 80-year-old boilers, which sadly they chose to remove from the project several

months ago.

"We want Chevron to build a cleaner and safer refinery," said Ana Orozco of Communities for Better Environment. "We want the union jobs to continue to build a refinery that is cleaner and safer for our community. Our community has been put at risk for too long."

"Chevron has clearly attempted to drive a wedge between workers and the Richmond community in order to avoid being held accountable to the community's demand for clean air and a healthy environment," said Charles Smith, a local union figure. "We support the community in this struggle."

After a peaceful, celebratory march through the streets of Richmond, the marchers arrived at the gates of the refinery and were met with a heavy police presence. Participants staged a mass die-in while Suanu Bere, of Nigeria; Nyunt Than, of Burma; Nathan Brinley, a US veteran of the Iraq War, and speakers from Richmond described the death caused by Chevron and its operations around the world. "What is unique about Chevron is the network of Chevron-affected communities that have joined together in opposition to the brutality of the company's operations," said Antonia Juhasz, director of the Chevron Program at Global Exchange. "We are here with groups from across the Bay Area and around the world, banding together to create a mass people's movement to achieve meaningful policy change to force Chevron and the entire oil industry to be cleaner, safer, more humane and equitable everywhere."

After the die-in, a "clean-up crew" entered into the refinery through the police barricade in an attempt to make the refinery cleaner and safer. Thirteen "cleaners" were arrested, while rally participants supported them with chants and songs. The chalk outlines of the dead remained after the protesters left the refinery.

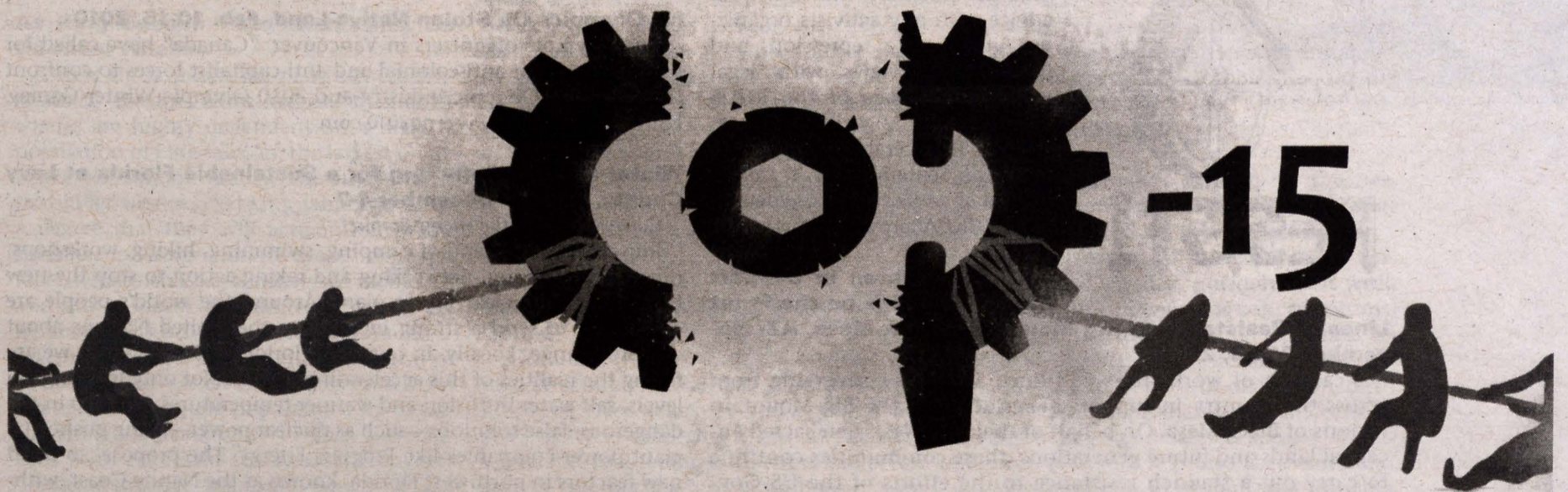
"The North Richmond community is on the frontline of Chevron's chemical assault," said Henry Clarke, the Executive Director of the West County Toxics Coalition. "We have experienced a lifetime of chemical exposure, asthma, cancer and death. These are human rights violations. West County Toxics Coalition will fight until there is no net increase in emission from the Chevron Hydrogen Expansion Project."

The protest at Chevron was part of a campaign to generate political pressure and "street heat" leading up to the international climate change talks in Copenhagen. Other protests will be held later in the year and in other parts of the country.

"People, not corporations, should drive the critical climate talks in Copenhagen," said Ananda Lee Tan of the Mobilization for Climate Justice spokes council and the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. "To date, at the United Nation's climate talks, corporate lobbyists have outnumbered representatives of governments and civil society groups by a ratio of as high as four to one. We want Chevron and all corporate lobbyists banned and frontline community voices represented at these talks."

"The MCJ seeks to empower community-based activist groups and networks to lead a global climate-justice movement in confronting the root causes of climate change at home, while defining community priorities and self-determination pathways for a new energy economy," said Torm Nompraseurt of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network.

