

# End Corporate Dominance!

It has the world's resources at its disposal. It gobbles whole mountains and forests, drinks rivers dry, spews toxic waste, and enslaves whole populations. It has all the rights of a citizen, but few of the limitations. It can cross national borders as if they were cobwebs. It is immortal, and can therefore amass wealth and power beyond the capabilities of mere mortals. It has powers that dwarf and control government, and it has the lawyers, lobbyists, and money to write laws and to strike laws off the books. It controls the newspapers, radio, and television, and so it controls the "truth." It controls humans' access to food, water, shelter, employment, and energy. If humans complain or struggle against its tyranny, it buys them out or knocks them down with lawsuits, firings, harassment, and if necessary, murder.

Are we talking about some sort of selfish, ill-tempered GOD???

In a way, we are. We are talking about the **CORPORATION**.

Why do we allow an inanimate thing, just an idea really, to have so much power over our lives and the fate of the entire planet?

People created corporations with ideas, words and laws, but the creation has turned into a **MONSTER**. Some of us believe that it is now time to end the monster's reign of terror, and that with a different set of ideas, words, and laws, we can kill the monster, or at least put it in a good strong cage.

This is what the Earth First! campaign to **END CORPORATE DOMINANCE** is about. Whether you are an environmentalist, a labor activist, a human rights campaigner, a campaign finance reformer, or any citizen in a dispute with an insurance company, bank, etc., your ideas, words, and actions are a part of this campaign. The key is to make our efforts directed to the root of the problem, not just the symptoms.

Nobody has illusions that this battle will be easy. We just know that the time to begin has come. Already, countless organizations are doing the work. What remains is for the people of all these movements to join forces, recognize that they are fighting the same beast, and to demand that corporations release their control over the Earth and all its inhabitants.

Though our beginnings may be modest, our ultimate goal is to be **DANCING ON THE RUINS OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS!!!!!!**

AT&T, ABC, Chase-Manhattan, Union Carbide, DuPont, Exxon, Phillip-Morris, Freeport McMoRan, CBS, Mitsubishi, General Electric, Dow, Monsanto, McDonnell-Douglas, 3M, Peabody Coal, RTZ, Texaco, Weyerhaeuser, Shell, MAXXAM, Proctor Gamble, Bechtel, Gillette, General Mills, Stone Container, NBC, RJ Reynolds, Chevron, Burger King, American Express, BFI, Champion, Louisiana Pacific, Asarco, Houston Light and Power, Disney, General Motors, and all of your kind, we know your names and addresses. **YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED!!!** ①





# Four Points , HCPs and the ESA

Cedar Stevens

Golden-cheeked Warblers, and plenty of 'em, live and breed on Four Points. So do at least two species of Cave Bugs, the Tooth Cave Ground Beetle, and the Bone Cave Harvestman. Two other Bugs, the Kretschmarr Cave Mold Beetle and the Tooth Cave Pseudoscorpion, have also been tentatively ID'd in caves on the property. Wasn't the Endangered Species Act supposed to save critters like these? How can they go in and put 900,000 square feet of research and development, 730,000 of office, 300,000 of retail, a 250,000 sq. ft. hotel, and 25 acres of apartments on top of them? Well, all you have to do is go down to Fish and Wildlife and get a hunting permit for Endangered Species.

## Habitat Conflagration Plans

In 1982 (remember Ronald Reagan?) the Democratically-controlled Congress put a loophole into the ESA.

Referred to as "Section 10" of the ESA, the provision allowed for the destruction of endangered species (referred to as "take") if a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is prepared to preserve the species in another area. Fish and Wildlife approves the HCP (with few known exceptions) and grants the developer a "10a" permit.

Perot et al. submitted an HCP to

FWS in the fall last year, and a copy became available for public comment in December. The Four points HCP calls for the direct "take" of 138 acres



of prime Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat and the indirect take of another 65 acres of habitat that will be impacted. Additionally one of the caves with the Tooth Cave Ground Beetle will be covered by development, and another cave with the Ground Beetle and the Bone cave Harvestman will likely be "taken" by development upstream and uphill. In return the

Warblers and Cave bugs are given 187 acres in preserves. This represents a softening of a FWS proposal in May '95 calling for 187 acres of preserve when direct take was 115 and indirect take was 28.

For comparison, in earlier HCP's a preserve-to-take ratio of 3-to-one is typical.

The larger question, of course, is how well endangered species will respond to having half or a third of their habitat mitigated away with each development. According to the ESA as ammended, FWS can keep granting 10a permits until they determine that the species is in jeopardy of extinction. How many HCP's does it take till Fish finally submits a "jeopardy" decision? Earth First! shudders to think.

Two provisions of the ESA attempt

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## Earth First! Pesterters Perot

## Endangered Species Hunting Permit Issued

Cedar Stevens

H. Ross Perot always draws a crowd when he speaks. So naturally, when Earth First! found out that he was going to speak on UT campus, we knew it was an opportunity not to be missed.

Protesters arrived ready to tell Perot's audience about his white flight sprawl development, Four Points Center, and about the endangered species it would kill. A protester in a Golden-cheeked Warbler costume was able to testify about how the development would destroy some of the best remaining Warbler habitat in Travis County. A banner draped over a wall over the entrance proposed: HEY PEROT! LETS MAKE A DEAL: LAND SWAP FOR FOUR POINTS! About 500 flyers titled "Perot - How United Do We Stand on the Environment?" targeted his United We Stand party.

Of course we also worked inside, waiting to take advantage of Perot's customary Q&A session after the speech. Unfortunately, the Q&A was canceled (likely because of our presence), so we rushed the stage to try to get a word with him. After fruitless negotiations with Perot's handlers, we decided to find out which exit he would be leaving. Two rental Mercedes parked near an exit marked the spot, so we sat down and waited.

When he came out, escorted by only one handler and a cop, Cedar Stevens addressed him: "Mr. Perot, remember us? We talked to you six years ago about donating Four Points as a preserve. You didn't seem interested, so now we're just asking you to do a land swap. Is that something you could do?" Perot, obviously stunned but also amused that we had ambushed him, responded, "Why don't you just buy it from me?" "Because we're not billionaires!" was the groups' answer. We then suggested how good an "H. Ross Perot Preserve" sounded and how many votes it would get him. As his handler tried to stuff him into the Mercedes, we pleaded with him, "You can do it Mr. Perot! Think about it! Do the right thing!" Perot just smiled and waved, and they were off.

Later, we found out that one of the people who got into the private audience with Perot after the speech had asked him about Four Points. Perot took the cue to rail against the Endangered Species Act, calling it "an unconstitutional taking of private property." Funny, but that sounds just like something a Democrat or Republican would say.

Cedar Stevens

The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) has been described in glowing terms as a balance between preservation of endangered species and development, and as a model for the nation. A work of the better part of a decade, the BCCP is said to represent the consensus of environmentalists, developers and local and federal government.

But beneath the grand name, the attractive brochures, and the media fanfare, the truth about what the BCCP does is painful. It will permit the destruction of up to 74% of the habitat of the Golden-cheeked Warbler, the endangered songbird considered to be the keystone of the plan. The last dozens of Black-capped Vireos, once plentiful in the hills west of Austin will lose up to 56% of their habitat. The enigmatic, uncharismatic Cave Bugs lose 85%.

The consolation to this huge loss of habitat is supposed to be that the BCCP will provide contiguous habitat with less fragmented preserves, than if each landowner pursued separate 10a permits. Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the "unfragmented" preserves are being eroded by these individual permits and by inability

to acquire key parcels of habitat due to market forces.

If it is true that the BCCP is the best effort of an environmentally friendly community such as Austin, all wildlife had better beware. Outside the boundaries of Travis County, people are not

Team recommended a 129,000 acre preserve to maintain a "minimum viable population" of birds, we now have a target BCCP of 29,000 acres and 46,000 acre national Wildlife Refuge. (This is all dependent on funding, of course.) Land acquired for the BCCP was not necessarily chosen to maximize habitat, but rather to



necessarily so charmed with birds and bugs.

Development interests and politicians serving them have had the most control over the development of the BCCP. Efforts to make the BCCP a survivable plan for the species were rebuffed at each stage of the process by well funded real estate lobbyists. Where the plan's Biological Advisory

minimize costs and to avoid properties owned by wealthy and powerful developers like Barton Creek Properties (subsidiary of Freeport McMoRan) and H. Ross Perot.

Financial uncertainties make it a gamble that even these reduced preserves can actually be acquired. Because of low mitigation fees paid by developers

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# Global Network to Fight the Oil Industry

Adrian Boutureira is an old growth Austinite who in the last few years has been devoted a considerable amount of energy to Austin EF! and Austin Greens activism. So we were really bummed when he told us he was going on an extended visit to Ecuador. No more mile a minute, passionate analyses of life and politics, no more incredible drumming, no more Adrian.

But since Adrian was going to Ecuador on an activist / artist adventure, and since adventure is good medicine for healing the Earth, we shouldn't have minded. It wasn't long before he called us and told us he had an opportunity to attend a global gathering of indigenous peoples who are fighting the oil industry. He

asked what people thought about his attending the conference as a representative of Earth First!. We of course said that we would be honored. The following are a few excerpts of letters he sent us and the introduction to a publication that was put out by the

conference's sponsor.

"The Oilwatch conference went great. I got some great interviews for KO.OP

Radio. One with an indigenous woman who is really an incredible woman. I'm to go to this indigenous conference of ten tribes to decide if they will permit the Colombian Oil Co. to drill three exploitation - exploration wells in virgin jungle. I got an interview with one of Ken Sarowiwa's lawyers too."

"My participation in the conference as an Austin Green / Earth

Firstler was well received. Besides being head translator, which took most of my time, I still managed to throw in my five cents. The process, like all processes, was tedious as shit, yet I believe in what this international network can accomplish, particularly if



the commitment to grassroots support remains true."



**A Resistance Network to Confront Oil Companies in the Tropics**

(The following is excerpted from a book produced by Oilwatch.)

*"This book is dedicated to the memory of Ken Saro-wiwa and his colleagues who were executed due to their opposition to the oil activity.*

Oil extraction is one of the most destructive activities, producing severe impacts on the environment and people. These impacts are more serious in tropical areas due to the fragility of the ecosystems and also because of the interrelation that forest people have with nature.

In most tropical countries, the same companies are performing similar operational practices, but multinationals are working using global strategies. The affected people remain

isolated, suffering the impacts of the oil industry on their own.

Now is the time to coordinate our efforts using the same strategy of the companies: we have to act globally. This is why we are working toward the creation of a network of organizations - environmentalists, ecologists, human rights activists - from tropical countries to confront the oil companies. We will need the support of organizations from the industrialized world, since most of the oil companies come from those countries and because that part of the world consumes the most oil.

The activities of this network might include the exchange of information about which companies operate in each country, what operational practices are being used, and which operational practices are the best. We can also coordinate international campaigns against specific oil companies and share technical and legal advice."

**To contact Oilwatch:**

**Acción Ecológica  
P.O. Box 17-15-246C  
Quito, Ecuador**

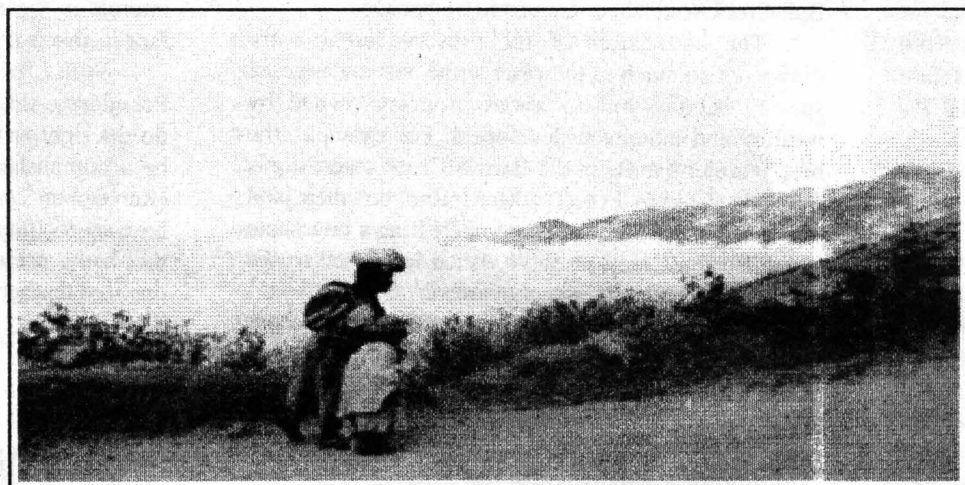
## Rants by Frog: Zapatismo Continues!! Report from Chiapas and Mexico

The indigenous Zapatista rebels are facing their biggest threat in their 13 year history this spring. The Mexican government and the evil world economic elite are relying on the civil society's confusion, ignorance, and lack of solidarity to break the back of the movement.

The ruling PRI political party/dictatorship and the Pepsi Corporation have been buying communities in Chiapas to sway them away from the Zapatistas, and there are presently 70,000 Mexican Soldiers in Chiapas (2/3 of Mexico's force) as well as numerous US, French, and Argentinean military advisors. The United States government recently gave the Mexican Army over 70 helicopters to fight the "drug war" along the Guatemala/Mexico border; ironically, they have been used to spray Zapatista sympathizers' fields with marijuana seeds to bust them later. Mexico's economic crisis continues: in the two months I was in Mexico, the prices of bread and tortillas rose 30%, whereas the minimum wage rose from 16 pesos a day (8 hours) to 18 (2.50 US dollars). Basically, the situation is very grave, and Mexico's leaders are taking a US style to control the skyrocketing crime rates, more cops

and prisons.

From all of this rose the question of how the world can fight back. The Zapatistas presented us with this question at their "Encounter for humanity and against Neoliberalism" held in April of this



year. Activists and indigenous leaders from all over the Americas were invited, and we discussed the problems facing the poor, marginalized, and indigenous perpetrated by the powerful. There were 5 tables of discussion on how neoliberalism affects indigenous peoples plus economic, social,

political, cultural aspects of our lives. Of course we also discussed how we can resist this neoliberal mierda.

Maybe some background on neoliberalism is in order: Neoliberalism is the economic theory of unrestrained capitalism

rising from schools like Harvard and economists like Milton Freedman. Neoliberalism states that the only way to solve a country's economic hardships is to privatize all state owned services and companies, freeze wages, cut social spending, develop and industrialize. So ask yourself, where are the majority of

Latin American elites and politicians educated? Harvard and Chicago! Don't worry, we can always build more prisons and Berlin wall style fortifications along the Mexico/US border, can't we? NO!!!!

THE ZAPATISTAS HAVE CALLED US TO RESIST NEOLIBERALISM IN EVERY FORM POSSIBLE!!! That means continuing to resist the US government, the banks and the alienation that has been forced upon us. Marcos has said that the revolution in Mexico will be won in the USA, and while talking to Commandante David, he told me that there will be a revolution in the US, it is up to all of us to RESIST. They risk their lives there, we must do the same.

As far as the low intensity war in Chiapas, rape of indigenous women, nuns and children is the Army's latest tool to demoralize and splinter the Zapatista communities. The army isolates them, harasses them, and removes all economic possibilities. But still these communities resist, they want nothing from the government, they want self determination of their own community, an equal distribution of land, and to preserve the untouched forests and peoples of the Lacandon Jungle.



# Green Transportation

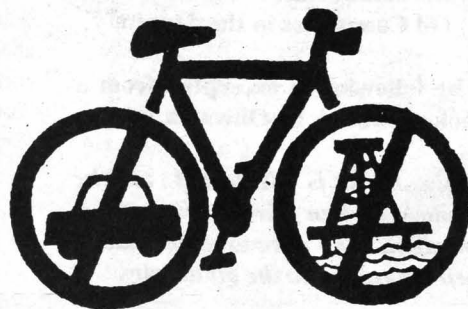
Roger Baker

Land use planning is crippled in Texas by a lack of state laws that encourage comprehensive metropolitan planning. Therefore, reform of the urban planning process should begin with new laws that allow all residents of metropolitan areas to unite and plan the region in a comprehensive fashion. Otherwise, the middle class or upper class will attempt to escape to suburban areas with lower taxes. If this pattern of suburban sprawl is allowed to persist, it will bankrupt the central city and to hurt the economy of the whole metropolitan area.

The best and most economical way to develop a city is to consciously encourage high density development that can effectively be served with public transportation and which also does not require long and expensive water and waste water lines. Such high density areas can be separated with green belt areas so as to give overall environmental benefits.

Land use planning should be considered the basic starting point for urban planning. The proper way to plan is to start with a vision of what kind of city we want to see in the future and then to

provide infrastructure that corresponds to our goals. The provision of infrastructure such as roads and water and waste water facilities should be considered secondary economic decisions that result from



land use policies.

Currently roads are considered a sort of "free" public infrastructure that should be granted to the most politically influential land development interests.

The end result of trying to build enough roads to serve all new suburban development has been to encourage suburban sprawl and has increased the cost of living in the regions a whole. In the end, there is not enough money to build new roads and maintain existing roads. Currently the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has less than half the money it needs to keep up with projected Texas travel demands. This problem is especially severe in Texas' major metropolitan areas.

