



Suggested citation: Maenz, Kris, et al., eds., *Earth First! Journal* 19, no. 8 (21 September 1999). Republished by the Environment & Society Portal, Multimedia Library. <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/7048>

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GE Execs Quake at Frankenfood Fallout

BY RONNIE CUMMINS & BEN LILLISTON

"Almost 100 percent of our agricultural exports in the next five years will be genetically modified or combined with bulk commodities that are genetically modified. The Europeans have an absolute fear, unfounded by any scientific basis, of accepting these products... the EU's fear of bioengineered foods... is the single greatest trade threat that we face."

—STUART EIZENSTAT, NOMINEE FOR THE SECOND-HIGHEST JOB AT THE US TREASURY DEPARTMENT, TESTIFYING BEFORE THE US SENATE ON JUNE 29, 1999

Mass public resistance against genetically engineered (GE) foods and crops in Western Europe and India, spearheaded by a strong grassroots campaign in Britain, appears to be on the verge of spreading into North America and across the globe. Rumors are circulating in Europe that two of the largest GE transnationals—Novartis and AstraZeneca—may bow out of agricultural biotechnology altogether. If mass

anti-biotech campaigns catch fire in North America and Japan—and solidarity and cooperation continues to increase between activists in the North and South—the Brave New World of biotechnology may be short-lived.

Recent progress in the anti-GE movement:

•On June 24, European Union (EU) environmental ministers moved to implement the legal equivalent of a three-year moratorium on any new approvals of GE foods or crops. The moratorium will remain in effect until more stringent safety regulations are put in place in 2002. No GE foods have been approved in Europe since April 1988. While the powerful European biotech trade association, EuropaBio, criticized the moratorium as "deplorable," Greenpeace spokeswoman Louise Gale categorized the ministerial decision as "a clear step in



photo by Nick Cobbing

Decontaminating the oil-seed rape in Oxfordshire, England

the right direction," recognizing EU citizens' "massive rejection of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in food and agriculture." US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky complained that the GE approval process in the EU had completely broken down and warned that the White House was considering the possibility of eco-

nomie retaliation by filing a formal complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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Timber Town and Treesitters Unite to Stop the I-90 Swap

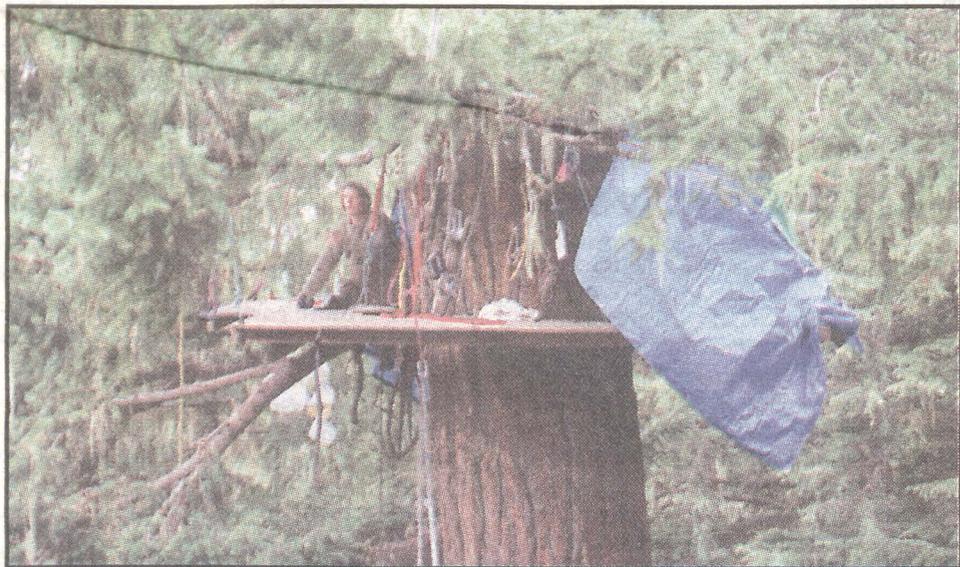


photo by Brianna Waters

Here above Randle, Washington, the Forest Service has officially permitted the treesit.

BY TIM REAM

"I think we should take a vote," beamed 68-year-old Francis Looney, lifetime resident of the timber town of Randle, Washington, from the front row of the July 29 town meeting. At issue was trading 15,000 acres of Gifford Pinchot National Forest to Plum Creek Timber Company. In return the Forest Service would acquire 48,000 acres of the corporation's land. For Randle this would mean unlocking federal restrictions hampering the logging of more than 2,000 acres of Watch Mountain which looms over the small southern Washington town. The town meeting had included presentations from the Western Land Exchange Project, the Forest Service, a forestry expert and the newly named Cascadia Defense Network (CDN), tree sitting on the mountain.

"Who wants to stop the trade?" produced cheers, smiles and hands, hands, hands from the 150 people in attendance. The vote to trade and cut produced a single vote from the back of the room. For experienced activists there was a confusion of emotion: the thrill that comes when you realize,

Although the land was to be sold to settlers for \$2.50 per acre, Northern Pacific never finished the railroad and never sold the land as required in the land grant. The property was then transferred to Burlington Northern Railroad and then to Burlington Resources which spun off Plum Creek in 1989 to liquidate the forest. Where the trees were fat and easy to reach, the work is already done. But some sections are high elevation or difficult to reach. The business plan for these areas is to threaten to cut and thereby leverage a trade for easy to reach public old growth.

To secure I-90 vistas, provide additional hiking for the burgeoning Seattle area and to make intact a northern Cascades wildlife corridor, the Sierra Club sought 48,000 acres of Plum Creek land. Negotiations to determine the sacrifice zones were long and drawn out and included areas from the other side of the state. The process to protect the public interest in such a complicated negotiation proved too burdensome for Plum Creek.

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Campesino Tortured in Guerrero, Mexico

One of North America's last frontier forests, the Sierra de Petatlán in Mexico's coastal state of Guerrero, is under the threat of commercial logging. Rising out of the Pacific Ocean into rugged mountains reaching nearly 10,000 feet, these forests span the coastal ranges between the cities of Acapulco and Ixtapa, two of the region's largest tourist destinations. Tourism is a key industry in Guerrero, one of Mexico's poorest states.

Mexico's vast forest resources were recently opened up by the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which removed restrictions on foreign investment. NAFTA changed what foreign investors could do with Mexico's communal land holdings (*ejidos*) which comprise almost 80 percent of the country's forested land. Within 18 months of NAFTA's implementation, some 15 US logging corporations set up south of the border.

In the spring of 1995, one of America's largest wood products companies, Boise Cascade, signed a contract with a group of *ejidos* to supply 20-million board feet of softwood timber every year for the next five years. Then-governor Ruben Figueroa facilitated the deal but was soon forced to resign after covering up a human rights scandal that saw his state police force ambush and kill 17 small farmers who were protesting against logging in the area by another company.

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EARTH FIRST!



NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

POB 1415 • EUGENE, OREGON 97440 • (541) 344-8004

SUPPRESSION OF TRUTH

I don't need to tell you the system is fucked up. I don't need to tell you the human race isn't winning the race and that it's taking everything wild and free with it toward mass extinction. Nearing the 2000 mark I'm betting we'll see an unprecedented rash of mass suicide—whether it's Y2K paranoia, religious apocalypics, victims of martial law, stockholders losing hold... Maybe this will help our Mother Earth and her inhabitants—probably not. Although cynical, I remain optimistic and actually do have hope. Although little, I remind myself I am not futile. We are better armed with our convictions than the forces of authoritarian oppression based on capitalism, sexism, racism, etc. These "isms" are a direct (ATM) deposit into the belly of the global capital demon. David took down Goliath with a single rock. Who is Goliath? Techno-industry? Capitalism? Apathetic convenience? What is your rock, and do you know how to use it (not only defensively but offensively)? When the "revolution" comes how are you going to convince the millions of "a better way?"

That's where we at the *EF! Journal* come in. The alternative media are a direct threat to the diarrhetic system that's been shitting on you all your life. The system targets alternative media because its voice is not structured, bought and delineated the way the institutions prefer.

I am not ranting about an idea or concept, this is my reality. At the June 18 Reclaim the Streets demonstration (a world-wide protest against globalization) in Eugene, Oregon, 20 people were arrested. Three of those arrested were of the alternative media. I am a photojournalist for the *Student Insurgent*, a university publication, and was arrested while questioning why I couldn't be in the same place as the mainstream media. Tim Lewis, a videographer for *Cascadia Alive* (a local community activist TV show) and CopWatch was arrested while standing with the mainstream media filming the police tear gas over 200 people. Another videographer was arrested and his camera smashed while asking how to alleviate the effects of tear gas. All 20 people were charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with police. Three were charged with riot. In the last week, many have been given additional charges. The new charges threaten all of us with years of jail. In my case, for documenting the action.

Here at the *Journal* the pen is our weapon. Unfortunately, it is more frequently used in defense against an offensive civilization that continues to destroy entire ecosystems, cultures and species. Each one of you went through some

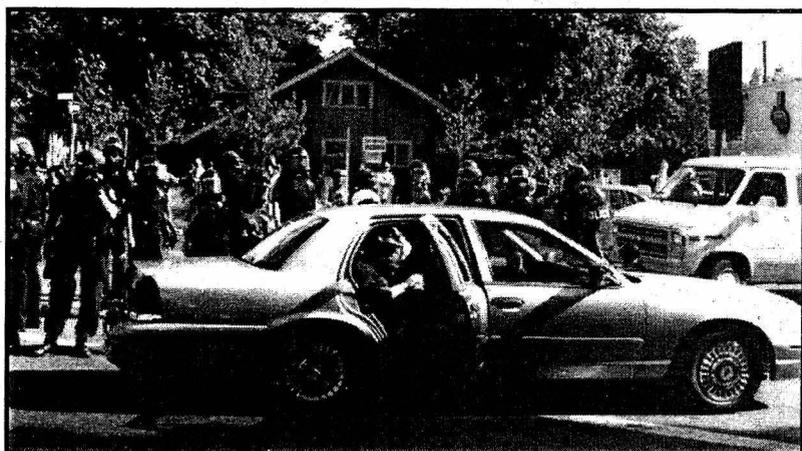
form of deprogramming or re-education to reach the consciousness you now hold. It is all of our responsibility to educate and deprogram others using knowledge first as a tool, then as a weapon. Every issue of the *EF! Journal* takes hundreds of hours by a small staff working their asses off in effort to deprogram. It's your turn. Write a zine. Start a free radio show or a talk/news show on college radio. Rant at any open mic available, even if the audience hates what you have to say; they will remember. Make

hundreds of flyers and leave them in waiting rooms. Get a public access TV show, it's easy. Do guerrilla theater downtown. Shock value is underrated. You can't ask the government to be nicer, the police to be more polite, fast food chains to cut less rainforest, a patriarch to be less sexist or construction companies to build fewer roads. We have to stop them! *Earth First!* begins with

a realization and progresses into action. Mass social and environmental change cannot happen globally if the masses are unthinking.

Suppression of alternative media is not new, it's American tradition. Every piece of "subversive" literature attacks the common domesticated mentality that is fed through an umbilical cord of comfort and convenience. The police fear a camera as the system fears a voice. They will use their force and authority in an attempt to extinguish the truth. Scream, write, rant, rage, sing. Do what you must to pass the truth on.

—ANNIE



Cops attempt to gas protesters and innocent bystanders on June 18 in Eugene, Oregon.

Photo by Annie Glade

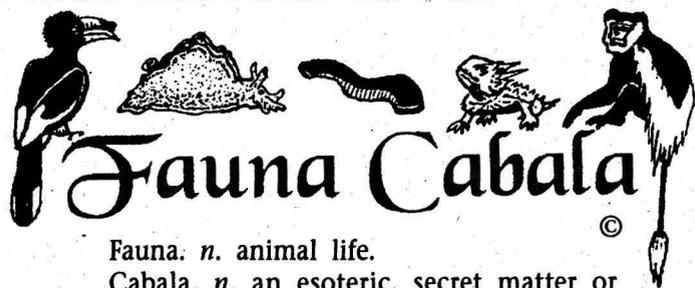
Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye

It is that time again here in *Journal* world. Yes, our feelers are probing around for that picture-perfect long-term editor to join the rest of the collective. What we want of you: 1) a general knowledge of the Earth First! movement, 2) a burning passion and desire to fight for our last wild places, 3) basic techno literacy; we use Macs, Photoshop and Pagemaker, 4) a good attitude and a sense of humor, 5) a willingness to work long and hard for meager pay, 6) and most importantly, a vision of how we are going to topple this thing we are putting so much damn time into fighting. Send a resumé, who you know and why you want to become part of the long-term collective ASAP!

We are also in search of Mac gear, especially monitors. Call to coordinate donations. Thank you.

BY FAITH WALKER

faster and inject more venom. The warmer the snake, the faster and more accurate the strike. Thus, adult California ground squirrels have learned to assess danger. Because the snakes are often difficult to see, they do this via acoustic cues. The rattling of larger snakes is louder and lower in pitch; the rattling of warmer ones is louder and faster. Squirrels will provoke rattlesnakes in order to learn how dangerous they are, which helps them decide whether or not to attack. This is the first time such complex methods of assessment have been found to have evolved between two species, rather than within species. These squirrels have discovered the link between body size and pitch, one that males of many species use to assess the fighting ability of their competitors.



Fauna. n. animal life.

Cabala. n. an esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

Northern Pacific rattlesnakes and California ground squirrels sometimes square off for hours. The snakes are the primary predators of California ground squirrel pups, but their toxin isn't quite lethal to adult squirrels, who try to attack and kill their reptilian foes. Danger among these snakes, however, varies. Larger ones can strike farther and

Earth First! Journal Mabon

September 21, 1999
Vol. 19, No. 8

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via e-mail. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. (Prints are best, negatives are good, slides are fair.) They will be returned if requested.

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

ISSN 1055-8411 *Earth First! Journal* is indexed in the Alternative Press Index. The *Earth First! Journal* is recorded on microfilm by University Microfilms, Inc.

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Cover photo by: Nick Cobbing, anti-GE action in Oxfordshire, England
Back cover: courtesy Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques

SCHEDULE

Earth First! Journal is published 8 times a year on the solstices, equinoxes, and cross-quarter days on or about November 1, December 21 (Winter Solstice), February 2, March 21 (Vernal Equinox), May 1, June 21 (Summer Solstice), August 1, and September 21 (Autumnal Equinox) by Daily Planet Publishing, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. US subscriptions are \$25. Outside the US, surface delivery is \$35 and airmail is \$45. POSTMASTER: Send address changes *EF! Journal*, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. Application to mail at Periodicals postage rates is pending at Eugene, OR 97401. Deadline for the next issue is:

October 1

The Difficulties of Broken Solidarity

BY ANCIENT FOREST RESCUE

This summer, the Earth First! Round River Rendezvous (RRR) came to the South San Juans in the Southern Rockies bioregion. One of the goals of holding it in this area was to support the community of San Luis. These people have been fighting for their rights for over 150 years and have worked to reclaim La Sierra for more than 40 years.

In 1993 Zachary Taylor sold the first of several timber contracts beginning the destruction of La Sierra, also known as Taylor Ranch. Ancient Forest Rescue (AFR) came to the San Luis Valley when we heard that Stone Forest Industries was cutting 32 million board feet (mmbf) off 121 square miles of private land. We later learned this was just part of 210 mmbf slated to be logged from La Sierra. Upon arriving in San Luis, we found a small community of Chicano farmers concerned with stopping the logging. Cited as one of the most important animal migration corridors in the Southern Rockies by a leading conservation biologist, Michael Soule, La Sierra represents the largest piece of undisturbed land in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. A group of activists soon gathered in San Luis, weathering the hard knocks of being white in this tight knit, rural community. It is difficult for white activists to bridge the barriers created by Anglos due to centuries of racism and oppression of Chicano people.

Part of organizing with hard-working people is to work hard, learn and listen. Learning is the hardest thing. Most Anglos are ignorant about the Chicano history of oppression in the Southwest. Many locals were suspicious about our motives when we first arrived. So we listened and soon learned not only about the logging, but also their history of oppression.

In the process of living in this community and working on this campaign, we have, to an extent, become a part of the community. We began organizing with radical Chicano activists, supporting their struggle to see that the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is honored, helping them battle colonization and deep seeded racism, and protesting industrial development. (Signed in 1848 after the Mexican American War, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was supposed to give farmers the right to stay on their land and have common lands.) We've worked with people in the community and established bonds with the organic farmers who are trying to maintain traditional ways in today's society of cultural assimilation. All of these things are pieces of the San Luis struggle. It has taken years to develop a connection with the people here who have only seen Anglos come into this area to pillage, write papers and try to help them by telling them what to do.

Enter Earth First!. Throughout the RRR, workshops were held and focus was given towards the struggle in the San Luis Valley. Following a week of information and education, affinity groups formed and those involved went into action mode. On the crisp morning of June 28, an affinity group block-

aded the main gate of the Taylor Ranch with a tripod and the visually incredible Art and Revolution puppets and props created at the RRR to represent this struggle. Simultaneously, 48 activists from all over the country marched onto the ranch in solidarity with each other and the community to stop logging. After a couple-mile hike, targets were picked and a few brave activists locked down, blockading two hauling trucks staked full on a road in the South Vallejos drainage.

As the day progressed, the hot sun beat down and something changed. Haulers who attempted to run people over at the main gate and who were violent when they reached the South Vallejos were now involved in active dialogue with those of us on the

how they were feeling, the bond they had created with the workers and how their feelings had changed toward frontline tactics. Lockdowns then spoke as to what they wanted to do and were cut off before having the opportunity to really express how they felt. It was then suggested that with this newly found connection, the workers leave the mountain with the group in an act of solidarity. The workers shot down this idea. The feelings of disagreeing activists were dropped to the wayside as the discussion continued with the loggers. Soon it was decided for the lockdowns that they would unlock. After one final difficulty with the law, people climbed in the workers' vehicles and were dropped off a short distance from the main gate. Many walked away hand in hand, proud of what had occurred that day. But not all.

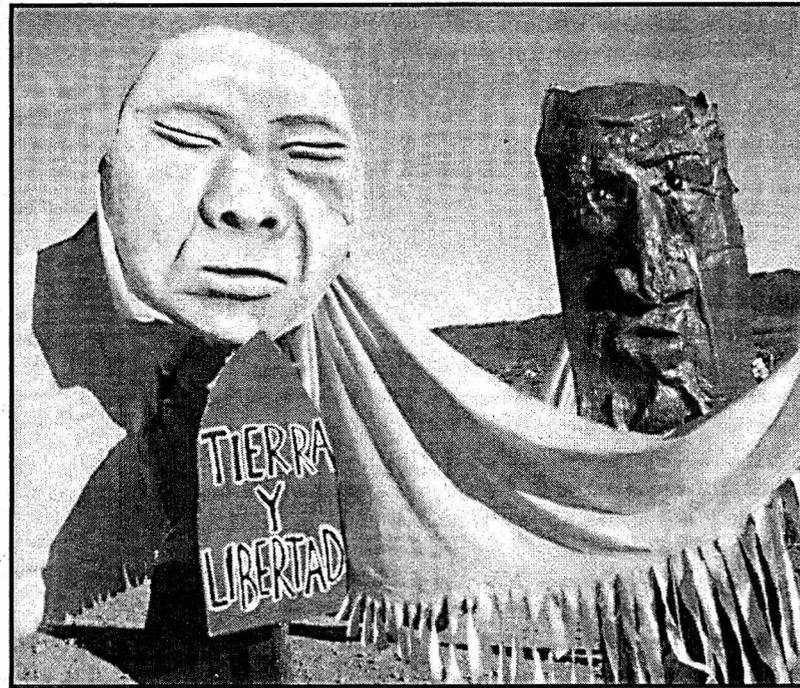
Throughout the day the tripod at the main gate had its own ups and downs. Violence from loggers and lies from the police all played a part of that action. All in all the main gate was a major success for both the community and the activists.

Typical of a post RRR action, many involved had to leave that afternoon or the following day to return to their bioregions. But unlike many other RRRs, the decisions made and actions taken that day have had an adverse effect on the activists remaining in San Luis. At the debriefing only one person of those who remained on the mountain stayed until the end of the discussion. Since the actions many aspects have been discussed and important issues raised that need to be brought to all of our attention.

One of the hardest lessons to look at and understand from that day, which lies within almost all of us, is deep-seeded racism that we have yet to deal with. A few examples of how this came to play that day are: a natural feeling of affinity with Anglo workers as opposed to those who are Chicano; a perpetuation of environmental injustice by making decisions about land use for others; and defining a struggle and the tactics for those who have been fighting the opinions and dictates of Anglos since colonization.

Another biggie from that day was the complete breakdown of solidarity in the group remaining on the mountain. Some feel that maybe there are times in which it is better to save an arrest and break solidarity when it becomes necessary. A question we need to ask ourselves is: When we do an action in solidarity with friends, fellow activists and a community, when does it ever become necessary to violate that solidarity? Especially, to create solidarity with racist, violent, land raping, not-from-this-bioregion loggers.

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At the Taylor Ranch action after this year's Rendezvous

mountain. People discussed their beliefs, where they were from, names and whether or not they were involved with organizations that supported violent tactics—all of this with workers from Idaho, Utah and Oregon.