The Mobilization for Climate Justice-West includes more than 35 diverse groups: AFSCME Local 444, Amazon Watch, Art in Action, the Asian-Pacific Environmental Network, the Bay Area Labor Committee for Peace and Justice, Bay Localize, the Burmese American Democratic Association, Communities for a Better Environment, Contra Costa Greens, Direct Action to Stop the War, Earth First!, Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, the Filipino American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity, Forest Ethics, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Global Exchange, the Global Justice Ecology Project, Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice, Greenpeace, Headrush, the International Forum on Globalization, International Rivers, Justice in Nigeria Now!, Movement Generation, Pacific Environment, *Poor Magazine*, Rainforest Action Network, the Richmond mayor's Task Force on Environmental Justice and Health, the Progressive Bengali Network, the Richmond Progressive Alliance, the Ruckus Society, Rising Tide North America, Solidarity, the West County Toxics Coalition, Youth In Focus and 350.org.



YOU CAN'T FIX A BROKEN SYSTEM

TAKE URGENT ACTION THIS DECEMBER AT HOME OR AT THE COP15 TO RESIST GREEN CAPITALISM'S FALSE SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

www.climate-justice-action.org

BJ Viehl Pleads Guilty to ALF Fur-Farm Raid

On September 3, BJ Viehl changed his plea to guilty and admitted releasing hundreds of mink from a Utah fur farm as part of an Animal Liberation Front raid (see *EFJ* May-June 2009.) Viehl and his co-defendant, Alex Hall, were charged under the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Viehl now faces up to five years in prison. Hall is still taking his case to trial. Viehl's supporters put up a message from him on his MySpace page, saying that Viehl has not agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in any way.

Part of his explanation follows:

"Utah is a very conservative and religiously controlled state, and cases like mine are almost always guilty until proven innocent. Having a politically and religiously biased jury deciding my fate will not be of my best interest. The change of plea hearing will be on September 2, 2009, and will basically consist of me admitting guilt and accepting responsibility. This, however, will not affect Alex negatively in any way. Whatever Alex chooses to do with his case, he will have my love and respect." Visit www.myspace.com/supportbjandalex for more information.

More Armed Attacks On Zapatistas

On the morning of September 1, about 150 members of the Mexican paramilitary groups Aric Official, Aric Historical and OPDDIC from Santo Tomas attacked a group of Zapatista support bases in White House presidio, a community recently established on lands people have been working for the last 12 years, within the autonomous municipality of San Manuel. In the clash, a paramilitary member was killed and more than 20 people were wounded, most of them Zapatistas. Seven Zapatistas were captured, imprisoned and tortured in Santo Tomas. During their detention, they were forced to sign documents of indictment and were savagely tortured. One man was suspended from a tree with the aim of hanging him, and another had his testicles cut off.

The Zapatistas reclaimed these lands in 1994. People who live here in the support bases have been harassed by members of these organizations since July. They have established a civil peace camp there to monitor and prevent these attacks. Armed with machetes, sticks and firearms, paramilitary groups have evicted people from their land; injured, stole or killed livestock; and kidnapped, beat and tortured Zapatista support bases with the sole intention of intimidating Zapatista supporters. This is the first time in a long while that Zapatistas have been attacked by such a large number of people.

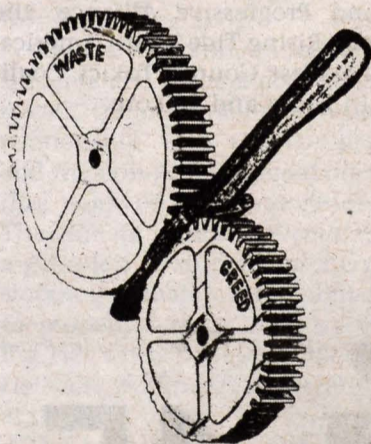
Update on Eric McDavid

The opening brief for Eric's appeal was filed on September 17. Although this is only the first step in a very long process, it was a welcome development after a year's worth of delays. The government's response to Eric's brief is due on October 15, although it is quite possible there will be more delays. The opening brief be accessible on Eric's website.

Also, after a recalculation of his points (what the Federal Bureau of Prisons uses to determine in which security level prison to place someone), Eric realized he qualifies for a low-security facility. He has put in a request to be moved and is awaiting a response. Please remember that everything you send and write to Eric is read by the authorities. For updates on Eric's case and ways to support him, please visit www.supporteric.org.



Announcements



RESIST!

Resist! An RNC Aftermath Documentary

One year after the 2008 Republican National Convention (RNC), the Chicago Independent Media Center takes a look back over the last year of RNC aftermath work. This documentary shares helpful advice with any activists organizing under state repression, and includes interviews with legal workers, members of the RNC8 and arrestees, as well as updates on our incarcerated friends. Released on September 21. It can be viewed at www.archive.org/details/RESISTRNCAftermathDocumentary

Join the Caravan in Support of Communities on the Front

Lines of Resistance at Big Mountain, Black Mesa, AZ- November 21-28, 2009

A caravan of work crews will once again be converging from across the country in support of residents of the Big Mountain regions of Black Mesa. On behalf of their peoples, their sacred ancestral lands and future generations, these communities continue to carry out a staunch resistance to the efforts of the US Government, which is acting in the interests of the Peabody Coal Company, to devastate whole communities and ecosystems and greatly de-stabilize our planet's climate for the profit of an elite few. Learn more at: www.blackmesais.org

A Call to Climate Action at Copenhagen summit 2009

The Climate Justice Action is a new global network of people and groups that are committed to taking the urgent action needed to avoid catastrophic climate change. Resist the false solutions of the COP15 climate talks! Join us in Copenhagen December 8 to 17. For more info visit www.climate-justice-action.org

Carnivores 2009- November 15-18

Please join Defenders of Wildlife and leading scientists, wildlife professionals and conservation advocates for Carnivores 2009, a three-day conference focusing on climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, and other threats facing carnivores today. It will be held at The Grand Hyatt Denver, in Denver, Colorado. For more information, visit their website at www.carnivoreconference.org or call: 202-628-9400.