In Texas, enormous wealth is created from suburban land development. This has created a powerful political constituency tied to TxDOT, which includes their extremely powerful lobby group Texas Good Roads Association, the roadway construction contractors, the asphalt industry, banks with large real estate portfolios of suburban land, the insurance and automobile industries, the petroleum industry, and the list goes on.

Reform of metropolitan land use policies requires that we must

challenge this formidable alliance of vested interests that have combined on a state, local and national level to generate suburban sprawl.

It has been suggested that if we want to revive our urban communities, we should study the advice of traffic engineers and do the opposite of what they recommend. Traffic engineers try to move automobile traffic through urban areas as fast as possible. This degrades the quality of life in the central city while flooding it with commuter traffic at rush hour -- causing people to try to escape to outlying areas.

If there is a bright side to this picture it is a growing realization by urban planners that suburban sprawl is a non-sustainable trend that is destroying American cities from the inside out. Furthermore, the expense of building roads to sustain sprawl has depended on easy federal transportation dollars, and these funds are in much shorter supply than in the past. This will force states like Texas to raise gas taxes, and consider other new funding sources like toll roads to try to perpetuate the status quo.

(Continued from page 2) Four Points

to prevent this "last straw" approach - recovery plans and critical habitat designation. Recovery plans are routinely late in the preparation, and unfunded or ignored in the implementation. Critical habitat (habitat which is crucial to preserve for the species' survival) is now only designated by FWS under threat of lawsuit. Even if Secretary of Interior had not backed down from designating GCW habitat (after Gov. George W. Bush objected), Four Points may not have made the designation. Although Four Points is some of the most densely occupied GCW habitat in Travis County, the asking price, according to attorney John Joseph, \$90,000 per acre, and FWS is able to take in socioeconomic factors in critical habitat designation.

As grim as the fate of the Warblers under H. Ross Perot's HCP, it may be better than they would fare elsewhere under the City of Austin's region-wide HCP - The BCCP.

## The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan

Years ago, the BCCP used to be the BCHCP: Balcones Canyonlands Habitat Conservation Plan. In search of efficiency, the Habitat was taken out of the conservation plan.

As currently drafted, the BCCP calls for the "take" of up to 74% of the remaining GCW habitat in western Travis County, which is the core of the Warblers range. The Black-capped Vireo loses up to 55% of its habitat, and the Cave Bugs lose up to 85% of their potential habitat. The bright side of this is supposed to be that the land preserved will be in larger, more contiguous parcels. The Warblers, in particular, prefer unbroken habitat. The question is whether they prefer the loss of 74% of their habitat. Travis county has the most Warbler habitat of any of the counties where the bird is found, and it has been estimated that up to 60% of all Warblers live in

Travis county. If the BCCP goes as planned, it could mean the loss of over 25% of all the Warblers in the world.

The way the BCCP is supposed to work is that developers with endangered species on their properties pay a fee to the city of Austin to be applied to purchase land in designated preserve areas. About 20,000 acres have already been "acquired" - the bulk of which were failed development projects owned by the RTC after the S&L crisis of the late 80's. About a third of the 20,000 acres was already preserved land - City or county parks - some of which has habitat, but much of which has none, Zilker Park, for one example. Much of the prime Warbler habitat in the Bull Creek watershed remains to be bought.

The boundaries of the preserve areas were drawn not so much as to preserve the best endangered species habitat, but to avoid property owned by wealthy and influential developers. For example, the best Warbler habitat in the Barton Creek macrosite is on land owned by Freeport McMoRan, but their land was exempted from the preserve, creating a huge hole in the Barton Creek preserve. What happened to the idea of consolidating preserve areas?

H. Ross Perot's Four Points Centre is another example of prime habitat to be lost to politics. For years Earth First! fought to keep Four Points in the Bull Creek preserve unit, only to find that it was taken out in one of the more recent drafts of the BCCP.

If Four Points is not in the designated preserve areas, why did H. Ross Perot not take advantage of the option under the BCCP to pay a fee and then just pave the whole property? According to Perot's attorney, John Joseph, the BCCP was just taking too long. (It is rumored that the 10a permit for the BCCP may be issued in April.) Also, in reviewing the correspondence between Perot's lawyers and Fish and Wildlife, it becomes obvious that the main goal of the

developers was to avoid any off-site mitigation.

Taking these things into account, it may be a good thing that Four Points has its own HCP.

But it's not good enough! Not just for the sake of the Warblers, but for the Jolleyville Salamander, and the health of Bull Creek, which is part of our drinking water supply, Earth First! has maintained that Four Points not be developed at all. For years we have advocated land trades to get developers out of environmentally sensitive lands and into the inner city. Land at Mueller Airport or commercial concessions could be traded for Four Points, and Perot could probably put it to good use. (As long as we watch him!) So far, the City of Austin has been reluctant to look at the possibility, but there is a hint of interest in the mainstream environmental groups. (And face it, this is work for the Sierra Club, not Earth First!)

With Perot considering another run at the Presidency, this may be a good time to pressure him to do the right thing. Perot is known for the wild schemes he accomplishes that nobody else would even attempt. (Remember Treaty Oak.) Finangling a land swap would be easy for him, and could turn him into the candidate that had a preserve just named after him, instead of the one that feathers his nest with endangered birds.

BLACK-CAPPED VIREO





# ROADS, ROADS ... AND MORE ROADS

Roger Baker

Major U.S. metropolitan economies such as the Austin Metropolitan area actually operate as giant units linked by automobiles at the base of their economy, bound together by a regional infrastructure of roads. This leads to the notion that an inherently efficient government would ideally try to match this economic reality by combining city and county governments into a metropolitan government with proportional political representation. In this way, competing economic interests of professionals in the suburbs are shared with inner city low income groups within the same political tent. We would all have a shared interest in managing the whole region both efficiently and democratically. Otherwise the process tends to be hamstrung with competing governmental bodies squabbling over money for roads. Some on the Austin Transportation Study (ATS) (the body that plans Austin roadways) have even criticized Austin's efforts to do the very compact city planning mandated by ATS's own goals.

Perhaps roadway planners should study economics as closely as politics. Planning the base infrastructure really underlies attempts to efficiently shape

growth for the entire region. During the mid-1980's Austin boom, as I suspect that some ATS politicians



might admit off the record and after a second beer, big new roads like the Outer Loop were planned as a political payoff to real estate development interests. In this process a few names like Wendler and Honts seemed to crop up a lot. Little has changed since creation of Austin area wealth is still closely tied to real estate, far more closely than to the globally competitive high tech industry.

The problem transportation planners are facing is a breakdown in the

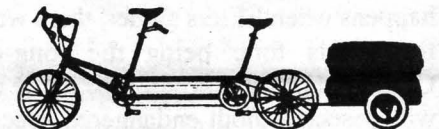
economics of transportation through road building that influences the cost of both skilled and unskilled labor for

the high tech industry. As mobility plummets with additional suburban sprawl geared to maximize suburban real estate values, so does effective mobility decrease. Thus the labor force for Apple and IBM and Applied Materials shrinks to anyone who can fight traffic that end of town after dropping off the kids. San Jose and Silicon Valley both undermined their economic base of manufacturing (tied closely to low labor costs) by not planning and managing long run

growth very well. Will the Austin metropolitan area become too costly due to rising labor costs even before the Samsung plant is obsolete? Could this then be partly a result of transportation politics closely tied to suburban real estate development?

The plate tectonic of competing economic interests are shifting and starting to push ATS toward a new emphasis on metropolitan mobility and regional efficiency tied to transportation planning. We are now seeing the political ascendancy of a block of capital wealth closely tied to the cost of labor which in turn is tied to the soundness of metropolitan government. The best economic interests of Cypress and Motorola and Samsung may diverge from those of Jim Bob and Gary.

I am hopeful that our grassroots citizen group ROUTE can continue to play a beneficial role in this process to help facilitate a shift in public thinking -- toward rethinking the planning of Austin's transportation and land use infrastructure.



# Sprawling All Over

John Thoms

As everyone knows, the Austin area is growing at an intense rate. The Austin city council may talk about a compact city, but real commitment to the goal of reducing urban sprawl is absent. Austin has a population of 465,622. In 1990, the Austin area (including Travis, Hays, and Williamson counties, from the 1990 census) had a population of 781,572. Out of this population, 315,950 lived outside of the central city area. So nearly half of the population lives outside of the central area and must commute to Austin. This urban sprawl significantly affects our air, water, and land.

People are living in Pflugerville (Travis county), Round Rock and Taylor (both in Williamson county), but drive to Austin for work, goods, and services. Commuting from distant communities obviously entails a growing reliance on petroleum products. Petroleum is a nonrenewable resource. A growing dependence on a vanishing resource lacks foresight and common sense. In addition, the burning of fossil fuels contributes considerably to air pollution, which will become a greater problem in central Texas as more people bring more cars.

Tailpipe emissions aren't the only ways cars impact our air. Cars use tires, which are replaced often during a car's "life" span. The tires must go somewhere after car owners replace them. A cement kiln located in Buda (about ten mile south of Austin) is currently burning old tires. A kiln is not an incinerator; they lack the

emission control devices and have fewer regulations concerning emissions than incinerators. Consequently, the area has been and will continue to be inundated with toxic emissions, including dioxins. Continued reliance on motor vehicles will mean the continuation of tire disposal. Reducing use and dependence on cars will reduce the number of tires that must be disposed of. We must all breathe the same air, we must keep it clean.

Water, the basis of all life is essential; however, the city continues to expand and develop over the Edwards Aquifer. This aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for 30,000 people. Due to highways such as 290 and MoPac, oil and filth contributes to the runoff that recharges the aquifer. 290 is going to be widened to a twelve and fourteen lane highway to accommodate the people moving into southwest Austin. Increasing the capacity of the highway will not necessarily reduce traffic, but it is a means to facilitate sprawl. MoPac runs directly over the aquifer as well. As more motor vehicles travel over the aquifer and its recharge zone, there can only be more toxic run off into the water system that we depend on for life.

Land is another aspect of our environment that is of vital importance. Urban sprawl reduces the amount of unpaved land. We are not the only inhabitants of our ecosystem. Our unabated expansion threatens animals such as the Golden Cheeked Warbler, Barton Springs Salamander, and other critters. Agricultural land is also in jeopardy. We

live in a time of (perceived) extreme abundance. We let food rot in storage. Grocery stores throw away an inordinate amount of fresh produce (often due to a few bruises or markings), and individuals contribute to the waste through over consumption and general participation in a throwaway society. This perceived abundance will not always exist, so as more and more people populate the world we will need to make an effort to keep land open, fertile, and available for future use.

It is not too late to curtail urban sprawl. Austin has been recognized nationally as an environmental city; but the environmental consciousness and understanding is being lost as the city expands outward. Now is the time to determine the future of our community. Urban bicycle commuting is becoming a possibility for many more people. All city busses now have racks to accommodate your bicycle. The long battle waged by the citizens of Austin to protect Barton Springs from the negative effects of development is in a crucial phase. Resistance to the continual outward expansion of Austin must be truly incorporated into the struggle to maintain Austin's health and integrity. The city needs to grow up, not out. We need to look ahead and act on the stated desire of many citizens and city officials to contain the outward growth of Austin.



# The Criminal System of (In)justice

John Thoms

A number of Austin EF!ers have been dealing with the (in)justice system since the release of the last *Paperwrench*. During a protest of a Nature Conservancy conference honoring dozens of the most heinous corporations for their "commitment to the environment," Pam Thompson, Neal Tuttrup, and John Thoms were arrested for "criminal trespassing" on public park land. After seven court appearances, the City of Austin, the Four Seasons Hotel, and the Shoreline Grill dropped all charges. The charges were bogus from the beginning since Neal and John were arrested for walking down a public sidewalk and Pam was dragged out of the line of protesters for questioning their arrest.

No one expected to go to jail during the protest. It was supposed to be standard political theater with sign-waving and chanting. The point was to draw attention to the Nature Conservancy's green-washing of corporate reputations, not to get into jail.

The next legal slaughter of EF!ers took place in February in Tucson, Arizona, right after the national Earth First! Activist Conference. As usually happens when EF!ers gather, there was a protest, the focus this time being the long-contested Mt. Graham telescope project (which is on public land, will desecrate both endangered species habitat and Apache sacred sites, and is sponsored by the Vatican).

This protest is a good case study. Although many of the arrests can certainly be attributed to overzealous cops, many avoidable mistakes were made by EF!ers. Of the dozens of singing, dancing protesters that filled Congressman Jim Kolbe's office, only three planned to be arrested. By the time we were through, nearly twenty of us were behind bars. Two of the Austin crew, Paul Garlinghouse and Dug Schoellkopf, were arrested. Although their cases have been resolved, they are still waiting for their \$1,000 bail. For their "crimes"



the expansion of an existing golf course through endangered species habitat on "our" public land with the use of tax money. For his "crime" of adhering to a higher law, he received an unprecedented \$2000 fine and had to endure a very stressful trip through the legal meat grinder.

How useful were these arrests? The Nature Conservancy is still honoring corporations as friends of the environment. The Mount Graham bill passed as a rider on the Federal Budget Appropriations Bill. In Bastrop, people will soon be playing golf where trees and life had recently been. Awareness was raised, but at an outrageous cost. Progress marches on, and Earth First!ers have wasted time, energy, and money that could have gone toward something much more productive.

One way that the F.B.I.'s Cointelpro Program disrupted movements like the Black Panthers and the American Indian Movement was through jailing activists and supporters. The Contelpro tactics disrupted group actions as more and more energy, time, and money were spent in dealing with the legal system. We should learn from the past by striving to keep ourselves out of courtrooms and jails.

We should, however, not fear going to jail. We should take pride in being willing to stand up, resist, and not shut up when we are told to. We shouldn't ever let the fear of jail keep us from fighting.

We need to conserve our resources for fighting the corporations and the destruction that we see all around us. So let's keep fighting, but take care to keep ourselves out from behind bars.

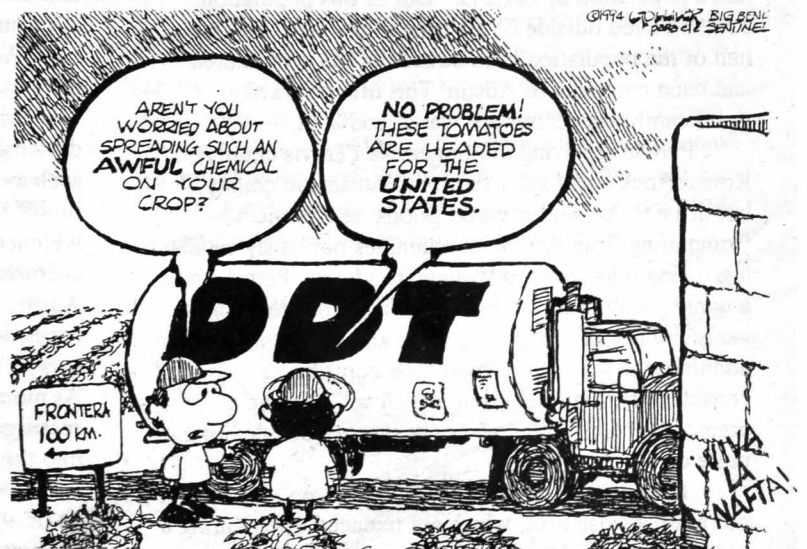
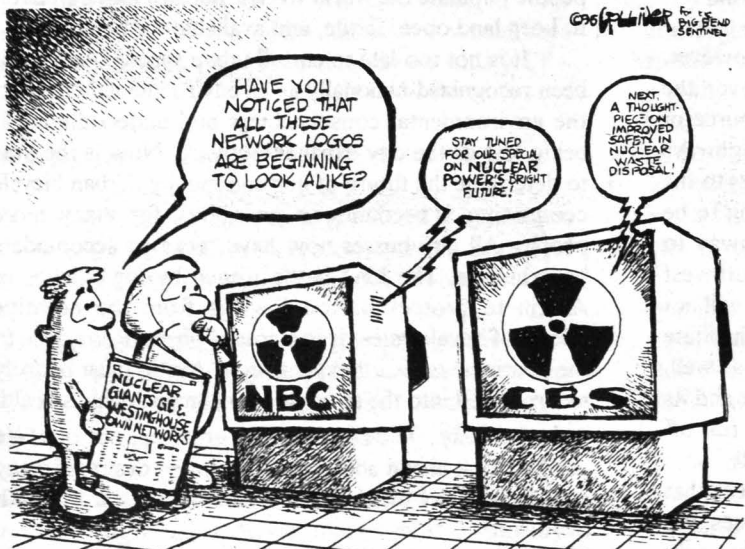


DANGER ! TECHNOLOGY AT WORK

they were sentenced to community service. The sentence could have been worse, but they did have to borrow money for bail, lost money due to time away from work, and had to deal with the stress and hassles of the legal system.

