

Earth First! News

On the Frontlines of Ecological Resistance

Number I, Volume I

Lughnasadh

August 2, 2010

LUGHNASADGH — ◆ — ISSUE EXPLANATION

It's time to come back together for the season of the first harvest. Gatherings, festivals, markets and games decorate this occasion to enjoy the abundance of Summer—berries, corn and laughter. It is also a time of remembrance, to celebrate the sacrifices made by those who have cleared the field and sown the seeds. Celebrate Lughnasadh's long, hot days and the ripening of the first grains with a Summer's feast and camp-out!

CHANGES AT THE EARTH FIRST! JOURNAL

Here, before you, is the first issue of *Earth First! News*, the newsletter of the radical environmental movement. The frontlines of environmental struggles and ecological defense from around the world, we bring you a compendium of the most vital direct action, resistance and environmental news. The *EF! Journal* collective is currently compiling and editing the newsletter, although we intend to share these responsibilities with other *EF!* collectives in future editions. If you want to contribute, e-mail us at: collective@earthfirstjournal.org, and we will plug you in. Forthcoming this November is the 30th Anniversary Edition of the *Earth First! Journal*!!!! Also on the horizon, the first quarterly issue of the *EF! Journal* in March of next year—a bound publication of strategy and analysis. Until then, enjoy the introduction of *EF! News*, a developing project to be released on pace with the harvest calendar; and, check out daily reports with live links and videos at: www.newswire.earthfirstjournal.org. The newsletter can also be downloaded as a PDF for print and distribution from the newswire. Donations are needed to keep these projects going, so please send your contribution of any amount to *Earth First! Journal*, PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Thank you to everyone who has sent contributions already! If we can send you future issues via e-mail, let us know so that we can reduce our costs. And without further ado...

FRONTLINES

5/19: Our friends at **Climate Ground Zero** (CGZ) in West Virginia have been busy. In a recent action, they disrupted the Massey Energy shareholder's meeting by blockading the entrance to Massey's regional headquarters with a tripod. Emmakate Martin and Benjamin Bryant, two mountain defenders, were initially put in jail with an insanely high bail amount of \$100,000, which was eventually reduced to \$2,500. This comes after a CGZ activist was sentenced to six months for taking part in the February 18, Marfork Mining Office occupation in spite of a June 2009 preliminary injunction.

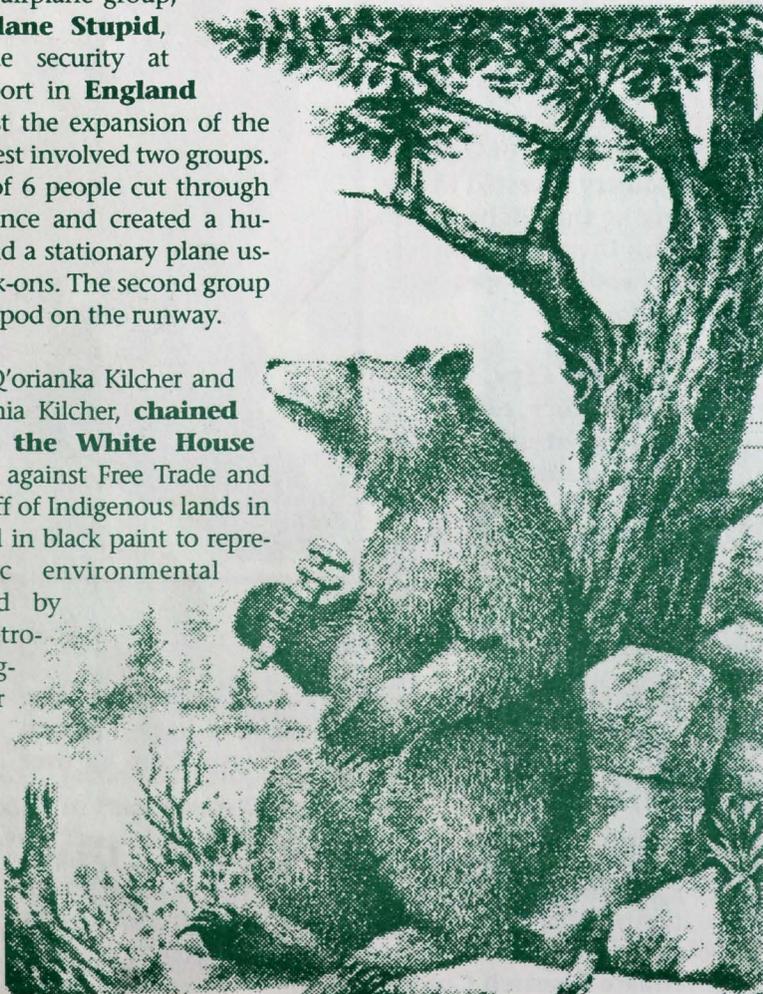
5/20: **The Sea Lion Defense Brigade** wrapped up their monitoring campaign in Pacific Northwest with success in their first season. Congratulations to them for keeping a close eye on the State's insane plan to kill 64 California sea lions this year. They killed 10 defenseless sea lions.