No Olympics On Stolen Native Land- Feb. 10-15, 2010

Anti-Olympic organizers in Vancouver, "Canada" have called for a convergence of anti-colonial and anti-capitalist forces to confront the corporate Olympic industry and 2010 Olympic Winter Games. For more info visit www.no2010.com

Winter Activist Gathering for a Sustainable Florida at Levy County, Florida- December 4-7

Converge to end the energy empire!
Join us for a weekend of camping, swimming, hiking, workshops, music, skill sharing, networking and taking action to stop the new Levy County Nuclear Power plant. Around the world's people are organizing to send a strong message to the United Nations about climate change. Locally, in our own Floridian communities, we are facing the realities of this accelerating crisis... Not only in rising sea levels, salt water intrusion and warmer temperatures, but also in the dangerous, false solutions—such as nuclear power—being pushed by giant power companies like Progress Energy. The proposal to build new reactors in northwest Florida, known as the Nature Coast, within the Withlacoochee River watershed and on the edge of Rainbow Springs basin is a disaster in the making. Progress Energy is already extorting its customers to pay for these reactors (using an 'Early Cost Recovery' policy allowed by Governor Crist) and spending billions on a project that could take decades to get online, has no waste disposal plan and is linked to devastating uranium mining. Meanwhile renewable, decentralized options that would lower hazardous emissions are available now.

NO NEW NUKES ON THE NATURE COAST! RSVP for details and directions: 561-588-9666, e-mail camp@nukeflorida.net.

Announcements continued on page 28

Mountaintop Removal Boulder Destroys Elderly Couple's Home

One year ago, an elderly couple in Floyd County, Kentucky, were approached by a coal company offering money to strip-mine their mountainside. They refused. On August 28 of this year, however, a massive boulder from the Frasure Creek Mining strip job came crashing into the bedroom of Billy and Eileen Tussy. Luckily, they weren't home at the time. The federal Office of Surface Mining determined that the boulder was in fact caused by blasting at the Frasure Creek mine. The Tussys and three other families were evacuated to motels. The Tussys do not want to return to their home for fear of more boulders crashing through their walls. They hope to put up a new mobile home near relatives elsewhere. When asked if the company plans to apologize to the Tussys, Austin Powder Company (the subcontractor for Frasure Creek Mining) Corporate Risk Manager Constantine Toscidis responded, "We don't really go there."

Arctic Geese Skip Migration as Planet Warms

Recently, research has shown that since the Fall of 2007, tens of thousands of small arctic geese, called Pacific Brant, made the dramatic decision to not go south for Winter. They usually spend the cold months in the waters off Mexico's Baja peninsula, munching on their favorite eel grass. As the Earth's climate warms, however, they increasingly remain in the barren windswept lagoons of western Alaska. According to a new study, this trend is likely to continue, affecting a host of migratory birds across the globe.

Military Trains For "Eco-Terrorist" Attacks

Cherry Point Air Station in Havelock, North Carolina has held a terrorism training on September 16, during which environmentalists stormed the military base, took hostages, demanded money and killed two marines. Cherry Point is considered one of the best jet bases in the world. It trains Marines and launches strike missions headed for Afghanistan. It's good to know they're preparing for combat with the most appropriate enemy: environmentalists who've never harmed anyone, never taken hostages, and primarily direct their campaigns at corporations or government agencies, not the military. Never mind pro-life extremists who regularly attempt and carry out assassinations. We've got animal lovers plotting against the military! What a humorous, yet eerie, insight into the US military's priorities.

As King Salmon Population Falls, So Do Killer Whales

A new study published in the latest *Royal Society Biology Letters* suggests that killer whales are highly dependent on a healthy population of king salmon, the largest member of the salmon family. The study warns that killer whales need king salmon to such a degree that they will actually die when numbers of king salmon drop. Although killer whales can eat a variety of mammals and fish as specialized hunters, they are dependent on this single species of salmon.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, an arm of the Canadian government, has called for strengthening whale populations by ensuring adequate availability of prey. Lead author John Ford said the agency also urges "minimizing the potential effects of anthropogenic impacts, such as disturbance and noise, and identifying and protecting critical habitat."

Massive Pollution Threatens Peruvian Amazon and Indigenous Communities

A new report published by E-Tech International found that crude oil and toxic waste pits have been left behind by Occidental Petroleum's (OXY) operations in the Corrientes region of the Peruvian Amazon. A team of experts visited and sampled four contaminated sites and found heavy metals,

volatile organic compounds and hydrocarbons at levels above US and Peruvian safety standards. The report found that the recent remediation operation by the current operator, Argentine-based Pluspetrol, has been devastatingly insufficient.

Despite the intention of the company and the Peruvian government to declare remediation work complete, the contamination continues to present a serious health risk to the local Achuar indigenous communities. When it rains, oil runs into the rivers and streams where the people obtain their food.

In 2006, blockades and protests by the Achuar shut down oil production for 13 days and forced Pluspetrol to upgrade OXY's aging infrastructure and re-inject production waters, though Pluspetrol has yet to adequately clean up OXY's toxic legacy. The health of the Achuar and their local environment remain seriously threatened.