The next sad tale is that of Danny Dollinger, who locked down to a bulldozer in Bastrop State Park just outside of Austin. He was protesting

6





# Hill Country Wild

Chris Wilhite

During the past century, through work achieved by John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall and many others, one of the finest conservation programs in the world has been laid down in America. Through such legislation as the Wilderness Recovery Act of 1964 and the Endangered Species Act huge areas of wilderness have been protected (at least in the west). But something drastic is missing. Numbers in large vertebrate populations are still declining, as is the overall biological diversity of the country. The reason for this is quite simple. Not only were most national parks and wilderness areas chosen and protected mainly for aesthetic qualities, but they are all isolated from one another. They, in effect, function as separate islands of wilderness in an ocean of civilization and resource extraction. Those life forms living within these islands are thus genetically isolated.

In order to preserve the biodiversity of the Earth as well as the evolutionary processes which formed that diversity, these islands must be reconnected so as to allow natural migratory patterns of species. The Wildlands Project was founded to help do just that. Also known as the North American Wilderness Recovery Project, it is dedicated to the restoration and protection of the richness of native biodiversity through the development of a wilderness recovery network throughout North America. A wilderness recovery network is a system of very large, strictly protected core areas of habitat. These preserves are buffered by areas of human activities compatible with the preservation of native biodiversity and connected by biological corridors

to allow for natural migration patterns of species, and ecological process.\*

Hill Country Wild is a local organization founded to preserve the native species and evolutionary processes in the Texas Hill Country. Our immediate goals are to educate the people of the Texas

historically home to Mexican Wolf, Black Bear, Beaver, Bison and Pronghorn. There are four distinct microregions within the Hill Country Ecosystem. The most distinct region is the Llano Uplift. The soil of this area is completely different from surrounding areas, because granite bedrock has been

Country is called Lampasas Cut Plains. The biota here is very similar to the Canyonlands, though it is more prairie-like with rolling hills.

## FOR THE SAKE OF WILDERNESS!

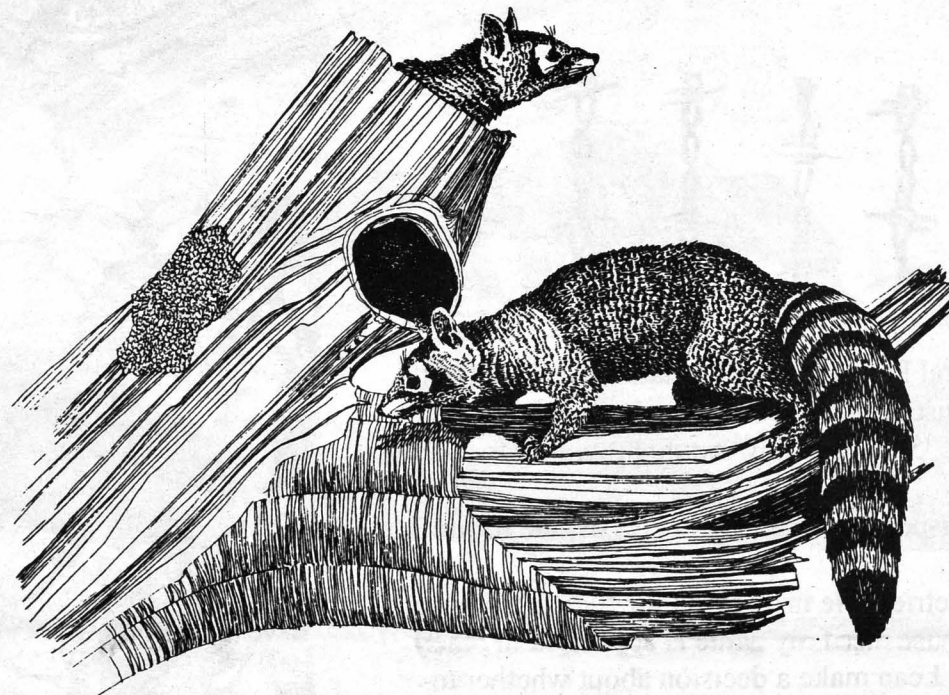
We invite and encourage all conservation biologists, ecologists, activists, lawyers, politicians, land owners, students and anybody else who wishes to see the wildness and biodiversity of the Hill Country restored and preserved to help create a reserve design plan that is consistent with The Wildlands Project and the premises of conservation biology and that will effectively preserve the integrity, health and continued evolution of this ecosystem for future generations and continued evolution of bears, wolves, pumas, warblers, eagles, cedars, oaks and even humans.

Contact: Chris Wilhite (512/477-0956)  
Hill Country Wild  
1727 E. 38 1/2 St.  
Austin, TX 78722

The Wildlands Project  
P.O. Box 5365  
Tucson, AZ 78741

(A magazine which acts as a forum for The Wildlands Project and the New Conservation Movement: *Wild Earth*, P.O. Box 455, Richmond, VT 05447.)

\*Noss, Reed. "The Wildlands Project Land Conservation Strategy." *Wild Earth* Special Issue 1992: 10-25.



Hill Country about the Wildlands Project and to design a regional wilderness recovery network by the year 2000. The implementation of such a conservation strategy will be a long term effort played out over the next century.

### OUR BIOREGION

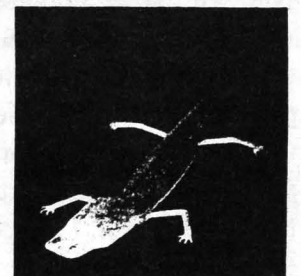
The Texas Hill Country is one of the most beautiful and biologically rich areas in Texas. It is home to several endangered birds, karst invertebrates, and plants. It is also

pushed up through the upper limestone geological layers. Its sandier soils support flora that are unique to the region within the Hill Country. To the west is the Edwards Plateau, whose typical limestone soils mainly support Oak, Juniper and Mesquite savannas. The Edwards plateau is bordered on the south and east by the Balcones Escarpment or Canyonlands. These canyons cross the Edwards Aquifer and support a wealth of biological diversity. The northeastern region of the Hill

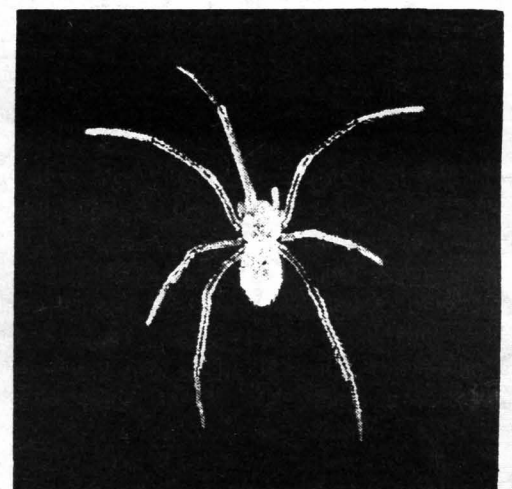
Texas

Blind

Salamander



Tooth Cave Spider



7

(Continued from page 2) *Endangered Species*

under the plan, an average of only \$5,500 an acre is budgeted to buy land. Many landowners, some of whom bought the land at 1980's boom town prices, are simply unwilling to sell at that price. The asking price for some of the best Warbler habitat is a ridiculously inflated \$90,000 an acre. Many environmentalists feel that only with the infusion of millions of federal dollars to augment the BCCP will it be possible to obtain viable preserves for the birds. As the state poorest in public land, it may be time for Texas to start catching up, for the sake of wildlife and people.

It will be a tragedy for many environmentalists, even those who support the BCCP, to see so much of the hills west of town sacrificed to development. While significant acreage of habitat will be acquired for the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge on the Travis / Williamson County line, many Austinites had

hoped that the more immediately threatened habitat closer to town would take priority. Austin residents, like endangered species, are negatively impacted by sprawl development, especially that taking place in water supply watersheds.

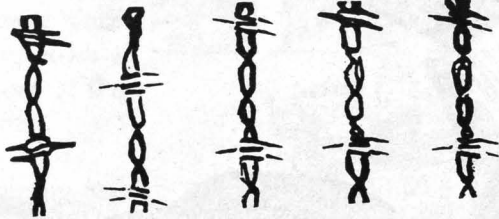
If it is true that the BCCP is the best we could hope for, we may have to accept that, and let the species take the lumps. We should not, however, accept a sugar-coated lie that the BCCP is a plan that will guarantee our endangered species' survival. If there is any good to come from our sacrifice in Austin, it will be if we can join together in a determined, united environmental movement to strengthen, fund, and improve the Endangered Species Act.



# "Just because you're paranoid ..."

... doesn't mean they aren't out to get you. A fun way to spend five minutes of your time is to fill out this form and send it to the F.B.I. It will put you in line to get your very own F.B.I. file. You may be waiting awhile, since as of May 31st, 1996 they had a backlog of 15,259 pending requests. A recent Associated Press article said, "most of these requests were filed by individuals (74.6 percent) and prisoners (14.7 percent)."

Kevin O'Brien  
FOIA Section Chief  
FBI Headquarters  
935 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535



Dear Sir:

This is a request under the Federal Freedom of Information Act, the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, the common law of the United States, the Privacy Act (5. U.S.C) sec. 552a, and any statute providing for public access to government information.

I request that I be permitted to inspect (and receive copies of) the following documents:

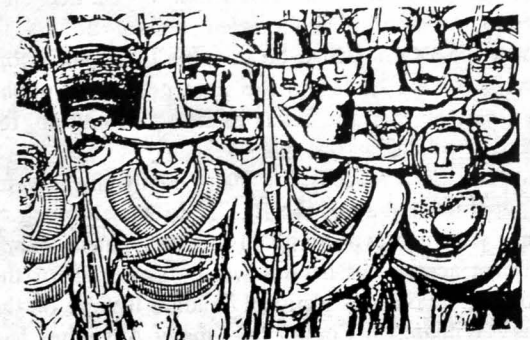
I wish to obtain all documents retrievable in a search for files listed under my name, \_\_\_\_\_. Please advise me if my name is contained in other "See Reference" files as well, so that I can make a decision about whether to have any such files searched.

If you have any questions about the nature or scope of this request, please call me at the phone number listed above.

If all or any part of my request is denied, please list specific exemptions which are being claimed to withhold information. If you determine that some portions of the requested material are exempt, I will expect, as the Act provides, that you will provide me with the remaining non-exempt portions. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal any decision to withhold information and expect that you will list the address and office where such an appeal can be sent.

As you know, the amended FOIA permits you to reduce or waive search and/or copying fees when release of the requested information would be "in the public interest." I believe this request plainly falls into that category. I will not use the information for any profit making enterprise but only for my research, and therefore I ask that you waive such fees. If this request is processed under the Privacy Act, I expect, as the Act provides, that no fees will be charged for locating requested files.

If you have any questions, please call me at the above telephone number. As provided by the FOIA, I expect to receive a reply within ten days.





# Why does Earth First! hate bombs?

Neal Tuttrup

The following article appeared on the editorial page of the Austin American Statesman in May, 1996.

"Earth First!ers are terrorists."

This accusation has been made repeatedly in local and national media since the arrest of Ted Kaczynski, the accused unabomber. Austin Earth First! deeply resents the implication that we advocate violence as a means of social change. Earth First!ers have been put at risk by those who have conveyed this impression to millions of Americans.

While Earth First! has no formal structure, we define and maintain our movement's philosophy and tactics at our gatherings and in our publications. At the heart of this philosophy is a belief that all life is sacred and that its destruction is immoral. Those who try to introduce violence into the movement are condemned and suspected as provocateurs sent to discredit our cause.

The ecological destruction caused by modern society is massive and indiscriminate violence, destroying both human and non-human life, now and in the future. We do not seek to replace one violent culture with another.

Earth First! relies primarily upon traditional forms of political activism, including protests, research, writing and public testimony. Some Earth First!ers believe that the ecological crisis is so serious and that industry is so unwilling to incorporate an ecological perspective that sabotage of Earth-destroying machinery is justifiable. In the realm of sabotage, Earth First! opposes tactics which seek to

endanger humans.

Anti-environmentalists, however, have repeatedly used violence to advance their cause. The Center for Investigative Reporting documented 104 violent attacks on environmentalists between January 1989 and

link has been presented? ABC News reported that Kaczynski was present at "a meeting which top level members of Earth First! attended, at the University of Montana." This "meeting" was a conference sponsored by a grassroots environmental group called the Native Forest Network. Over 400 people attended that conference, including representatives of the U.S. Forest Service and environmentalists from Poland, Scotland, England, Chile, Mexico, Canada and Australia. ABC and others have also implied that our national publication, the Earth First! Journal, published a "hit list" containing the names of unabomber targets. This is not true. The Earth First! Journal has a policy against printing material that advocates violence.



Judi and Darryl were arrested for transporting explosives, based on the FBI's claim that the bomb was located in plain view on the rear seat floorboard. But the police's own photos show that the bomb was hidden under the driver's seat, and meant to kill.

## WHO BOMBED JUDI BARI? Ask the F.B.I.

January 1993. In 1990, Earth First!ers Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney were car-bombed while organizing a non-violent campaign to save the last redwoods. The bomb, which was under the driver's seat, nearly killed Judi and left her permanently disabled. In 1995, the office of Nevada Forest Service Ranger Guy Pence was blown up by property rights advocates. Four months later, his house was bombed while his wife and daughter were home. In Austin, the regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service resigned after receiving numerous threats.

So what evidence of an Earth First! / unabomber

syndicated editorial calling the unabomber an "Earth-first, Birkenschlock academic quasi-Marxist" and called for his execution by "a stout rope, a thick branch, and a twitchy horse." Who will take responsibility when violent rhetoric such as this gets another one of us blown up?

The only thing we seek to threaten through our activism is the corporate system that is dominating and destroying life on Earth. Whether in the form of Freeport McMoRan, NAFTA, or GATT, the corporate system is our target and the truth is our weapon of choice.

Austin Food not Bombs is continually looking for volunteers to help in any way possible. Cook, Serve, Clean, Pick-ups, Riot (optional), etc. Contact us at: (512)-406-1702

Yummy Vegan Food!  
Food For People  
Not For Profit!

FOOD  
NOT  
BOMBS



No se puede fundar el bienestar de los menos en el malestar de los mas!

**Acción Zapatista** is an Austin group working to raise awareness of the struggle for justice in Chiapas, throughout Mexico and in our community.

Weekly meetings are Tuesdays at 8:00 P.M. on the UT Campus, in Garrison Hall, room 100. You can also meet the AZ crowd on Friday evenings (early) at Pato's Tacos, 1400 E. 38th 1/2 St.

Phone: (512) 478-5237

e-mail: nave@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Web page: <http://www.utexas.edu/students/nave/>





# CORPORATE DOMINATION -- FREEPORT STYLE

Bill Medaille

After a week of rioting in the remote jungles of Papua New Guinea, Freeport McMoRan's CEO Jim Bob Moffett visited with forty tribespeople to hear their concerns about Freeport's copper and gold mine. Mama Yosepha, one of the women who was detained in a [Freeport mining] container last year, said to Moffett in the Amungme language: "My son Moffett, in the past I put you inside my noken [noken is a native woven bag that the Amungme women use to carry babies and piglets], I took you with me wherever I went, but I did not realize that you actually suck my blood until it's all drained, and I remain only in bones without flesh. Now I pick you out of my noken and will throw you far away." (And she threw her noken to the floor.)

James Moffett then spoke to Mama Yosepha: "Mama, isn't there any time and ways for us to have peace?" (in tears for the second time in the meeting).

Mama Yosepha answered, "When I have thrown something, I will not pick it again. But if you promise to fulfill our demand [including the right to be consulted on any expansion of the mine], written on paper, then I will put you inside my noken again."

A week later Freeport announced an agreement with Bechtel Corp. to begin a redoubling of the mine production. The Amungme were not consulted.

Freeport McMoRan is a monstrosity. Those of us who have worked to oppose them find it difficult to put into words the extent of their crimes, as they run roughshod over democracy, ecological sanity, and basic human rights. This multinational corporation exerts its wealth and power to dominate those around it, and weaves an intricate web to support its hegemony.

Freeport acts on numerous levels to maintain its power. It is closely tied with brutal (genocidal, corrupt, repressive, expansionist, totalitarian, racist, capitalist, American installed, backed, and financed,) government of Indonesia. Indonesia owns 10% of Freeport's huge gold copper mine in Irian Jaya, and provides troops to protect it from indigenous people and to keep outsiders from observing. Freeport lobbies Washington for military aid to Indonesia. President Suharto lobbies Washington for corporate welfare for Freeport. Two bloated backs thus get scratched.

To dominate on the home front, Freeport relies on three props: contributions to political candidates, buying up the free press, and "gifts" to select organizations. Freeport has given

tens of thousands to city council candidates in Austin, and mayor Bruce Todd sits squarely in their pocket.

Many in the Texas legislature have also benefited from gifts from Freeport's ten Texas lobbyists, leading to a new term in the local parlance: "Austin-bashing." Nationwide, members of Congress have been gifted with over \$730,000 from Freeport.

reporter Garland Robinette, NBC reporter Gerard Braud and Austin American-Statesmen reporter Bill Collier, and turning them into company spokesmen (or spokesrobots from all appearances). New Orleans and Austin have both lost formerly aggressive journalists to this tactic.