When the police drove up the road and began arresting people using nun-chucks for pain compliance, those same workers helped point people out and carry them away with a smile. As we sat arms linked in the road in solidarity, psychological warfare was used to the point where roughly a dozen people withdrew their arms and walked off the private land so they would not be arrested. Many more hours passed, and another brave soul locked down to join the two already under the truck. People grew tired and the conversations continued. Suddenly, the group was called together for a consensus decision on what to do next. Some are still uncertain as to why the workers were also invited to join in this process.

I looked around the group at this time and saw tears in many people's eyes as they tried to come to grips with the mix of emotions they were feeling. Someone began the conversation with

Dear SFB

Dear shit for brains,

I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all the people who have supported me since I placed a pie in the face of state Senator Carol Flynn in protest to her racist lies about the sacred nature of the land in the path of the reroute of Hwy. 55 in Minneapolis, MN.

Thanks to the *Journal* for printing an article in support of me, thanks to the IWW, the BBB and especially thanks to the folks from the Minnehaha Free State for all the support they gave me while I was on trial, packing the courtroom every day, serving pie outside the courthouse, defending my

actions and the painstaking work of rebuilding a shocked coalition. Thanks for all the support while I was in jail and even more for the support while I have been on home detention.

I have been so spoiled. There are usually five to 20 people at any given time at my apartment, making meals for me, taking Mystic Girdog for walks, taking out the trash, using my computer, buying my groceries and doing all the things that I cannot do for myself until September 2 when they take their monitor bracelet off my ankle.

I only hope that when it comes time for me to support any and all of you, I come through the way

that you all have for me. I know you all tire of hearing me say it, but I love you. *You are my family!*

—AGENT PECAN (BOB GREENBERG)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The corporate/technological disaster known as Y2K that is rapidly approaching is giving us a great opportunity. Like Stinging Nettle, I believe this is the time for action [see *EF!*, May-June 1999]. The forces that be are rejecting technology and opening up the chance for us to bring about revolution. This revolution has been prophesied by many, and the time has come. This is our chance to spread our message. Use this opportunity to prove to others that technology and big business are not necessary to live a good life. Show your community the joy and love one receives by respect-

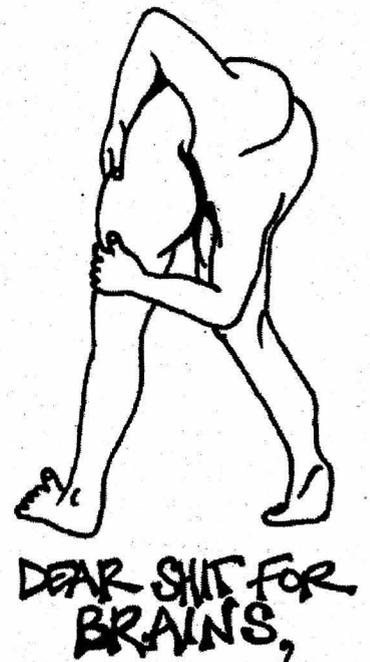
ing and loving our Mother Earth. If we ever want harmony on this planet, we need to foster compassion toward the whole planet and that includes even the ignorant bastards. Forget your own selfish needs and realize that your higher purpose is to be an example of how others can also live in harmony with our mother earth. Seize this opportunity to teach those who are blind, by letting your life be an example of the peace that is possible.

Love and Light,

—HUMMINGBIRD HEART

By the way, if you're worried about how you're going to eat, don't be. It is possible to live without food, check out *Living on Light* by Jasmuheen.

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Climbing in the giants at Winberry

photo by Kurt Janson

BY MOONSHINE

Ever seen those turn-of-the-century pictures, those ones with loggers lying in the face-cut of some god-awful huge old tree? Ever wish you'd been around to stop the bastards? Well, have we got a timber sale for you. Big trees—nine feet diameter, 250-foot tall, 800-plus years old. A passport in time brought to you by the Willamette National Forest and Roseburg Forest Products. A good old-fashioned timber grab that the Forest Service calls the "Alternative Volume Timber Program." We call it the revenge of the Salvage Rider.

A bunch of timber sales under contract to Roseburg Forest Products in Oregon's Coast Range were canceled when they found some marbled murrelets, an impudent little bird that had the nerve to get itself listed as an endangered species. But since the Coast Range sales were sold under the Salvage Rider, the Forest Service has had to replace them with new sales "of like kind and value." So here's the catch—the Coast Range sales are almost entirely composed of

YOU CAN TAKE A FREDDIE TO WINBERRY, BUT YOU CANNOT MAKE HIM THINK

second-growth trees, from 100-140 years old. The new replacement sales, like North Winberry and Helldun, are old-growth with many 200-500 year old trees.

Unit 15 of the North Winberry sale has the biggest trees slated to be cut in the United States (now accepting wagers). The northeast corner of the unit has dozens of western red cedar that probably average 600 years old, some Douglas fir that run 900 years and a Pacific silver fir that was taller than I am now back when the Columbus family was inbreeding with the slowest and ugliest of their farm animals. One of the Dougs has got a *branch* 100 feet off the ground that's bigger than any of the trees in the canceled Coast Range sales.

The Forest Service is having a tough time explaining how the Winberry trees figure to be "like kind and value" to the canceled Coast Range sales. It makes for some good press.

So me and a friend are wandering up to Unit 15 with a reporter in tow. The Willamette National Forest has sent along two of their best and brightest to ride shotgun on the whole operation, making sure we don't exaggerate none. The two Freds are named Doug and Herb. Right off the bat they do something dumb.

We're hiking up the spur road to the unit. I steer the reporter over to this giant old stump by the side of the road. "Now that," I say, "is a big-ass stump. Probably 11 feet in diameter."

Herb gives us his best guffaw, "Yor exaggeratin'. That ain't no 11 feet." He pulls out a forester's tape, the ones with the circumference to diameter conversion on one side. He gets about half way around the stump before he runs out of tape. He's got this Homer Simpson look on his face. We have to loan him our tape (ours is bigger). Stump measures out at 11 feet, on the dot.

We get to the unit. Giant old cedars all over the place. Three treesit platforms suspended 150 feet off the ground. The treesits are incredible. Two platforms form a donut-shaped house around the tree trunks. Another is suspended between a hemlock a cedar, and a fir. Catwalks and traverse lines snake around the giant grey trunks. This is old growth. Shafts of green and yellow sunlight pierce the canopy. Massive rotting logs are draped in moss. Looking down, you can't see your feet for this brilliant green carpet of wood sorrel and ferns. The Forest Service guys look a little out of place, all dolled up in their puke green uniforms, big brass belt buckles and dorky-looking hard hats. One of the trees' sitters breaks out a violin. Ever heard the notes from a well-tuned violin drifting down from a canopy of ancient trees? That's something you remember. A shaggy head peers over one of the

platforms directly above Doug and Herb. "Hey dudes," she says. "Nice hats."

To repeat: The treesit is incredible. It is not your parents treesit. A few weeks before our field trip with Doug and Herb I jerked myself a long goddamned way up a very thin rope and got the grand tour from a treesitter named Squirrel. Or maybe it was Sparrow. Or something like that. Anyway, a bunch of these treesits are constructed of inner tubes. One of the donut houses has a basement, like a basket, woven together with sticks and inner tubes. It looks like one of those gorilla nests I saw in a *National Geographic* once. A catwalk is made of bicycle tubes. Bicycle tubes are big up here. Webbing and rigging is made of tubes. Bungee cords of tubes. Every structure, every piece of gear, seems to incorporate inner tubes in its design. Treesitters (called Wookies, to distinguish them from their Ewok counterparts at the Clark treesit eight miles to the north) bounce across traverse lines, bare to the waist, long hair tied up with inner tubes, inner tubes dangling from their harnesses.

Swallow shrugs, "Inner tubes are kind of flexible, you know? They got give to them."

If there was some sort of primitive economy up here, tubes would be its currency. "Tubes are cheap, man," says my tour guide. "All this overpriced crap people climb on..." she looks a little superior, "they need to get down with the bike tubes."

But back to Herb and Doug. We are deep into the tree-top violin concerto. The reporter is scribbling notes furiously. "So *this* is 'like kind and value,' huh?" we're asking. "Where's the 100-140 year-old trees? We're just seeing 500-800 year-old trees."

Doug has a light go off. "This is the *big* part of the unit," he says. "Let's walk on over to the other side."

Well, that other side of the unit's got 100-140 year-old trees, all right. All marked as leave trees. The rest of the stand, 300-600 year-old firs, are all marked to be cut. Doug and Herb aren't having a good day.

"This unit's got nothin' but big trees," mumbles Herb glumly, after a little while. "Let's go to another unit."

I've got the map handy. "Point to a unit, Herb. Any unit. Let's go there right now." The reporter's staring intently at them.

"Don't see how that'd do much good," says Doug.

"We got to get back to the office, anyhow," says Herb.

I wonder if that lime-green Forest Service rig they're driving's got any inner tubes left on it.

To pass on support, money or gifts contact the Cascadia Wildlands Project at POB 11122, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 747-9116.

Masked Marauders Invade Stoltmann

The battle to preserve British Columbia's Elaho Valley watershed and famed Stoltmann Wilderness has once again erupted, resulting in a no compromise, full-throttle defence in this millennium-old ecosystem. Deep in the heart of this lush forest, defenders have taken their protest to the canopy, withstanding goon squad attacks and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) harassment, surviving dynamite blasting and ultimately challenging the immediate threat to this rare wilderness.

Erected on August 9, the blockade has united dozens of activists from across North America. Just two days into the frontlines campaign, four masked vandals terrorized the camp near Squamish, BC, threatening the wilderness defenders' safety. On the morning of August 11, a Stoltmann defender fired a message to the People's Action for Threatened Habitat (PATH)-Vancouver office and to the local media: "At 8:20 a.m. this morning, four men sped into our camp in a blue and white Ford crew cab with an Interfor (International Forest Products) logo on its doors. The men rushed into our camp with axes and shovels in hand. They chopped the ropes to our tarps and smashed our lanterns. Gian, a protester at the camp, asked: 'Why are you disguised, why don't you face me man-to-man? Are you going to do something illegal?' One vandal pointed to our video camera aimed at them and replied, pointing to the videographer: 'Not as long as he holds that.'"

The vandals, who were later revealed to be Interfor employees, were given temporary suspensions and a slap on the wrist by the Squamish RCMP. Resorting to violence, however, is clear proof of the moral bank-

ruptcy of their position and their ignorance of sustainable economic alternatives such as eco-tourism and outdoor recreation. "While Interfor and proponents of industrial clearcutting say they're providing jobs, their very corporate policies are actually destroying jobs and vital ecosystems," explained Stoltmann media liaison Jarah West of the Forest Action Network. "Jobs, long-term economic viability and the health of the environment do not speak to their bottom line."

Covering a 500,000-hectare chunk of the Upper Elaho Valley, the Stoltmann is home to the world's oldest grove of Douglas fir—and is no stranger to protest. In 1997, environmentalists and loggers set up opposing blockades for weeks, resulting in the protection of Clendenning Creek and cruel counter-attacks by Interfor's forest strategists. That same year, Interfor clearcut a grove of 800 year-old trees in the Sims Creek Valley and later took down 1,000 year-old trees in Serenity Grove and countless old red cedars in a bear-denning area.

Even politicians outside southwestern British Columbia recognize the Stoltmann's long-term value as a national park. Three Liberal members of Parliament have written a letter to BC Tourism Minister Ian Waddell begging him to table the park proposal in the provincial Legislature. And Liberal MP and former envi-

ronment minister Charles Caccia is planning to introduce a bill in federal Parliament this fall to turn the Stoltmann Wilderness into a new national park. Unfortunately, Interfor built a bridge across Lava Creek last month, allowing access to a millennium-old Douglas fir grove.

The blockaders were served a court injunction on August 13 in an attempt to clear the way for Interfor's road-building. Many have subsequently been arrested for being there. Some arrested outside the injunction zone had their cameras wrongly seized. The next day later, the Supreme Court of British Columbia ordered the RCMP to return the cameras within 48 hours.

On August 21 the RCMP endangered protesters lives by giving Interfor permission to blast dynamite 100 yards from the treesit. Squamish Sergeant Gary Brine says his officers checked the protest area finding no treesitters in the danger zone. But according to a witness, "The cops were standing under her [the treesitter] tree all day [while the blasting occurred]."

The RCMP has arrested nine people including three treesitters and six witnesses as the protest celebrates its twenty-second day of occupation. Support people, as well as musicians, cooks, bodies of all shapes, sizes, colours, sexual orientation and nationality are welcome at the camp. The site is outside the injunction zone so no one has to fear arrest. Come and share your positive energy with the camp.

For more information contact PATH at POB 19596, Vancouver (Squamish Nation Territory), BC V5T 4E7; (604) 255-4145; path@envirolink.org; www.enviroweb.org/PATH.



Interfor goon chopping equipment at Stoltmann

photo courtesy PATH

Wild And Free Don't Pay The Fee

BY SCOTT SILVER

de-fi-ance n. 1. The disposition to defy or resist an opposing force or authority; resolute resistance.

com-pli-ance n. 1. A yielding to a wish, request or demand; acquiescence.

(Source: The American Heritage Dictionary—1976 edition)

The federal government's drive to turn public land recreation into a profitable business has gone too far. Smokey has begun baring his fangs, and the Freddie's are now flashing their badges. The feds are spiraling out of control.

On August 14, protests against the Recreation Fee-Demo program and Industrial Strength Recreation took place simultaneously at dozens of locations in nine states. Three additional protests took place in Canada where our compatriots are similarly threatened by corporate pirates looking to plunder Canada's federal and provincial parks.

In Bend, Oregon, Wild Wilderness staged two peaceful protests attended by approximately 100 demonstrators. In San Francisco and Los Angeles area forests, Sierra Club volunteers passed out literature and otherwise peacefully protested forest fees. The scene was typical, repeated in locations throughout the West.

The day was, however, marred by an uncalled for show of force by the US Forest Service (USFS) and other police organizations in several cities. Near Seattle, Washington, two lone protesters marched along a highway carrying signs that said: "Honk If You Hate Forest Fees." One in four passing motorists honked. Accompanying these two protesters, was a sheriff, a state patrolman, a Freddie and the crisis intervention/hostage negotiation

paddy wagon.

In Tucson, Arizona, eight protesters from the local Earth First! group were met by an equal number of police and Forest Service law enforcement vehicles. In Pasadena, California, protesters were shadowed by what amounted to two law enforcement officers per protester. What is happening?

Fee-Demo is supposed to be an experimental program to determine if the American public will accept the notion that they should pay to take a hike or enjoy a picnic on public lands. The program is scheduled to end in two years—unless Congress should declare it to be a success and makes it permanent.

By every indication, the experiment has already proven to be an abysmal failure. Following the end of Fee-Demo, simple access to our forests, mountains, rivers and deserts should, once again, become free. And, more importantly, the impetus of the Clinton administration to turn recreation on public lands into a business bonanza for private investors and their federal partners should disappear.

Unfortunately, Vice President Al Gore, certain congressional leaders and the land management agency heads themselves have not seen Fee-Demo as a failure or as an experiment. Gore sees managing public lands as a profitable business to be a perfect extension of his reinventing government campaign. Conservative congressmen, such as Frank Murkowski (R-AK) and Jim

Hansen (R-UT), loathing to accept that logging, mining and grazing are fading in importance, have become dead set upon turning outdoor recreation into the next extractive business. Federal land managers, whose budgets have already been cut to the bone, simply see themselves as helpless to resist.

The public is anything but helpless. Our voices and objections to being treated as mere customers must be heard. So, to stop the seemingly

by the agencies implementing these fees, anyone purchasing a visitor's pass is counted as supporting the program. It is never noted whether that person purchased the pass for any reason other than to avoid persecution and prosecution.

Faced with the current alternatives of pay-up or else, I suggest that the appropriate alternative to compliance is 'defiance'—peaceful, heartfelt, honest defiance of an unjust policy being forced upon the public by corporate raiders and their bureaucratic partners.

We, as the rightful owners of public lands, can comply with the Fee-Demo program, or we can resolutely say; "Hell no, we won't pay." If we are ticketed for our refusal to submit to coercive pressures, we can and should say these very words to any magistrate who would carry out the threats federal agents are using to force compliance and submission.

The issue is not whether bean-counting bureaucrats have the right to charge us to view the sunset or to smell the trees. In defying Fee-Demo we are engaging in a battle to preserve the very concept of wildness and in so doing, to preserve the world.

For information contact Wild Wilderness at 248 NW Wilmington Ave., Bend, OR 97701; (541) 385-5261; www.wildwilderness.org.

Scott Silver is co-founder and executive director of Wild Wilderness which has fought in support of undeveloped recreation since 1991.



Southern California just says, "No to user fees."

unstoppable juggernaut called "Industrial Strength Recreation" we, and many of the groups who made the day of action a success, shall make September 1999: "Fee-Demo Defiance Month."

The mandatory fee collection policy associated with this program requires customers to "pay-up" or face a \$100 fine. Any honest program intended to test compliance would be based upon voluntary fee payment, not compliance obtained through coercion and threat of penalty.

In the accounting system being used

This article was written by T.O. Hellenbach and is reprinted from the Earth First! Journal, Mabon, 1985.

Tree spiking has forced the development of a number of countermeasures, the most significant of which include the use of metal detectors to locate metallic spikes imbedded in tree trunks. Some spikers have advocated the use of ladders to plant spikes high in trees, out of the reach of handheld metal detectors. Unfortunately, the risk of hauling a bulky object such as a ladder while engaged in illegal activities is rendered unnecessarily dangerous by the fact that most sawmills (and all of those in National Forests where spiking is common) routinely screen all fallen logs at the mill to remove commonplace metallic objects like nails and old barbed wire. Obviously, conventional metal spikes will be detected before reaching their intended target—the costly sawmill blade.

Ongoing research has developed several non-metallic spikes, or pins, that promise to defeat the metal detector and wreak havoc inside the sawmill. The first of these, as depicted in the current episode of "Blade Ruiner" is a high-fired ceramic pin made of the same type of commonplace stoneware used by potters who hand-throw (on a potter's wheel) the usual line of cups, bowls, plates, etc. The primary ingredient is stoneware clay, produced in a wide range of formulations by clay companies and ceramic supply outfits scattered across the nation. Most such manufacturers and suppliers are located in large metropolitan areas where monkeywrenchers can purchase their clay over the counter for cash—leaving no paper trail like name and address for the curious police investigator. The clay usually comes in twenty-five pound bags, two such bags making up a fifty-pound box. Be sure that the clay type (known as the "clay body") that you purchase contains no iron oxide, an ingredient that is commonly added to stoneware clays. If sufficiently concentrated, this



EARTH FIRST!

MABON EDITION
September 22, 1985 Vol. V, No. VIII
THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL TWO DOLLARS

Foiling The Detectors: Non-Metallic Tree Spikes

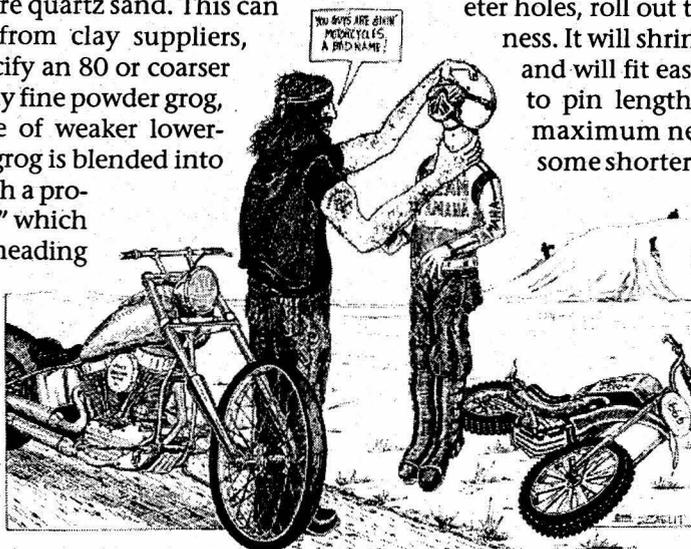
iron oxide may be picked up by metal detectors. To find a clay that is suitable, make your first inquiry by phone, obtaining the name or number of the stoneware clay that contains no iron oxide. At a later date, send the most inconspicuous-looking member of your spiking team in to purchase a bag or box. If necessary, they can be "picking it up for a friend," or can be college art students purchasing materials for a project.

As an additional measure, these clay bodies can be stiffened and made even more durable by the addition of "grog," a gritty, sand-like material usually made of a high-fired refractory material (ground stoneware) or simply a pure quartz sand. This can also be purchased from clay suppliers, and you should specify an 80 or coarser screening. Do not buy fine powder grog, or "soft" grog made of weaker lower-fired materials. The grog is blended into the clay body through a process called "wedging" which consists of simply kneading the material in by hand until it is thoroughly and evenly distributed throughout the clay. Since clay formulas vary from one type to another and from one company to the next,

we cannot specify the amount of grog to add to your clay. Just add a little at a time until the clay feels a little coarser and stiffer. If you add too much, the clay will be hard to roll out and will not stick together well. Keep in mind that the clay must remain "plastic" to allow you to readily shape it...