Mexican Wolf Pack Spared

On August 28, the US Fish and Wildlife Service made a heartening decision to spare the Middle Fork Pack of endangered Mexican gray wolves from removal. Despite their having killed five head of cattle on the Gila National Forest in southwest New Mexico, the agency has stepped back from the persecution of North America's most-imperiled mammal for a second time. The pack consists of two three-legged adult wolves, who each lost one leg after stepping into privately set leghold traps, a yearling and four pups born this Spring.

Five other wolf packs previously lived in the heavily grazed Beaverhead area of the Gila National Forest before being trapped and shot by the US government due to pressure from the livestock industry. Fortunately, this pack has been spared.

As of last year, only 52 wolves and just two breeding pairs have survived between New Mexico and Arizona. A new count will take place in January.

Sounds Like a Bad Idea to Me

A 2.7-magnitude earth quake shook buildings and frightened many residents with the sound of a sonic boom in Landau, Germany, on August 15. This was caused by a local geothermal energy plant that extracts heat by drilling deep into the Earth. German officials are now reviewing the safety of geothermal energy projects. Good call.

Geox, the German energy company that utilizes this method, claims that it can greatly reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels by providing a vast source of renewable energy. However, a similar project in Basel, Switzerland, was shut down after causing earth quakes in 2006 and 2007. In Northern California, a similar project, run by AltaRock Energy, is under scrutiny by the Energy Department to determine whether it's safe. Although Geox admits to having set off tiny tremors in the past, officials profess uncertainty as to the August 15 quake. Local residents, however, know for sure that something's wrong with an energy project that causes earthquakes.

Human Activity Sinking World's River Deltas

A new study led by the University of Colorado at Boulder indicates most of the world's low-lying river deltas are sinking from human activity, rendering them increasingly vulnerable to flooding from rivers and ocean storms, and putting tens of millions of people at risk. The study concluded that 24 out of the world's 33 major deltas are sinking, and that 85 percent have experienced severe flooding in recent years. This has resulted in the temporary submergence of roughly 100,000 square miles of land.

This danger is not only due to rising sea levels, it is exacerbated by the upstream trapping of sediments by reservoirs, dams, man-made channels and levees that carry sediment into the oceans beyond coastal floodplains, and the accelerated compacting of floodplain sediment caused by the

extraction of groundwater and natural gas. About 500 million people in the world live on river deltas.

100 Elephants Dead in Kenya This Year

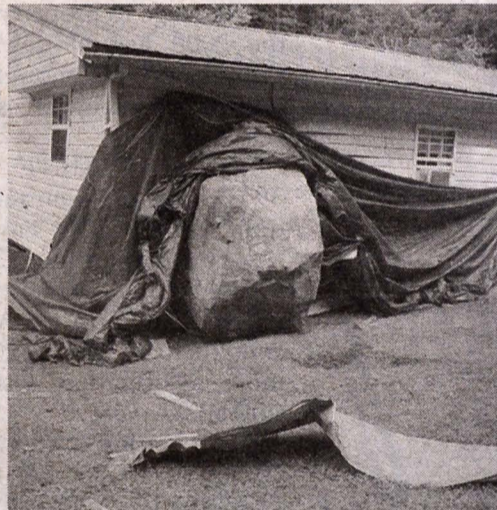
More than 100 elephants have been killed in Nairobi, Kenya, so far this year as a result of poaching and drought-related hunger. On top of Kenya's worst drought in 12 years, poaching has increased to meet a global demand for ivory. Around 23,000 elephants live in Kenya. Poaching can drastically decrease this population in a few years. In Chad, for instance, a recent survey showed that its elephant population has declined from 3,800 to slightly more than 600 in the past three years.

The drought is a natural occurrence that affects all animals. The ivory trade is not. If left unchecked, it will do much more irreversible damage to Kenya's elephant population than any drought.

Whirlpool Hid Facts of Toxins in Park Land

On August 28, citizens from poor, largely people-of-color Benton Harbor, Michigan, revealed to a federal judge that property the city received in exchange for 22 acres of pristine beachfront land is toxic. Whirlpool Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of washing machines, with its international headquarters in neighboring Benton Township, kept this dirty secret from the public, as well as the US Corps of Army Engineers. Whirlpool-backed Harbor Shores Development obtained a 106-year lease of 22 acres of Jean Klock Park to develop a Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course with views of Lake Michigan. Klock Park is the city's major park for residents and is used for reunions, baptisms, picnics, etc.

Harbor Shores convinced the city commission that the financially decimated city needed the golf course as an anchor for economic development. Residents, however, claim the golf course violates the Land and Water Conservation Act and the Environmental Protection Act. Arsenic and lead are among the "alphabet stew" of poisons on the parkland. It took extensive Freedom of Information Act filings and searches to discover that these toxins existed. This is a clear example of environmental racism in a town whose livelihood depends largely on one company that offers little to no economic relief for its inhabitants.



MTR boulder destroys elderly couple's home

Herbicide Atrazine Linked to Cancer, Birth Defects, Endocrine Disruption and Endangered Species Impacts

Atrazine is the most commonly used herbicide in the US. It is a widely used weed killer that, at extremely low concentrations, chemically castrates frogs. It is linked to significant human and wildlife health concerns, including endocrine disruption, birth defects, fertility problems, certain cancers and declines of endangered species of amphibians and fish. It is also the most common contaminant of ground and drinking water nationwide.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ignored proof of atrazine-contaminated water, and has been sued by conservationists in 2003 for failing to review the impacts of atrazine on several endangered species. Although required by a court order to further assess atrazine, the EPA has conducted misleading and insufficient monitoring programs, which ignore more than 1,000 vulnerable watersheds. The case for banning atrazine has long since been built, but the EPA has yet to act on it.