5/25: Seven **Greenpeace** activists were arrested for boarding an offshore drilling support ship in Port Fourchon, LA, and painting anti-offshore drilling slogans and symbols. They were all released the next morning on bail.

5/26: The anti-airplane group, **Manchester Plane Stupid**, breached air-side security at Manchester Airport in **England** to protest against the expansion of the airport. The protest involved two groups. The first group of 6 people cut through the perimeter fence and created a human circle around a stationary plane using arm tube lock-ons. The second group erected a large tripod on the runway.

5/28: Activist Q'orianka Kilcher and her mother, Sashia Kilcher, **chained themselves to the White House fence** in protest against Free Trade and the auctioning off of Indigenous lands in Arizona. Covered in black paint to represent the horrific environmental pollution caused by Oxydental Petroleum on Indigenous Achuar land in Peru.

Q'orianka Kilmer spoke out against the President of Peru, who was visiting the White House at the time.



FRONTLINES

5/26: Six people were arrested at a **True Cost of Chevron** protest at Chevron's shareholders' meeting in Houston, Texas. Over 30 people from all over the world had gathered for the demonstration with the intention of entering the meeting, holding signs and banners denouncing militarization and environmental destruction. In spite of valid documents, all but seven were barred from entering, prompting four activists to get arrested in disobedience. Once inside, activists disrupted the shareholders' meeting, chanting "Chevron Lies, People Die!" as the CEO attempted to greenwash the exploitation of people and the environment. The meeting was shut down immediately, and one of the activists was arrested on the spot.

5/28: In England, a "T-Mobile" **cell phone repeater was destroyed by fire**. All effort was made not to endanger any life and the mast was chosen due to its distance from residential buildings. The antenna was situated near the central Temple Meads railway station close to a new urban development area.

6/8: In **North Carolina** anonymous postcards were sent to members of the timber industry invested in the logging of the **Globe Forest** warning them that deforestation would be met with resistance.

6/8: **Taiyun City**, China's Shanxi Province, erupted in **violent protests** against landgrabs made by the government on behalf of developers interested in luxury condos and real estate. Police used tear gas to disperse protesters and arrested several people.

6/27: Over **400 people were arrested protesting the G20 meeting in Toronto**. The police state crack-down on 20,000 protesters brought harsh criticism from all over the world.

6/28: Five activists with the **Animal Defense League** were arrested in a daring blockade of a primate research facility in Oregon. The five are awaiting trial for locking-down to obstruct traffic to the infamous Oregon National Primate Research Center.

7/7: After days of workshops and celebration, **EF!** did what it does best—Direct Action. Closing out the **Round River Rendezvous** in Maine with style, Earth First!ers trekked up Sisk Mountain and blocked an access road leading up to forest land destined to be clear-cut to make way for TransCanada wind farms. Later that day, a truck carrying an industrial wind turbine blade was halted at the point of entry by three EF!ers. Four were arrested, one of whom locked herself to the undercarriage, risking her own life in order to stop business as usual.

7/9: To protest the EPA's approval of a new **Mountain Top Removal (MTR)** mine in Pine Creek, **West Virginia**, RAN activists entered an EPA building, sat down in the lobby and locked themselves together with metal lock-boxes. Another activist climbed to the top of the EPA front door with a banner reading: "Blowing up mountains for coal contaminates Appalachia's water, Stop MTR."

7/12: **Croatian Earth First!** held a protest outside of the Forest Service office in Asheville to protest the commercial logging of national forests and their continued plan to cut the **Globe Forest** in Blowing Rock, NC. One member u-locked his neck to the office front door. UPDATE: The forest service has since removed the old-growth stand from this sale. However, pressure continues in order to protect the entire region from industrial logging.