The third leg of Freeport's control strategy is gifts to specific

opposition from the student body, faculty and community.

These are by no means the extent of Freeport's attempts to dominate their world. Lawsuits are common. The City of Austin is still fighting one, while seven activists, journalists, and university professors were recently threatened with SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) suits.

Freeport meanwhile strengthens its links to other multinationals, building a copper smelter with Fluor Daniels and Mitsubishi and expanding their Grasberg mine with the help of Bechtel and RTZ (which Survival International in 1992 named the greatest corporate threat to indigenous peoples). A Freeport joint venture with well-known polluter Asarco will experiment with underground acid-solution copper mining near Casa Grande, Arizona (with \$16 million of federal money).

It is difficult for Freeport watchers to understand how this company, which owns the world's largest gold mine and which was the nation's largest water polluter in 1989 and the largest overall toxic polluter in 1992 and 1993, can maintain such a low profile. Until very recently, Freeport was known by few Americans outside of Austin and New Orleans. This situation is changing rapidly, however, as rioting and hostage-taking in West Papua have focused global attention on Freeport. As people from movements of all kinds become more aware of the threat that transnational corporations pose to humans, democracy, and the Earth, Freeport is becoming known as a full partner in ignominy with the likes of Exxon, Shell, Mitsubishi, and DuPont.

**For more information on Freeport, contact: Freeport Watch  
P.O. 850701  
New Orleans, LA 70185**



Senator Bennett Johnston, who scored \$8,000 from Freeport, has pushed to gut the Endangered Species Act (which hinders Freeport's developments), to kill the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory (which keeps listing Freeport as the worst polluter nationwide), and to resume small arms sales to Indonesia (you need guns to guard mines).

Freeport's spending spree in the media has been no less awe inspiring. Opposition to Freeport brings an immediate response in advertising consisting of half hour "infomercials" and full page ads in local and national newspapers (costing in the tens of thousands a pop). (An eight page ad in Texas Monthly is just a drop from the bucket of the PR team's budget.)

Suddenly the media don't feel obliged to cover the shadier bits of one of their biggest advertisers. Even more insidious, Freeport has a habit of buying up media critics, such as CBS

organizations. Gifts to the Nature Conservancy of Texas helped them smooth over the rough waters of building a megadevelopment the city doesn't want; gifts to charities help bring out pro-Freeport speakers at city council meeting; gifts to all five New Orleans universities get Freeport people into academic circles and let them draft mission statements for the chairs they endow. Gifts to the University of Texas at Austin have reaped perhaps the biggest returns. UT Chancellor William Cunningham (who until very recently sat on Freeport's Board of Directors) helped set up contracts employing UT geology students and professors to explore for more minerals in Indonesia for Freeport - at a fraction of the cost of hiring a professional surveying firm. Also, Freeport's gifts and Cunningham's support have gotten a building under construction to be named for the CEO Jim Bob Moffett in the teeth of





# Freeport at a Glance

Freeport McMoRan is a Fortune 500 company known best for its gold and copper mine in West Papua, Indonesia. As the worlds largest gold reserve and the third largest open pit copper mine, this consession is worth an estimated \$60 billion, and generated \$380 million last year alone. Copper ore from the Grasberg mine is now smelted in Freeport's Rio Tinto Minera facility in Huelva, Spain. A joint venture with Fluor Daniel and Mitsubishi will establish an additional smelter in Java, Indonesia by 1998.

In Casa Grande, Arizona, a joint venture with Asarco will test underground acid-solution copper mining. A gold mine in Jerritt Canyon, Nevada is a joint venture with the FMC Corp.

IMC-Agrico is one of Freeport's main cash cow subsidiaries, producing agricultural minerals. IMC-Agrico operates eight open pit phosphate rock mines in central Florida. In New Wales, Florida is their concentrated phosphates operation, the largest of its kind in the world. Another plant is located in Mulberry, FL. IMC-Agrico has two mines near Esterhazy, Saskatchewan which produces muriate of potash. A mine near Carlsbad, New Mexico produces potash under the SUL-PO-MAG brand name. Fifteen facilities in the Southern U.S., including Hahnville, St. James, and Uncle Sam, Louisiana produce SUPER RAINBOW, RAINBOW and INTERNATIONAL brand names fertilizers. These operations make Freeport the largest phosphate fertilizer producer in the world (And the biggest water polluter.)

Main Pass 299 is an IMC-Agrico sulfur, oil and natural gas mine in the Gulf of Mexico offshore Louisiana.

Many oil and gas properties are owned by subsidiary Freeport McMoRan Resource Partners, L.P. Subsidiary Freeport Uranium Recovery Co. is involved in uranium extraction in West Texas.

A subsidiary of Freeport, Barton Creek Properties is developing a four thousand+ acre tract on Austin, Texas' beloved Barton Creek, threatening the creek and Barton Springs, and endangered species habitat.

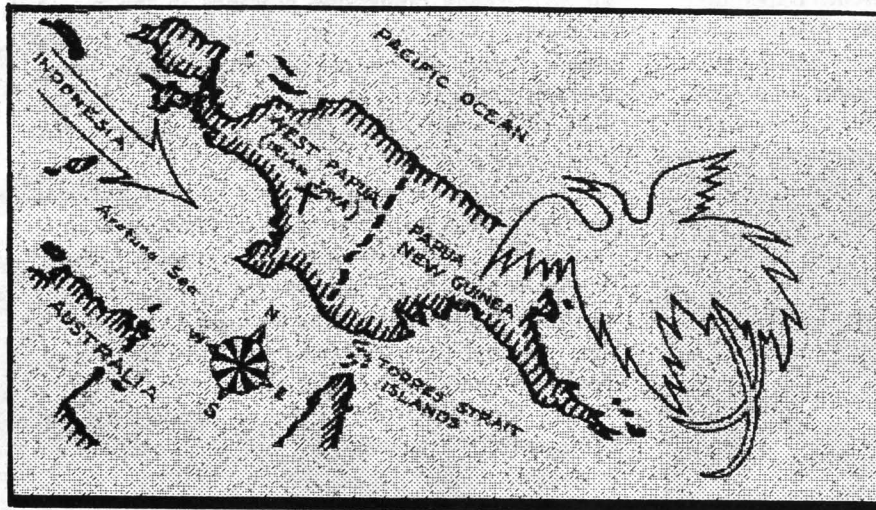
Freeport's Board of Directors notables include Jim Bob Moffett, CEO of Freeport. Raised in Houston in a

fatherless household, Moffett went to UT and made the football team. After graduating from UT in 1961, he moved to New Orleans and went into busines with two partners to form McMoRan, an oil exploration company, and became it's CEO in 1980. In '81 he merged the company with Freeport Minerals (which was already mining in West Papua), forming Freeport McMoRan. Moffett is flamboyant, often quoted to his own embarrassment. Although often portrayed as a

lobbied Clinton.

Ward Woodward is also on Freeport's BOD. While he is also the Director of Boise-Cascade, his seat on the Board of Governors of the Nature Conservancy is probably the most helpful to Freeport, as it continues to require green-washing services for public relations.

Until recently, "Dollar" Bill Cunningham, Chancellor of the University of Texas System, was also



The Freeport Watch logo symbolizes our quest to find the whole truth. The missing section of the "W" represents the piece of the puzzle that some try to hide from you. We plan to put the *entire* puzzle together. Any resemblance to any other logo, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

neuvo-riche buffoon, Moffett is an extremely shrewd, if ethically challenged businessman with a drive to succeed that makes one wonder what he's trying to prove, or who he's trying to impress. ("Daddy??")

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is on Freeport's BOD, and the lobbyist of choice for dealings with Indonesia. (He visited with Suharto just before the bloody invasion of East Timor, to give full American support.) When the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (a U.S. government agency) cancelled Freeport's (taxpayer funded) political risk insurance for the West Papuan mine, Kissinger lobbied President Clinton to get the policy reinstated. Indonesian dictator Suharto has also personally

lobbied Clinton. Cunningham greased the wheel for the Geology Dept. of UT to send grad students and professors to prospect for Freeport in West Papua, and convinced the UT System Board of Regents to name a new UT building after Jim Bob Moffett. Cunningham resigned from the BOD shortly after Freeport threatened to sue UT professors who distributed information about the human rights situation in West Papua.



## EF! Harangues U.T. System Chancellor

During yet another UT campus rally against the naming of a new molecular biology building after Jim Bob Moffett (for which the Earth First! Players performed a skit [see photo page 10]), we heard that three of the men involved in the naming, Chancellor Bill Cunningham, Robert Berdahl, and Bernard Rapport, would be present for the dedication of the Music building to be named after a *good* guy, Homer Price Rainey. So later that afternoon we gathered our banners, posters, fitted the monstrous Jim Bob head on Nikki, and took our places in the lobby of the building. Like I said, Rainey was a good guy, known for his advocacy of academic freedom, so the posh audience was actually fairly receptive to our message.

After the ceremony, the audience



and speakers moved out to a patio for tea and cookies, where Cunningham et al. were in broad view and subject to the protesters many complaints. Perhaps hoping to draw away our fire,

Cunningham soon left the gathering. But walking down the sidewalk, he had to pass Cedar, Alfred, and Dug, who just stood their ground.

As Cunningham passed them, Cedar followed him and said, "I burned my diploma because of what you're doing." Cunningham giggled, (tipsy, we think) "Hee hee, you - er, you did what!?" Cedar explained, "I have a degree but I'm ashamed to be associated with UT because of it's involvement with Freeport McMoRan. But I'm not really surprised to see the University dealing with evil corporations - y'all were heavily invested in South Africa during the height of apartheid." To which Cunningham quipped, "Oh, well you know, we were never invested in

South Africa." Cedar was going to recall for Mr. Cunningham the campus struggle against apartheid and UT investment that lasted for nearly ten years, but of course by then, a campus cop was dragging her away from the vicinity.

Riding their bikes home, the group again encountered Bill in his car and surrounded it as he was being driven. Cedar was saying things that he could probably interpret even through glass, but nevertheless he rolled down the window. "Pathetic corporate lapdog!" said Cedar. Cunningham just grinned like any goofy nerd aspiring to be a frat. Making the appropriate sign, he yelled, "HOOK 'EM HORNS!!"



# Hostage Situation Highlights Freeport

Dug Schoellkopf

On January 8, 1996, a unit of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) under the command of Daniel Kogoya moved into the village of Mapnduma, West Papua, 120 km east of the Freeport mine, and took 26 people hostage. Armed mostly with traditional spears and bows, the guerrillas managed to elude the Indonesian military for the next four months, hiding in the often impenetrable rain forest with which they are intimately familiar. All the hostages were connected with the Lorentz Expedition Team 1995, a team employed by the Worldwide Fund for Nature doing biological surveys for the proposed Lorentz National Park in the Freeport concession area. This research began in November 1995, at a time when



political tension in the region was very high due to growing opposition to the Freeport copper and gold mine.

Because seven of the hostages were Europeans, world-wide attention was soon focused on the kidnapping. For the first time since Indonesia's "annexation" of West Papua in 1963, the international news media took a critical look at conditions in the country. Newspapers around the world suddenly printed stories of human rights abuses at the hands of the Indonesian forces (ABRI), as well as the devastation caused by the Freeport mine. In a list of grievances presented by the guerrillas to Catholic intermediaries, the annexation of traditional lands for mining figured prominently.

At the request of Kelly Kwalik, commander of the IIIrd OPM Command which operates in the Freeport concession area, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was called in to mediate. By February 7, when the ICRC took over from the missionaries who had been acting as negotiators, thirteen hostages had been released, including a German man who offered to return to his captors as a mediator. His offer was refused. All of those released reported that they had been treated well by their captors, and did not fear for the safety of the remaining captives at the hands of the OPM.

The ICRC's involvement allowed the hostages to get messages to their families, as well as receive food and clothing, and medical attention. The OPM captors did nothing to prevent this, and the hostages later spoke

warmly of the sacrifices made by local villagers on their behalf. However, a steady build-up of ABRI forces in the area, apparently preparing for a military rescue of the hostages, caused the captors to shift their location repeatedly. This caused great hardship for the captives, especially for a Dutch woman who was four months pregnant.

Early on in the crisis, the army set up command in Timika, Freeport's company town. They soon began conducting massive search operations, and maintained an increasingly oppressive presence in the region, intimidating local inhabitants. Reports of killings and rapes by ABRI soldiers became commonplace. In one instance, three young boys were killed by a grenade placed in a stack of food parcels by soldiers who fled their village after raping a young girl.

In March, the OPM released two West Papuan hostages, a local priest and Abraham Wainggai, a close relative of Thomas Wainggai, a political prisoner whose death a few days earlier sparked massive rioting in Jayapura. The other eleven hostages remained with their captors for the remainder of the ordeal, frequently on the run to elude ABRI patrols.

In April, the ICRC, acting on Kwalik's request, contacted OPM leaders overseas, who ordered the hostages' release. Kwalik refused, however, saying that the hostages were the only assurance against army reprisals against the local population. Meanwhile, army intelligence was busy sowing discord among local indigenous people, in particular recruiting members of the Nduga tribe to infiltrate OPM ranks, a task which would not be impossible given the support the guerrillas receive from hundreds of local villages.

In the latter half of April, Kwalik and Daniel Kogoya were absent when the ICRC turned up for talks and negotiations proceeded with other OPM fighters who seemed more inclined to release the hostages. On May 1, an ICRC suggestion that the release take place on May 8, International Red Cross Day, to give the event a high international profile, was agreed to by Silas Kogoya, though apparently without approval from Kwalik.

Nevertheless preparations went underway for a large pig feast to celebrate the occasion in the village of Geselama. The event was attended by hundreds of local villagers in an air of festivity, but at some point Kwalik announced that the release could only take place after the recognition of a free West Papua.

On May 9, the ICRC returned for one last attempt to change Kwalik's mind, but soon returned disappointed to Timika, where they announced their withdrawal as mediators. Within hours, army helicopters were in the air and the great military rescue was underway. Three of the hostages later reported that as they fled the village of Geselama with about twenty OPM fighters under the command of Silas Kogoya, they heard shooting and explosions, and saw much gun smoke.

Later reports stated that ABRI helicopters landed in the village and opened fire on the inhabitants as they approached, apparently mistaking the aircraft for ICRC. The massacre that resulted left at least seven villagers dead, although some reports place the death toll much higher.

The next six days of their ordeal were nightmarish, as the hostages were continually on the move, often meeting whole villages of people on the run, fleeing the military carnage. The true extent of the toll on the local people is hard to determine, as no independent observers were on hand.

After tracking the group with an infrared equipped pilotless aircraft, and according to some

reports, with the aid of British military "advisors", the army cornered the group on May 15, and secured the release of nine of the hostages. Tragically, however, two of the hostages, both Indonesian, were hacked to death with a machete wielded by an unknown assailant. Although most accounts attribute this murder to the OPM guerrillas, evidence is lacking.

Hostages who witnessed the attack, including the fiancée of one of the victims, claim the man was a West Papuan whom they had never seen before. Given that the army had recruited Nduga tribesmen to infiltrate the OPM, and because many believed throughout the crisis that the military would need dead hostages to back up their claims that the OPM are "murderous savages" and "terrorists", it is not unlikely that the murderer was acting at the behest of the nearby troops. In any case, the army has vowed to pursue the guerrillas to the finish, and unless international observers make a large presence in the area, more massacres of local villages are likely to follow.



*In memory of the  
200,000 Victims of  
Indonesian  
Imperialism in  
East Timor,  
on the  
20th Anniversary of  
the Invasion  
on December 7, 1975*



# Amungme Leader Visits New Orleans

On May 23, 1996, Mr. Tom Beanal, leader of the Amungme Tribal Council and principal in a \$6 billion suit against Freeport-McMoRan, spoke at Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Mr. Beanal is the head of LEMASA (the Amungme Tribal Council), a former legislative government council member, the head of the Lorentz Foundation, and a member of the Presidium of WALHI, the leading Indonesian environmental organization.

Mr. Beanal's presentation was sponsored by the Loyola Environmental Studies program, several Loyola organizations, including the Blueprint for Social Justice and the Loyola Green Club, and various community organizations, including the Delta Greens, the Sierra Club and Freeport Watch.

The following is an unofficial translation of his talk, which was given in Bahasa Indonesian. It was preceeded by introductions by Prof. John Clark and Prof. Marcus Smith of Loyola University. It was followed by comments on Mr. Beanal's suit by his attorney, Mr. Martin Regan, and a slide presentation on West Papua and the Freeport mining area, narrated by Mr. Beanal.

Before I begin, I would like to thank Mr. Martin (Regan) for bringing me here to speak. I would also like to thank those people who prepared this meeting and the students who met me at the airport.

I welcome you all here tonight. Actually, I rarely speak before such a large audience, but on this occasion, I would like to talk about the feelings of my people.