Prisoners in the Struggle Support Them!

The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything you write to a prisoner. When prisoners are awaiting trial or sentencing, it is best not to discuss their cases or related topics with them. Although some prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately. Prisoners can obtain a discounted subscription to the EF! Journal by sending a book of 10 42¢ stamps to POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Individuals who want to sponsor a prisoner's subscription should send \$20 to the same address.

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Dean Cain WJ 4309, HMP Preston, 2 Ribbleton Lane, Lancashire, PR1 5AB, England. Jailed for breaching parole conditions whilst on parole for three charges related to interfering with animal research on a rabbit farm.

•Alex Hall, Inmate #2009-06304, 800 West State St. Davis County Jail, 800 West State St., Farmington, UT 84025, USA. Recently plead guilty to charges related to being accused of raiding a mink farm.

•Jesse James Forrey, RC Correctional Facility, 297 Century Avenue South, Maplewood, MN 55119. Sentenced to 4 months for "damage to property" during the 2008 Republican National Convention. For more information visit www.supportjessejames.wordpress.com.

•Murphy, Steve James, 0910300841, Central Detention Center, 630 East Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, Ca 92408 accused of involvement in an attempted arson on a town house construction site in 2006. For more information visit www.supportsteve.org.

•Sean Kirtley, WC6977, HMP Stafford, 54 Gaol Rd, Stafford, T16 3AW, UK. Recently released after their appeal went through. Sean was serving 4.5 years for organizing legal demonstrations against Sequani, an animal-testing company. For more information, visit SUPPORTSEAN.WORDPRESS.COM.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, Columbia River Correctional Institution, 9111 NE Sunderland Ave, Portland, OR 97211, USA. Free was recently released from prison early only to be forced to return later the same day. The prison said it was an error. Serving 10 years for arson at a car dealership and attempted arson of an oil truck. For more information, visit www.freefreemow.org.

•Jonatan Strandberg, Box 248, 59323, Västervik, Sweden. Serving 15 months imprisonment for charges related to the property damage of logging and urban sprawl equipment.

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.

•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, Via Casale 50/a, 15040 San Michele (AL), 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, Via Casale 50/a, 15040 San Michele (AL), Italy. Moved to the above address. Awaiting trial for allegedly using explosives to damage power lines. Gioia is a member of Il Silvestre.

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

•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 LHMP Ranby, Retford, Notts, DN22 8EU, England. Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail a supplier of guinea pigs for vivisection.

•Dan Amos, VN7818, HMP Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 0AH, England. 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 Frankland, Brasside, Durham, County Durham DH1 5YD; England. 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 conspiracy charges stemming from his work with Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC). For more information, visit www.SUPPORTJAKE.ORG.

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

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

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

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

tion, visit www.SUPPORTKEVIN.COM.

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

•Heather Nicholson, VM4859, HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN, UK. Serving 11 years for conspiracy to blackmail people linked to HLS. For more information, visit www.MYSPACE.COM/SHACUKPRISONERSUPPORT.

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

•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.

•William James Viehl, Inmate #2009-05735, 800 West State St. Davis County Jail, 800 West State St., Farmington, UT 84025, USA. Being held after breaking bond accused of raiding a mink farm.

•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.