7/20: Protests in Sochi, **Russia**, have been getting physical, as police and activists have clashed over days of intense action.

4,000 gathered to protest in Sochi as radicals built barricades in the Khimki forests. About a week later, 100 Russian protesters moved in direct action in protest of the coming Sochi Winter Olympics, **attacking City Hall with molotov cocktails**, bottles and fireworks and spraypainting slogans such as "Save Russian forests" and "No to Khimki forest clearing."

7/21: In **England**, **seven large trucks were sabotaged** at the Cutacre Coal Mine. Reports said that metal hair pins were cut to length, coated in superglue and inserted deep into the locks of the vehicles.



Artwork credit: Brandon Bright

7/29: Greenpeace shut down 46 BP Stations in London. Fencing off the petrol stations and putting up snarky signs stating "Moving Beyond Petroleum."

7/29: German liberationists set fire to a factory farm under construction, destroying the building and causing over \$1 million worth of damage.

8/5: Eleven people from **Rosspport Solidarity Camp**, in Broadhaven Bay, Ireland, waded and kayaked out to delay Shell's survey work in Sruwaddacon Estuary. Drilling work was stopped for over five hours. One person climbed up one of the legs of the drilling platforms, several people also attached themselves to the two outer drilling poles, under the platforms.

8/6: Australian group Six Degrees brought together hundreds of farming families and environmentalists to Queensland Parliament. The rally culminated when two Six Degrees activists **scaled the Parliament building and dropped a banner** reading "Don't Undermine Our Farms," to protest continuing coal extraction and potential water poisoning on prime agricultural land.

8/9: In **Italy**, a group of 70 global activists staged a **lightning strike against a field of genetically modified (GM) maize**, crushing all the plants and effectively preventing their harvest.

IN THE STREETS

4/29: At their 25th anniversary celebration in New York City's West Village on April 29, a surprise awaited the mainstream environmental organization—the Rainforest Action Network (RAN). Protesters posing as Gala host, Chris Noth, who played Mr. Big in *Sex in the City*, and costars, Samantha and Carrie, enthusiastically touted RAN's notorious support for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC continues certifying industrial logging of old-growth forests.

5/27: An International Day of Action against Mining and Free Trade in El Salvador was organized by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and others. Events took place in Portland, Seattle, NYC, Washington and Boston, including street theater, protests, teach-ins and more. The highlighted target was Pacific Rim, a Canadian gold mining corporation which is suing the nation of El Salvador for refusing to grant mining permits for ecological destructive cyanide-leach mines.

5/28: DC area animal rights activists staged a series of surprise **Huntington Life Sciences (HLS) protests** at Novartis, Astra-Zenica (these two are in one building), Sanofi-Aventos, and Bristol-Myers Squibb. All three buildings were entered as security got caught napping!

6/2: A Walk Through the Tar Sands was put together to protest Montana state governments' plans to allow

pipeline equipment to be shipped through the state. The next day a Critical Mass bike ride led to a rally at the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) offices to pressure MDT Director Jim Lynch to "Get Out of Bed With Exxon," conduct a fullscale Environmental Impact Statement and deny the permits for the tar sands corridor.

6/5: World Environment Day: The anti-dams movement in **Chile** received a shot in the arm when a mobilization brought together different groups from differing social sectors and movements to the capitol city of Santiago. Coordinated by Patagonia Defense Council, Alliance for Climate Justice and Cochabamba Coordination, and organized by Ecosistemas, the mobilization demonstrated opposition to the Pascual Lama project which would pave the way for more dams, turning the fertile and beautiful region of Patagonia into industrial farmland.

6/5: Protests also took place in **Haiti** and all over the US in **opposition to Monsanto's** presence in the disaster-stricken country. Monsanto has "donated" 60,000 sacks of hybrid seeds (mostly corn), but activists see this as a market ploy. Hybrid seeds generally do not reproduce, forcing farmers to return to the dealers in order to buy more seeds every year. This intervention in the natural process of seed production is detrimental to both the local ecology and economy.

6/11: People from villages, environmental groups and other organizations around the region of **Goa, India** formed a "**chain in the rain**" protest to denounce the failure of the government to abide by newly set standards to protect environmental and human rights. The protest, which linked people from a famous hotel to the secretariat building was the first in a string of protests planned against the greenwashing policy, "Regional Plan 2021."

6/25: The **Hands Across the Sands** protests took place in thousands of cities across the USA protesting offshore drilling and insufficient regulation.