The pins are made simply by rolling the clay out to the desired thickness, and cutting them to the appropriate length. As with the metallic pins depicted in the first "Blade Ruiner" episode, you will have to use a drill to make a hole in the tree for inserting the pin. Decide first what type of drill (cordless battery-type or the old-fashioned brace and bit) you will use and find the largest bit you can readily use, up to one inch in diameter. Experiment on a recently fallen tree to insure that your drill and bit combination allows you to drill a hole up to four or five inches deep. The thicker your ceramic pin is, the more likely it is to either dull or break a sawmill blade. Therefore, if you can drill one-inch-diameter holes, roll out the clay to a one-inch thickness. It will shrink some in drying and firing and will fit easily into a one-inch hole. As to pin length, four inches is about the maximum necessary, but be sure to cut some shorter lengths, like two and three inches. In this way, if your drilling should encounter a hard spot like a knot in the wood preventing you from drilling to the desired depth, you can have a shorter pin available for the shallow hold...

To learn how to fire ceramic pins order this back issue for \$4; a full set for \$400.



Cover Art on Mabon, 1985

Crossroads of War and Biodiversity

BY THE ECO-SOLIDARITY WORKING GROUP

"At the end of the day, the US does not care if we all kill each other. What matters to them is that we get rid of the drug crops."

—VICE RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBIA

Forty-million people along with the most biologically diverse, endangered ecosystems in the world are under attack by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and mercenaries paid by oil companies. This war is fought with bombs and bullets, as well as with herbicides and media misinformation. The causes of this war are as diverse as the region's terrain and its ethnic variety. The rapacious greed of multinationals like Occidental Petroleum, Shell, BP, Texaco and their counterparts in the Colombian elite is the main problem, but cocaine use in the US is the fuel that fires this inferno. Drug exports pay for the weapons of the right-wing government-backed death squads and the revolutionary guerrillas.

For years Colombia was banned from receiving US military or drug fighting money due to its poor human rights record and its failure to cooperate in the drug war. In 1998 it received \$89 million, and this year the total reached \$289 million despite continued human rights abuses. Colombia is now the third largest recipient of US military aid after Israel and Egypt. Direct US military intervention looms on the horizon for this region which exports more oil to the US than the entire Middle East.

President Clinton is giving the nod to a death-squad offensive. According to the New York-based Human Rights Watch, death squads work closely with the Colombian military and together they are responsible for the deaths of 25,000 people this decade—300,000 since 1945. Violence has displaced 1.2 million people in the last three years (mostly women and children).

Death squads guard petroleum facilities and shipments of cocaine. The head of these squads, Carlos Castano, is a key player in the Cali Drug Cartel, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Castano took over the direction of the death squads from another CIA asset, Colombian Army General Ivan Ramirez. CIA involvement in Colombia began in the 1950s and grew along with the drug trade. In 1991 the CIA established a Colombian naval intelligence group that became a key part of the death squad's continuing terror campaign against guerrillas and anyone who speaks out for change or peace (*Z Magazine*, March 1999).

Many death-squad leaders graduated from the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, where thousands of Latin American soldiers have been trained in counter-insurgency and torture. Castano proudly takes responsibility for his massacres. He has kidnapped Colombian senators and speaks in radio interviews about the need for more killing. Arrest warrants for Castano, Army officers and other death-squad leaders gather dust on the Attorney General's desk. Evidence mounts of collaboration between the military and the death squads (*Progressive*, September 1999). In July, the largest Colombian guerrilla group, *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC), launched an attack against the mountain headquarters of Castano but were driven back by the Colombian army with US intelligence assistance (*Stratfor GI Update*).

Hundreds of US military personnel are on the ground, training elite units of the Colombian Army. Sophisticated US spy planes, like the US RC-7B, inform combat operations. US-based DynaCorp and East Inc. operate a private airforce used to eradicate

poppies and coca plants, dousing hundreds of square miles of the countryside with herbicides. Monsanto's Roundup is the toxin of choice, but the US has pressured Colombia to use Dow Chemical's more lethal tebuthiuron. Trade named Spike, it comes in granular form making it easier to apply.

Genetically-engineered viruses are also being developed for the drug war arsenal. Despite this toxic rain, coca production has risen dramatically. In July, two DynaCorp employees were killed along with five US military personnel when an intelligence-gathering aircraft hit a mountain or a FARC missile in southern Colombia.

The news media have confused the issues and kept secret the US' culpability in this dirty war. They create an impression that the FARC and the *Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional* (ELN), Colombia's other major guerrilla group, have long controlled most of the drug trade, but the January 17 *New York Times* reports, "ELN until now has been a minor player." The FARC didn't create the cocaine trade, they took it away from the government and the death squads.



Photo by Terence Freitas courtesy Project Underground

A million refugees displaced by war



Photo by Bill Gentile/Zuma

Military units guard airports and oil refineries.

Moreover, the guerrillas are presented as unwilling to lay down their arms as part of a peace plan. In the late 1980s, guerrillas put down the gun for the ballot box. They were met with the votes of many people and a hail of bullets from the death squads. Almost 5,000 members of the opposition political party, Patriotic Union, have been killed by the right wing since 1989.

Where is the outcry or the media each time the death squads kill one of the 400 teachers who have fallen victim to their terror in the last five years... or the 2,300 union activists killed since 1986? Where was the international condemnation of the Colombian government when Embera tribal leader Alonso Dominico Jarupia was executed for his opposition to the Urra I hydroelectric dam? The killers had lists of victims and said the killing would continue until the Embera agreed to the dam's construction. Eight months later, another leader fell and 2,500 Embera sought asylum in Spain. The Urra I Dam continues to flood tribal lands which disappear under the waters of the Sinu River. Nearby, two dams on the Guamez River would change the course of the river, displace 4,000 people and endanger endemic species of plant as well as other flora and fauna of the paramo (typical Colombian highland cloud forest above 8,000 feet).

The oil companies and the government must be held responsible for the violence and the pollution that is the byproduct of their oil operations. Oil is Colombia's most important legal export (27 percent of total exports). Coffee is second (15 percent). The US imports 260,000 barrels of Colombian oil every day. In the U'wa region alone, 1.7 million barrels of oil have spilled onto the soil and rivers in the last 12 years.

Colombia has the worst human rights record in the Americas, and the area around the U'wa has the worst record in Colombia. Robin Kirk, author of *War with Colombia and International Law*, supports the contention that the death squads make their massacres as brutal and gruesome as possible to make sure the message is understood. They often carry lists of trade unionists, Catholic priests, human rights observers and guerrilla supporters.

A biological paradise, Colombia has the greatest number of bird species (1,780) of any country in the world. It is second in plants and amphibians and third in reptiles. Only Brazil surpasses it in total number of species. Brazil is seven times larger. The Macarena region contains Colombia's first biological preserve, established in 1942. Half of the world's orchids bloom here, and a dazzling variety of jaguars, dolphin, primates, giant otters, spectacled bears, agoutis, kinkajous and the FARC live here too. The Macarena has been its headquarters for decades, and it has earned respect from biologists for establishing some order over the squatters who are a constant threat to the region's biological integrity. Cattle, road construction, logging and mining have devastated many areas. Manatees, tapirs and macaws are but a tiny fraction of the species that are on the edge of extinction in Colombia. Most species have not even been classified here.

In this threatened ecosystem, the guerrillas are fighting for their lives and the tens of thousands of relatives they have lost to US and narco-death squads. Thousands of young people have joined the guerrilla's bid to end the right wing's 40 years of collusion with oil company exploitation and death squad violence. Their goal is to stop this neo-liberal madness that devastates people and the environment in a chase for profits. Join their voices, say *no!* to the billion dollars the US has thrown into Colombia this decade. No more to the billion dollars that Clinton is desperately offering to the most brutal military in the Americas. *Basta!* to neo-liberal, free trade—follow the US—development policies that are the ultimate death squad. Only an alternative model of economic development can hope to avoid the social and ecological catastrophe that US policies have fostered in Colombia. Major emphasis must be placed on ecologically sustainable rural development and expensive crop-substitution programs that are acceptable to the guerrillas.

Presidential candidate George W. Bush and the wife of the US military's head of counter-drug efforts in Colombia, Colonel James Hiatt, can't say no to personal cocaine use. According to the mainstream media, eight US embassy employees in Bogota are under investigation for drug smuggling. The US embassy appears to be just another link in the drug trade.

The US spends \$20 billion a year fighting the war on drugs, while US citizens shove an equal amount of drugs up their noses. Drug treatment programs are ridiculously underfunded when only 50 percent of hard-core users can find help and treatment budgets are declining (*Washington Post*, August 21). If fighting drugs was a priority of the Clinton administration then the cocaine death squads would disappear overnight. If Clinton wanted peace in Colombia he would halt US arms shipments to the Colombian Army and end covert activity there.

It is time for human rights and indigenous support groups, environmentalists and everyone who cares about the death and devastation that our drug addictions are causing to unite in condemnation of US support for the wrong side in Colombia. We have to solve our drug problem and make amends to the evils we have spawned in the Andean nations. A peace treaty is possible if the death squads are disarmed and autonomous regions are established—including safe regions for indigenous peoples. In recent peace talks FARC was essentially ceded one third of the country—an area as big as Switzerland. Let's invest in abuse prevention, treatment centers, and development aid to Colombia in exchange for international purchase of critical biological preserves. A similar program is needed for the rest of Latin America which is on the verge of social, environmental and economic collapse.

68 Arrested at the Highway 55 Reroute

trees are cut, water is diverted and road progress follows

BY BOB GREENBERG AND SOLSTICE

On July 26, in defiance of 40 years of strong community opposition to the reroute of Highway 55 in Minneapolis, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) began work on the project. To surround and cordon off work sites, MnDOT hired an "occupying army" of over one hundred state troopers, sheriff's officers and Minneapolis police. The cost of salaries and overtime has been estimated at \$50,000 per day in taxpayer money. The construction area is currently at the north end of the reroute, about a mile north of the spiritual

sewers. The department has also installed drainage wells to suck the groundwater from the area around the falls. The water level has already dropped over two feet and the community is outraged. It was never told that the flow of the falls would be stopped.

After witnessing the destruction of the land that had so inspired him, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow came down from his statue perch in the park late at night and planted four sacred cottonwoods to ease his broken heart. Showing no mercy for poor Henry and his vision of eternal beauty, MnDOT bulldozed the four saplings

August 1-6. Many conference participants spent nights at the encampment and gave additional time to help cover treesits and security shifts. Early in the week several people halted construction for a morning with one successful lockdown after another.

On August 6 most of the conference took a field trip to the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, where it found eight friends locked to each other and to a marble pillar in the rotunda. About one hundred people frolicked around the great seal of the State of Minnesota (on top of which four people were irreverently sitting, locked down) for a few hours. Finally, state police closed the Capitol and made all the state workers go to their offices while they removed folks.

"For over 40 years the local community has made it clear that we do not want this road rerouted through Minnehaha Park, the first state park in the nation, and through land sacred to the Dakota people, including traditional burial

campment and treesits at the south end and a direct action encampment and treesits on the north. The state has spent over \$2.6 million fighting us on this issue to date. That does not include the cost of a one year delay in construction, the court costs to prosecute and jail us or the costs of the state and federal court cases we have brought against them.

The proposed reroute is on the southern border of Minneapolis, with some of the corridor extending beyond the city limits. Meanwhile, at the north end of Minneapolis, just off Highway 55, another popular struggle has been growing and gaining momentum over the past few months. Hundreds of affordable housing units are slated for demolition in order to make room for yuppie housing.

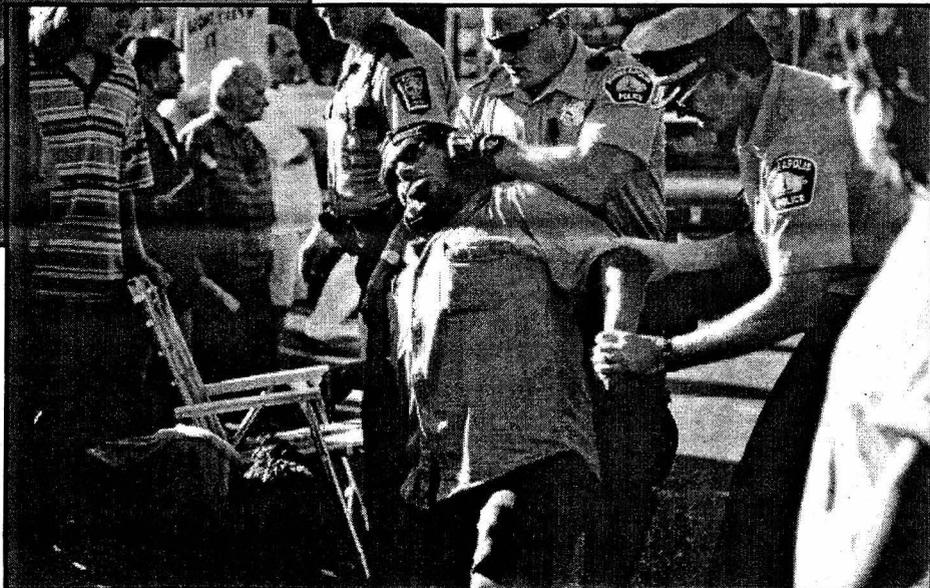
In June, 13 African American clergy were arrested for standing in front of the bulldozers. Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton temporarily halted the destruction. When trying to start the process up again, the city was met by opposition from the National Association for

the Advancement of Colored People the project is halted by an injunction. Minnehaha has just linked coalitions with this struggle. Together we are planning a state-wide rally and march for September 25. The theme will be community autonomy. We are demanding that communities be in control of their own destinies, that they be empowered to make the decisions that affect them.

We celebrated one year of active resistance on August 10. We also just released our CD "Trees and Water—Songs of Resistance to the Reroute of 55." Not only are we stronger now than ever before, but the land is under greater attack and we are in need of greater support than ever.

If you want to support the Minnehaha Free State, we are in need of money, climbing gear, shelters (tents, teepees, tarps), food, etc. Make checks payable to power4u and send items of support to Big Woods EFL, POB 580936, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0936. Please make note that it is for the Minnehaha Free State.

You can also write to the following people urging them to stop the reroute of Highway 55 and stop brutalizing the resisters! Governor Jesse Ventura, 130 State Capitol, 75 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155; (651) 296-3391; Elwyn Tinklenberg, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Transportation, 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155; (651) 296-3000; Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, 350 S. 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415; (612) 673-2100; Vice President Al Gore, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington DC 20500; (202) 456-1414.



A chicken wing, full Nelson and pain compliance; what next, a suplex?

encampment set up last December after the excessive raid of the Minnehaha Free State by 800 law enforcement officers. The encampment remains a base of resistance against the destruction at the north end.

Ten people were arrested on the first day of the destruction after crossing police lines, climbing into trees, dismantling cordons and attempting to lock themselves to machinery. Everyone arrested was conditionally released. The release required, in part, that people arrested "not hamper or impede the progress of the Highway 55 project." One person, who signed "Stop the Reroute" on his conditional release, was picked up and held for three days as he was leaving a local restaurant which was apparently within the restricted area. At the day's end, 30 old bur oaks were cut as well as many young trees.

On day two of the destruction, 29 people were arrested for sitting, arms linked, across Highway 55 blocking morning rush hour traffic. A rally continued at the site throughout the week. Troopers ticketed drivers who honked in support of the rally. The cordoned off area kept expanding, until finally we got tipped off about which trees they planned to cut next. We set up treesits accordingly. At this time, the cordon has not been successfully expanded; the sits remain occupied.

As part of their continuing destruction of Minnehaha Park, the Department of Transportation began shutting down the flow of Minnehaha Falls on August 20. Doing this has diverted much of the water flowing into Minnehaha Creek into the storm

within days.

Community members are more pissed off at MnDOT than ever as they witness their beloved park being bulldozed. If MnDOT had any credibility left, it was lost when it cut or bulldozed approximately 180 trees, after saying only three in that area would be cut. Many community residents are taking legal action.

People are also irate about the police brutality which was a reoccurring theme throughout the first week of destruction (yes, they're doing it in broad daylight). On July 26, 17-year-old Madeline Gardner was hospitalized with a dislocated hip after being tackled inside the construction zone by state troopers. She was denied medical attention for three hours. As a result, she may need full hip replacement surgery. On July 27 Jesse Hop, a 13-year-old protester and traditional native dancer, was hospitalized after being assaulted and thrown to the pavement by several overzealous state troopers. On July 28, Emily Lindell, 23, was tackled by state troopers who repeatedly slammed her head into a railroad tie, resulting in a severe concussion. On Saturday, July 31, supporters held a candlelight vigil at City Hall, honoring survivors of police brutality over the course of this resistance.

Over 100 people came to Minneapolis for "End of the Road 99"—a national Green and Black conference

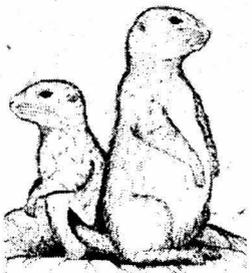
grounds," said Noel Rhode, one of the people involved in the takeover.

The reroute will destroy sacred Dakota burial grounds, a place of worship to Native Americans for over 9,000 years, and the last free flowing spring in all of Minneapolis. Minnehaha Park is the first state park in the United States and is the last remaining example of ancient oak savannah and pristine prairie in the Twin Cities area. All of this could be destroyed just to shave three minutes off the drive time between downtown Minneapolis and the Mall of America.

"The Minnesota Department of Transportation claims that this project has support of every level of government, yet it requires \$50,000 dollars a day in police protection to keep the community from interfering with the project? Why have they had to arrest over 118 people in the last year and 68 in the last two weeks alone?" asked Soil, one of the protesters. "If the community really supports this project, then why does the state refuse to put the project up to a vote to give the voters a real choice?"

The longest running urban occupation in US history, Minnehaha Free State, is made up of a spiritual en-

Photos courtesy the Web



BY NICOLE ROSMARINO

Prairie Dog Defense

Burrowing Through the Myths

The prairie is under fire, and the prairie dog is on the frontlines. On a weekly basis, prairie dog defenders are alerted that another patch of prairie dogs is slated for destruction by the bulldozer, gun or poison. Developers, ranchers, farmers, and local and national officials continue to endanger the few prairie dogs still hanging on.

Although noted for their charisma and highly advanced communication system, the ecological importance of prairie dogs makes their protection especially urgent. This one-foot long, one-to-three pound little mammal creates a world which abounds with diverse prairie life. Prairie dog colonies have been likened to coral in the sea, as they provide niches for a variety of wildlife to breed, feed, rest and hide.

As Europeans moved westward on the North American continent, they destroyed prairie dogs along with other prairie wildlife. Alongside the European "clearing" of indigenous human groups from the land, grizzly bears, wolves, thundering herds of bison, mule deer, pronghorn and elk were mowed down in the race to turn the Great Plains into one big cattle pasture.

Prairie Dog Persecution

Eradication began in 1902 when the chief of the National Biological Survey, C.H. Merriam, decreed that the prairie dog robbed cattle of 50-75 percent of their forage. This myth set in motion a campaign in which as many as 125,000 men were employed full-time in prairie dog poisoning in a single year. By 1938, the black-tailed prairie dog was entirely eradicated from Arizona. A 25,000-square mile colony in Texas, with an estimated 400 million inhabitants, was destroyed. As early as 1912, over 90 percent of the acreage occupied by prairie dogs in Colorado had been destroyed. Similar patterns would occur throughout the 11-state range of this animal.

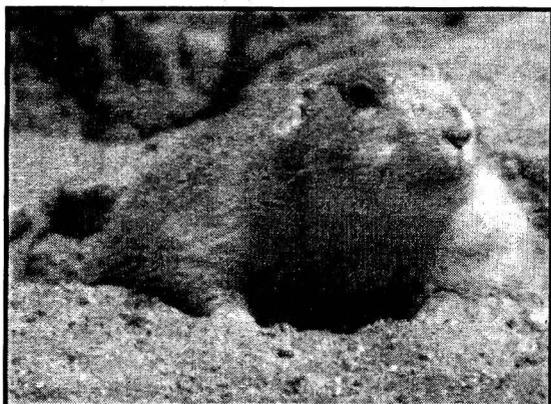
A 1998 report commissioned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) found that less than one percent of the acres occupied by prairie dogs still exists. Compounding the problem of severely reduced habitat, those few remaining acres are primarily small, isolated colonies which are unable to recover from sylvatic plague, poisoning or shooting. The prairie dog and the entire ecosystem this creature supports is quickly heading toward the oblivion of extinction.

Prairie Dog Power

Species closely associated with prairie dogs are also plummeting. The black-footed ferret, swift fox, mountain plover and ferruginous hawk are all closely tied to prairie dogs and their colonies. All have been recognized by USFWS as biologically imperiled.

Over 150 vertebrate species benefit from prairie dogs. It may well be that even more species were associated with the prairie dog historically, as all modern research on prairie dog-associate wildlife was conducted long after their numbers had been severely reduced.

Even at their present reduced levels, prairie dogs provide a vital prey base for a multitude of raptors and mammals. Golden eagles and ferruginous hawks rely on them as prey, as do coyotes, foxes, badgers and other mammals. The vegetative changes caused by prairie dog grazing and burrowing create niches for specialized prairie animals. Burrowing owls live in old burrows and require the cropped grasses of a dog's colony to prey on small mammals. Mountain plovers are grassland birds whose insect foraging also requires the short vegetation of a colony. They actually



Prairie dog watches as extinction approaches

photo courtesy The Animals' Agenda

nest on the ground in dog towns. The black-footed ferret dines exclusively on prairie dogs and cannot survive outside of a dog town. As a result, the black-footed ferret is one of the rarest animals in the world.