To the Amungme people in particular and to the people of Irian Jaya as a whole, nature and man are one. Everything that has a use has a value greater than that ascribed to it by man. This is shown in our traditions. We hold planting festivals. This is because food is important for man.

When the earth was first created, it is believed that the Amungme people occupied land which was still swamp. The story goes that there was a mother with four children, two boys and two girls. They lived in the middle of the swamp where there was a dry land.

One day the dry season came. There was famine and many people died. This also affected the mother and her four children. They began to suffer from hunger, when the food they had stored was used up.

The mother said to her children, "Instead of all of us dying, it is better if just I die." She ordered her children to kill her. She asked them to cut off her head and throw it to the north. She asked for her body to be cut into two,

with the right side being thrown to the east and the left side to the west. Her feet were to be thrown towards the river so that they would be brought south by the current. Her children carried out this task with heavy hearts.

After they had done what their mother had asked, the four children fell asleep. When they awoke, they were surprised to see a mountain in the north, where they had thrown their mother's head. In the east and west there grew a great garden with all kinds of things to eat. In the south as well, there was a broad expanse of land.



This story tells us that if the mountains and nature are harmed, our mother is hurt as well. The mountain we see as our mother is sacred. It is where the souls of men go when they die. We keep this place holy and worship it in our traditional ceremonies.

The Amungme live on the land thought to reach from the mother's neck to her navel. This is the place closest to her. It is near her milk, and is where the people can lean on and be protected by her shoulder. It is where children can sleep in her lap.

We also consider the area of the mother's feet, meaning the coastal plain, a sacred place. We can look for food here and hunt but we must then return to our home. This is the feeling of the Amungme, that the land is our mother.

But modern, clever people, came into the area. And what happened as a result? It began with the coming of Catholic missionaries. They brought Amungme out of the area and settled them near our mother's feet which we had always thought of as a holy place. Many people died there in what is now called Akimuga. The places we left such as Waa, Arwa and Tsinga began to be taken over by big companies like

Freeport. They began by making a base camp then suddenly built up the area without saying one word to us.

All of the places which were once just camps are now big towns. Our question now is, what about the indigenous people?

These companies have taken over and occupied our land. Even the sacred mountains we think of as our mother have been arbitrarily torn up by them and they have not felt the least bit guilty.

We have not been silent. We protest and are angry. But we have been arrested, beaten and put into

justice, but have met with failure many times. But now Martin has come forward and said "I can fight for justice." So we have come here to ask for it.

I think this is all I have to say for now. If there are questions I will try to answer them.

Excerpts from answers to questions:

I see that the military is there to protect the company that brings profit to the state, and I would also like to raise this problem in Indonesia itself, in my own country. But I worry, because my country receives 10 percent [from the company] that I will not get the justice I seek. I am afraid that the state is actually not on the side of justice.

I was born in a valley near Tsinga and Waa. It is near Tembapapura, an area controlled by Freeport. My village has been part of the Freeport area. I can speak for Tsinga and also for Waa. The mountains are being levelled, which in my language is called "Yang sego omo sego."

Not just in Irian Jaya, but in every group there are always people who think of making their own country. Formally though, we are part of the Republic of Indonesia. What is important for me is for the people to prosper no matter what the country is. We want to develop ourselves, not just be developed.

containers. It is also said that, with our own country's soldiers acting as go-betweens, we have been tortured, even killed. Many of us have also been accused of being OPM separatists. Our environment has been ruined and our forests and rivers polluted by waste. The sago forests which serve as our primary food source have become dry, making it hard for us to find food.

The animals we have hunted in the past have disappeared so we no longer know where to hunt. Our settlements are covered with so much sand that our people have been scattered apart. One moves here, one moves there. Our water is contaminated by chemicals so we can no longer drink it. The land in the higher elevations has disappeared because it has been piled high with huge rocks. Gold and copper have been taken by Freeport for the past 30 years, but what have we gotten in return? Only insults, torture, arrests, killings, forced evictions from our land, impoverishment and alienation from our own culture. We have become strangers in our own land and this has been going on for the past 30 years!

We have continued to seek





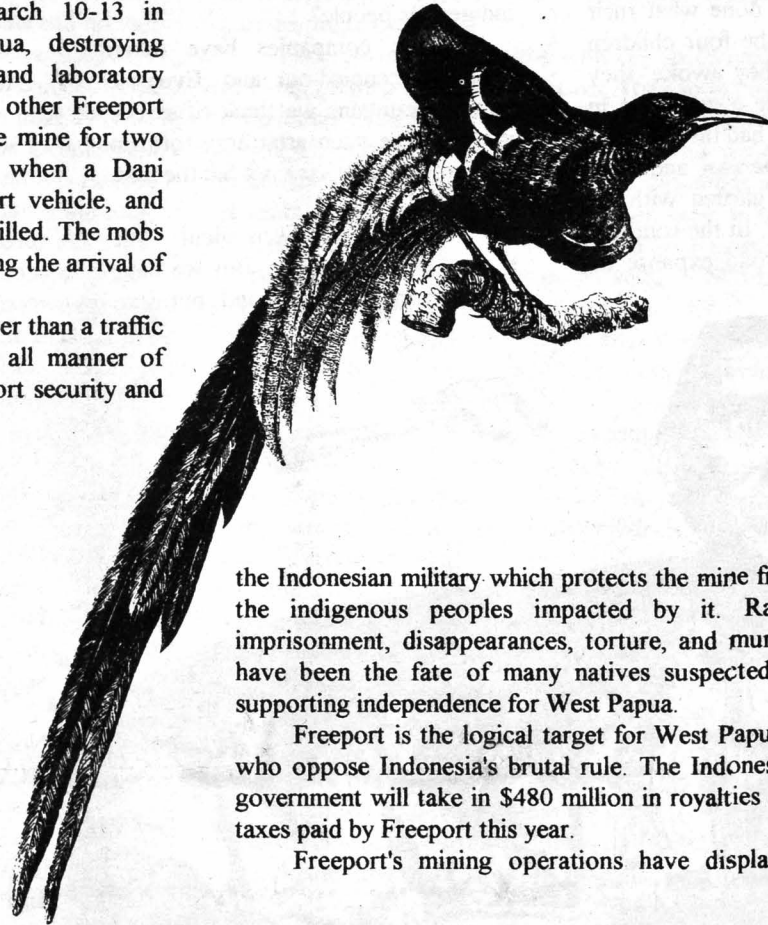
# West Papuans Riot Causing Millions in Damage to Freeport

*Cedar Stevens*

Thousands of West Papuans armed with sticks, rocks, spears and arrows rioted March 10-13 in Tembagapura and Timika, West Papua, destroying Freeport computers, vehicles, files, and laboratory equipment, and damaging buildings and other Freeport facilities. This forced the closure of the mine for two days. The rebellion was precipitated when a Dani tribesman was run down by a Freeport vehicle, and mistaken news spread that he had been killed. The mobs also attacked the local airport, anticipating the arrival of Freeport CEO Jim Bob Moffett.

The roots of this riot go much deeper than a traffic incident. West Papuans have suffered all manner of intolerable abuses at the hands of Freeport security and

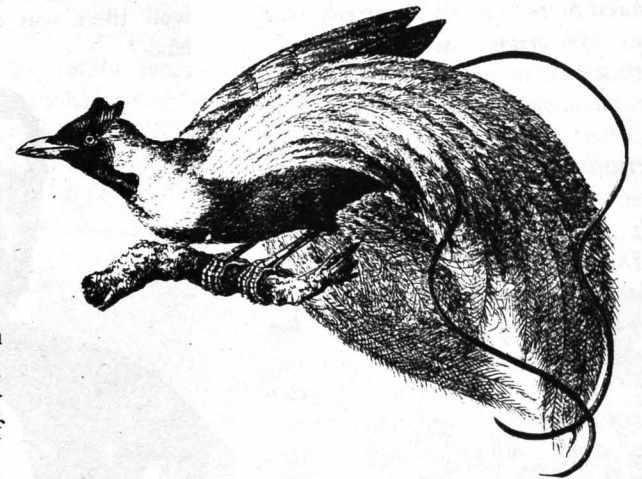
natives, desecrated their sacred mountains, and disrupted traditional cultures and family structures. "A spokesperson for the Amungme, Komore, Dani, and Moni tribes of the region addressed the Freeport CEO [Jim Bob Moffett] directly: 'You and your workers live in luxury on our property. We, who own the property, sleep on rubbish. Therefore, from today, we don't give you permission for this company, and close it.'" (Eyal Press, Progressive Magazine, June 1996)



the Indonesian military which protects the mine from the indigenous peoples impacted by it. Rape, imprisonment, disappearances, torture, and murder have been the fate of many natives suspected of supporting independence for West Papua.

Freeport is the logical target for West Papuans who oppose Indonesia's brutal rule. The Indonesian government will take in \$480 million in royalties and taxes paid by Freeport this year.

Freeport's mining operations have displaced



## Earth First! Austin Statement of Solidarity With West Papuans

Earth First! Austin would like to make a formal statement in support of West Papuans and the people of Jakarta who have risen up against the bloody, fascist Indonesian government.

Beginning March 9, 1996, thousands of West Papuan villagers in Tembagapura and Timika went on a rampage, destroying PT Freeport Indonesia mining facilities. This was ostensibly in reaction to a Freeport vehicle hitting a pedestrian man, but in reality it was a justifiable response to decades of abuses suffered by these people at the hands of the Indonesian government, its dictator Suharto, and the mining corporation Freeport McMoRan.

Rioting later broke out in the Indonesian capitol of Jakarta in response to the death of Dr. Thomas Wainggai, who died in prison after serving eight years of a twenty year sentence for raising a flag for an independent Melanesian state. Although autopsy indicated death by natural causes related to heart problems, his death is a suspected poisoning, since Wainggai had previously been in good health, and for days prior to his death he refused food because he was afraid it had been poisoned. Earth First! suspects that Dr. Wainggai was assassinated in prison as a threat to any Indonesian who dreams of freedom from Suharto and his military.

It is obvious that the people of West Papua want freedom from Indonesia, and that they know that the reason for the presence of Indonesian military is to protect Freeport's mine. Earth First! Austin supports West Papuans in any strategy they choose to employ to achieve these goals.

We believe in the cause of independence for West Papua. We hope that West Papuans can wrest control of their lands and natural resources from Freeport and the many corporate predators that seek to steal the land, extract the resources, devastate the

cultures, and leave environmental wreckage behind. During a recent meeting with Jim Bob Moffett, Andreas Anggaibak, Executive Director of LEMASA (the Amungme Tribal Council), reported the consensus of the indigenous community that "the Freeport operation should be shut down." Earth First! applauds the bravery and wisdom of this position, and we believe that it is the most simple and just remedy for the decades of Freeport abuse to the indigenous people and their land.

Austin Earth First! would also like to lend support to seven people arrested on suspicion of instigating the riots at Tembagapura. Amnesty International fears that Jerry Kogoya, Edison Murip, Fedelis Songgohau, Arsinus Murip, Otto Dianal, Tinus Waker, and Juaringgo Kogoya are in danger of torture, and has issued an urgent action alert for letters to be written to the Indonesian government urging due process for these people. Earth First! Austin will be organizing letter writing for the prisoners, and prays that they do not meet the fate of Thomas Wainggai.

Austin Earth First! has fought Freeport McMoRan in our own town for six years now, and we feel linked in struggle with the people of West Papua. We are hopeful that international attention brought to this issue by all of our efforts will ultimately overcome the greed of Freeport McMoRan.



# West Papua: Modern Mining in a Stone Age Land

Cedar Stevens

"Take it and kill me," said an Amungme chief, handing his knife to a representative of Freeport McMoRan, "because I can't stand anymore to see these problems... Cut me into pieces and bury each piece from here to Grasberg. ... On your way back round up all the Amungme people, our pigs and every piece we have. Make a huge hole to bury us with all our belongings. You cover that, and then do anything you want."

The Freeport man did not take the chief up on his offer, but his company's operations achieve the same end. Freeport's gold and copper mining operation in West Papua is one of the most tragic examples of what can happen when First World greed impacts a Fourth World culture.

Freeport began mining the Ertsberg mountain in 1972 under a contract with the Indonesian government, which did not bother to consult the Amungme people. Not surprising, since the 1969 "Act of Free Choice" under which Indonesia annexed West Papua was also done without the permission of the Fourth World peoples of the country. Racism is the undercurrent attitude of Indonesia towards these Melanesian (black) people, and they are afforded no legal rights to their traditional lands, or it seems, to their lives.

The dispossession of their lands, forced resettlement into malaria-ridden lowlands, pollution of rivers, and worse - torture, rape, and massacres, has been the result of Freeport's mines for the Amungme, Dani, Moni, Komoro, Me, Ekari, and Nduga people.

After Freeport exhausted the Ertsberg mine, leaving a pit of dimensions larger than the original mountain, they moved on to the even bigger Grasberg mountain.

For Freeport, the mine has reaped unfathomable profits. Grasberg yields about seven million dollars of minerals a day. Freeport dumps 115,000 tons a day of tailings into rivers below the mine. Silt clogs rivers, killing sago palms and fish that the Komoro eat, and has choked about 15 square miles of forest on the Ajkwa River.

Resistance to the mine and the military presence it requires has assumed many forms: from spears and arrows to more modern tactics. Just this April, Tom Beanal, leader of LEMASA, the Amungme Tribal Council, filed a six billion dollar class action lawsuit against Freeport on behalf of the people impacted by the mine.

## Earth First!ers Banned from City Council

Neal Tuttrup

Dear Mayor Bruce Todd,

"I am sorry for my inappropriate behavior, and I'll never disrupt the activities of the Austin City Council again."

This statement, submitted in writing, is what Austin's Mayor said it would cost me and several of my friends to regain our constitutional right to address "our" government. Specifically, my crime was to run out of patience for the Council and yell one sentence at a time when I was not officially recognized to speak. My friends were supposedly censored for similar breaches of protocol.

This case was "reported" on repeatedly in the local media, and through this coverage we were tried and convicted.

Oddly, one thing I haven't seen in any of the seven articles that have been written about this event is what I actually said. The first article

said I cursed. In the second the Editor of the Statesman said I was a "lunatic" who screamed "obscenities." The third used only the first two words of my statement. For the record, I said: "Damn y'all in the name of everyone that Freeport has ever killed." The Statesman told me that they didn't have room for my full quote because they would, gasp, have to use another whole sentence to describe what Freeport McMoRan is. I consider it extremely unfair and unprofessional for a publication to write about my actions and speculate about my character in editorials without accurately describing what actually happened.

Why was I upset? Because the Council had just granted water service to a development owned by one of the most environmentally irresponsible corporations in the world, Freeport McMoRan. Because they bypassed the usual City process, gave them a water line

500% larger than City staff's original estimate, and did so at nearly 11:00 p.m., well past Council's usual closing time. As I sat listening to Council that evening, I couldn't help thinking about the many times over the past nine years I have sat in that chamber waiting for another vote to rob me and many others of a little more of our hope for the present and future.

Nearly six months later I went to council to speak about H. Ross Perot's pending Four Points Centre development. When my name came up the Mayor told me "you may remain seated." He then explained that he was denying my right to speak for a breach of protocol, and that I could only regain my right to speak if I apologized (in spite of the fact that he only has legal authority to ban individuals for a single meeting). Brigid Shea spoke up and said that the Mayor's action against me constituted selective enforcement. The Mayor responded, "It is selective, Ms. Shea."

(Continued on page 19)



## Why I'm suing the Mayor

Karen Hadden

The reason I have chosen to sue Bruce Todd is because he simply cannot continue to violate citizen rights, mine or anyone else's. His tenure as mayor has been marked with perpetual disregard of the citizen's of Austin, with arrogant animosity toward those least able to defend themselves. He has victimized the homeless, and ignored citizens in wheelchairs and the federal laws that mandate the curb cuts they need. He goes on the offense against skateboarders, and has offered no assistance to bicyclists. He gives lip service, but no action, to neighborhood groups,

especially those in East Austin. The needs of the people go unmet, while time and expense is lavished on the rich. The large developers get all the time and assistance they need to plead and wield their deals.

This kind of government must end. Those of us who have spoken out have been rewarded by having our rights as citizens violated by Bruce Todd, who seems not to care about the legal limits of his authority. This kind of government will end. It will end by citizens like ourselves acting on what we know to be right, and not allowing our

voices to be silenced.

We will not be intimidated. We will fight for our rights and the rights of others to be treated with respect and dignity by the Mayor of Austin. The vision I have of a strong community that works together in the interest of all the citizens can only be attained by each and every one of us standing up for our rights in all circumstances.