8/2: A historic prayer ceremony was held on the Eel River in Humboldt County, California, by the **Round Valley Tribes of Covelo and Friends of the Eel River (FOER)**. The Eel River has been devastated by salmon fisheries, and according to a press release, "(the Eel River Prayer Ceremony and Summit) was the first one of its kind in 100 years, since traditional spiritual ceremonies were banned among tribal governments.

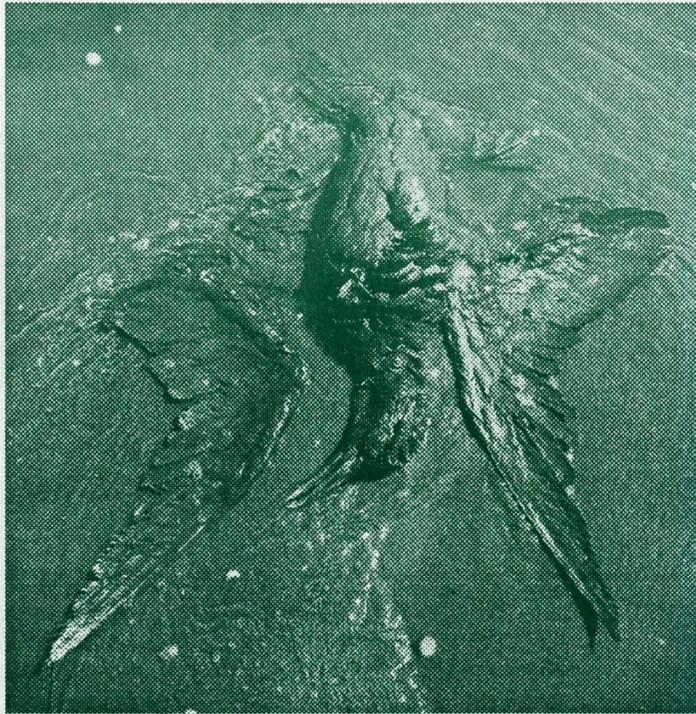
8/11: Anti-vivisection and anti-Scripps activists held a demonstration at the offices Primate Products Inc. in **Miami, Florida**. Activists gathered at the facility because of its connection with Hunting Life Sciences and the new vivisection labs proposed for the Scripps Biotech Phase II project in Palm Beach County (one hour north of the Miami site). These demonstrations have been increasing in size and frequency as the time draws nearer for the final permits. The Scripps development also proposes to clear 700 acres of rare pine flatwoods, home to threatened and endangered species of the Everglades bioregion.

DEATH TOLL OF THE ENERGY EMPIRE

So far, the year 2010 averages more than one oil spill per month. Each one of these spills has caused untold damage. But the oil spills are the tip of the iceberg; natural gas drilling has also caused several explosions showing the volatility of "clean" fossil fuels. Many blame the "Drill, Baby, Drill!" mind-set of the Bush Administration for the lack of safety standards causing the environmental wreckage, but the source is far deeper: industry is reaping the consequences of centuries of exploitation and greed.

The Year of Harsh Consequences

To recap, nine major oil spills have come and gone so far this year with little sustained media attention. In early April, an oil tanker running aground on the Great Barrier Reef close to Australia dumped 2-3 tons of oil on one of the most fragile and vital ecosystems on Earth, scarring about two miles of ocean and in some places massacring all life. In May, two oil spills occurred—one from the Trans-Alaska pipeline, spilling 100,000 gallons of oil, and the other from an oil tanker in the Singapore Straits, spreading at least 2,000 tons of oil along the coastal beaches of Singapore and the wetlands of Malaysia. These spills pale in comparison to the 696,350 barrels or 214,475,800 gallons of oil that Exxon Mobil spilled into the Niger Delta on May 10, which is ranked the 16th worst oil spill of all time and continues to go mostly ignored by international aid and media coverage. A pipeline spill that leaked 5,000 gallons of oil into a tributary of the Little



Sioux River in Iowa and an oil tanker spilling 462,000 gallons of oil in Port Arthur, Texas have received little attention. Other lesser known pipeline explosions and leaks occurred in Oklahoma and Michigan, spilling 200,000 gallons of oil, not to mention the huge oil spill in the Red Sea off the coast of Egypt, the little-known explosion and subsequent oil spill off the coast of Venezuela, and that pre-existing oil spill that has been leaking 16 gallons of oil per day into the Gulf of Mexico since 2004.