Also found in the burrows are a variety of reptiles, amphibians and small mammals including: deer mice, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, cottontails and other rabbits, voles, prairie rattlers, bullsnakes and tiger salamanders.

In addition, grazing animals prefer the vegetation on the colonies. Buffalo, elk, pronghorn and mule deer were all historic members of the prairie dog community, enjoying the grasses and forbs found on dog towns. Cattle also prefer grazing on colonies and research has repeatedly demonstrated that the dogs are not an economic threat to ranching. However, cattle are an ecological threat to the prairie.

All of these creatures suffer as the number of prairie dog acres continue to plummet. With fewer dog towns, the habitat and prey base created by this gracious host disappears, and those who require or benefit from their sculpting of the landscape feel the loss.

Prairie Dog Fight

The sadism of eradication is highlighted by recreational shooting. The shooters sit at tables at a colony and level their high-powered rifles with telescopic scopes at the animals emerging from their burrows. These rifles can kill from 400 yards away. With shooters trying to maximize the number of direct hits, wounded and dismembered prairie dogs are left to writhe in agony on the killing fields. Among the amusements of shooting is the "triple," where one bullet hits three prairie dogs who are on a mound, hugging each other, or the "flipper," where the force of a bullet flips one backward on impact, or "red mist," where the animal is literally exploded by the force of a bullet. An observer noted that this activity is akin to a human opening their front door, stepping on their porch and being dismembered and mortally wounded by their sadistic and more technologically equipped neighbor.

Prairie dog poisoning is equally chilling. Phosphine gas is a common toxin used to kill them. Tablets or gas cartridges of this toxic and flammable chemical are deposited in each burrow, followed by crumpled up newspaper and well-compacted dirt to seal up each entrance. Below, trapped in gas chambers with no hope of escape, prairie dogs and all other life in their burrows suffer agonizing deaths, lasting up to three days. The death of each creature entails the bursting of the circulatory system, and the victims literally drown in their own blood.

Moreover, sylvatic plague (the rodent variety of the bubonic plague) is a devastating force against prairie dogs. The plague was introduced to North America in 1899 by sailors from Asia. The animals have no immunity to the plague and the colonial nature of these animals cause entire populations to be obliterated.

Government agencies have ensured the continua-

tion of the war they started. A brutal mercenary in several wars against wildlife, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal Damage Control (ADC) was set up, in part, to eradicate prairie dogs. ADC provides poison to private interests from its supply depot in Pocatello, Idaho. Beholden to public lands ranchers, the US Forest Service (USFS)

and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manage prairie habitat for less than a bare minimum of prairie dogs. The animals are found on well under one percent of those public lands suitable for colonies. Local and state wildlife and agriculture agencies actively participate in their persecution.

Prairie Dog Defenders

The prairie dog has enjoyed few human friends—until now. Animal rights and environmental advocates throughout the Great Plains and beyond have recognized the prairie dog's plight and are struggling on this animal's behalf. We have stood in front of the guns of shooters. We have engaged in court battles. We have dug out poisoned burrows. We have lined the streets in marches against

planned poisonings. We have written letters, circulated petitions, spoken to city councils, county commissions and state legislatures. The Southern Plains Land Trust buys land for prairie dogs and other prairie wildlife to be absolutely safe from the guns and poisons of settlers. In Colorado, Rocky Mountain Animal Defense has gone after developers, ranchers, shooters and government agencies on behalf of the creature. We've had some success: the protection of prairie dogs on open space areas, a state-wide restriction on contest killings (including prairie dog shoots) and a spreading awareness of the need to protect prairie dogs and their colonies.

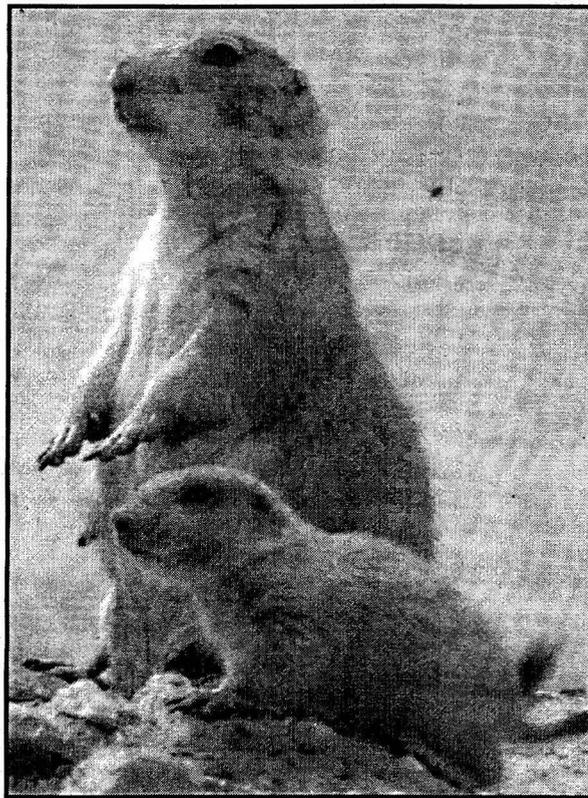
Other groups have fought for the federal protection of the animal by petitioning for the listing of the black-tailed prairie dog (native to the Great Plains) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Leading that effort are the Biodiversity Legal Foundation and the Predator Project. The efforts of these groups have forced USFWS to review the status of this species throughout its range.

It is clear that an ESA listing is vital to defend prairie dogs and their ecosystems. Ranchers show no sign of letting up in their war against wildlife, and developers show little tolerance for anything that gets in their way of converting nature into cash. As a rule, elected officials and administrators have shown that they are bought and paid for.

They're not counting on citizens to stand up for native wildlife. That's exactly what we're doing. We're building a movement to show that prairie dogs will not be squandered.

The Great Plains used to be considered the Serengeti of North America—a vast grassland where immense herds of graceful grazers flowed from horizon to horizon. The grizzly bear and plains wolf reigned supreme, mighty eagles and hawks glided through the sky, the swift fox danced about and the coyote sang throughout. Perhaps one of its most humble inhabitants, the prairie dog, will determine whether those grasslands will flourish or falter. Please join in the defense of the prairie dog.

For more information contact Rocky Mountain Animal Defense, 2525 Arapahoe #E4-335, Boulder, CO 80302; (303) 449-4422.



Prairie dogs look for a safe future.

photo courtesy The Animals' Agenda

Occupying Higher Ground: Searchlights for Eco-Sanity

BY ALMOND

FreshWater Redwood Treesit

Still enjoying broad community support and approaching one year of occupation, Nate and Toad switch off living 165 feet up in a giant, thousand-year-old redwood northwest of the Headwaters Forest. Logging has slowed down in the immediate area, but slash piling and cleanup operations continue. "It's gorgeous up here, and I'm glad they're not cutting big trees near me anymore," said an upbeat Toad. "The daily herbicide tank-truck just went by, and that is a concern. Pacific Lumber keeps spraying Garlon herbicides cut with diesel fuel to kill off the young growth in the numerous clearcuts that mar this area. The chemicals seep into the ground water and will poison the community. We have to stop this herbicide invasion."

For more information contact the Freshwater Treesit at nate@upatree.net; www.upatree.net.

Red Cloud Thunder—Fall Creek

What began here two spring seasons ago has sprouted new growth as this amazing tree village in Oregon's Willamette National Forest defies the law and all description. Twelve homemade structures drift among the rainforest canopy of this low-elevation old-growth forest of Douglas fir and hemlock. A dozen tree people can usually be seen as high as 207 feet up in the village. A diverse community of forest defenders creates another ring of defense below the trees where up to one hundred anarchists, punks and travelers congregate and live in defiance of corrupt, illegal logging by the Forest Service and its corporate clients, in this case Zip-O Saw Mills.

"For months, I've lived near the top of a 600 year-old Douglas fir named Fanghorn," says River who currently resides at the Umpqua treesit in southern Oregon. "We are here protecting these precious trees and land so they won't be destroyed by this country's excess and greed. We are directly acting on our beliefs and what we know is right. We are practicing both community and anarchy. By getting in people's faces and wakening them to the sad reality of what's going on, we also awaken choices for them to make. Do you want to be a slave to the machine for the rest of your life? Or do you want to live freely,

in the moment, going at your pace, working for yourself and not having your life rotate around dollar signs? It's about getting back to the Earth, being primitive and being with your natural surroundings. It's about being grounded and solidifying meaningful relations. Turn off your televisions. Look and think for yourself. Realize that what we've been fed for centuries are nothing but lies. Civilization and technology are raping this world, not improving it."

For more information contact Red Cloud Thunder at POB 11122, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 484-2997; redcloud@efn.org; www.ecoecho.org.

Moonshadow-Lynx Treesit—Vail

The Stop Cat III treesit above Vail, Colorado, began and ended on July 21. Forest Service law enforcement resorted to reckless brutality and terror tactics in order to quickly end the world's highest altitude treesit (11,000 feet). Flood lights, generators and heavy machinery were employed violating the lynx mitigation measures which called for no night time activity in the 4,000-acre closure area.

"My removal from 80 feet up in the spruce tree was one of the scariest moments of my life. Trees fell within five feet of my platform," said Moonshadow after her release from jail. "After the feller-buncher downed all the trees close to me, the operator cut trees further away and dropped them right next to me. I begged law enforcement to intervene, but they ignored my pleas, stating that I was perfectly safe... and that the feller was highly accurate." The cherry picker's victory was short-lived.

On July 23, the Army Corps of Engineers halted further logging upon discovery that Vail's newly constructed road had been illegally punched through a rare forested wetland. The Environmental Protection Agency described this crime as a flagrant violation of the Clean Water Act.

The Colorado aspens are beginning to turn yellow, the afternoon light has a faint tint of red and evenings fall earlier. Signs indicate autumn's fast approach. Once the snow flies in a month, the Two Elks Roadless Area will rest safe for another season. We'll be back when elk calving season ends next July. Save the lynx! Send Vail to jail.

Contact the Coalition to Stop Vail at POB 3155, Boulder, CO 80307; (303) 545-6203; www.stopvail.net.

Luna—Julia Butterfly

Julia continues to defend the 14-foot diameter ancient redwood Luna where she has lived for nearly 600 days. The stream of letters, interviews and outreach keeps her very busy. Rumors abound as to her imminent descent and her health. But, according to

a friend who just visited her: "She looks vibrantly healthy. In fact she jumped right over me and up into a branch of the tree to yell a good-bye to some friends on the ground as they finished a quick chat over the walkie-talkie."

In the Spring 1999, *Auto-Free Times*, Butterfly made the issues that we all face clear: "We don't need cars or big fancy houses, we don't need jet planes, we don't need all of these things. We are destroying what we need because of the things that we want. We will have to take away this government. There is no evolving this government into something good because it is inherently bad."

For more information contact Julia Butterfly, POB 1256, Eureka CA 95502; (707) 923-9552;

lunanews@humboldt1.com; www.lunatree.org.

Eagle Creek—Huckleberry Free State

"Thankfully, there's a movement at this time to end the Forest Service's timber sales program on our public lands. In the meantime we need to fight for individual areas that are under immediate threat."

—JESSE

High in the old-growth canopy, treesitters maintain their lookout over Oregon's Mt. Hood National Forest. How much longer can the Forest Service ignore the thousands of letters it receives from people opposed to logging in this roadless area adjacent to the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness? This watershed is crucial for Portland's water supply. Even the logging company is willing to cancel the sale, but the Forest Service and supervisor Gary Larsen refuse to listen. Forest Service harassment continues. For six weeks a 60-foot-high "pod" has hung from trees on either side of Forest Road 4614. The "pod" is a net made of woven parachute cord that can hold two people. This hanging "pod" and a bipod have blockaded

the upper road leading into a 500-acre roadless portion of the timber sale.

Moss, a long-term treesitter, describes the feel of life in the trees. "I sit 150 feet up in this ancient Doug fir which survived many fires and storms. I look out to the west and view the massive clearcuts of Longview Fiber Company land and beyond that the Clackamas River winding away to Portland and the Columbia River. To the east, I see only the wilderness, including the unprotected wilderness of the Eagle timber sale."

For more information contact the Cascadia Forest Alliance at POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 241-4879; pseudotsuga@hotmail.com.



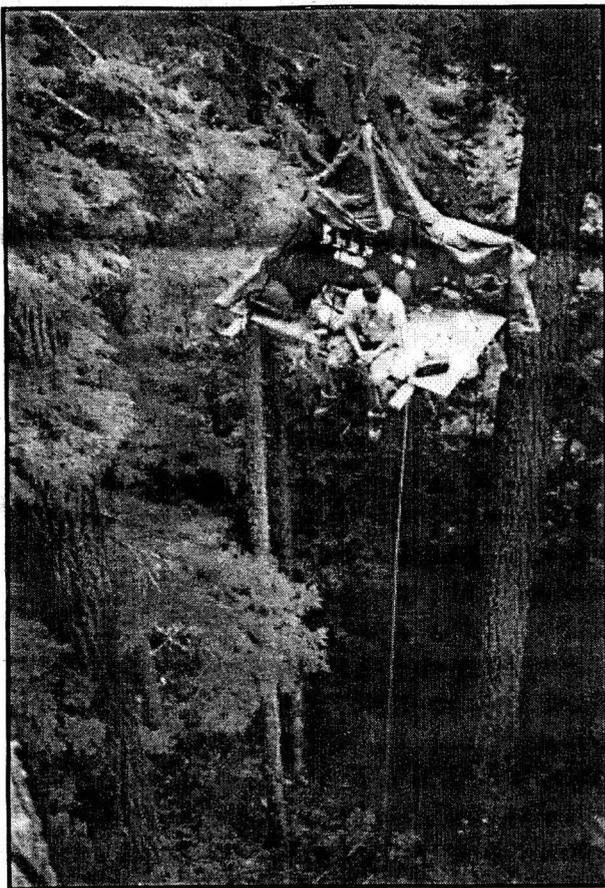
David (Gypsy) Chain

September 17 is the one year anniversary of David "Gypsy" Chain's death from a Pacific Lumber/Maxxam logger's angry disregard for life and safety. For months the treesit above the site of this tragedy has been vacant, but we believe the spirit of our fallen comrade remains, guarding this special place. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gypsy's family, friends, the lands he so passionately defended and of course to Gypsy himself who has given us all more courage and strength in our struggle to defend the remaining ancient ecosystems. We say thanks, David, for all that you brought to our lives.

Grieving

*My soul feels as heavy as my eyes
from lack of sleep and frequent tears.
I keep asking the question, "why?"
to a place where there is no easy answer
I scream, "NO!"
over and over, louder and louder
as if maybe I can reach the perfect pitch
and reshape reality...
but life doesn't work that way,
so I am left hollow,
aching for the ones left behind...
searching for a way to fill their emptiness
knowing it will never be the same.
I remember as a child
skipping down the sidewalk,
stopping, stunned at the sight of a
woman sitting in the middle of the road,
rocking back and forth
covered in blood,
screaming and crying in a language
I could not understand...
but didn't have to
because I knew her heart
was as broken as the body
of her best friend
cradled in her arms.
I feel that anguish now
echoing through the hills.
I wonder if she ever healed?
I wonder can we?*

—JULIA BUTTERFLY



Platform suspended below Eagle Creek treehouse.

Photo courtesy Cascadia Forest Alliance

Earth First! Confronts The Aryan Nations

BY JONATHAN CROWELL

Many would argue that we need to concentrate all of our energy on defending ecosystems and not waste our time on human connections. However, in order to defend ecosystems, we unfortunately need to deal with people. When we have an opportunity to shake the system and point out concrete manifestations of fascism to the world, everyone must participate.

Idaho Earth First! has taken that chance and has curiously received the best local media coverage in the region that we have ever received. Eight of us walked down a public drag topless to challenge Moscow, Idaho, city ordinances and fight for women's equality. When we fought to teach humans we became the forefront of the movement against the Aryan Nations.

Aryan Richard Butler and his entourage of hate-filled followers are attempting to carry out the Northwest Territorial Imperative, which calls for the ethnic cleansing of people of the region to make way for a new white homeland. Christian Identity is the belief that white, northern Europeans are God's chosen ones and that Jews are the children of the devil. Aryans place all other cultures as sub-human under white supremacy. The Aryan Nations currently owns a private compound near Hayden Lake in northern Idaho.

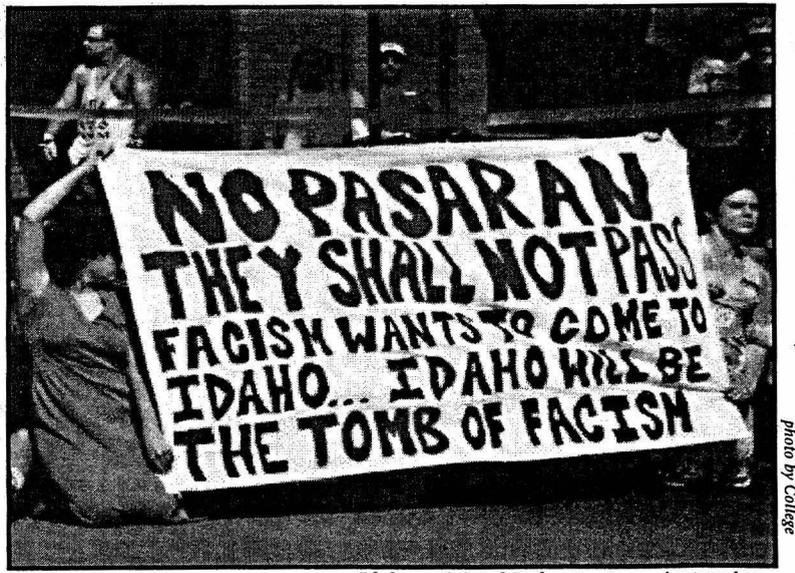
Lori Graves and myself, Earth First!ers who defend the forests of Idaho, attended a counter-demonstration at an Aryan Nations parade in Coeur d'Alene, on July 18, 1998. We held signs reading, "Earth First!, Hatred Last" and "Suicide, not Genocide." Both Lori and I were arrested for obstructing an officer when we refused to allow an illegal search of our backpacks. Our Fourth (protection against illegal search and seizure) and First Amendment rights were grossly violated. We were also the victims of police brutality. I was dragged by cops for one-and-a-half blocks across the pavement without any shoes; Lori was verbally and physically

prodded by male cops.

Five defendants—Lori Graves, Gary Bizek (an Anti-Racist Action skinhead from Canada), Jeffrey Kerns (a Seattle-based animal rights activist), Kenneth Malone (an unsuspecting bystander) and myself—hit the news big with a \$13.3 million lawsuit against the police department and conspiring government agencies. We recently settled with Kootenai County for \$80,000 and continue to press the city, the attorney's office, the local police department and several police officers. We inadvertently discovered that organizing against the Aryans is a great way to fundraise for our forest defense campaign.

During the early morning hours of December 1, 1998, our house was firebombed, a cross was burned on the front lawn and a hate letter was left in the mailbox identifying us as a "commie Jew bitch and faggot treehugger sidekick." We founded a chapter of Anti-Racist Action—Moscow, and have worked to get this classified as a hate crime. We are working to change Idaho law to include intimidation due to political beliefs, sexual orientation or ecological viewpoints as a part of the hate crime statute. It seems the cops are as incompetent with their investigation as the Aryans who failed to burn down our house.

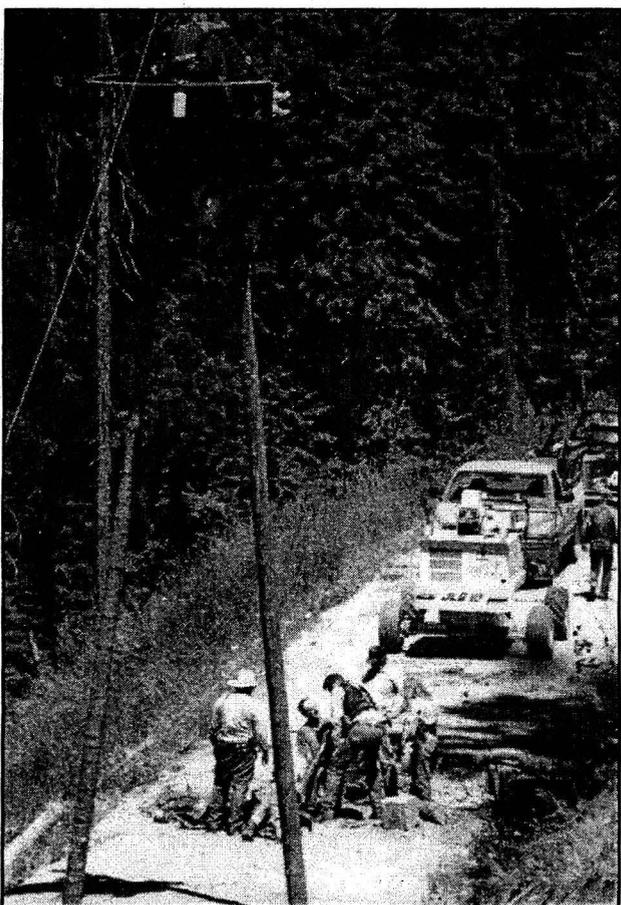
Now, the masses are talking and re-evaluating their beliefs about Earth First!. It is easier for people to relate to people issues. An old time Idaho logger wearing red suspenders very attentively observed the courtroom proceedings of the 1998 criminal trial. After the trial, the logger offered his help and support despite my life passion for defending the wild forests of Idaho. We actually received style points from our slimiest critic, D.F. Oliveria from *the Spokesman Review*, for our courage, perseverance and willingness to go to court and jail for our



Idaho activists hit the streets against racism.

beliefs. Perhaps Idaho ruffraff will always alienate the isolated and underexposed folks, but we do gain ground when they hear about us defending their communities against hate groups. The task of convincing Idahoans that Earth First!ers are defending the cohesiveness and sustainability of their communities and preserving a livable planet is a tough battle. The region's radical movement needs to get people talking about real issues concerning corporate dominance and the disintegration of our communities at the hands of an extraction/export-oriented economy. People also need to discuss the ubiquity of fascist politics orchestrated by the elites to oppress and exploit the land, species and people. When Earth First!ers hit the frontlines of an issue that directly impacts their lives and communities, a bridge of communication and acceptance is created. Perhaps, while the media is tuning into our radical voice we can insert an underlying theme of ending corporate dominance and elitism.