# Los Niños del Mundo -- "¡Queremos Vivir!"

## International Children's March to Save Sierra Blanca

By Erin Rogers  
Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund

*\*Author's Note: The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is currently in the process of issuing an operating license for a radioactive waste dump in Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County, Texas. People are rallying in what could be their last chance to stop the dump before resorting to direct action at the site. A public hearing in Sierra Blanca AUGUST 6-7 will be THE ONLY CHANCE for people to get their comments into the record. We hope to mobilize 1,000 people to go to Sierra Blanca for this hearing.*

At high noon on June 5, delegation after delegation of uniformed school children from 27 schools in Acua, Mxico streamed past the Texas Capitol and marched steadily toward the locked iron gates of the governor's mansion. Banners, balloons, mariachi music, and shouts of "Viva Sierra Blanca!" beckoned Governor Bush from the dark recesses of his office, to no avail. Approximately 600 children were denied the opportunity to present their eloquent and powerful presentations about the Earth, clean water, and young fears over plans to build a nuclear waste dump upstream

from Acua to Bush himself. As Page Williams of the Houston Audubon Society later complained to the governor, "the only Bush who greeted our group was your exquisitely groomed standard poodle, who appeared on the north lawn to defecate."

However, the children's words broke through the virtual media boycott of one of the most important environmental battles being fought in the US., whether or not the Texas state government will be allowed to subsidize the national nuclear industry by building a cheap dump (read: hole in the ground) in the tiny border town of Sierra Blanca. Major newspapers and television from Dallas to Houston to El Paso to Mxico City finally articulated the issues according to the children: The proposed dump is a threat to the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo and to underground aquifers because it lies 16 miles from the river and in an active earthquake zone. As Mayor de Hoyos Cerna said, "the environment does not belong to one group, it belongs to the entire world. It's everyone's duty to try

to defend it."

"The reason we're here to day is because we want out leaders like Governor Bush to know that we don't want radioactive waste dumped in Sierra Blanca or anywhere in Texas. This will hurt

## NATIONAL RIPPLES

The Children's March struck enough fear into the heart of the nuclear industry to merit a mention at the June 11-13 Radioactive Exchange "Low Level Radioactive Waste Management" meeting in Park City, Utah. The Exchange is a collection of virtually every corner of the nuclear materials/waste producing/processing sector. According to Diane D'Arrigo of Nuclear Information Resource Services in D.C., who managed to get into the meeting without paying the standard \$800.00 fee, the number one priority of the industry is to pass the Texas-Maine-Vermont Compact bill (HR 558) which

would make Sierra Blanca a national dump, and pass (HR 3083) which would transfer federal land to California for the Ward Valley nuclear waste dump. This means that pro-nuke lobbyists from all over the country are and will continue to pour money into a massive lobbying effort to get the bills passed. In fact, Maine has hired the chair of the nuclear industry's largest and most well-know organization, the Low Level Waste Forum, to head its lobby effort on the Compact Bill (HR 558). Vermont has hired Sarah Weddington, among others, and Texas has George W. Bush AND Ann Richards on the case.

Grassroots pressure killed the Compact bill when it was brought up for a vote last September, the first compact ever defeated or even debated. Grassroots pressure is the only thing now keeping the bill from being brought up again. The nuclear industry has vowed to bring the bill up for a vote before the end of July. It may be brought up at any time without warning.

## INTERNATIONAL RESISTANCE

The eleven buses full of children who'd been traveling since 2:00 am



all life, including the animals," said Joshua Ramirez, who traveled from Sierra Blanca to Austin with his Dad and sister to join the march.

Unfortunately, the media also continues to print lies propagated about the dump by its main proponents, the PR firms of the nation's nuclear industry and Gov. Bush, who has lobbied Congress extensively to make sure Sierra Blanca becomes a national nuclear dump. Mimicking the line handed down from industry lobbyists and spin doctors, Bush's spokesperson Karen Hughes emphasized that the dump would be for waste "that our universities and hospitals and medical facilities generate." In reality, 95.38% of the total curies from Maine, Vermont, and Texas (the states scheduled to dump in Sierra Blanca) dumped from 1990-1994 came from nuclear power plants. \* This waste is termed "low-level" although it contains isotopes such as plutonium (radioactive for 400,000 years), iodine 129 (radioactive for 300 million years), and technetium-99 (radioactive for 4 million years). (16)



Alba Pagan 1996



to reach Austin are an ebullient expression of the growing Mexican opposition to the Sierra Blanca dump. As of May 20, 1996 an unprecedented 581 people and groups had registered official requests with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission to be "parties" in litigation which could stop the TNRCC from issuing the dump's operating license. On April 1, the TNRCC recommended the site and issued a draft license. Without a challenge, the license would have gone into effect in 30 days. Among the 581 potential parties are: the State Congress of Coahuila, the Mexican Federal Senate and the Senate Border Affairs Commission, the City of Acua, the City of Jurez, and the State Congress of Chihuahua, the Tabasco Human Rights Committee (a Mexican NGO), a human rights organization from Mexico City. 1,000 citizens of Acua have also sent opposition letters to the TNRCC.

Sierra Blanca has become a sticking point in federal bi-national negotiations on other environmental matters. A recent New York Times article on Mexico's Carbon I and II coal plants revealed just how touchy Sierra Blanca is:

"... a recent meeting on the issue ended in near stalemate when Mexican officials turned the tables and expressed anger over a separate trans-border environmental issue: plans in the United States to build a low-level radioactive waste dump in the Texas border town of Sierra Blanca."

#### WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The TNRCC is now recommending a two day hearing in Sierra Blanca August 6-7 to determine which of the 581 party requests will actually be granted party standing. (They have not yet set an exact date.) Texas law can be interpreted very narrowly in determining who is "directly affected" qualification for becoming a party. The Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund and other opponents argue that two days is not enough time to process 575 potential parties, and that each request must be taken seriously. The TNRCC is also required to hold a "public comment session" The only chande



Alan Pogue 1996

people who are not parties have for being heard. TNRCC has recommended one evening for public comment (in Sierra Blanca Aug. 6). This is unacceptable.

The Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund, Greenpeace, and other groups plan to mobilize people of conscience from across Texas and Mexico to drive to Sierra Blanca for the initial hearing Aug. 6-7. We hope to mobilize 1,000 people. Please call 512-478-8335 if you are interested in going or helping organize a part of this massive road trip.

Feminists for a Compassionate Society has a slideshow on Sierra Blanca and the connections between breast cancer and low level radiation that is available for churches, schools, or other organizations. If you would like us to make a presentation to your group, please call 512-473-8335.

For fact sheets or more information on how you can get involved, come by our new office at 1711 S. Congress. (Yes, the Grassroots peace Building is closing down! The Foundation for a Compassionate Society and the Sierra Blanca

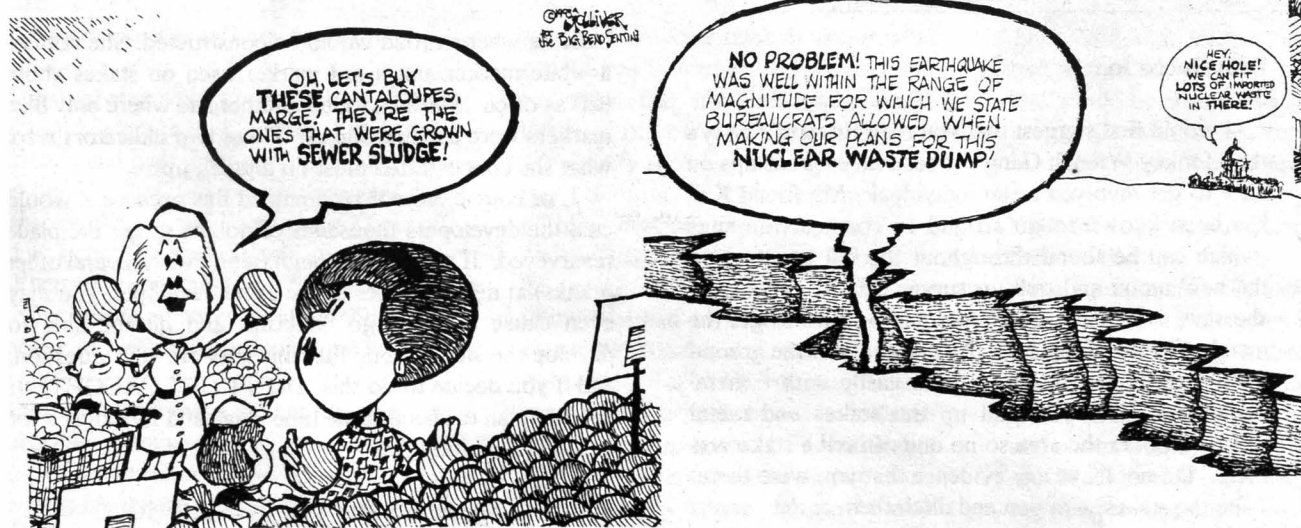
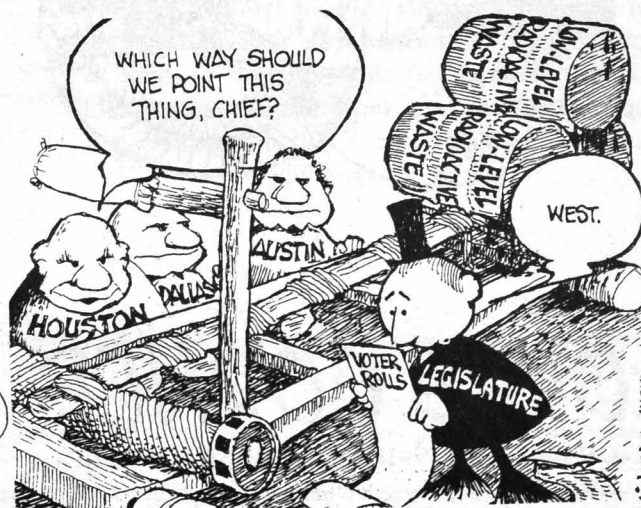
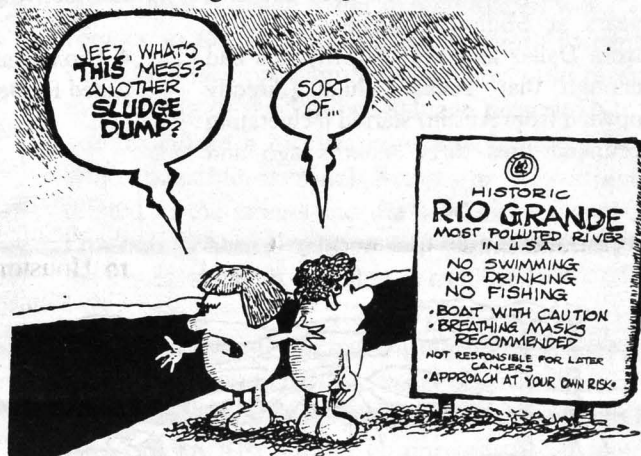
Legal Defense Fund will be on S. Congress as of July 1.)

**IMPORTANT!** CALL YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TODAY AND ASK HIM / HER TO ACTIVELY FIGHT HR 558, THE COMPACT BILL. (Congressional Switchboard: 202-224-3121)

CALL GEORGE BUSH AND ASK HIM TO STOP LOBBYING FOR THE COMPACT BILL AND TO EXPLORE SANE WAYS OF DEALING WITH THE NUCLEAR WASTE THAT'S ALREADY BEEN PRODUCED BY THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY. (512-463-1762 is the Executive Office)

Remember, this is NOT a done deal and we have the power at our fingertips to thwart the plans of the national nuclear industry which needs a cheap place to dump so that they may keep expanding and producing more waste. If we fail now, I'll see you at the barricades.

\* According to US Department of Energy figures.





# Tires "Recycled" Into Pollution

Atwater Prarie Chicken

Oh, my goodness! Where to begin on the toxicity of burning million upon tens of millions of whole used tires next year at major cement kilns along the Balcones Fault (Capitol Cement at San Antonio, TXI at San Marcos, La Farge at New Braunfels, Texas Lehigh cement at Buda (Austin), and Holnam (the former Box Crow) and North Texas Cement outside Dallas in Midlothian (the number one toxics incineration complex in the USA!)?

Texas has accumulated 100's of millions of used tires under a toxic sham recycling fraud and now will pay (through the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission) the cement industry 40 cents a tire to burn!

It's bad enough that Holnam's been incinerating millions of tires for five years at Midlothian (directly upwind from Dallas and Fort Worth). It's bad enough that Texas Lehigh (directly upwind from Austin) started incinerating chunked tires three months ago and

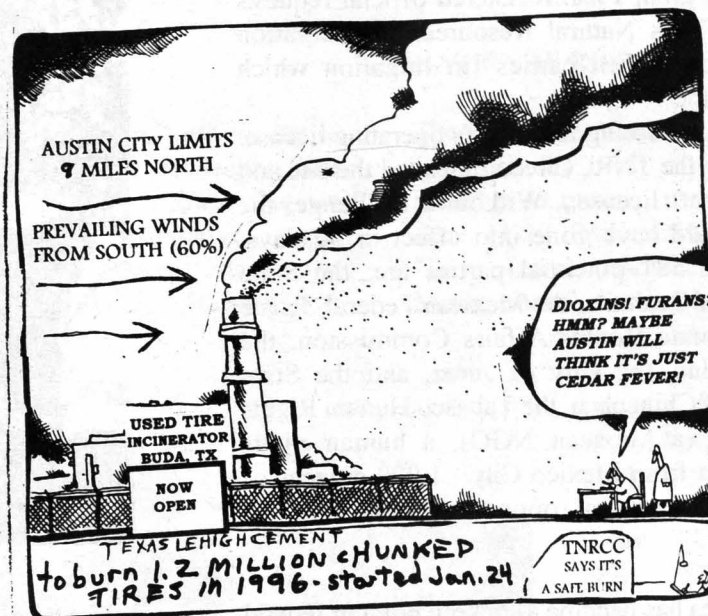
wants to burn a million and a half tires this year. Best to stick to the health and welfare of millions of innocent citizens (don't forget the plants, wildlife, pets, livestock, etc.) by focusing on the toxic aspects of burning tires.

1. The heavy metals in steel belts that don't go out the stack end up in the ash and are mixed into concrete for water pipes, playgrounds, drainage ditches, parking lots, buildings (built in zinc, lead, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, copper, nickel, etc.)

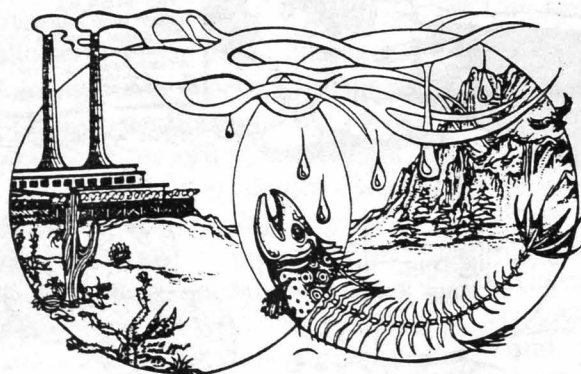
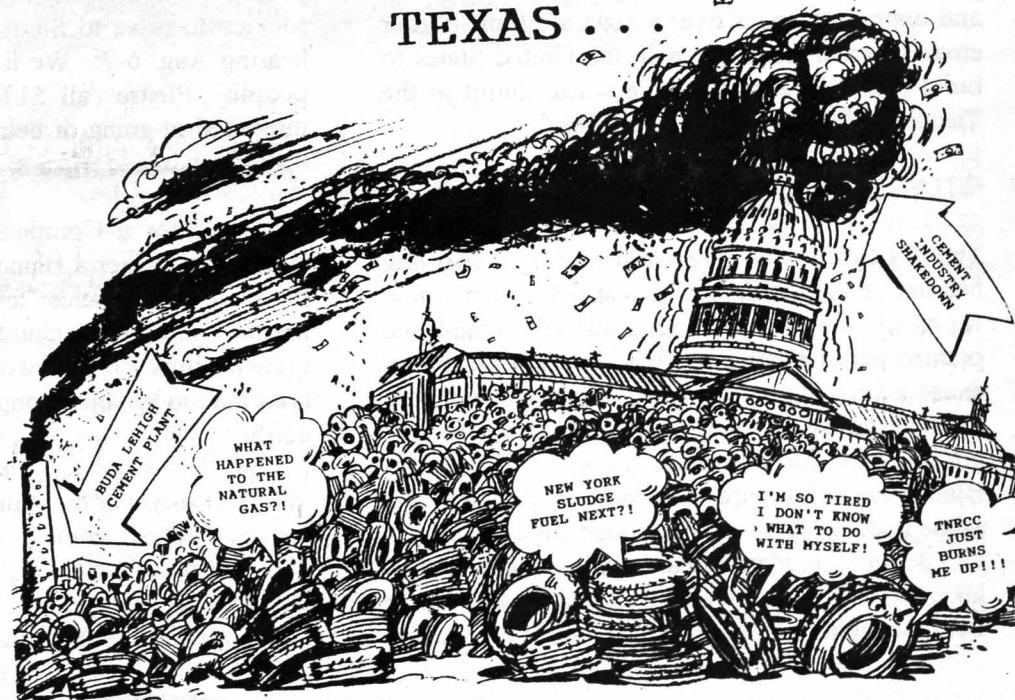
2. Volatile organic compounds (called "organics" by the State Conservation Commission): styrene, toluene, naphthalene, butadine, propylene, benzene, polypropylene, xylene, PCBs, etc.