The most chilling of this year's spills has been the other off-shore oil spill, caused by the Deepwater Horizon explosion, which killed eleven workers and gushed millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. After employees of the Mineral Management Service, the agency responsible for regulating drilling in the Gulf, were exposed for bribes, drug and sexism, the Obama administration successfully deflected criticism

by declaring a moratorium on all offshore drilling permits. However, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, the supposed moratorium completely failed to stem off-shore permit approvals, and has functioned as a non-binding verbal agreement. Obama's treachery and duplicity reflect his inability to act beyond liberal poses of empathy.

Meanwhile, BP revealed their own lack of preparedness, attempting first to rescue the gushing oil for their own purposes by siphoning it into a tanker, and then trying to clog the pipeline by shooting garbage into it. The oil flooded into the Gulf from the undersea pipeline at a rate of 100,000 barrels a day, creating massive plumes of oil that have extended their tentacles of tar to the coast of the Gulf States and are slowly crawling their way up the coast of North Florida.

The quantity and impact of methane gas released in the Macondo blow-out remain undetermined. As of

July 29, 3,613 dead animals had been collected. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported cause of death had not been determined, dolphins have been seen blowing oil through their blow holes, along with countless other sightings of extremely abnormal animal behavior. BP also burned off patches of oil lying on the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, setting flame to numerous animals with it.

Chemical oil dispersants used to break up oil slicks by BP cause even more injury to the ecosystems of the Gulf, hurting humans in the process. In spite of the US government's attempts to slow the use of dispersants, BP continues the process, and has even refused to show up for a hearing on accountability for the spill.

Flames of the Future

Plumes of fire exploded 70 feet into the air, burning a team drilling for natural gas in an abandoned coal mine in rural West Virginia after they struck a pocket of methane. Only weeks prior, a natural gas pipeline exploded in Texas, killing one person and injuring several others, and 35,000 gallons of drilling fluids were released following a gas well blowout in Pennsylvania. Last year, over 40 accidents occurred around natural gas drilling and transportation, shining a new light on unsafe industry practices.

The same technology that failed in the Pennsylvania blowout failed in the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig: the blow-out preventer. This piece of equipment is supposedly necessary to close off a leaking pipe. Explosions caused by pockets of combustible gas are becoming increasingly danger-

ous, as the energy industry turns its attention towards the mining of methane hydrates—undersea stores of methane—in places like Alaska. Drilling for the undersea methane could cause disasters that dwarf the Deep Horizon, because large methane stores could be released into the sea, causing anoxia and killing countless species (see *Earth First! Journal*, Beltane, May-June 2010).

In conclusion, what we have seen in the past few

months, beginning with the explosion of the Deep Horizon and ending with natural gas explosions, sends a message of what may come should we continue along the path of industrial development. We will continue to see impunity for BP, Exxon Mobil and corporate cronies like Haliburton and Transocean, who have made billions of dollars off the explosion of Deepwater Horizon from a double-insurance policy that they took out on it. We will continue

to see government lagging behind, pointing fingers and ultimately doing nothing. Now is the time to act.

Demonstrations too numerous to count have occurred throughout the US and in several countries across the globe, including Canada and the UK, to express dissent and to try to stop offshore drilling. As of press time, *Earth First! News* estimates that several hundred demonstrations have taken place, involving hundreds of thousands of people

in North America alone. Sustained actions are necessary to resist the compromises of “safer regulation.” Elimination of fossil fuel dependence requires a combination of consumer refusal and public dissent, but it doesn’t stop there; we need to save our forests, our seas, our mountains and communities; everything is under constant assault by exploitative industries. Either we stop it, or it stops us. It’s just that simple. Destroy what destroys you.

GREENWASHING EXPOSE: LOSING THE BOREAL FOREST

In what many are calling **the largest environmental compromise in world history**, Greenpeace and eight other environmentalist organizations joined up with 21 forestry companies to mark a new step towards destroying the boreal forest. Backed by the Ivy Foundation and the Pew Foundation, both of which have deep financial ties to the oil industry, the agreement compromises smaller environmental groups who did not sign onto it.