The preservation of ecological and cultural diversity are vitally important. The Aryans are getting hammered from many angles—a dying leader, internal disarray and lawsuits—but the Aryans are still dangerous. They infect people with hatred for the diversity of life. We should steer the lost souls to fight against the real source of our problems: alienation.



Blockade on the access road to Otter-Wing

OTTER-WING OTTER NOT BE CUT

river for Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull and westslope cutthroat trout.

Documentation of the violations was given to Bruce Bernhardt, the supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest, who agreed to investigate and respond in writing before any logging or road building started on the sale. In a blatant breach of trust, the Forest Service notified CMC that road building had been authorized and had begun on a spur road on July 10. This notification was given to CMC on July 16, not when construction started.

A protest was planned, and on August 2, workers were greeted by a citizen blockade of the access road to the Otter-Wing timber sale. The blockade consisted of a dragon, one bipod and a traverse line with a person in a hammock that went through the legs of the bipod. After a brief confrontation between workers and supporters things calmed down as everyone waited for police officers to arrive. Around 7 a.m. Forest Service law enforcement officers arrived on the scene. Officer Steve Dieder, who has a reputation for unsafe practices in dismantling blockades and the use of pain holds, took charge of the operation. Officer Dieder ordered all the support people to move approximately 250 feet down the road. The supporters could not observe or videotape the actions of the officers from this distance. With the help of the cherry picker operator, officer Dieder spent the next six hours trying to dislodge Locus from his dragon. The officers used a chisel, a rock pounding bar and a diamond grinder. Officers refused to let supporters observe by covering Locus with a tarp. Finally, Locus was extracted from the road, but sustained numerous bruises and burns from the use of the grinder which was operated for over 20 minutes. After removing Locus, officers told support people they were going to move the cables on the bipod. It was at this point that Tree Song, having seen too much of the cop's crazy practices, walked

across the police line to tell them not to move the cables. He was arrested for impeding the officers. Next Dieder retrieved and arrested Pebbles from her bipod. After anchoring the poles to the cherry picker, the officer then went back up to the top of the bipod and insanely cut it with a chain saw right over the traverse line. Molly, who was on the traverse, then came down after making a deal with the cops. She got to smoke a cigarette with her friends, and we got to keep the traverse lines. Work was stopped for the whole day. All the brave defenders were taken to Boise, Idaho, and arraigned in federal court on misdemeanor charges. They were released and have the trial on October 28.

On August 16, protesters, including people from CMC, gathered for a vigil outside the gate to the 20-mile Creek section of the Otter-Wing timber sale to call for a halt to the logging of old-growth forests adjacent to the Gospel Hump Wilderness. Shortly after the gathering began, Forest Service law enforcement officers arrived at the group's small campfire. After talking with the people at the campfire, the Forest Service vehicles moved down the road, reportedly encountering road blocking piles of wood. The vigil continued through the night and into the morning. After a couple of hours of peaceful conversation between protesters and Forest Service law enforcement, activist Michael Bowersox was suddenly arrested, apparently for an outstanding warrant. The situation between protesters and law enforcement became very tense following the arrest. Protesters who left and relocated to discuss ideas remained under intense surveillance and the scrutiny of law enforcement officers. Road construction is now taking place on the Otter-Wing timber sale. Logging on the 694 acres of old growth is expected to begin any day.

For more information, contact Cove/Mallard Coalition, POB 8968, Moscow, ID 83843; (208) 882-9755; cove@moscow.com; www.enviroweb.org/cove/.

RIVER AND MADRONE CLIMB FOR RIGHT VIEW

BY FRANCIS EATHERINGTON

On the morning of July 12, Herbert Lumber workers arrived at unit five of the Right View timber sale to begin logging. This was the last unit in the Roseburg BLM sale—32 acres of old growth slated for "regeneration harvest." Herbert's contract with Roseburg BLM states they must finish building the road, cut and yard the trees and till the road before this fall.

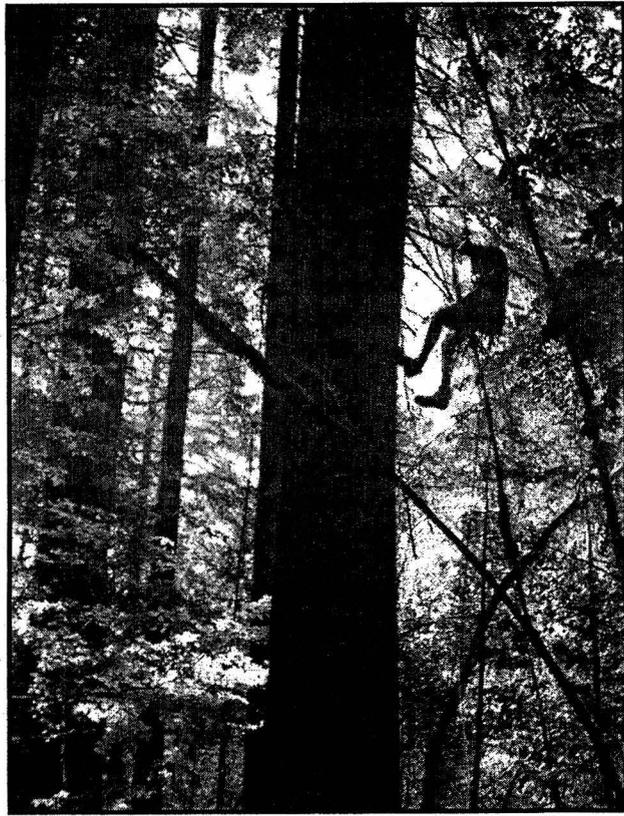
But on July 12 the workers discovered it might not be business as usual. Deep in the forest in the middle of the proposed road stood a large, old Douglas fir tree with a tree house far up in the canopy. Two young women peered over the edge of the tree house and spoke to the workers over 100 feet beneath them. They told the workers that they could not cut the trees because the women were protecting them. The women, River and Madrone, said, "We have to be the voice of this ancient forest because it can't speak for itself." The loggers politely left. Since then, no trees have been cut in this forest.

The Right View timber sale, just a few miles east of Glide, Oregon, was planned under the new and improved environmental regulations in the Northwest Forest Plan.

Since the treesitters stopped the logging, the BLM has closed off the area to the public. In our local newspaper, the *Roseburg News-Review*, the BLM said: "It was closed for public safety... We want to make sure there aren't any people in danger who might still be in the area." The newspaper also stated: "BLM officials said they won't forcibly remove the treesitters, but they may allow timber harvesting to go ahead with

the treesitters in place. Any logging that occurs would leave a protective buffer around the tree that the two women occupy and the area would be checked to make sure no other protesters are present."

Send letters of support to River and Madrone, POB 306, Idlewild, OR 97447.



Climbers in the low-elevation Umpqua.

Face-off in Utah

Utah's Escalante watershed stretches from the coniferous forest on top of the Aquarius Plateau at 11,000 feet through magnificent belts of aspen to the canyons and uplands between the Waterpocket Fold and the Kaiparowits Plateau and eventually all the way to the Colorado River. Unfortunately, cows are just about everywhere, chewing up the vegetation, ravaging the riparian areas, savaging archaeological sites and driving the local ranchers broke, raising cattle here is a money losing operation.

This summer, long-time activists Tori Woodard and Patrick Diehl, along with several others, launched a new non-profit environmental group, The Escalante Wilderness Project, in Escalante, a southern Utah community on the edge of the new Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). One of the project's goals is to coordinate citizen monitoring of grazing allotments in the GSENM and the neighboring Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Other goals are: to advocate for wilderness and a diversified, sustainable local "amenities" economy, including high-value, organic local agriculture and land trusts; to participate in the Citizens' Inventory of Utah national forest wilderness and to defend roadless areas on the Aquarius Plateau; to help implement the vision of large biotic refugia linked by protected corridors; to act as a local watchdog for environmental organizations; to oppose the paving or improvement of local unpaved roads; to oppose "scenic overflights" in the GSENM; and to work with the Glen Canyon Institute to drain Lake Powell, remove the Glen Canyon Dam and restore Glen Canyon.

Tori and Patrick's environmentalism has caused a furor in Escalante. For the first few months they worked hard on civic projects and events. Their luck didn't last. Since April, they have faced ongoing harassment. In mid-April, an eight-foot-deep building excavation next to their house was filled in the night with water from their own pasture's irrigation pipes. The vandalism was prompted by Patrick's criticism in the *Salt Lake Tribune* of a new reservoir proposed for the Escalante River. The local irrigation company fined Tori \$1,100 for the broken irrigation pipe. A threatening phone call and a death threat against Patrick followed. In a May 7 *Tribune* article about the vandalism, the town mayor stated that "they are not welcome here."

On July 5, Patrick, Tori and Juniper Allison (a board member of the Escalante Wilderness Project) staged a counter-demonstration at a large anti-wilderness event organized by "People for the USA" (the pseudo-grassroots, corporate-backed, Wise Use group formerly known as People for the West!). During the day, Patrick was assaulted twice, handcuffed once and then released, and struck in the left ear with a rock. On July 24, during the Pioneer Day parade, Tori and Patrick's house was vandalized: the phone lines were cut, the front door was kicked in, windows were smashed and the garden was attacked. In the ensuing media coverage, a local Mormon bishop confirmed that he called the struggle over wilderness "a war of religion," adding that the war was between "Christians and exclusionists" and that Tori and Patrick were "lucky" they had not suffered worse.

On August 24, the anti-environmentalist majority on the Escalante center board threw the local arts and humanities group out of the center. Patrick was a board member for the arts and humanities center. The local group was one of several partners in the Center, a large scale project that will include the GSENM Visitor's Center.

At this point, Tori, Patrick and Juniper are standing their ground, cultivating their garden and laying the foundation for future work to protect the Escalante watershed. Emotions are running high, and the activists are concerned that Garfield County may attempt to blade illegal roads into wilderness study areas. Interested readers can contact the project at POB 652, Escalante, UT 84726; (435) 826-4778; toripat@color-country.net.

—ESCALANTE WILDERNESS PROJECT

Plug The Hole In Headwaters

BY JOSH BROWN AND ROB DiPERNA

When the Headwaters Deal was finalized March 2, Headwaters Grove, Elk Head Springs Grove and a small buffer were acquired by taxpayers at the staggering cost of \$480 million. Yet in a move that spoke of the compromised and purely political nature of the deal, a majority of the groves in the South Fork of the Elk River (SFER), were left unprotected. The deal gave Maxxam timber harvest plan 1-97-520, a logging monstrosity that will clearcut over one square mile of second growth redwood forest (equal to 656 football fields) on the SFER. The targeted area is completely surrounded by the boundaries of the new Headwaters Preserve.

No sooner was the Deal signed and stamped when we learned that Maxxam was trying to get quick approval of this first sacrifice. Nicknamed the "Hole in the Headwaters Preserve," it's projected that this plan will lead to the local extinction of one of the last remaining native coho salmon runs in the state.

The coho salmon of north coastal California have been designated an "Evolutionary Significant Unit" by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). These coho are considered significant because this is the southernmost portion of the coho range.

Earth First! organized an emergency rally March 27. Over 120 community members and activists attended the demonstration. Local residents spoke of the neighboring North Fork, which has already been logged by Maxxam. They spoke of how the cutting was creating extreme flooding, property damage, loss of drinking water and local extirpation of salmon runs. These residents warned that the same fate will fall on the South Fork, if the Hole in the Headwaters is logged.

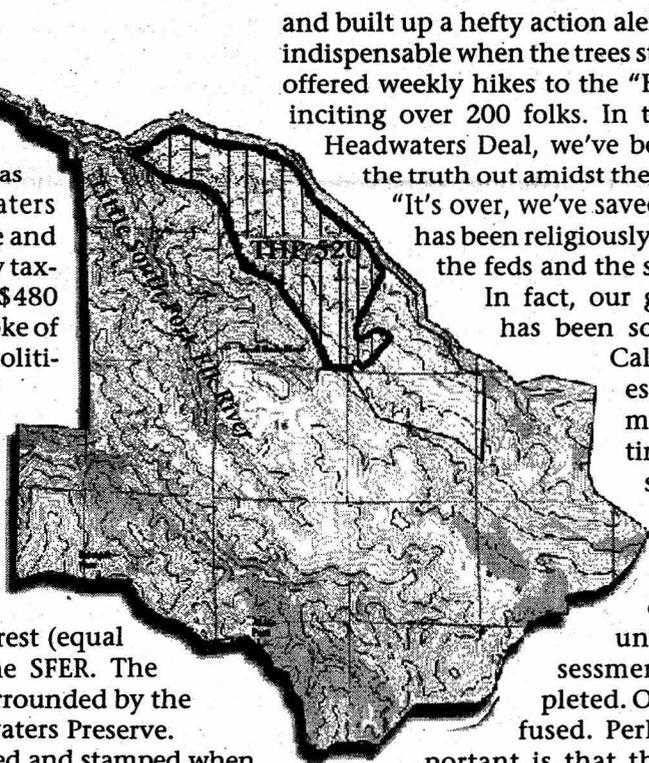
Since then, Earth First! has begun an aggressive grass-roots organizing campaign to build public support for the SFER. We've been gathering postcard signatures aimed at California Governor Davis, asking him to include the SFER in the newly-designated reserve. So far, we've collected over 2,000 signatures

and built up a hefty action alert list that may prove indispensable when the trees start to fall. We've also offered weekly hikes to the "Hole," educating and inciting over 200 folks. In the aftermath of the Headwaters Deal, we've been struggling to get the truth out amidst the deafening mantra, of "It's over, we've saved Headwaters" which has been religiously chanted by Maxxam, the feds and the state.

In fact, our grassroots organizing has been so successful that the California Board of Forestry (which is usually a mindless drone of the timber barons) issued a statement to Maxxam asking them to refrain from any further logging in SFER or Freshwater Creek until the watershed assessment process was completed. Of course, Maxxam refused. Perhaps even more important is that the Board of Forestry also required that any changes to THP 520 be considered major amendments to the plan, thus re-opening the public comment, pushing the logging off for as much as a year and giving Earth First! time to organize and prepare.

Time is running out for the coho in the South Fork, and the state appears unresponsive in lifting a finger to stop this travesty. Andrea Tuttle, the newly appointed Director of the California Department of Forestry, when asked about the Hole in Headwaters replied, "Well, Pacific Lumber has to get their logs from somewhere." Mary Nichols, California Secretary of Resources has rudely claimed, "The state has no intention to purchase that property. The state can't purchase all the timberland in Northern California." These declarations make it clear that the greed of Maxxam carries more political weight than the survival of one of the last viable native runs of salmon.

Contact Northcoast Earth First!, POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-6598; ncef@humboldt1.com; www.net-code.com/headwaters. Contact the agencies that can save the Hole in Headwaters: Mary Nichols, 1416 9th St., Ste. 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 653-5656; Governor Gray Davis, State Capital, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 445-2841.



GENETIC ENGINEERING TAKES

The EU decision comes in the wake of a massive grassroots movement across the continent that has provoked a stampede by major supermarket chains, fast-food restaurants, food producers and animal feed companies in Europe to proclaim a ban on GE foods and food ingredients.

•On May 17, the prestigious 115,000-member British Medical Association (BMA) issued a report calling for a moratorium on GE foods and crops, declaring that more "independent" research is needed to determine the possible toxicity of bioengineered food. The BMA warned that the commercialization of untested and unlabeled gene-foods could lead to the development of new allergies and antibiotic resistance in humans. British doctors emphasized that the notion of the "substantial equivalence" of GE and non-GE foods—which provides the legal basis for the US government position of "no labeling" and "no pre-market safety-testing"—is scientifically incorrect, ignoring "gene interaction of unexpected kinds which may take place in GM foods." The BMA report rocked the already shaky biotech industry, generating significant media coverage in many parts of the world. Influential members of the US Senate immediately attacked the BMA report. Republican Senator John Ashcroft of Missouri, sometimes known as the "Senator from Monsanto," lashed out against the EU in the *Washington Post*: "It is characteristic of the European Union to hide behind studies such as this in order to maintain its protectionist trade policies."

•In the most dramatic story of the year highlighting the environmental hazards of GE crops, *Nature* magazine published a letter from Cornell University scientists in its May 20, 1999 issue indicating that pollen from Bt corn crops is poisonous to Monarch butterflies. Headline stories of the threat to what the press dubbed "the Bambi of the insect world" brought home the fact that millions of acres of GE crops were already under cultivation in the US, with untold damage already being done to the environment and living creatures. Although Monsanto and the

biotech industry immediately tried to undercut the Monarch story, complaining that the studies were carried out in a laboratory rather than in the fields, another recent study by scientists from Iowa State University conducted in and around fields planted with Bt corn showed similar results. Under pressure from the media fallout, the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture, Dan Glickman, emphasized in interviews that, "we can't force-feed consumers... There are certainly more and more questions being asked about biotechnology, and those questions must be answered." The Bt-Monarch controversy comes on the heels of other recent studies showing that Bt-spliced crops kill beneficial insects such as lacewings and ladybugs, as well as soil microorganisms, damage soil fertility and may also be harming insect-eating birds.

•The president of the pro-biotechnology Rockefeller Foundation, Gordon Conway, warned Monsanto in late June that its strong-arm tactics and promotion of the Terminator technology had created a dangerous public backlash against GE. Press reports stated that Conway flatly told Monsanto to drop the controversial Terminator technology and to stop opposing the labeling of GE foods.

•On July 1, Dr. Marc Lappe from the Center for Ethics and Toxics along with two other scientists published a peer-reviewed study in the *Journal of Medicinal Food* pointing out that Monsanto's Roundup Ready soybeans contain 12 to 14 percent lower levels of beneficial, naturally occurring phytoestrogens (thought to provide protection against breast cancer, heart disease and os-

teoporosis). Monsanto, as expected, has vehemently denied Lappe's claims. Monsanto previously intervened with the publisher to try to prevent Lappe and Britt Bailey's anti-biotech book, *Against the Grain*, from being published.

•As record amounts of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide continue to be sprayed on Roundup Ready soybeans, canola, corn and cotton, a recent article in the journal *Cancer* revealed links between glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer. In 1998, over 112,000 tons of glyphosate, the world's top selling herbicide, were sprayed across the globe. A full 71 percent of all genetically-altered crops last year were engineered to be resistant to herbicides such as Roundup.

•On June 21, a federal court in Brazil

•According to the British and Brazilian press, major supermarket chains, food producers and animal feed companies in Europe are starting to turn to Brazil, rather than the US (where GE and non-GE soybeans continue to be co-mingled), for their soybean imports. Meanwhile, prices paid to farmers for US soybeans have dropped to a 27-year low, with overall US soybean exports declining by 38 percent. In addition, the US has lost \$400 million in corn exports to Europe over the past two years because of the EU public's rejection of GE corn, while Canada has lost over \$500 million in canola exports.

•According to an article in the July 2 *Farmers Weekly*, after major US corn buyers Archer Daniels Midland and A.E. Staley announced they would no longer purchase GE corn that was banned in the EU, up to 20 percent of US corn farmers in some areas returned their banned GE corn seeds to their distributors.

•In the May 6 issue of *Post*, an insurance magazine, a manager for insurance giant Cigna International recommended that insurance companies think twice before issuing policies to genetic engineering companies. "Our experience with asbestos, PCBs and other 'miracle' products in the past should have warned us of the potential dangers of diving into is-

ssues before we have an adequate awareness of the exposures."

•On June 30, in a sharp blow to Monsanto and the US government, the GATT Codex Alimentarius in Rome again refused to certify that the controversial recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH or rBST) is safe for humans. "By refusing to set a standard today, Codex has recognized that there is no consensus on rBGH safety in the international scientific community and



Grannies take to the fields for GE-free food

Photo by Adrian Arbib

ruled that Monsanto's Roundup Ready soybeans cannot be planted in that country before August 2000. Under the ruling, Monsanto is prohibited from commercializing the GE seeds until the government has issued regulations and rules defining the biosafety and labeling of GMOs. In a July press conference in London, Brazilian agricultural officials promised a consistent and reliable supply of non-GE (as well as organic) soybeans to the UK and EU market.