3. Radiation - crude oil (the more radioactive grade) is mixed into tires.

4. Dioxins and Furan won't even be tested for because it's "too expensive."



It's a Dioxin-laden cloud of TNRCC\* deception floating over TEXAS...



## LOKI'S CORNER

!!!!FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY!!!!

*(disclaimer: nothing written on this page is necessarily advocated or condoned by anyone in the Earth First! movement. The information here is provided solely for the entertainment of those reading, and is not expected to be carried out)*

DEAR LOKI:

I am new to the radical side of the environmental movement. I don't necessarily want to join a group, but I would like some tips on how to be directly active as an individual. One thing that sets my temper aflame and pushes me over the edge is the damage and destruction that developers have caused and are causing in Austin's hill country. What can I do?!

Signed,  
Bubba Jo

Dear Bubba Jo,

I would first suggest that you read Edward Abbey's the Monkey Wrench Gang. It has lots of great tips on how to get involved as an individual. My friend Kali has been known to go around to construction sites (which can be found throughout the hill country) on the new moon and pull up survey stakes. The trick, she says, is to carry a hammer and be sure to get the metal spikes(at the base of the stake) out of the ground or else the metal is found quite easily with a metal detector. After you pull up the stakes and metal spikes, recover the area so no one can tell a stake was there. Do not leave any evidence that you were there. Take the stakes with you and ditch them at the nearest dumpster.

Kali says that the stakes are marked with several neon colored tags. The most important stakes (indicating a structure), according to her, are the ones with two markers or a color that is not as common as the others around the site. Once, she told me about a proposed shopping mall that used orange markers to

indicate where a road would be constructed. She noticed a white marker and a red marker used on stakes about half as often. She also found another site where only blue markers were used on stakes. These two indicators were what she concentrated most on digging up.

I, of course, do not recommend this because it would cost the developers thousands of dollars to get the place resurveyed. If practiced enough (along with several other pranks) at different sites of the same developer, you may even cause them to go bankrupt and not be able to develop the site. I hope that this answers your question, and if you decide to do this- DON'T GET CAUGHT! If you do, plan to spend some time in jail and fork over a lot of money! Good Luck!

Signed,  
Loki



# Timber Salvage Rider Accelerates Destruction of our Forests!

Sharon Jenkins

As I write this article, the future of our old growth forests is being decided by Congress and President Clinton. Last year President Clinton signed into law the Timber Salvage Rider. This rider, attached to an unrelated bill, is possibly the most environmentally damaging law ever. Salvage logging was meant to apply to trees affected by fires, blow downs, severe insect damage, and disease. This legal loophole has instead been applied to green trees in good health in some of our most environmentally sensitive old-growth habitat. It is being used to sell off and clear-cut half a million board feet of our public forests all over the country.

As if that weren't enough, the law was written in such a way that all of our environmental laws do not apply to any of these timber sales, even forests that have been previously protected by a court judgment or the Endangered Species Act. The language of the law states that despite previous rulings by the courts, the Forest (Dis)Service and the timber industry can log the area without concern for sensitive species or the economic well-being of surrounding communities which may have been addressed by a previous injunction or other measure. The Northern Spotted Owl is just one species whose existence could be eradicated by this law. Forests that contain 4 or 5 species listed as endangered or threatened by the ESA are being sold to be cut.

One interesting (devastating!) result of this law is what happened in Warner Creek. Warner Creek is located in Oregon and received the highest level of protection under President Clinton's forest plan. Nearly 9000 acres of this beautiful ancient forest were burned as the result of arson. The federal courts then allowed Warner Creek to be sold as salvage even though this set a dangerous precedent of rewarding arson with timber sales. This has happened in other forests across the country as well. The timber companies, who stand

to gain from the "fire sales", should be investigated as suspects in these arsons.

Another result of the 1995 Timber Salvage



Rider is that we have no redress incourt to stop these sales and have our environmental laws enforced. And all this is coming out of your pocket as you, the taxpayer (an assumption on my part...), are paying to build the roads to log these timber sales, as well as all the administrative costs. And then the Forest (Dis)Service is keeping most of the proceeds from the sales for future pillaging instead of putting it back into the Treasury.

The recent events surrounding the Timber Salvage Rider started with Congress and its approval process for the budget. Members of Congress have been using the process to attach all kinds of proposed anti-environmental legislation to the budget. Some of these proposed amendments would have expanded or extended the Timber Salvage Rider. Currently, Senator Craig is trying to pass a new bill (S.391) that will extend the salvage rider permanently. Some leading democrats and President Clinton are proposing their own versions of expanded, permanent Timber Salvage Rider legislation. The Craig "Forest Health" bill seeks to reinforce the myth that our public forests face a health crisis that will only be "helped" by making the salvage logging practice a permanent one.

The President currently has the power to stop the Timber Salvage Rider in a couple of ways, but refuses to do so. He has the authority to cancel each Ancient Forest timber sale. He could rescind the funding of the Timber Salvage program. Or he could declare a moratorium on all salvage sales while possible criminal charges are investigated related to the arsons and the administration of the program. These would be stop-gap measures until the salvage rider is repealed or expires.

Even though he has publicly stated, several times, that he is in favor of repealing it, Clinton has not made efforts to do so, and in fact seems to be working on a so-called compromise that would extend the Timber Salvage Rider. Please call the president and your congressional representatives. Ask them to support HR2745, the Furse/Morella Rider Repeal bill for total repeal of the Timber Salvage Rider.

(Continued from page 15) Earth First!ers

The following week I heard that my friend Karen Hadden and a couple of my other friends had been banned, "out of fairness to Neal." Wanting some semblance of due process, Karen and I returned to Council that same day and signed up to speak. When the time came, the Mayor refused to recognize either of us and ordered the police to remove us from the building.

I firmly believe that I did not say anything obscene. Compare my words with those of Councilmember Eric Mitchell, who during his tenure has told citizens "screw you" and "go fuck yourself." Once he referred to hundreds of citizens who had come down to speak out for clean water as "assholes." If the word "damn" used to express heartfelt condemnation of what I consider to be patently hurtful behavior is considered obscene, then we as a society

need to have a serious talk about what constitutes obscenity. Lies that serve to mask the immoral and hurtful behavior of corporations are obscene. To identify such lies and bring them to the attention of the community is nothing short of a moral imperative.

To make a long story short, we ultimately had to take the mayor to court to regain our Constitutional rights. The Texas Civil Rights Project represented us pro bono, and Karen and I ended up before a Federal Judge who didn't like either the Mayor or us. He threatened to slap the Mayor with Federal contempt of court charges if he continued the ban, and to slap us with charges if we so much as spoke out of turn at council. At this point the Mayor's lawyers freaked out and told the Judge that no court orders bearing the Mayor's name would be necessary.

They said that they were convinced that Karen and I had been reformed and would be allowed to speak. Karen is now pursuing a lawsuit against the Mayor for violating her civil rights.

The Mayor would like people to believe that me and my friends are merely irrational, obscenity spewing lunatics. A few bad apples who are out of touch with reality and have nothing in common with society in general. It would be an easy matter for the Mayor and others who serve greed if that were so, but it's not. Around the world there are millions of people who are just as fed up as we are, and millions who share our concern but who are afraid to speak.

So are my friends and I merely irrational, obscenity spewing lunatics? Or are we people who's only crime is

sincere concern for our community and the broader community of living beings that call the Earth home? In 1993, nearly 1,700 scientists, including 104 Nobel Prize winners, told us that we were in the process of "irretrievably mutilating" this planet. If our love for this life and those we share it with is genuine, we must act now.





# HELMETS ON THE ROAD TO HELL

By Jupiter O'Halloran

At the end of May, the Austin City Council passed a city ordinance making it illegal for a cyclist to ride a bicycle without a helmet. Rushed through in a single "emergency" reading, this ordinance sets a fine of \$50 for the first offence and \$100 for subsequent infractions. Despite the fact such a law directly affects the whole Austin bicycle community (commuters, recreational cyclists, retailers, etc.), the council passed the ordinance based solely upon the input of Doug Ballecu, helmet promoter who works for the Travis County Health and Human Services Department. Moreover, the ordinance was rammed through with the help of a compliant media, which continually

In fact, a number of bicycle shops (and helmet manufacturers!) have gone out of business due to the decrease in cyclists. Every cyclist (with or without a helmet) is one less car driver spewing exhaust and turning our city into the nightmare it is so quickly becoming.

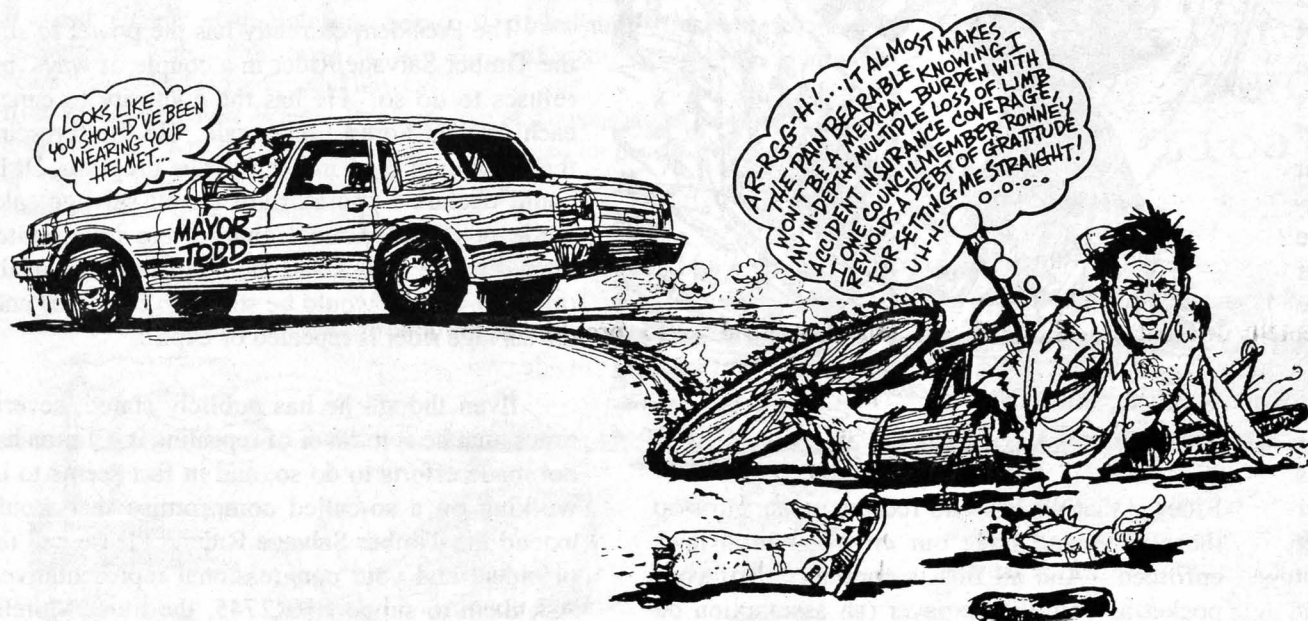
Even the apparent extra safety attributed to a helmet has proven to be illusionary. Studies have shown that a cyclist wearing a helmet is more likely to be involved in an accident than one who is not! One possible reason for this is that cyclists who ride without a helmet feel more vulnerable and thus tend to take less risks than those who ride with one. In addition, while helmets can offer protection against skull fracture, most serious brain

bicycles represent 5% of traffic, cyclists represent less than 2% of road deaths (deaths per year average 880 for cyclists, 7,000 for pedestrians and 48,000 for motorists). Moreover, the cost of cycling head injuries is minuscule compared to the costs of asthma and car exhaust related illnesses (estimated by the American Lung Society to be between \$8 billion and \$93 billion nationally). Of course this perspective was never aired during the introduction of the helmet law.

Another consequence of the helmet law will be to increase cyclists vulnerability to harassment from police. As it is, Austin has a rather high level of harassment to cyclists. The bicycle helmet law will become just another pretext for the Austin

helmets represent a negligible part of their income, functioning more as a reason for cyclists to enter the store and see a bike that they might buy. Since the ordinance has passed, helmet sales have increased, but the people buying them tend to be irate and blame the bicycle shops for being "behind the law", and certainly aren't about to buy a bike. Moreover, store owners are very worried that the drop in cyclists will affect their sales dramatically, as it has in Australia.

So who supports this law? The main winners in all of this have been car insurance companies. The helmet law is a thinly veiled cover for car insurance companies to challenge injury claims from cyclists who were not wearing helmets - a phenomenon which has arisen everywhere that such a law has passed.



harped upon the dangers of cycling and the cost to the city of cyclist head injuries.

While attempting to address a serious problem - the vulnerability of cyclists in this city - by narrowly construing "vulnerability" and applying further legal strictures to cyclists, it will arguably worsen the situation. The reasons for this are many and varied, and a close inspection reveals a much more complex situation than the media portrayal of helmeted vs non-helmeted injury figures would have us believe.

One fundamental effect of the law will be to decrease the number of cyclists on the streets. In Australia, where a nation wide helmet law was introduced in 1992, this is precisely what has happened - the number of cyclists has dropped by between 30 and 60 percent. The drop was particularly high amongst high school students, where the possibility of arrest and the media hysteria about the incidents of head injuries made parents stop their children from cycling. Moreover the number of head injuries to cyclists has not decreased overall, so that the risk of head injury to cyclists actually went up after the helmet law was passed!

injuries are not a result of linear forces but of shearing forces from rotational deceleration. Helmets do nothing to reduce these forces and may in fact increase them by virtue of increasing the size and mass of the head.

In motorist / adult bike collisions studies have shown that the car driver is responsible 75% of the time. Why should cyclists be burdened with a legal responsibility for protecting themselves from the (often illegal) actions of others? If any law is to be enacted on the basis of responsibility, motorists should be required to have mattresses strapped to the front of their cars. Regardless of the "minimal" cost of a helmet, it is another expense which is being imposed on those who use bicycles for transport often for reasons of poverty.

The bicycle helmet law and the attendant publicity further legitimizes the view that bicycles do not belong on the road and that they cost the city money. This is very far from the truth. Bicycles are the safest form of transportation. It is the insane car-addiction of our society (and its managers) that kills cyclists. While

Police Department to shake down youth and other "undesirables." Given the Supreme Court ruling upholding the search and seizure of property following a stop for an unrelated offense, officers are being encouraged to stop citizens for any trivial infraction to fish for other offenses. The helmet law presents an eminently suitable pretext to harass cyclists.

There is also the Big Brother aspect to the law. This has been the focus of many arguments against the law. While some of this is overstated, there is a good argument to be made that the helmet law, by further marginalizing cyclists in the public perception, is just a step - next it will be bicycle licenses, taxes and insurance. Again, all that this will mean is even less cyclists in the city. Just recently, a cyclist was ticketed for riding an "unregistered" bicycle on the University of Texas campus (yes, there is actually a law requiring this).

While most cyclists are not anti-helmet, most are against mandatory helmet laws. Surprisingly enough, many of Austin's bike store owners oppose the law as well. Bicycle

This is yet another way in which the law has made cyclists more vulnerable.

In summary, cyclists in Austin are vulnerable from many directions: bad road planning, indifferent or malicious city/state officials, public perception and marginalization, as well as the physical vulnerability that such an atmosphere engenders. The helmet law, while providing the spectacle of addressing the most visceral of these threats, further exasperates the point. Arguments that cyclists cost taxpayers just don't stand up to any kind of close examination.

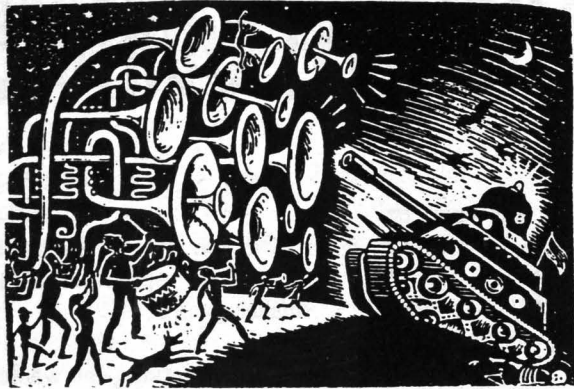
It is time that our bicycle advocates woke up and accepted responsibility for what they have been duped into doing and actually started helping the process by which this terrible legislation can be appealed.

Ride in the **Critical Mass**  
**Bike Ride**  
*last Friday*  
*of every month*  
**West Mall**  
**U.T. Campus**  
**4:30 p.m.**



# Conspiracy of Equals

## infoshop



**Opening  
July 14th!!!**

505 San Jacinto  
Austin, TX 78701



### Who we are



"So who the hell are you", you ask? Well, we are **not** a monolith. we are not a single organization, narrow ideology or even a formal coalition for that matter. We are, however, a network of folks who are allied in transforming our present exploitive society into a fundamentally different world free of oppression. We are non-dogmatic radicals, anarchists, activists, culture jammers, musicians, writers, poets and many more people who look toward a new radical resurgence not just in a distant millennium but in the here and now. We feel that the infoshop is an important step in creating a layer of counter-institutions which help to further these goals.