Richard Brooks from Greenpeace ironically mis-spoke at a May 17 press conference when he said, “It’s a massive tomb, uh, tome that we’ve put together.” Greenpeace claims that the agreement protects 175 million acres of Canada’s boreal forest, but only the 21 companies that signed the agreement are forced to comply, and even then, all of the “protected” lands lie on public land or land owned by First Nations groups who have not signed off on the agreement. Furthermore,

Greenpeace uses the agreement to throw its support behind the greenwashing Forestry Stewardship Council

“...We would love to have similar talks with the oil and gas industry and also with the mining industry as well.”

label, which supposedly directs consumers to “sustainably harvested” timber products. Meanwhile, ForestEthics is calling off its successful boycotting campaign of Victoria Secret and other companies that use timber harvested from the boreal forest for their catalogs.

According to Macdonald Stainsby, coordinator of OILSANDSTRUTH.ORG, “The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement is essentially another huge jump away from democracy, towards corporate control of the lands of Canada, as well as the corporatization of what is left of a once defiant environmental movement.”

From First Nations groups who fight for our Earth as more than a resource for exploitation, to activists fighting the Alberta Tar Sands and clear-cutting in Ontario—there remains a wide spectrum of the public that refuses to acknowledge the authenticity of the deal. Claiming to protect lands that extant laws already protect and to maintain wildlife corridors when no consistent protected lands lie along East-West lateral lines, the new agreement only opens up

loopholes for timber companies like the ones that signed off on it in the first place. Ontario, for instance, remains extremely vulnerable. To this day, no limits restrict clearcuts in Ontario’s forests.

In the end, what they are calling the new direction of the environmental movement is actually just a tactic to maintain hype and popularity at a time



Photo credit: energyportal.eu

The future of the Boreal Forest and the devastation of deforestation.

when political decision teeters on the brink of standing up against climate change and falling back into the pack of ignorant compromisers. “Unless we are to believe that the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI), David Suzuki Foundation, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and ForestEthics all under cut their own campaigns,” said Amber Stainsby, director of Earthroots, “this is only a part and parcel to set up a carbon market, and allow forest offsets to go alongside carbon offsets and further entrench false solutions to the climate crisis.” In other words, big fail.

And the worst may be yet to come. Steve Kallick, director of the Boreal Conservation campaign of the Pew Environment Group says he would like to see other industries at the table on the agreement. “They’re not within the four corners of this agreement, but we would love to have similar talks with the oil and gas industry and also with the mining industry as well.”

ECO-PRISONER BIRTHDATES AND UPDATES IN SUMMER/FALL

Thanks to the work of Anarchist Black Cross, Break the Chains and Chapel Hill Prison Books Collective, we have been able to compile this list of several prisoner birthdates so that all can write cards to let them know they are far from forgotten. While the list focuses primarily on people in prison for ecological resistance and land struggles, we also include prisoners of other liberation movements and politicized prisoners, to nurture broader solidarity in the face of ongoing state repression. As anarchist POW Ojore Lutalo has stated, "Any political movement that does not support its political internees is a sham movement!"

Steve Murphy 39013-177
FCI Beaumont Medium
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 26040
Beaumont, TX 77720

Birthday: September 3, 1966

Murphy is accused of allegedly decommissioning a tractor and placing an incendiary device in a housing development construction site in the name of the Earth Liberation Front. Steve Murphy pleaded guilty this year to one count of conspiracy to commit arson. The charge carries Terrorism Enhancement. Steve is now facing 5 years in prison.

Leonard Peltier 89637-132
USP Lewisburg
PO Box 1000
Lewisburg, PA 178371

Birthday: September 12, 1944

Peltier is a Native American PP imprisoned for the 1975 shoot-out between the FBI and the American Indian Movement (AIM) in which two federal agents and a Native American man were killed. Four years after his incarceration, a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) suit released documents which prove Leonard Peltier's innocence and FBI's targeting of the activist.

Eric McDavid 16209-097
FCI Victorville, Medium II
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 5300
Adelanto, CA 92301

Birthday: October 7, 1977

McDavid was arrested 2006 and charged with "Conspiracy to damage and destroy property by fire and an explosive." His arrest was the direct result of a government informant. Eric was imprisoned for what amounts to thought-crime - no actions were ever carried out.

Michael Davis Africa #AM4973
Box 244
Graterford, PA 19426
Birthday: October 6, 1955

Edward Goodman Africa #AM4974
SCI Mahoney
301 Morea Road
Frackville, PA 17932
October 21, 1949

Both Africa's are members of the Move 9, a Black eco-revolutionary group who were framed for the murder of a cop in 1978 during an attack on their home in Philadelphia.