It's time to sharpen up those

Running, rolling and pulling; Oxfordshire, England

On July 18, 500 activists totally trashed a genetically-modified (GM) crop test site in Oxfordshire by running and rolling across the field, pulling up plants and generally causing as much damage as possible.

Heavy machinery tractors over GE maize; Norfolk, UK

On July 25 activists from Greenpeace International trashed a field of GM maize in Lyng near Norfolk. Their tactics involved both pulling up plants and driving heavy farm machinery across the field. Twenty-eight people were arrested, one of whom was later taken into custody for a week and charged with theft and criminal damage.

Fulfilling a Promise; UC-Berkeley, California

On July 27 the California Croppers returned to the University of

California-Berkeley's (UCB) Gil Tract to follow through on a promise made in November 1998. In response to a \$25 million research deal signed between UCB and giant Novartis, the Croppers pulled up a GE corn test crop on Thanksgiving, 1998. Captain Swing sent out the following statement on behalf of these conservative gardeners: "The Croppers would like to make it clear to Novartis that we will take similar actions against any future biotech experiments."

Regrettably, UCB and Novartis proceeded with their reckless Frankenfood research plans, and so a late night tackle football game was organized back at the Gil Tract. The final score after an enthusiastic match was: Croppers 14, UCB 0, as 14 rows of corn used in GE research by two well-known scientists were uprooted. The name of the game: "Preventive Harvest!"

Loppers and Cropatista's; Lodi, California

In the early morning darkness of July 28 in California's central valley, two separate actions were taken to fight the deadly scourge of genetic engineering (GE). One group, known as the Lodi Loppers, attacked a commercial crop of DeKalb's Roundup Ready corn. The activists were able to destroy approximately one acre of this bio-hazard. In a separate action, a group known as the Cropatistas laid waste to just over one acre of Seed-Tech's Roundup Ready corn.

These actions were to show the biotech industry in general and Monsanto in particular that genetically-engineered crops are not wanted and that any means necessary will be used to eradicate this menace. The actions were taken in solidarity with organic farmers around the world who are resisting the genetic monster, particularly, the millions of Indian farmers who are leading by example with Operation Cremate Monsanto, English activists who started the GenetiX Snowball campaign and the

Lincolnshire Loppers (distant cousins of the Lodi Loppers).

Rape seed trashed; North Yorkshire, England

On July 28 a field full of GM oilseed rape (canola) was destroyed at High Mowthorpe, near Malton in North Yorkshire, England. Anti-GM activists have admitted responsibility.

Oh well, at least they tried; Lincolnshire, England

On July 31 a group of anti-GM activists trashed a field of maize at a farm in Lincolnshire, England. Police made 43 arrests, and the farmer also announced that the activists had hit the wrong field and that his GM crop was still intact.

The action brings the number of actions against GE sites to 45 this year, three of which were on the highly controversial farm-scale trials. Over 80 GE trial sites have been decontaminated over the last two years.

A BIG HIT BELOW THE BELT

that national governments should be able to decide whether rBGH should be permitted in their milk supply," said Jean Halloran, director of the Consumer Policy Institute.

•In related developments, government authorities in India, under public pressure, banned imports of rBGH. In New Zealand strong grassroots opposition caused Monsanto's distributor, Eli Lilly, to withdraw its application to distribute the drug. Mounting scientific evidence indicates that Monsanto's genetically engineered rBGH—now injected into five percent of all dairy cows in the US—likely poses significant health risks for both humans and animals.

•Japanese government officials announced in June that they were suspending approval of Bt crops for agricultural production pending the establishment of criteria for safety evaluation. Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will also decide by the end of the year whether mandatory labeling will be required for most GE foods. Public concerns about food safety and gene-foods have increased considerably in Japan over the past three years. In recent international meetings of the Codex Alimentarius, Japanese officials have refused to support the US position of "no labeling" for GE foods. Japan imports 77 percent of its soybeans and 87 percent of its corn from the US.

•On July 2 activists from Greenpeace delivered several hundred pounds of GE corn seed, purchased in Mexico, to Mexican health authorities to prove that corn imports coming into the country do contain gene-altered DNA—despite a supposed ban by the government on imports of GE corn. Scientists have warned that "genetic pollution" of Mexico's many corn varieties could lead to the loss of the world's most important and irreplaceable source of corn germplasm. The action generated major press coverage and, along with recent coverage of the Bt-Monarch story (Monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico

for the winter months), has begun to alert the Mexican public to the dangers and uncertainties of GE foods and crops.

•More than three dozen NGOs and consumer groups in the US—including for the first time several national environmental groups—have begun holding anti-biotech meetings, participating in conference calls and organizing press events and protests. According to a May 30 report by Bill Lambrecht in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, several major non-profit foundations in the US are on the verge of pouring significant financial resources into public interest organizations to facilitate a major American GE public awareness campaign.

•Heretofore unpublished federal Food and Drug Administration documents show that even the FDA's own scientists had serious differences over the "no labeling" and "no safety-testing" policy on gene-altered foods issued in 1992. According to Steve Druker of the Alliance for Bio-Integrity, "in internal documents, FDA officials repeatedly cautioned that foods produced through recombinant DNA technology entail different risks than do their conventionally produced counterparts and that this input was consistently disregarded by the bureaucrats who crafted the agency's current policy which treats bioengineered foods the same as natural ones. Besides contradicting the FDA's claim that its policy is science-based, this evidence shows the agency violated the US Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act in allowing genetically engineered foods to be marketed without testing on the premise that they are generally recognized as safe by qualified experts."

•According to Andrew Kimbrell and Joe Mendelson, attorneys for the International Center for Technology Assess-

ment, a federal court will decide (probably by the end of 1999) whether the FDA is required by law to mandate pre-market testing and labeling for GE foods. Also, the court will decide whether the entire US regulatory regime regarding GE foods has to undergo an environmental impact statement.



Before flowering, crop thrashers eradicate this invasive Oxfordshire species.

The Clinton administration and the biotechnology industry organization are getting worried. According to *C&E News*, giant commodities traders Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland believe currently co-mingled export crops will soon have to be segregated and labeled. Although the USDA hasn't yet endorsed the idea of labeling GE foods for export, according to a June 27 story by Bill Lambrecht, the USDA hopes that new proposed federal organic standards, due to be released as early as October, will "ease the worries of biotech-wary consumers" by prohibiting the use of genetically-engineered ingredients in foods labeled "USDA Organic." In other words, if you don't want GE, buy organic.

Proponents of GE realize they're going to have to make at least some minor concessions on the biotech labeling front in order to head off a trade war with the EU, prevent the GE con-

troversy from heating up too much in Japan and other major US export markets, and prevent the emergence of a serious debate and organized opposition movement in the US. The biotech industry understands quite well that consumer polls over the past 10 years show that 80-90 percent of Americans support mandatory labeling, and that 60 percent or so, if foods were clearly labeled, would attempt to avoid buying GE products. They also understand that there isn't more of a controversy yet in

the US because almost half of all consumers erroneously believe that there aren't any GE foods (except for rBGH-derived dairy products) on the market.

The biotech lobby apparently believes that a more moderate set of proposed national organic standards—one that specifically excludes GE, irradiation and toxic sludge—will placate US organic consumers. The White House and the

Gene Giants believe that segregation and labeling of GE exports will placate Europeans and Asians and that over time everyone will calm down or else become fatalistic as they realize that GE crops and ingredients are everywhere. In the meantime they intend to use the General Agreements on Trade and Tariffs, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other corporate and biotech-friendly institutions to rewrite global trade agreements and investment policies so that nation states no longer have the ability to respond to citizen demands for rigid controls over genetic engineering.

For more information contact Campaign for Food Safety, 860 Hwy. 61, Little Marais, MN 55614; (218) 226-4164; www.purefood.org. Also contact the Bioengineering Action Network at ban@tao.ca; www.tao.ca/~ban.

loppers, scythes and machetes

One of the aims of the action was to remove the threat of the farm scale trial before pollination could take place. Pollination of the GE T25 maize, was due any day. There are three organic farms within six miles of the maize trial as well as beekeepers.

GenetiX Snowballers deliver the goods; Hertfordshire, England

On August 3 three GenetiX Snowball activists defied a court injunction against them and removed ten-square meters of GM oilseed rape from a farm in Royston in Hertfordshire, UK. The trial site and GM plants are owned by biotech giant AgrEvo UK Ltd. Three large bags of GM plants were removed, one of which was then delivered to AgrEvo UK's headquarters at East Winch Farm, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. According to Martin Shaw, one of the three that took action, "Taking the weeds back to their own-

ers was intended to challenge the people who are making the decisions and make them take responsibility for their actions."

In April of this year AgrEvo was granted an injunction restraining members of GenetiX Snowball from uprooting their GM plants. Breach of the injunction carries a prison term of two years.

AgrEvo initially claimed that the site was not a GM site, but was eventually obliged to admit that it was when a journalist said that he had visited the site with the activists and had seen the signs put up by AgrEvo around the site claiming that there was an injunction!

Faery Army ambushes GE beets; East Cork, Ireland

On August 16 activists calling themselves the Faery Army destroyed a crop of Monsanto's genetically-mutated sugar beets at Shanagarry, East Cork, Ireland. According to the com-

pany, damage is estimated at \$70,000. The activists used gardening tools to slash and dig up the crop. The action is the second in under a month in Ireland. The first involved the spraying of a similar crop in Co. Wexford with one of Monsanto's own chemicals damaging 60 percent of the crop.

A spokesperson for the Faery Army said: "We have taken this action in solidarity with groups all over the world who are resisting Monsanto's attempts to dominate nature and humanity with their poisons and seeds. Poverty stricken Indian farmers have burnt their crops to keep Monsanto out. We can do no less. We resist all attempts to label us as criminals, we are responsible citizens doing what little we can to protect ourselves and our land from these dangerous, untested chemicals."

With only two trial sites remaining in Ireland the Irish people stand a very real chance of decontaminating the whole island.

Seeds of Resistance hacks down corn; Old Town, Maine

On August 18 a half-acre stand of genetically engineered-corn was hacked down in Old Town, Maine. The Seeds of Resistance claimed responsibility for the action. Police are investigating the late night action at the University of Maine-owned Rogers Farm, where about 1,000 stalks of the man-made corn were chopped down.

Officials said that the corn was being studied for its resistance to the popular herbicide Roundup. The seed for the corn at Rogers Farm was donated by the DeKalb Seed Company, a subsidiary of Monsanto which manufactures Roundup.

The Seeds of Resistance stated in a communiqué that this is the first in a series of actions against genetically modified crops.

Bubi Harassed by Mobil

The island of Bioko, found in the Gulf of Guinea, is home to Africa's greatest concentration of endangered primates and more than 50 unique plant species. During the dry season butterflies gather in the rainforest, and endangered marine turtles come ashore to nest on the black sand beaches. Almost 200 species of birds fly amongst the island's three volcanic peaks. Bioko is also the home of the Bubi peoples who are presently being harassed by the army of Equatorial Guinea, with the generous financial support of Mobil, a US-based multinational oil company, and the discreet military advice of the French government. The Bubi people arrived at Bioko some 3,000 years ago in hand-dug canoes, fighting the ocean's violent surf.

Bioko boasts the city of Malabo (population near 50,000), the capital city of Equatorial Guinea. The island is now controlled by the members of a single Fang clan from the town of Mongomo located on the African mainland.

Previously known as Fernando Po, Equatorial Guinea (EG) lies between Gabon and Cameroon in sub-Saharan Africa. Bioko Island and Rio Muni (the mainland part of EG) are two distinct cultures and ecosystems. They were joined to facilitate Spain's colonial ways. After independence in 1968 the country was taken over by a tyrannical dictator named Macias Nguema, until he was overthrown in 1979 by his nephew Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasago, the current president.

Mbasago has a far better reputation than his uncle who was known to execute ministers after cabinet reshuffles. However, the current president sent Fang-dominated security forces to crush an uprising by a handful of Bubis in January 1998, many of whom were carrying just sticks or knives. In the days that followed, there were reports of hundreds of arrests and violent interrogations. "An opulent minority sails in a sea of misery. The cause of the economic malaise is political," wrote local economist Fernando Abaga in a paper published in May.

The unrest is partly due to the fact that the majority of Equatorial Guinea's 400,000 inhabitants have not benefited from the spectacular economic growth expected from Mobil's arrival to the offshore oilfields in 1996, now the source of 90 percent of national oil production.

The oil revenue helped the gross domestic product (GDP) shoot up 76 percent in 1997 and 14.7 percent in 1998. The World Bank forecasts that oil will account for 75 percent of the GDP within a few years.

Despite this, running water and electricity are rare luxuries outside the capital. Education and health care are in abject decay. Malaria, typhoid and a host of other diseases are endemic. Life expectancy is 48.

On the other hand, a web site statement from Mobil gives a false sense of optimism:

"Equatorial Guinea has long awaited its day in the sun. That day appears to be nearing thanks to the discovery of oil offshore and plans that Mobil has to fast-track development of those resources... Like all good partnerships, this one is founded on a mutuality of interests... Moreover, our initial investment in the project will provide foreign revenues to the economy, generate jobs and offer opportunities for transfer of technology and technical skills to the Equatorial Guineans."

Oil companies pay workers through local employment agencies that not only weed out employees potentially hostile to the government but take large cuts of the salaries of those that get work.

In the crowded Campo Yaunde section of Malabo, a shantytown of narrow, muddy streets, a young day laborer expressed the local anger. "Our leaders speak of themselves as renovators, and yet all they can do is steal. If they think they can sit on top of a mountain of gold while we remain miserable, they will soon learn that our country is not Kuwait, and we were not meant to have kings and princes," he said.

Four distinct sea turtles, ten different primates, the Bubi people and an entire ecosystem are threatened by oil extraction. Bioko is a small island, smaller than the size of Maryland with a population of less than 100,000 people. It harbors plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Once again financial greed backed by government and military forces threaten all forms of life.

For information contact Project Underground, 1916 A, Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704; (510) 705-8981; www.moles.org.



Bubi on the eight-hour walk home from the nearest town

photo by Gail Hearn

Plunder in New Zealand

BY SEAN JENNER

New Zealand is a place that conjures up images of majestic mountains, rolling hills, flocks of sheep and a clean, green, South Pacific paradise, remote from an overpopulated and polluted world. But behind the slick marketing hype and glossy brochures is a history of massive deforestation, large scale pastoralism and pest invasion that is pushing the indigenous ecology toward the brink of collapse.

Traversing these ancient forests is like taking a step back into the Earth's primordial past. The massive trunks of podocarp trees—such as rimu, totara and kahikatea—emerge through a multi-layered riot of vegetation. Twisted, contorted trunks, elegant palms, tree ferns, vines, creepers and parasitic plants create an atmosphere long since past in other parts of the world.

It wasn't until European settlement began in 1840 that the wholesale destruction of the country's forested landscape began. This was largely fueled by the Judeo-Christian cultural perceptions Europeans brought with them. They placed no value on wilderness, instead perverting it into a manifestation of idleness and sin in need of cultivation and improvement.

Although indigenous New Zealanders, the Maori, had an intimate cultural knowledge and relationship with the land based on a reverence and respect for the life forces present, such a relationship has never been part of the European vision. Domination and subjugation of nature instead has formed the basis for interactions between supposed civilization and indigenous ecological systems.

The vast tracts of primeval forest have either been milled or simply burnt to create the pastoral

landscape that now dominates. The legacy of such a brutal, systematic and almost frenzied crusade to annihilate the prehistoric world of Aotearoa and replace it with the tamed, sterile, production orientated monotony of pasture, has left an impressive list of extinctions and continues to inflict damage on the land's long-term ecological integrity.

Much of the forest left today survives as remnant islands in a sea of grasslands. These vulnerable fragments are treated with human indifference and neglect. As a result, they are dying across the country as large numbers of introduced animals such as the Australian possum and goats strip the tree canopies and devour understory vegetation. Remaining wilderness areas are almost always confined to steep higher-altitude ranges, while only a fraction of the biologically richer lowland forests have escaped logging or clearance for agriculture. The largest areas of unprotected native lowland forest left is



Yakas kauri tree in the Waipoua Forest

photo by Sean Jenner

on public lands on the South Island's west coast. These diverse rainforests contain some of the highest ecological values of forests anywhere in the country. Presently, they are controlled by a state-owned enterprise called Timberlands West Coast Ltd. Timberlands was created in the early 1990s after the signing of an agreement called the West Coast Forest Accord which divided the forests between conservation and production.

The accord gave provision for the clearfelling of old-growth rimu in the Buller region during a transitional period that would see old-growth logging stop, once exotic pine plantations were ready to harvest. This was designed to protect the industry and local jobs. The plantations have been ready for some time and the number of jobs has declined

considerably due to economic restructuring but Timberlands wants to continue plundering these old-growth forests until 2006.

In other priceless forests on the coast, Timberlands has implemented a "sustainable" logging operation that will triple the current rate of logging. Perhaps the most offensive example of this is occurring adjacent to the World Heritage Site of Okarito Lagoon, home to the rare white heron. Outside of the park's artificial boundaries, Timberlands is carving roads across this unique coastal lagoon forest sequence, cutting out 300-600 year-old trees.

In the government's own report on the state of the environment, the loss of indigenous biodiversity has been identified as the country's leading environmental problem. Despite this, and persistent calls to stop the logging of native forests on public land, the government remains relentless in its determination to keep up the plunder. Rumor has it that Timberlands is being prepared for privatization and that rainforests make Timberlands more attractive to foreign investors.

Unfortunately Prime Minister Jenny Shipley recently announced what many people had been dreading approval of plans to log over 100,000 hectares of beech forest in a massive scheme that defies even economic logic. This decision demonstrates an arrogant contempt and disregard for the ecological systems that sustain life. These unlogged valleys are vital habitat and the last strongholds for many endangered species. Their true wealth lies in their ability to function as the Earth intended, not as some resource extraction zone that will make a handful of people a fortune.

This government-sponsored destruction of the environment is a huge contradiction to the clean green image it is using to attract tourists. Window dressing aside, clearly the Shipley government's priority is short term profit at the expense of what little is left of the country's intact biodiversity. In the light of reality, the political rhetoric rings hollow and the stench of hypocrisy mingles with the sound of revving chainsaws.

For more information contact Native Forest Action, POB 836, Nelson, New Zealand, 03 545-6040; nfa_offi@ts.co.nz; www.nfa.org.nz.

Occupation Stops US Navy on Vieques

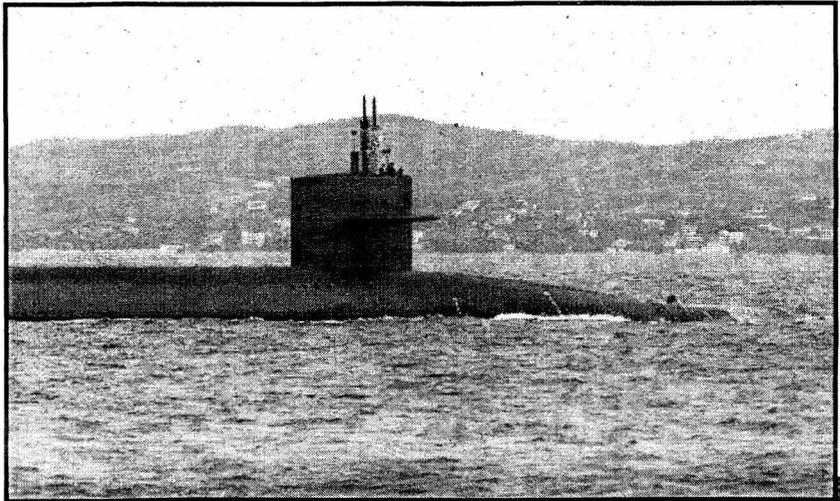
BY JOHN REESE

First invaded by Columbus in 1493, the Puerto Rican island of Vieques has been occupied by US troops for 101 years. Since 1941, the US Navy has occupied almost three quarters of the island and has used it for target practice and training maneuvers. The military has ravaged this fragile ecosystem with

leftist organizations, the independence movement, university students and local fishers. Puerto Rican Senator Rubén Berríos, who heads the Social Democrat-oriented PIP, has been camping for over 100 days.

On July 17, at one of the bombing ranges on Vieques, anti-riot police tried to stop demonstrators from seizing a US flag that had just been lowered from a flagpole and raising the Puerto Rican flag in its place. At another protest on July 24, hundreds of Vieques residents waved white ribbons to demand the Navy's departure. This was the second day of a visit to Puerto Rico by members of a panel appointed by President Bill Clinton to study whether the Navy should continue its presence in Vieques.

The bombing and training maneuvers have stopped on the island since the first protesters began to camp in the restricted



US submarine approaching Vieques

napalm, depleted uranium shells and massive amounts of explosives during practice bombing runs. In May, the Navy admitted it had mistakenly fired 267 rounds tipped with depleted uranium. A depleted uranium particle less than a thousandth of a millimeter thick lodged inside a human lung can generate 800 times the amount considered safe. Thus far, only about 60 of the shells have been recovered. In July, the military reversed earlier denials and admitted using napalm on this island inhabited by over 9,000 people.