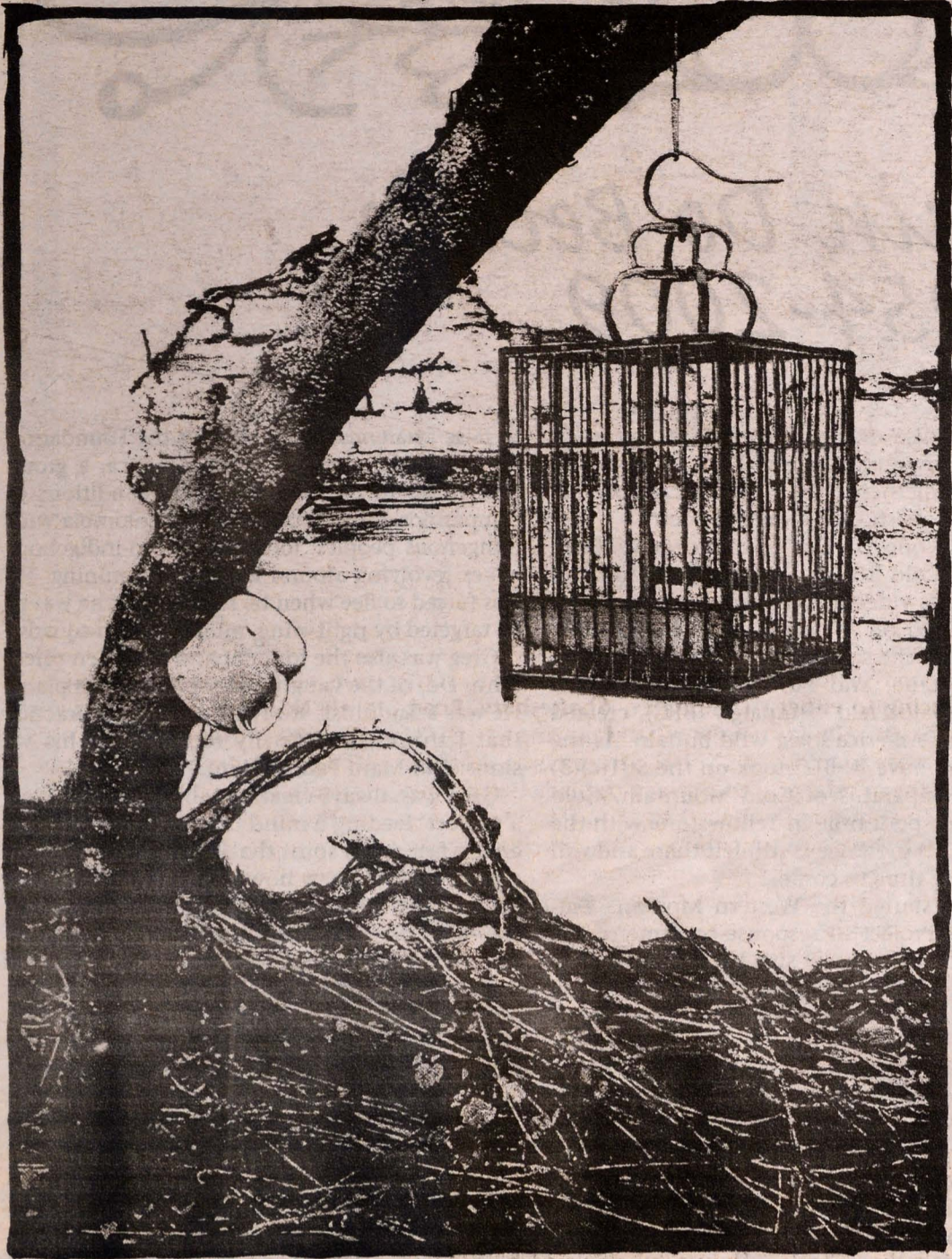
Ecodefense

•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, Swit-

there are things I can't ignore.



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-Beltane 1997 Communique

zerland. 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.

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

•Eric McDavid, #16209-097, FCI Victorville Medium II, 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.

•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, Dury, CT 06811, USA. Serving six years for the ELF arson of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Waters insists she was not involved. For more information, visit www.supportbriana.org.

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

Indigenous Resistance

•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.

•Byron Shane of Chubbock© Clan, #07909051, USP Lewisburg, POB 1000, Lewisburg, PA, 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.

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, see Debbe 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

•Matt DePalma, #14126-041, 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.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, CCC 3151 Litton Dr, Chillislicute, 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 Work, IA 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.





Greg Shin Do Bechle 1954-2009

BY DARRELL GEIST & STORM WATERS

Earth First! lost another of its warriors this past Spring. Greg Shin Do Bechle, also known as "Hayduke" or "Bechle-Man," succumbed to brain cancer at age 53—after a colorful and tumultuous life of travel, revolutionary activism and mental illness.

Greg first became active in the early 1970s; at 16 years old, he was bayoneted in Philadelphia by a National Guardsman at an anti-Vietnam War protest.

Greg loved the Rocky Mountain Front. He enjoyed being in Blackleaf Canyon—the last place in the Lower 48 where grizzlies come out onto the high plains to feed—hiking around like the mountain goat he was. He worked his ass off to save the Front from the greedy oil and gas bastards, constantly enlisting people to thwart evil corporate plans. Since then, most of the oil and gas leases along the Rocky Mountain Front have been withdrawn. Greg helped make that happen. The bears agree.

Greg also spent time in the Little Rockies, a sweet little belt of sky-island mountains he really loved in northeastern Montana, the sacred home of the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes. As with the Rocky Mountain Front, Greg wrote articles to publicize the plight of the Earth and worked with the tribes to shut down the Pegasus (what he called the "Pigasus") Corporation, who operated the Zortman Landusky mine for nearly 20 years, rendering a sacred mountain into a cyanide-riden dump.

Greg was also one of the early producers of Missoula Community Access TV, a local station that is thriving these days. He was incredibly creative and wrote stunning warrior poetry.

Greg was one of the co-founders of Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers, an environmental and human-rights video activist group whose members would go on to found Montana CHEER, which fought the stinky-assed pulp mill in Missoula, Montana; and Buffalo Nations, which became Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC), created to look after America's last wild buffalo. As the circle would have it, BFC took on the 501(c)(3) non-profit apparatus of Cold Mountain, Cold Rivers. Greg spent time in Yellowstone with the buffalo, so his presence is still felt there and will be for a long time to come.

Greg also started the Western Montana Empowerment Project in response to some of the horrific "coo-coo's nest" shit he experienced in the system of Montana with mental illness. He started a companion group in Massachusetts, as well. Once when Greg went into a manic phase that attached itself to his brilliant mind like a ferris wheel, he created a game over-night that told a story in hundreds of water-color images of animals, numbers and symbols that he explained in detail and showed us how to play it in order to convey to us what he was experiencing. Greg's game was one of the most brilliant, far-out things ever created.

Greg never forgot his time and travels abroad, and worked for years with Jose "Chencho" Alas,

to raise awareness and funds for the Foundation for Self-Sufficiency in Central America, a group that works to improve the living conditions of campesinos. Greg also worked in Colombia with indigenous peoples, focusing on eco-indigenous issues revolving around logging and mining. He was forced to flee when he learned that he was to be targeted by right-wing, military death-squads.