### What we will do

The first main goal of the infoshop is to facilitate **education**. We envision several specific planks for this goal. (1) **Self-education** - the infoshop will help individuals explore their own educational goals. We will provide hard-to-get books, magazines, newspapers, cassettes, etc., both for sale and for study in an in-store library / archive. (2) **Free school** - nightly classes on a range of subjects such as libertarian education, radical feminism, environmentalism, practical how-to subjects, etc.

Our second goal is to create a free and open **public space**. By this we mean several things. (1) **Community Presentation** - radical groups and individuals will be provided with a reasonable

Chris Kutalik

amount of space to present literature, documents, flyers, forums and other media to present their ideas to a larger public. (2) **Meeting space** - the infoshop will serve as a meeting space, not just for groups but also for individuals. Groups can request times to use the space for meetings. The space could also provide an exciting mix of different ideas, news and projects as both townies and travelers rub shoulders in the space.

Our last goal is to provide a foundation for increased **mutual aid** inside our community. There are a few ways we can help. (1) **Human needs** - through the space we could help coordinate fulfilling people's needs such as job hunts, housing, food, clothing, etc. (2) **Skill-matching / barter** - people looking to find other folks with specific skills or who are interested in bartering will be helped by the project. Message boards and lists are some concrete ways we can facilitate this process.

### What you can do

If all this sound interesting, there are several ways you can get into things down here. If you are interested in becoming a member of the co-operative all that you have to do is show up at a general membership meeting and make a small monthly financial and work-hour pledge (which can be waived for hardship). If you are a member of a group that is interested in using this space, once again all you have to do is show up for a general membership meeting and make a pitch for your project (contributions although nice are not required). If you are just interested casually, that's fine, just drop by during our open hours.

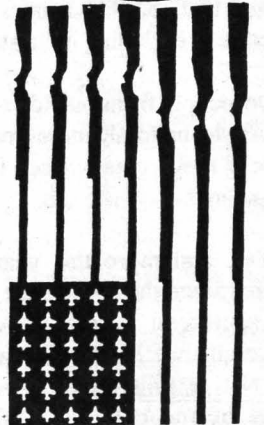
NO GOD



NO MASTER



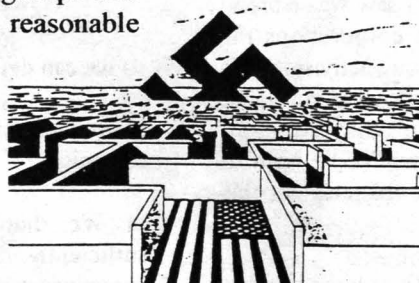
INTERFERENCE EXPECTED



(21)



**ARMIES OF THE RICH**





# Report from the 1996 Earth First! Activist Conference

Interview of Neal Tuttrup by Nom Ansland.

na To start on a personal level, why do you go to the Activist Conference?

nt I go to get inspired and get new ideas. By the time the Activist Conference (AC) happens, six months have gone by since I've hung out in a large group of activists. I've begun to get burned out and have lost some of the spirit that fuels Earth First! activism.

na Where was the conference and who organizes it?

nt It was outside of Tucson, Arizona, in the desert just next to Saguaro National Monument. The local EF! group usually helps meet people's needs during the conference. Food at this conference was provided by Seeds of Peace, a collective that provides food for gatherings and actions.

na What percentage of EF! activists attend the conferences?

nt Usually a relatively small number of EF!ers attend the conference. We do, however, usually seem to get good overall regional representation among those who are able to attend.

na Do people who are not active EF!ers attend? Is anyone excluded?

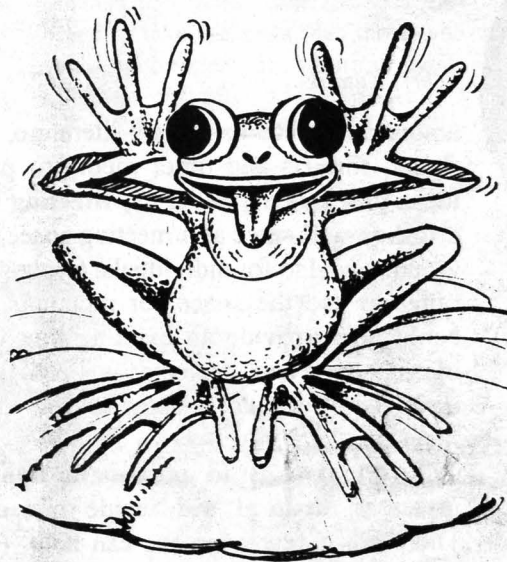
nt Although the AC has traditionally been more of an "in house" event, there has never been a policy against non-EF!ers attending. In the past, people had to have at least two other "known EF!ers" "vouch" for them in order to attend. This year we decided to scrap that process because people felt that it created bad social dynamics and wasn't effective in excluding infiltrators anyway.

na Do people from outside of EF! go to the AC to build alliances or learn about tactics they could use in non-EF! campaigns?

nt Yes, and more this year than ever before. Since the conference was held in the southwest where there has been active alliance building between EF!ers and Native Americans, it was a natural focus of the conference. There were members of the San Carlos Apache, Dine, and Mojave tribes in attendance. They sat in on our meetings, held workshops on issues they are working on, and joined us around the campfire. For much of the final day of the conference we talked about specific ways in which we could aid each other in our

campaigns.

Several common themes in their presentations were: that they respected our activist achievements and were interested in learning from us; that they wanted to share with us their insights into how to be more effective in the work we do; and that it was important for EF!ers to be very sensitive to the situations they enter



when they work with indigenous peoples on campaigns.

na Did you feel that the efforts at alliance building were successful?

nt Yes, but it's always difficult to bridge the gap between the largely white EF! movement and the Native American communities that have so many valid reasons to feel alienated from white people. You can still feel the tension in the relationship, but it seems to have gotten better over time. I think there's a good chance that more collaboration between EF!ers and Native Americans will result from this kind of interaction.

na Did EF! come up with any new tactics or strategies or figure out how to tailor old actions so they suit the current situation?

nt The biggest shift I saw was a broad consensus to make corporations the primary targets of our activism. This sentiment has been growing in EF! for several years, but it really seems to have taken hold now. People want to be very clear about this and get this concept across.

na So the corporate culture is what EF! wants to target as the enemy if we had to put the label on something?

nt EF!ers seem to think that would be an effective and meaningful way to frame the issues right now.

na What new ideas do EF!ers have about how to dismantle the corporations?

nt There were some difficult discussions about strategy. People are tired of going to jail and want to alter our activism so that we don't fall prey to the legal system so often.

na You mean like alternatives to civil disobedience or ways to do civil disobedience with less risk and busts?

nt Definitely. People also spent a lot of time talking about how we can have more of an impact by coordinating our actions on a national level. Currently, nationwide momentum seldom develops because campaigns in different regions don't coincide in time or have enough common elements in their rhetoric. We never have the impact of all of us working together as a national or international entity. People want to coordinate our actions so they reinforce each other and are collectively a bigger phenomenon in society. It seems like a twist on the national days of action that EF! used to do. A more sophisticated and sustained version of that. Not just a "day" of action, but a sequence of actions that build up to a bigger action



We, who can still hear the jaguar scream,  
We dream of a day when all things wild will again be free.  
We long for a time when every species will be loved  
and honored equally.  
It is a dream we may never see fulfilled,  
But in answer to our own wild hearts,  
It is a dream we will fight for  
until the day we die.

so we can develop more momentum.

na How do people envision linking the campaigns?

nt We didn't explore that detail sufficiently. Maintaining communication and coordination and conducting decision making on a national level is something EF! needs to figure out.

na Did you always meet as one group or were there opportunities to meet in smaller groups?

At some meetings, the whole attendance of the conference was in one big circle. Those are almost always crazy because you have most of 100 people trying to interact in a meaningful fashion. Issues that are of interest to the entire movement are handled in these general sessions.

For topics that are primarily of interest to small groups of activists who are focusing on similar issues, we hold breakout sessions. These smaller groups get together to do intensive brainstorming and information sharing. After they finish, a member of their group presents a summary to the larger group.

na To what extent do conflicts between individuals express themselves at the conference? For instance, to what extent is there racism or sexism at the conference?

nt The main issue of this type that came up this year was related to gender relations. On the last day of the conference, the topic of sexual harassment within the movement came up at the morning circle. Since we were supposed to be doing announcements and since the conference was nearly over, the issue wasn't discussed by the group. The stories I've heard from around the country and the things I've seen lead me to believe that this issue needs more work within the EF! movement.

na Would you say that it is being worked on, that progress has been made?

nt There's been progress made since the early days of Earth First!, but I think we now need to begin the next phase of that process. It would help if we could produce some consistent stated positions on gender relations within the movement. I think it would be cool if EF! adopted something similar to the Zapatista's "Revolutionary Rights of Women."

na Do you think this conference produced an effective strategy for the EF! movement?

nt I think we came up with ideas that could grow into an effective strategy if we follow up on them now that we're home.

na Is there anything else you'd like to mention?

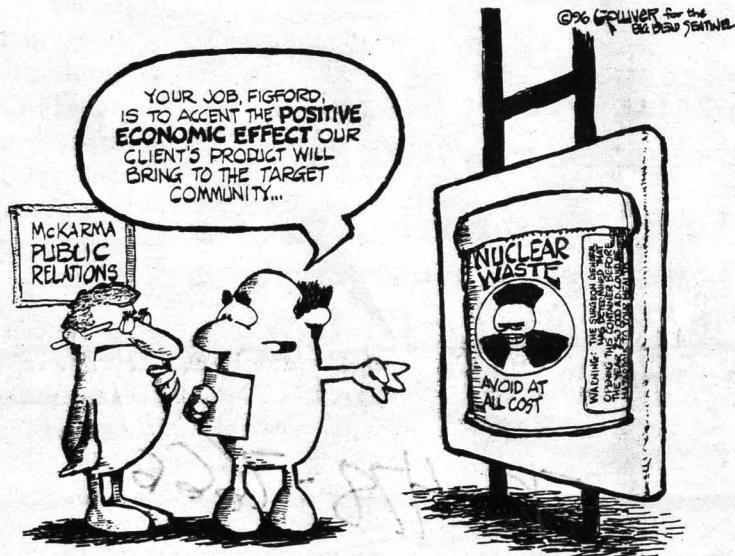
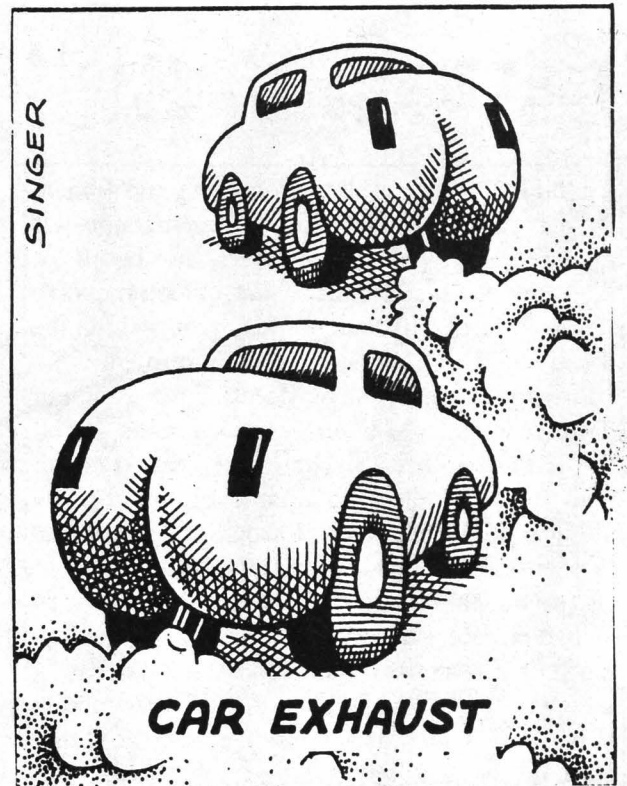


nt The thing that stands out in my memory is what an overwhelming experience it is to get together to build community and culture among people who are resisting domination. It is true that many of our gatherings represent only imperfect and temporary community, but to be together in a large group of people who share a deep love and concern for life is a deeply moving experience.

My favorite memory is from the final day of the conference when the weather shifted. The wind picked up, the clouds came in and there was dust blowing everywhere. Nearly 100 people joined hands and formed a huge circle in the meadow. It was an amazing experience. It didn't take a whole lot of imagination to feel the collective spirit of the beautiful and courageous people I saw as looked through the blowing dust. Then suddenly it was over, and everyone hurried back home to take up the struggle for their precious piece of our collective home.

*Just so we don't forget, here's a list of priorities that was produced at a brainstorming session at the 1995 Activist Conference:*

- focus on multinationals
- form a united front with oppressed peoples
- train new activists - each one teach one
- use criticism to strengthen, not bash
- cultivate skilled EF! speakers
- work on grassroots mobilizing
- strengthen our ties to our communities
- slow work, long-term commitment
- focus on USFWS and State Fish and Game
- form coalitions with other groups
- litigation taking a stronger role
- question lobbying and litigation
- use the Journal as an outreach tool
- ESA reauthorization campaign
- focus on the big 10 eco-groups
- understand / expand media role
- harrassment information clearinghouse
- form coalitions with gay and lesbian groups
- develop international facilitation of EF!
- HAVE MORE FUN THAN THEY DO!!!**



Earth  First!





# Earth First!

Earth First! is a radical environmental movement. As a movement rather than an organization, we have no dues-paying members, no board of directors, no hierarchical chain of command to define or limit what autonomous groups do in the name of Earth First! Our motto is "No compromise in defense of Mother Earth," and our philosophy is Deep Ecology, which holds that all life is sacred, that all species are created equal, with their right to find their evolutionary fate unimpeded by Humans. Earth First! holds that Wilderness is the ultimate standard of environmental integrity, and is the true context of human culture, standard of living and spirituality. Earth First is an activist movement not a debating society. We believe in the value of direct action to preserve wildlands and biodiversity. With that attitude, we do all sorts of outrageous and sometimes illegal things on behalf of mountains and rivers, bugs and birds. Earth First! has a perfect record of non-violence: nobody has ever been physically harmed by any of our actions, although plenty of coporate types and politicians have been very embarrassed. As a group we neither condemn nor condone Monkeywrenching, the creative destruction of machinery, etc., that is used to despoil the earth. Harm none, and do as thou wilt. Earth First! Off your asses and into the streets! (Or into the woods as need be!) Your Mother is calling!!!!



## CONTACT

Austin Earth First!  
 phone: (512) 467-6139  
 e-mail: [entropy@eden.com](mailto:entropy@eden.com)

**Austin EF! meets every  
 Thursday at East Woods Park  
 (just north of the UT Law  
 School).**

# "ain't too proud to beg"

Austin Earth First! takes pride in the fact that we have maintained a high level of activism for years with virtually no resources. But it is foolish pride.

Wouldn't it be great if we had enough money to put out the Paperwrench, to make a flyer about that important upcoming event, to buy some gas for that movement vehicle that's always running on empty and breaking down.

Wouldn't it be great if the money for these things didn't have to come from people who are already devoting most of their free time to the cause.

Austin EF!, like many community groups, relies too heavily on the time and money of too few. We would like to

move beyond this level of activism. We want to engage in activism that enriches people's lives rather than consuming them.

This is more than just a good idea. It is downright essential. The number and complexity of environmental issues confronting us does nothing but increase. Just to keep up, we need your help.

If you enjoy and learn from this publication and appreciate Austin EF!'s contribution to our community, please send us a donation or something off our wish list. **Thanks!**

### wish list:

- fax, fridge, file cabinets, Mac +or better, modem, kegs, paint, govt. moles, cartoonists, free rent, etc.

Austin Earth First!  
 P.O. Box 7292  
 Austin, TX 78713

512-478-7666  
 Neal/Entropy



### "ODE TO 9 COURAGEOUS NIGERIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS"

SEE SHELL-SHOCKED SIGN-SHARD SHAPED LIKE NIGERIA SITTING BY THE FREE-WAY-SIDE -

SPARSE SPORADIC SCATTERED HORN SOUNDS IN SOLIDARITY?

GATHERED THERE WE, FACES FAMILIAR AND WITH BIKES OUR IDEAL - TRYING TO OPEN SOME HEARTS AND MINDS TO A NECKTIE PARTY GIVEN IN THEIR HONOR ON THE OTHER HEMISPHERE OF THEIR WORLD CONSCIOUSNESS.

DECEMBER 13, 1995 "THE GRAPHIC-EYE" JOHN DOLLEY

### APPENDUM - BOYCOTT SHELL!

47 OF THE TOP 100 ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD ARE CORPORATIONS - AND OF THESE, 18 PRODUCE AUTOMOBILES OR OIL.

90% OF NIGERIA'S EXPORT EARNINGS ARE FROM OIL. OIL MAKES UP 80% OF NIGERIA'S TOTAL REVENUE, SHELL PRODUCES 50% OF NIGERIA'S OIL.