According to the *Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño* (PIP), the Navy is violating a number of United States federal laws in Vieques, including the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Executive Order on Environmental Justice. In spite of this, US Navy Secretary Richard Danzig stated at a recent press conference in Washington, "It is appropriate for the Navy to be in Vieques, where it must remain and continue its practice with live ammunition." He added that Vieques is vital for US national security. In July the Navy announced that Vieques is the only place where its airplanes and ships can practice with live ammunition.

The current civil disobedience campaign began after a stray Navy bomb killed David Sanes on April 19. Since his death, protesters have occupied the bombing range, which is littered with unexploded bombs. There are now four groups camping in the bombing range. The protesters include individuals from the peace movement,



Mural at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez

military zone in late April. The US has announced its intention to forcibly remove the protesters. Puerto Rico governor Pedro Rosselló formed a commission to study the Vieques controversy, headed by Puerto Rican Secretary of State Norma Burgos. The commission's final report, issued at the end of June, recommended that the US military end its presence on the island.

"The US Navy must leave Vieques," said Senator Berríos to journalists who visited him in his camping site in the southern coast of Vieques. "The President of the United States has no alternative. He can't follow the recommendations of the Navy. He has to follow the recommendations of the people of Puerto Rico. If he doesn't do so, he will go down in history as a president willing to commit acts of tyranny."

For more information contact Robert Rabin, *Comité Pro Rescate Y Desarrollo de Vieques* (Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques), POB 1424, Vieques, Puerto Rico 00765; (787) 741-1717; bieke@coqui.net; www.viequesvive.com.

Vieques Declaration

The people of Vieques, with the unanimous support of all of Puerto Rico's community sectors and with the support of the Puerto Rican government, demand that the United States military forces in Vieques, Puerto Rico, cease permanently all war practices, exercises and other activities; the immediate departure of all its personnel, equipment and artifacts from the island municipality; and the return of all presently occupied territories by any branch or department of the US armed forces to the municipality of Vieques.

We proclaim our inalienable right to build a future of peace and well-being and continue the historic and heroic struggle that, for more than six decades, has taken place without respite to end the abuse of the US Navy in Vieques.

We reaffirm the commitment of the people of Vieques and of all Puerto Ricans to support the right of our fishermen and fisherwomen to defend our sea resources.

We accuse the US Navy of polluting our air, water and land and contributing significantly to the high level of cancer and other diseases related to the degradation of the environment that affect our population. We make them responsible for all the dead, wounded, ill and other victims of their military activities during these six decades and for the profound psychological damage caused to our children.

We deplore the use of depleted uranium, napalm bombs and other chemical and toxic weapons condemned by international public opinion because of their adverse impact on health and the environment.

We demand that the US government clean up all waste and toxic materials from the island of Vieques, as well as the decontamination of the areas used for military practice, including the removal and defusing of the bombs and ammunition.

We accuse the US Navy of thwarting, for more than half a century, the healthy development of our economy, forcing our people to emigrate in search of work and well-being, with the resulting family disintegration.

We demand from the US government a just indemnification for the use of the land, the damage done to the population of Vieques and to the environment, as well as for the cost of the decontamination of all of Vieques territory.

We declare that the Navy is an usurping entity of our territory, whose presence and activities violate the natural right of the people of Vieques to enjoy our natural resources and the right to peace.

If the Navy does not respond to the demands of our people, we declare the intention of all the people of Vieques and of millions of Puerto Ricans in solidarity throughout the Puerto Rican Archipelago and in the United States, to participate in, and support, the acts we carry out inside the territories restricted by the US military forces in Vieques.

We hold the US government responsible for any harm or injury against any Puerto Rican who exercises his or her right to defend our land.

Furthermore, we declare that repression or arrests will not weaken the determination of the Puerto Rican-Viequense people to rescue from the United States Navy the territorial patrimony that belongs, by historical and natural right, to the people of Vieques.

This Declaration of Ultimatum will be given to the military officers in Vieques, the president of the United States, the United Nations and the governor of Puerto Rico.

Approved by the Assembly of the People of Vieques celebrated this 31 day of July, 1999 in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Wolves & Poodles

A cactus loving red wolf to the Center for Biological Diversity for forcing the Forest Service to designate one percent of the state of Arizona as officially protected critical habitat for the endangered Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl. There are only 40 known pairs left in the state. On June 30, 731,712 acres were officially set aside. The Center had first petitioned for listing in 1991, followed by five successful lawsuits. The habitat designation includes a large stretch of the middle Gila and the lower San Pedro Rivers, and the heart of the urban sprawl zone in west and northwest Tucson.



Un lobo muy macho que habla lenguas varias, a la ciudad de El Cenizo, Texas, para su ley que declara que todos sus conferencias de la ciudad usa la lengua de español y tambien para hechando un orden que dice los empleados del gobierno local no pueden ayudar "la migra."

A gavel pounding, judicially loyal wolf to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals for upholding the August 1997 injunction against most logging in national forests in Texas on August 16 of this year. The court held that the US Forest Service violated sections of the National Forest Management Act by failing to conduct required inventory and monitoring of timber sales.

A god fearing, bible thumping, 3,000 year-old poodle to the Kansas Board of Education for voting to delete any mention of evolution from the state's science curriculum. Genesis is now the beginning, Revelations the end.

A money grubbing, ass-kissing poodle to the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) for its greenwashing efforts to support Bob Fisher, a member of the family who owns Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy. In an unprecedented conflict of interest Fisher sits on the NRDC Board of Trustees and is a major investor in the Gap-financed logging firm, Mendocino Redwood Company. The NRDC is supporting Mendocino Redwood Company's efforts to gain the "green label" certification which will help it clearcut more land in California.

A house razing, long bearded, black suit wearing poodle to the Hyder Construction Company of Vail, Colorado, for having the audacity to mix corporate tourism with old-time tradition. According to a Vail Resort press release on July 28, workers performed a traditional Amish topping-off ceremony (placing a tree at the top of the building) at the completion of the roofing and framing of the Two Elks lodge which was destroyed by arson to preserve lynx habitat last fall.

A flood-spun, dripping wet poodle to the Secret Service and the Connecticut River Joint Commission for releasing four billion gallons of water into the Connecticut River to insure that big fish presidential candidate Al Gore's canoe would not run aground during a photo opportunity. "They won't release water for the fish when we ask them to, but somehow they find themselves able to release it for a politician," complained the director of the Vermont Department of Natural Resources.



BARE BONES

Fundraising Saves Forest

More than 5,000 people have donated \$13.1 million to protect the last remaining 25,000 roadless acres still under the control of Washington state's Department of Natural Resources.

The Loomis Forest is perched on the Canadian border immediately adjacent to the Paseyton Wilderness/North Cascades Park Complex and roadless lands in the Okanogan National Forest. The biologically critical, high-elevation lodgepole pine dominated ecosystem is home to one of the last remaining populations of Canadian lynx in the lower 48 states. It is also home to wolverine, fisher, grizzly bear and other species.

Over a year ago, the Northwest Ecosystem Alliance (NEA) reached an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources to purchase the timber rights to the lands in order to save 134,000 acres of the Loomis Forest from chainsaws and bulldozers.

Many state lands in Washington are logged to raise money for school construction. The money raised by the NEA will go to compensate the school trust for the loss of logging revenues. Activists must raise an additional \$700,000-\$800,000 for campaign and appraisal expenses, but the roadless remainder of the Loomis Forest will stay roadless forever.

The lands preserved will remain under state ownership and will be managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

To donate contact Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, 1421 Cornwall Ave., Suite 201, Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 671-9950 ext 11; 671-8429 (fax); www.ecosystem.org/~nwea/.

Paint Delays

Monkeywrench Timber Supply

Timber sales in the five-state Rocky Mountain region are down between 15 and 25 percent because the US Forest Service can't find enough of the paint it needs to mark trees for cutting. Many of the agency's other eight regions are in similar condition. On May 15 the agency stopped using oil-based paint to mark the trees it planned to cut. The change came after workers blamed the paint on an increase in miscarriages and other ailments.

The transition to water-based paint was more difficult than expected. There was an explosion at a paint factory, procurement delays by the General Services Administration and difficulties in getting the forest workers' union to approve the new paint. Because of this, timber sales in South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado will be down between 30 and 51 million board feet this year.

That disclosure prompted a letter from six senators to Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck. "These downturns are not acceptable," wrote the senators. They said that they had worked to revive timber sales in areas such as the Black Hills National Forest. "Now a shortage of tree-marking paint threatens to upset all those gains," the senators said.

The paint shortage will also have an impact on California timber sales. Forests that have received the new paint are sharing it with those that don't have it. In Washington and Oregon, timber sales are running on schedule so far. "We still have paint, but we're running low and we have an emergency order in," spokesman Rex Holloway said.

GLOBALIZATION: DEVELOPMENT OR DESTRUCTION?

BY THOMAS KOCHERRY

The following is an excerpt from a speech by Thomas Kocherry at University of Oslo in Norway, June 15, 1999.

The life of the planet and the dependent health and welfare of humanity must not be sacrificed to the greed of the few.

Today we are in the context of globalization/liberalization. The words look very attractive but the vast majority of people are the victims of globalization. Globalization began with colonialism. In the 16th century Europe was overpopulated and people began to migrate from Europe to other continents... They forcefully enslaved and converted native peoples. They conquered lands, exploited resources and accumulated wealth.

In the 20th century, the world witnessed the uprising of peoples for political freedom. However, economic exploitation continued through multinational corporations (MNCs) and transnational corporations (TNCs). The rich and ruling class of the newly freed Third World countries generally sided with the MNCs for their own advantage, against the interest of the common people. Again the natives and the indigenous peoples were the worst hit. A recent United Nations (UN) study shows 20 percent of the population controls 82.7 percent of the world gross national product, 81.2 percent of world trade, 94.6 percent of commercial lending, 80.5 percent of all domestic investment, 80.6 percent of all domestic savings and 94 percent of all research and development.

It is in this context that we should understand globalization. Those who have more are bound to get more. This means more accumulation and centralization... The real focus is Global 8 countries, with the US as the center. The US is placed in a better position for quick profit at the expense of the vast majority of people and the environment. All the rest are in the periphery. Thus, peripheralization of the vast majority is the other side of globalization. In the period following decolonization and political independence of Third World southern countries, after World War II, the international relationships among the countries at bilateral and multilateral levels were considered very important and viewed as mutually beneficial. This practice seems to be waning. Northern MNCs want to take over the control of the UN. If the UN does not dance according to their tune, they will not give their share. They are more interested in strengthening the World Trade Organization (WTO) than the UN... The UN has become a weak instrument. Globalization is beneficial to those who have;

all those who are have-nots are the victims. Globalization is a mechanistic process and, therefore, most easily manipulated by the wielders of power. This creates a certain sense of inevitability and absoluteness. Outside globalization and market economy, there is no salvation.

Let me show how this is true as regards the fisheries sector. In the 1990s fishing has reached the point of diminishing returns. Many fish populations have fallen to levels from



World Fisheries Day celebration in India

which they can no longer recover without significant reductions in the catches or a moratorium on fishing. There are simply too many boats catching too many fish. The first surge in numbers of fishing vessels occurred during the industrial revolution. This upwell tapered off during the two world wars but boomed again in the 1950s continuing through the 1970s. The world's fishing fleet doubled between 1970 and 1990. More than 100 million people in developing countries are dependent on fisheries for our livelihoods. For us fishing is a way of life not just a source of income. The sea is our *mother*. Traditionally, small-scale or artisanal fishers have provided fish for local consumption; but as fish become scarce and their value increases, they enter the global market and become unaffordable for common people. In the process we are displaced and the MNCs take over. Most governments, particularly of the north, are trying to prop up an unsustainable fishery. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year governments world wide pay \$116 billion to catch just \$70 billion worth of fish. Developed nations, which have over fished their own waters, have headed into the waters of developing nations. The European Union (EU) has around 40 percent more vessels than necessary to catch fish on a sustainable basis. Volatile fish wars are common place. There are more than one million large industrial fishing fleets in the world. They have depleted all the oceans in the world. They have become a threat to the 100 million fisher people in the world.

Industrial fishing is linked to the shrimp culture... Ten thousand tons of industrial caught fish that would have been available for common people are converted into fish-meal to produce one thousand tons of shrimp that only the rich can afford

to buy... The coastal shrimp industry also depletes fishing grounds, salinates fresh water, destroys mangroves, and displaces fisher people and agriculturists who depend on these resources for their livelihood... All over the world the victims of globalization are realizing the need to come together to establish our right to life. We want to establish our rights as persons...

We, the fisher people in India, are part of a larger alliance—the National Alliance of Peoples Movements (NAPM)—all of whom are victims of globalization. There are over 150 movements in this alliance, not only struggling to survive, but searching for alternatives to the present form of development which is destructive to all... True development is not by conquering and enslaving, not by accumulating and centralizing, not by displacing peoples and destroying cultures; true development happens only by integrating and working together, through distributive justice and decentralization

by nurturing and including native and indigenous peoples.

It is here that the struggles of the victims of mega dams in India can be understood. There are 3,600 mega dams in India. These have displaced 50 million natives, tribal and fisher people and have proved to be mass destruction rather than development. The victims are involved in a long standing struggle to create a new paradigm of development, where native skills and technologies are enhanced, small is accepted as beautiful and sustainability and simplicity has become a way of life with due respect to native cultures. We have gone to the extent of *Jalagamathii*—sacrificing ourselves in the rising reservoirs—rather than inflicting violence upon others, for the creation of this new paradigm.

Right now, about 400 leaders, representing different movements in India are in Europe campaigning against MNCs, TNCs and the WTO. For the first time such a mass campaign is taking place. The victims of globalization are asserting their rightful place on this planet. We feel an urgent need to create a new paradigm of development and politics, a paradigm in which all human beings have a right to live, with equal access to resources and opportunities. Development cannot be measured solely by the quantity of production but by its sustainability and its capacity to protect the livelihood of all human beings. Production should be coupled with distributive justice. There is no development for the sake of development.

Thomas Kocherry is a priest, trade unionist, environmentalist and lawyer. He is the coordinator of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters, national coordinator of the National Alliance of Peoples Movements of India, and one of the secretaries of the National Centre for Labour.

SHUT DOWN

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

COME TO SEATTLE NOV. 29-DEC. 3, 1999

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FESTIVAL OF RESISTANCE
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THE RICH GETTING RICHER
CUTS IN SOCIAL SERVICES
INCREASING POVERTY
MEANINGLESS JOBS
GLOBAL WARMING
MORE PRISONS
SWEATSHOPS

→ All this didn't just spring from nowhere but is the result of an economic and political system that is **GOING GLOBAL**. The resistance to it, if it is to be effective, must also be global.

From November 29 to December 3, 1999, leaders of transnational corporations, governments, and an army of bureaucrats will descend upon Seattle, Washington to further their drive for profits, to control our political, economic and cultural life, and nature. Their new strategy to concentrate power and wealth, while neutralizing people's resistance, is the creation of a permanent institution, the **WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**.

Tens of thousands of people will converge on Seattle and transform it into a festival of resistance. The events include mass nonviolent direct action, reclaiming our streets with giant puppets, street theater, celebration, music, and pleasure. Vibrant sounds of community, creativity and resistance will provide a glimpse of life as it might be while confronting hundreds of deadening businessman, bureaucrats, and politicians. **A NEW WORLD IS POSSIBLE** and a global movement of resistance is rising to make it happen.

On Tuesday, November 30, participate in a mass mobilization and direct action to
SHUT DOWN THE WTO

Cosponsored by (to date): Direct Action Network, Global Exchange, Rainforest Action Network, Ruckus Society, and People's Global Action.

What is the WTO?

By Stephanie Guilloud and Chris Dixon

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is a baby in the era of multinational corporations and international economic agreements. But it's got a big family. The WTO came into being in 1995 as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). GATT was established in the wake of the Second World War as a limited set of rules regulating the trade of goods and merchandise among its member nations. Since 1986, GATT has become even more aggressive, though, raising corporations to equal standing with nations and overruling federal, state, and local laws when they "interfere with free trade." The overall goal is to eliminate "trade barriers," frequently including labor laws, public health regulations, and environmental protection measures—all of which impede the corporate bottom-line: profit.

Previously, global agreements like GATT have been temporary and suggestive ideas for international trade regulations. As a child of GATT, however, the WTO solidifies suggested policy into permanent enforced standards. And although the WTO includes 134 member countries, developed nations like the US, Canada, Japan, and those of the European Union repeatedly make key decisions in closed meetings. Meanwhile, in its "dispute resolution system," the WTO allows countries to challenge each others' laws as violations of WTO rules. Cases are decided in secret by a panel of three professional trade bureaucrats (often corporate heads) that aren't bound by any "conflict of interest" rules. It is no surprise, then, that every single environmental or public health law ever challenged at the WTO has been ruled illegal. Once such a final ruling is issued, losing countries have a set time to make one of three choices:

(1) change their law to conform to the WTO

requirements, (2) pay compensation to the winning country, or (3) face non-negotiated trade sanctions. In short, what the WTO says goes.

The WTO's decision-making power covers more than traditional trade issues, too. WTO negotiations affect not only goods but also the import and export of services. For instance, privatized educational systems like classes on the web, corporate owned and operated universities, and study abroad programs are considered "services." The WTO creates standards that demand the lowest common denominator which endangers the autonomy and innovation of the public sector.

In addition, the WTO regulates "intellectual property," allowing the patenting of seeds and indigenous knowledge, otherwise known as bio-piracy. The Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (otherwise known as TRIPs) consolidate the power of Western drug and biotech corporations, as they appropriate traditional knowledge that previously had

been commonly held and exercise monopoly control over any new extensions of that knowledge. The process of patenting knowledge fortifies the power of Northern nations over Southern nations, as the latter have scarce resources to defend themselves in protracted TRIPs disputes or to negotiate other more beneficial Intellectual Property Rights agreements.

Moreover, WTO negotiations deeply affect the environment. For example, in the upcoming November Ministerial, the US government has proposed that a zero-tariff forestry and wood products agreement be signed. This agreement would accelerate the importing and exporting of logs, countering current efforts to protect forests as eco-systems and as climate controls. In one swoop, it would mean the end for many environmental regulations and other controls on timber production and trade.

Altogether, the main goal of the WTO is to create a fully-integrated global capitalist economy "free" of any "discriminatory" barriers. "Non-discrimination" is a catch word indicating policies that reject any and all obstacles to trade. Case studies, however, illustrate who is actually discriminated against.

THE BEEF HORMONE CASE: After studies in Europe concluded that artificial growth hormones in beef created early menstruation in young girls and health problems, the European Union banned the sale of beef from cattle that had been raised in this way. In 1998, a WTO panel, called to action by US beef companies,

ruled against the law that the EU passed. The EU had until May 13, 1999 to open its markets to hormone-treated beef. Because the EU refuses to open its markets, the WTO forces them to pay upwards of \$124 million annually in compensation to the United States.

THE SEA TURTLE CASE: Four Asian nations challenged provisions of the US Endangered Species Act forbidding the sale of shrimp caught in ways that kill endangered sea turtles. In 1998, the WTO ruled that the US was not acting in compliance of WTO rules. Fitting shrimp nets with inexpensive "turtle excluder devices" has been ruled "WTO-illegal."

THE CLEAN AIR CASE: On behalf of its oil industry, Venezuela challenged the US Clean Air Act regulation that required gas refiners to produce cleaner gas. A WTO panel ruled against the US law. Foreign oil refiners now have an option to sell dirtier gasoline in the US as a result, despite domestic challenges.

The WTO has the absolute authority to supersede local, state, and even national laws if a corporation pressures its government to challenge a particular mandate. Without any avenues of accountability and very few avenues of transparency, anyone who is not a corporate head, trade official, or WTO bureaucrat is effectively shut out of all decisions. Clearly, **THE WTO IS NOT OUR INSTITUTION.** We do not control its process, and we do not benefit from its decisions.

Why come?

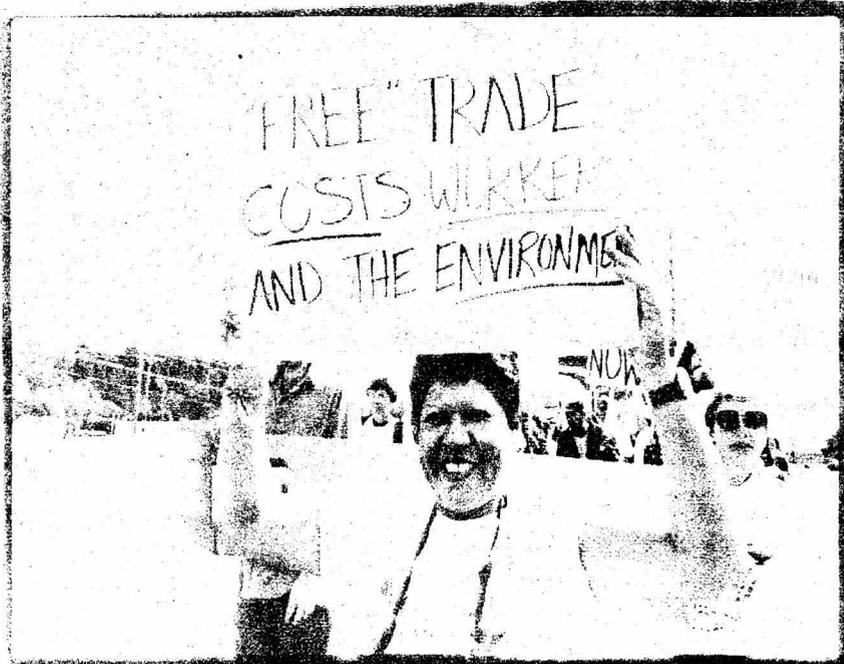
We eat food. The WTO regulates the standards which our food is grown, processed, and sold to us. The WTO determines the labor and environmental practices that determine how our food is grown.