Greg was also the founder and head Zen priest (Shin Do) of the Laughing Frog Temple in place. He was a Buddhist, studying a religious practice that I think could finally reconcile all his visions: Om Mani Padme Hum.

Greg was always creating, always working on a project, feeding a mind that worked phenomenally fast and a spirit that looked far. Greg was a poet, and he knew how to deliver his voice in a sing-song, hip-hop or drumming manner. In the '80s and '90s, Greg's poetry appeared regularly in the *EF! Journal*. Greg was a very good and dear friend to many seasoned eco-warriors. We partied hard, got rip-roaringly and laughingly drunk, and caused a ruckus when we could. We hiked the mountains together, lived together and worked together.

It is safe to say that Greg evolved in a very short period of time into someone it will take most of the rest of us a lifetime (or more) to become. In "Requiem for Chico Mendes," Greg wrote these words that we now use as a requiem for him:

"We offer you these memories as you fly between worlds: We miss you. Yes, we miss you."



Announcements

continued from page 24

2010 Earth First! Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous To Be Held In Santa Barbara, CA

The 2010 Organizers' Conference (OC) and Winter Rendezvous will be held in Santa Barbara, California later this Winter. See the next issue of the *EF!* for details or contact EFinSB@gmail.com

Everglades Uprising Action Camp- January 2010

Coming to Florida for the Levy gathering? In January 2010, there will be an action camp scheduled to coincide with the prestigious corporate-sponsored 25th annual Everglades Coalition conference. This year's conference is taking place in Palm Beach County (PBC was recently dubbed

"the Corruption Capitol of Florida" in Time magazine). Palm Beach County is also home base to multi-national corporate scum such as Scripps Biotech Research and Florida Power and Light. Join the growing grassroots rebellion in swamps, beaches and flatwoods of south Florida. Hosted by Everglades Earth First! For more details: camp@nukeflorida.net

Mythmakers & Lawbreakers released by AK Press

Edited by a recent short-term editor here at the Journal, *Mythmakers & Lawbreakers: Anarchist Writers on Fiction* was released on September 9th by AK Press.

The best fiction has always been a little... dangerous. For centuries, authors have used the veil

of fiction to cast a critical eye toward the larger society around them: think of Emile Zola, Victor Hugo, Issac Asimov, Margaret Atwood, Aldous Huxley, J.R.R. Tolkien, H.G. Wells, Mary Shelley, and beyond. And now, for the first time, some of the biggest names in contemporary fiction discuss the endless possibilities of the world of fiction with a specific focus on anarchist politics.

In a series of interviews with SteamPunk Magazine founder Margaret Killjoy, Ursula K. Le Guin, Alan Moore, Lewis Shiner, Starhawk, Derrick Jensen, Cristy C. Road, Michael Moorcock, and a variety of other up-and-coming young writers reflect on the ways in which their personal politics have shaped their work. Plus, a fantastic introduction by best-selling sci-fi author Kim Stanley Robinson! Find out more at akpress.org

WE COULDN'T AGREE MORE!

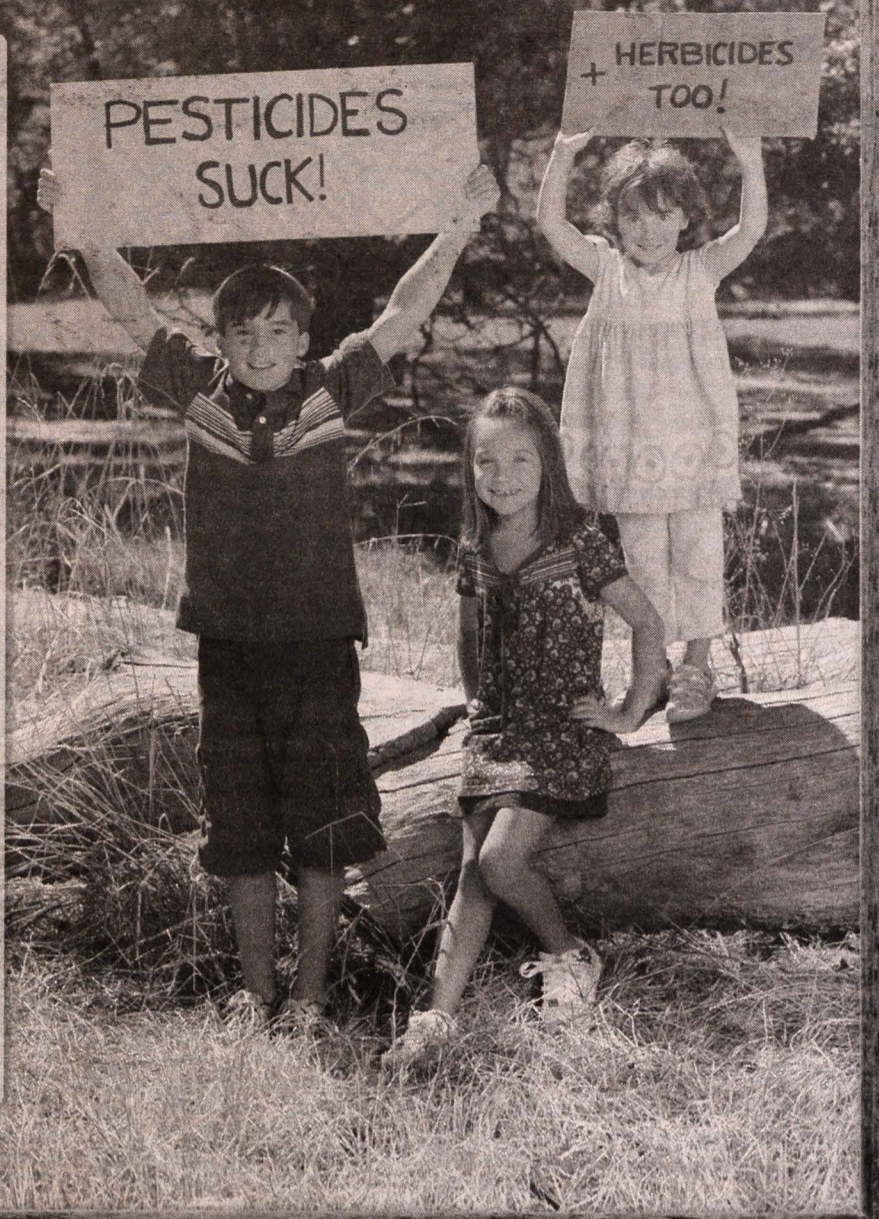
While we are renowned in the marketplace for our sincere passion in advancing organic agriculture and pesticide-free foods, this only represents the first step towards chemical free living and a world without pesticides. For our food, our families, and our future, we encourage you in joining Mountain Rose Herbs in our struggle to abandon the use of chemicals and pesticides within our homes and gardens.