Kevin Kjonaas #93502-011
Unit I / Box 1000
Sandstone, MN 55072
FCI Sandstone

Birthday: October 31

Kjonaas started his six year sentence on November 16, 2006, convicted for Conspiracy to violate the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, Conspiracy to Stalk, three counts of Interstate Stalking, Conspiracy to Harass using a Telecommunications Device, all accusations related to working on the website of anti-vivisection campaign Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty (SHAC).

Hanif Shabazz Bey (Beaumont Gereao)
RR 1 Box 9955
Kingshill, St. Croix, VI 00850

Birthday: August 16, 1950

Bey was involved in the 1970's resistance movement to U.S. colonial rule in the occupied Virgin Islands. He was arrested in the midst of a small-scale Mau Mau rebellion along with 4 others following a massive campaign of repression, torture and Kangaroo Court resulting in a sentence of 8 consecutive life terms.

Ronald Reed
5329 Osgood Avenue North
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-1117

Birthday: August 31, 1950

Reed is a former 60s civil rights activist and was also instrumental in helping to integrate college campuses in Minnesota. Reed went on to join the Black United Front. In 1970 he was convicted of shooting a St. Paul police officer. Twenty-five years after the killing, Reed was arrested and convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first degree-murder. He is serving life in prison.

David Gilbert #83A6158
Clinton Corr. Facility
P.O. Box 2001
Dannemora, NY 12929

Birthday: October 6, 1944

Gilbert was a founding member of Columbia University Students for a Democratic Society and member of The Weather Underground Organization. Following eleven years underground he was arrested with members of the Black Liberation Army and other radicals following a botched armored car robbery in 1981.

UPDATES:

Eco-prisoner, **Marie Mason**, has been relocated to what is rumored to be the location of a third CMU (Communications Management Units) in Carswell, Texas. We have received information that Mason has been held in solitary confinement since she has arrived. But she is receiving mail, so please keep writing her! There are different rules at this prison regarding books, so she is asking that supporters hold off sending them at this time. Please write to her new address:

Marie Mason #04672-061
FMC Carswell
Federal Medical Center
P.O. Box 27137
Fort Worth, TX 76127

A Chinese character address is now available for Green Scare defendant **Justin Solondz**, who is currently imprisoned in China, awaiting extradition. This address, along with other news and updates, can be found at North American Earth Liberation Prisoner Support Network website www.ECOPRISONERS.ORG

BAREBONES

5/4: Judges ruled against a lawsuit brought by Greenpeace and Cascadia Wildlands Project, effectively allowing **four timber sales in the Tongass Roadless Area of Alaska**. The struggle for the conservation of roadless areas has historically been very strong in the Tongass, and this verdict comes as a major setback. The Tongass is larger than West Virginia, and is home to the Alexander Archipelago timber wolf, a species of wolf only found in Alaska. What about the roadless moratorium, you ask? I guess we'll soon find out.

5/27: National news broke of an undercover investigation at a **Conklin Dairy farm in Union County, Ohio**, near Columbus. The undercover footage, obtained over the past several weeks by the animal protection group Mercy For Animals, shows workers abusing animals horribly. A subsequent protest at Conklin was met by 150 cops, including a police helicopter, armored car and SWAT Team. Police suppressed the demonstration, allegedly because protests on the side of small highways are dangerous. Soon after, a video was released from an undercover investigation taken by the group Compassion Over Killing, exposing shocking abuses inside Cal-Cruz Hatcheries, a chicken and duck hatchery in Santa Cruz, CA. The investigation prompted authorities to impound 88 duckling, many of whom have been taken to sanctuaries.

5/28: The next chapter in a series of events shocking the environmental community unfolded as **Captain Bethune of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society** had to plead guilty to charges of trespass, vandalism, obstructing commercial activity and being armed with a weapon. Captain Bethune was arrested and taken to Tokyo after boarding an illegal whaling vessel to avenge the January ramming and sinking of the Sea Shepherd ship, *Ady Gil*. Before being detained, Bethune threw rancid butter on board the Japanese ship and attempted a citizens' arrest of the whaling captain while serving him a multi-million dollar damage bill.

5/31: Bayer Pharmaceutical Corporation admitted last month to the contamination of local Missouri farmers' crops with GMO rice. According to experts, over 30 percent of all rice cropland in the US is contaminated with Bayer's unapproved rice. In their defense, Bayer admitted that there is no possible way of preventing this from happening with GMOs. In other GMO news, an entire crop of weed-resistant corn from **Monsanto** has utterly failed as of April, leaving farmers in South Africa totally desperate. Some farms in the region have suffered 80 percent failure.