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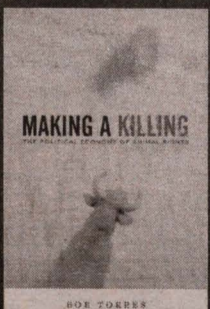
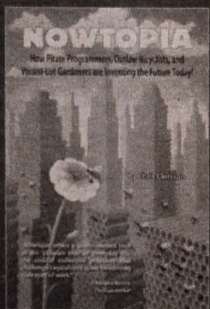
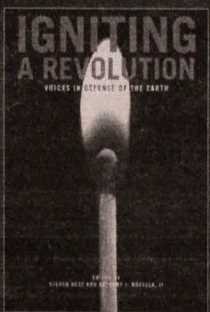
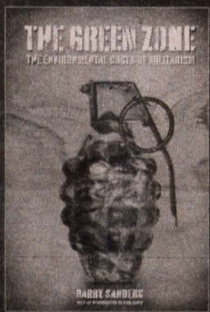
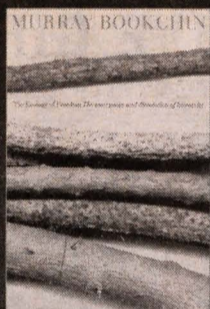
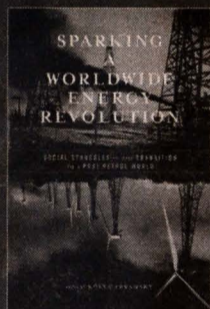


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Pictured here are the children of Mountain Rose Herbs' employee, Felicia Colden (from left to right: Ariel, Talia, and Ayianna)



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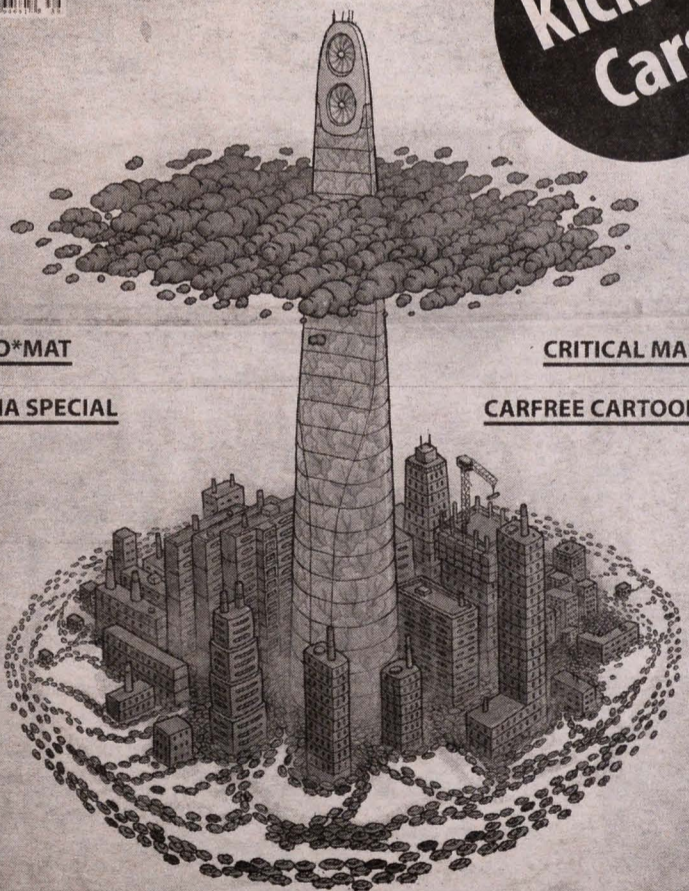
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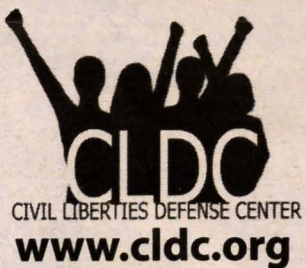
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photo courtesy: No Resolution in Copper

A climber approaches a Tucson, AZ bridge to hang an anti-mining banner

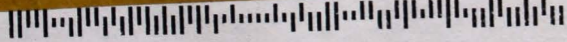


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