6/7: A court in **Bhopal, India**, finally ruled that Union Carbide India, Ltd. and seven of its officials are guilty of **criminal negligence in the world's worst industrial disaster**. During the night of December 2-3, 1984, tons of poisonous chemical gas leaked out of a Union Carbide pesticide plant killing about 3,500 instantly and thousands over time. The seven held accountable for the negligence that

caused the massacre were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and then released on bail. Since the disaster, 45 tons of toxic waste have been cleaned up, but about 325 tons remain.

6/8: Despite the fact that the manufacture of soy biodiesel is worse for climate emissions than fossil fuels, the new **Round Table for Responsible Soy (RTRS)** certification scheme is presenting it as yet another "sustainable solution." 235 groups, including Friends of the Earth International and Corporate Europe Observatory, have risen up in opposition to the RTRS.

8/6: The Spanish province of **Catalonia has banned bull-fighting** thanks to the tireless efforts of activists from the area.

UPDATES

5/23-24: Two events took place in the Bay Area in California to commemorate the **20th anniversary of the bombing of Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney** and attacks on Earth First! by the FBI. On May 23, a packed house heard speakers Ramona Africa from the MOVE Organization in Philadelphia; climate activist Gopal Dayaneni; lead attorney in the victorious Judi Bari vs. FBI lawsuit, Dennis Cunningham; and Earth First! organizers Karen Pickett and Darryl Cherney—who was injured in the car bombing with Judi. The crowd came from far and wide for the events which also marked the moment the bomb exploded, May 24, at the site where Judi's car blew up, an explosion that nearly killed her—and ended any illusions that the FBI and the corporations were not taking Earth First! very seriously.

5/27: The defenders of sacred **Eagle Rock** sat in a circle and mourned as they were surrounded by dozens of heavily armed state and local police officers who raided the Eagle Rock encampment in Michigan. Two campers were arrested at the request of Kennecott Eagle Minerals, who wasted no time destroying the month-old camp to make way for their nickel and copper mine. A new camp is now up and the struggle to save Eagle Rock is going strong again.

6/8: Activists in **Oaxaca, Mexico**, are **attempting to break a paramilitary blockade** that has kept supplies and international aid from entering indigenous regions, which are among the poorest in Mexico. Multinational corporations have been trying to exploit the environment and the people for profits, but resistance movements like the EZLN, La Otra Campaña and the revolutionary solidarity movement that sprung from a teachers' strike in 2006 have helped to secure some degree of autonomy for the inhabitants of the region.

7/15: In a final blow against bogus racketeering and conspiracy charges, **anti-I-69 activists** Gina (Tiga) Wertz and Hugh Farrell signed an agreement with Indiana courts, plead guilty to two counts of trespassing in exchange for a miniscule fine and two years non-reporting probation, plus court costs.

EARTH FIRST! TOOLBOX

Willow chutes of all types are persistent opponents to concrete. They are best known for ripping through water pipelines, sidewalks, building foundations and other undesirable implements of society. Their roots grow fast and reach far, and can send up many more reinforcements. All you need is a branch 1/2 to 1 inch thick in diameter and 10 to 15 inches long. Insert the branch into the ground until there are two or three leaf nodes still visible, preferably next to Earth-suffocating ground coverings. The best time for non-potted Willows is late Winter/early Spring.

After the Willows have had some time to explore their rampant distaste for cement, certain parts of the plants can be harvested for medicine. The inner bark and leaves contain pain reducing salicin, and can be chewed to get rid of toothaches and arthritis. The inner bark also contains immune-boosting, antioxidant and antiseptic properties, and a decoction can be made to reduce fevers.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This have been a busy Summer for EF!ers across the country, with three regional Rondy camp-outs, and our annual Round River Rendezvous in Maine. Well, here one's more! A **Southwest Bio-Regional Earth First! Rendezvous and Organizers' Conference**, August 20-22, in the beautiful San Luis Valley of Colorado. The rendezvous site is near the town of Saguache, in the Rio Grande National Forest.

Food not Bombs has announced their **The Change we Knead Now! Tour**. Contact them to schedule a date in a place near you!

Adbusters and its global network of culturejammers are **calling for a Month of Mayhem** in November, so get out your art supplies and get ready for some "cosmetic improvements" of social landmarks.

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF EARTH FIRST!
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