We work. The WTO sets the standards by which employers determine who to hire, how much to pay, what kind of benefits we receive, and the safety conditions of our workplace.

We breathe. The WTO has already ruled that breathing clean air is not a priority. Higher profits for oil companies is far more important to the benefit of the world.

We go to school. The WTO wants to create educational standards that limit public sector educational services to the standards that businesspeople and corporations decide. Math programs designed by M&M Candies (what's the chance of a green one?) have already entered our school systems.

We live in an industrialized country that exploits other nations and other peoples for the sake of comfortable living conditions in the U.S. We have a responsibility to understand the reality of the global economy beyond our own lives and speak out against these policies. Seattle offers an amazing opportunity to stand together as human beings and declare our sovereignty. Making these connections is the necessary step in creating institutions for our own communities, our needs, our children, and ourselves.



APEC protest in Seattle 1996 - photo by Dana Schuerholz

WTO in SEATTLE

Seattle, Washington is touted as a major gateway to the markets of Asia and, particularly, Japan. According to the Seattle Host Organization for the WTO (headed up by Bill Gates of Microsoft and Phil Condit of Boeing), one in four jobs in Washington state are directly related to exports.

The November 29-December 3 WTO Ministerial Meeting is the first trade meeting of its kind to be held on US soil. When similar negotiations take place in Singapore, the Philippines, Geneva, and other places worldwide, the opposition gathers in the hundreds of thousands.

The magnitude of this meeting is far greater than the 6,000 delegates from 135 countries that will attend. Indeed, the WTO meeting will transform Seattle into a militarized zone. Roads will be blocked, the police are prepped for riot response, and SWAT teams are "flexible." Our presence in Seattle demands attention to the growing global economy and its effects on the natural world, working people, Southern nations, and indigenous peoples around the world. Our presence in Seattle demands public space as a non-negotiable right. The affront of the WTO meeting represents a challenge to connect all of us as workers for a more just and livable world.

Sources: "A Citizen's Guide to the World Trade Organization." APEX Press, 1999.
The Case Against the Global Economy. Sierra Club, 1996.



By Chris Borte

Resistance to the WTO is growing daily. People are organizing from the ground up and forming alliances worldwide among grassroots labor, environmental and social justice groups to oppose this neoliberal institution: Teachers hungerstriking against privatization in Argentina working side by side with women organizing against quasi-slavery in the "Maquila" factories of Mexico, Bangladesh, Salvador, and Nicaragua; farmers struggling against globalization in India, Philippines, Brazil, Estonia, Norway, Honduras, France, Spain, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Senegal, Mozambique, Togo, Peru, Bolivia, Columbia and many other countries; Ogoni, Maori, Maya, Aymara, U'wa and other indigenous peoples fighting for their cultural rights and physical survival; students struggling against nuclear power or the repression of striking workers in Ukraine and South Korea; rank and file labor like postal workers from Canada resisting privatization, women's rights activists, environmentalists, unemployed, fisherfolk, anti-racists, peace mobilizers, and animal rights activists...the list could easily fill these pages. Coalitions that formed to oppose NAFTA, GATT, APEC, and the MAI have grown more experienced and successful at working together to fight corporate globalization. Forging those necessary links between our movements becomes far easier when we realize the assholes who are clearcutting the last of our ancient forests are the same assholes who are trying to smash our unions and destroy the limited forms of democratic control we still have. The old 1960s slogan 'think globally, act locally' is no longer sufficient. We must create ways of thinking and acting both locally and globally at the same time.

One of the most exciting movements fighting corporate globalization formed in February of 1998, when peoples' movements from all continents met in Geneva and launched a worldwide coordination of resistance called *Peoples' Global Action against "Free" Trade and the World Trade Organization* (PGA). In their literature they emphasize four major points:

(1) A very clear rejection of the WTO and other neoliberal trade agreements as active promoters of a socially and environmentally destructive globalization; (2) A confrontational attitude, since we do not think that lobbying can have a major impact in such biased and undemocratic organizations, in which transnational capital is the only real policy-maker; (3) A call to non-violent civil disobedience and the construction of local alternatives by local people as answers to the action

of governments and corporations; (4) An organizational philosophy based on decentralization and autonomy.

PGA intends to serve as a global instrument for communication and co-ordination for all those fighting against the destruction of humanity and the planet by the global market, as well as building up local alternatives and peoples' power. Their first call to action was the June 18th protests against the G8 summit in Germany. Movements ranging from the Chikoko Movement in Nigeria to the Pakistani trade unions, from the Argentinian churches to a broad coalition of social movements in London, occupied the financial centers of their cities to reject the rule of the G8. Such coordinated resistance in a total of 41 countries showed that the process of converging our movements is gaining strength and speed. Even as this article goes to press, PGA is organizing at their second conference in Bangalore, India for the WTO meeting in Seattle and beyond.

"NOT PESPI/COKE, WE WANT WATER!"

cries the National Alliance of People's Movements in India. They are calling for India to quit the WTO and campaign for an alternative institution to regulate world-trade in a democratic, pro-people and environmentally sustainable way. They believe all transnational corporations should be forced out of India and have called for a boycott on all TNCs goods.

This is in stark contrast with those who hold hope of achieving justice through reforming the WTO. Reforms lead nowhere when corporations and their governmental counterparts are in charge. We need to globalize solidarity and liberation not capitalism, and fight for a participatory and sustainable global village. The WTO must be shut down.

Over the past two decades, people's movements have waged successful campaigns against the operations of transnational corporations on numerous fronts ranging from worldwide boycotts against Nestle on infant formula, bank loans to South Africa, the battles against Union Carbide over the Bhopal disaster in India, the repression of Coca-Cola workers in Guatemala, the promotion of bio-tech milk products by chemical companies like Monsanto, and the clear-cut logging and deforestation by Mitsubishi and MacMillan Bloedel to name but a few. It is important to remember that these corporations do not have infinite power, they are not inevitable. We live in a concrete world, within time and space, with ongoing processes that we can affect. We can shut down these bastards.

WTO Protest in Geneva 1998 - photo PGA

Just a few years ago it may have seemed impossible to stop the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, a trade agreement that would have given corporations the authority to sue countries for policies that placed people or the environment over profits. And yet due to movements like those mentioned in this article the MAI was shut down. WTO, you're next!

Direct Action Network Against Corporate Globalization

The Direct Action Network is a network of grassroots community and street theater groups across the Western United States and Canada who are mobilizing to creatively resist the WTO and corporate globalization. We are organizing and coordinating mass nonviolent direct action and large scale street theater—giant puppets, dance, drums, music, spoken word, and graffiti art at the WTO Summit in Seattle, November 29 to December 3.

Local contacts exist in Victoria BC, Vancouver BC, Seattle WA, Olympia WA, Portland OR, San Francisco CA, Santa Cruz CA, Los Angeles CA.

Contact (206) 632-1656 <can@drizzle.com> and <www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution> for lists of contacts and more information. We need money for outreach materials, renting street theater making spaces, puppet supplies, phone calls, mailing, legal support, and office space. Please send what you can. Make checks to "Art and Revolution (WTO)" and send c/o CAN, 4554 12th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105

Web Resources

Seattle Area

People For Fair Trade: www.peopleforfairtrade.org
Seattle Citizen Committee: www.seattlewto.org

Take Action!

Direct Action Network: www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution/wto
Ruckus Society: www.globalizethis.org

General WTO

Corporate Watch: www.corpwatch.org
Global Exchange: www.globalexchange.org
Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch: www.tradewatch.org

Global Contacts

Peoples Global Action (PGA): www.agp.org
Reclaim the Streets!: www.gn.apc.org/rts
Third World Network: www.twinside.org.sg/souths/twn/trade.htm



SEATTLE GENERAL STRIKE 1919

100,000 workers shut down Seattle from February 5 to 11, 1919 and took over essential services under workers management.

"There will be many cheering, and there will be some who fear. The closing down of Seattle's industries as a MERE SHUTDOWN, will not affect these eastern gentlemen much. They could let the whole northwest go to pieces, as far as money alone is concerned.

BUT, the closing down of the capitalistically controlled industries of Seattle, while the WORKERS ORGANIZE to feed the people, to care for the babies and the sick, to preserve order—THIS will move them, for this looks too much like the taking over of power by the workers.

Labor will not only shut down the industries, but Labor will REOPEN, under the management of the appropriate trades, such activities as are needed to preserve public health and public peace. If the strike continues, Labor may feel led to avoid public suffering by reopening more and more activities, UNDER ITS OWN MANAGEMENT.

And that is why we say we are starting on a road that leads—NO ONE KNOWS WHERE."

Anna Louise Strong in *The Union Record* on Tuesday February 4, 1919, the eve of the 1919 Seattle general strike.

EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANIZE

a guideline for organizing your community

By David Solnit

The WTO Summit offers an unprecedented historical opportunity to organize in our communities, build alliances with all the groups impacted by corporate globalization, and help build a movement capable of standing up to the existing economic and political system at the root of our problems. Here is a brainstorm of ideas of what can be done in local areas:

- ◆ Form, join or activate a local group to organize around the WTO. Publicize your meetings. This is a chance to work with local groups affected by corporate globalization: labor, environmental, human rights, animal, agriculture, international solidarity, etc.
- ◆ Call or e-mail us and ask for a local WTO organizing packet and ready-to-copy flyer. Or get your computer friend to print it all out from our website.
- ◆ Outreach to your community: distribute flyers/posters, put in newsletters and zines, speak to groups, announce at events, write letters to editor/guest editorials, send out calendar announcements.
- ◆ Plan a public event about the WTO (speakers, video, music, performance), organize a nonviolent direct action training with local trainers, or street theater workshop, or a teach-in. Ask other local groups to cosponsor.
- ◆ Fundraise to cover costs, especially for those who need financial help for transport.
- ◆ Plan transportation to Seattle: organize drivers and passengers, share renting of a van, ask to borrow vehicles, check out trains and buses.
- ◆ Organize yourselves into affinity groups (5-20 person self reliant action groups—the basic planning and decision-making bodies for the action) to take care of each other and stick together. Pick a name. Make a banner or puppet. Take a nonviolent direct action training together.
- ◆ Plan a simultaneous solidarity event/action on November 30 for those who can't come to Seattle.
- ◆ Make a public send-off event out of leaving, leave as a caravan, send press release to and call local press (offer to keep them updated).
- ◆ Plan a follow up meeting after the WTO to celebrate, take care of any legal or other loose ends, and discuss sticking together as a local group or affinity group to keep working to overthrow corporate power.

Upcoming Events

DIRECT ACTION CONVERGENCE - November 20-28

Nine days of street theater, giant puppet building, dance and music making, performing, nonviolent-direct action trainings, meetings to coordinate and prepare ourselves for the WTO, outreach and performance around Seattle, and more. Contact us or check the website for more details. Food and child care will be provided. <www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution>

BUY NOTHING DAY - November 26

On the biggest shopping day of the year, people will take to the streets in a fun action to prepare and advertise for the coming events.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GLOBALIZATION - November 27

A diverse group of activists and educators will speak at a one-day public teach-in at the 2,500 seat Benaroya Hall in Seattle. Speakers include: Vandana Shiva, noted environmentalist; Lori Wallach, fair trade activist; David Korten, author of *When Corporations Rule the World*, and many others. <www.ifg.org>

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION SUMMIT - November 30 - December 3

International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the People for Fair Trade Seattle Host Committee are hosting events, rallies, teach-ins, and strategizing sessions that correspond to the topics the WTO is discussing each day. <www.seattlewto.org>

MASS NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION - November 30 (see below)

MARCH - November 30

Starting from a rally at the Kingdome labor unions, farmers, students, activists, and others will march ending at the Convention Center.

There are conferences, political art festivals, Art and Revolution roadshows happening throughout September, October, and November that we do not have the space to mention. Seek out the activities you would like to participate in and create the ones that have not yet appeared on the scene. There is room for everyone in this grand confrontation with the globalization monster.

MASS NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION INFORMATION for NOVEMBER 30

We are planning a large scale, well organized, high visibility action to shut down the World Trade Organization on Tuesday November 30 involving hundreds of people risking arrest and reflecting the diversity of groups and communities affected by the World Trade Organization and corporate globalization. These people have no right to make undemocratic, unaccountable, destructive decisions about our lives, our communities and the earth. We will nonviolently and creatively block them from meeting. We envision colorful and festive actions with large scale street theater as a major element. We will make space and encourage mutual respect for a variety of nonviolent action styles reflecting our different groups and communities.

ACTION GUIDELINES

All participants in this particular action are asked to agree to these action guidelines. Having this basic agreement allows people from many backgrounds, movements, and beliefs to work together. They are not philosophical or political requirements placed upon you or judgments about the validity of some tactics over others. These guidelines are basic agreements that create a basis for trust so that we can work together for this action and know what to expect from each other.

- 1) We will use no violence, physical or verbal towards any person
- 2) We will carry no weapons
- 3) We will not bring or use any alcohol or illegal drugs
- 4) We will not destroy property

JAIL SOLIDARITY and LEGAL SUPPORT

We will encourage and facilitate jail and court solidarity for the mass action. Through jail solidarity we can take power in a situation designed to make us powerless. We do this by making our decisions as a group, by acting in harmony with each other, and by committing ourselves to safeguard each other's well being. Every time there is a choice in the legal process, activists can either cooperate or things become more difficult for the authorities. Solidarity tactics mean that people noncooperate as a group unless the authorities agree to our

demands. This action can give us some control, get our legal consequences over with more quickly, prevent the authorities from singling some people out for harsher treatment, resist fines and probation, and extend the action to the prison and legal system with the strength and community of a group, instead of as individuals. We encourage action participants to clear their calendars in advance for several days to a week after the action should it become necessary to use this fill the jails tactic to win our demands. Those who want or need to leave will have that option open.

We will have legal support for those arrested at the mass action through arraignment: this includes legal and solidarity briefings, a staffed legal support office, an experienced legal coordinator and lawyers who can make jail visits.

AFFINITY GROUPS and ACTION SPOKESCOUNCIL

Everyone participating in the action is asked to form or join an affinity group -a self reliant action group of 5-20 people, including people who do not risk arrest and do support work before during and after arrest. Affinity groups are the basic planning and decision making bodies for the mass action. Form an affinity group with you friends, people from your community, workplace, or organization. Two or more affinity groups that have something in common or want to do similar actions should consider working together as a "cluster" of affinity groups.

Leading up to the action participants will coordinate the action and jail/court solidarity through an Action Spokescouncil, with spokespeople chosen by each affinity group responsible for carrying their groups plans, opinions, and decisions to the spokescouncil and reporting back to their group. Affinity groups will discuss agenda items and proposals before each spokescouncil. We encourage mass action participants to try and arrive by Sunday November 28, or as early as they can on Monday to coordinate.

All action participants will be encouraged to take a NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION TRAINING to prepare themselves for both the action and for jail/court solidarity. Trainings will be available in Seattle during the week leading up to and the day and evening before the action.

DIRECT ACTION NETWORK (206) 632-1656 www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution/wto

Bear Lincoln FREE

BUT JUSTICE STILL ABSENT FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TRIBES

BY KAREN PICKETT

After four months underground in fear for his life, more than two years behind bars awaiting trial with the death penalty hanging over his head and a two month high profile trial, the legal ordeal is finally over for Bear Lincoln. On April 23, 1999, the California State Attorney General's office dismissed the case against him that had been filed in the wake of a police ambush on the Round Valley Indian Reservation in Northern California that left his lifelong friend, Leonard Acorn Peters, dead.

Mendocino County sheriff's deputies had set up a stake out on a ridgetop the night of April 14, 1995, to capture a suspect in a shooting earlier that day. When Bear and Acorn, both Wailaki Indian men, came walking up the road from Bear's cabin, the cops opened fire with a barrage of automatic weapons that left Deputy Bob Davis and Peters dead. Bear ran for his life and was later charged with Deputy Davis' death in a case that would capture national attention and galvanize the rural Native American community as well as Mendocino County.

After living in the woods for four months, Bear Lincoln turned himself into authorities in August '95. The county went after him with a vengeance, charging Lincoln with a capital crime which is punishable by death. The alleged crime was framed as a purposeful act

of aggression, rather than an innocent person caught in police ambush, a person with the right to defend himself. Neither Lincoln nor Peters were suspects in any crime when they were ambushed. The authority's treatment of the Round Valley community immediately following the incident smacked of racism as well and has been compared by many to incidents on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota which landed Leonard Peltier in prison 25 years ago. Police from several counties descended on the community, busting down doors, conducting warrantless searches and dragging people out of cars in a reign of terror designed to force the community to produce the elusive Lincoln. Bear had run because he believed that trigger happy cops would shoot him on sight, using the rationalization that this was a cop-killing Indian, no questions asked.

Tension between residents, especially Native Americans in the valley and authorities, have deep roots. The Round Valley, a beautiful and fertile valley ringed by snow-dusted peaks, is almost perfectly symmetrical. It is the ancestral home of (what came to be known as) the Yuki people. They lived in harmony with the Earth until the mid-1800s, when the US government began its program of genocide on California's north coast. The Round Valley Indian Reservation was estab-

lished in 1853 when the remainder of the Wailaki, Pomo, Pit River, Little Lake, Konkow and Nomlaki in addition to the Yuki were all forced onto a portion of Yuki territory, shared with Indian-hating white settlers. These were tribes whose ancestral lands covered vast areas reaching north into present day Oregon, embracing the Mount Shasta area, and stretching south to southern Mendocino County. Theft, fraud and bad faith deals have shrunk reservation lands to a mere 33,000 acres, with a population of 1,200 tribal resi-



Bear Lincoln at a "free Mumia" rally in San Francisco

dents. This reservation, the second largest in California, retains valuable ancestral fishing grounds along the Eel River and Azbil Creek and still holds old-growth Douglas fir forests, so far resisting timber beasts like Louisiana Pacific (LP), who have devastated lands all around the reservation. The LP mill in the town of Covelo, adjacent to reservation land, was a principal employer until it shut down in 1990, finding cheaper labor in Mexico.

While authorities and mainstream media today are quick to characterize problems in the valley as inter-community disputes or "feuds" between families, residents point to racist policies and a pattern of selective enforcement by the law as the real reason violence and tension continue to erupt. The cops' dance of selective enforcement includes side-stepping real issues, turning away from beatings and shootings that go unprosecuted and pouncing on certain members of the community for less serious violations.

When the jury delivered the not guilty verdict, Bear was released from his prison cell but not from the clutches of this case. The jury was unable to arrive at a unanimous vote on manslaughter charges, though its acquittal was unanimous on murder and attempted murder charges. Many of the jurors became activists as a result of the experience and appeared at pub-

lic forums to speak on the cover-up they felt the police had perpetrated. With a 10-2 deadlock in favor of acquittal, the door was open for district attorney Susan Massini to pursue those charges through a second trial. She pursued the case with a vengeance, referring it to the state attorney general's office when she lost her reelection bid last November. Despite jury tampering, a contempt of court charge against the DA (for feeding information illegally to the county's major newspaper), the county authorities were not about to let the death of a cop go unavenged. Interestingly, the most likely scenario is that the cop was killed by his partner's weapon after he admittedly slipped on the dirt road and came up firing.

Tension remains in the Native American community and in Bear's life. Although legally released at long last, a pall hangs over his freedom due to the cops' desire for vengeance and the vulnerability of people in this remote and rural place. Additionally, the unprovoked killing of Leonard Acorn Peters has never been adequately investigated. Seven children were left fatherless and Round Valley lost a loved and loving community member.

Meanwhile, Bear is raising Appaloosa horses he brought to California four and one-half years ago from the Nez Perce Reservation and is continuing to speak out in solidarity

with other victims of police violence and frame-ups as well as on issues like Headwaters Forest. His politicalization has brought his voice to rallies for Peltier, Mumia Abu Jamal, conferences about the prison industry and environmental rallies. When he expresses that he wants to see an investigation of the police murder of his friend Acorn, however unlikely that might be, he sees the public knowledge of the issue as key. "I'll continue to speak out against police brutality, police murder," he said the day his case was dismissed. "It just happens over and over again, but there's more publicity coming out, and law enforcement is being exposed to the public. And so I'll be doing as much as I can to expose corrupt law enforcement and to help as many people as I can." Besides wanting to go back to being a peaceful organic vegetable farmer and raise his horses, Bear is raising funds to go to Cuba with a group of Native American activists in a trip being organized by the National People's Campaign and is planning a trip up an old-growth tree to visit Julia Butterfly.

Contact the Lincoln/Peters Defense Alliance at POB 83, Covelo, CA 95428.

Karen Pickett is a long-time EF! activist and has spent time with the people and land of the Round Valley Indian Reservation.

BARE BONES

Seattle Ends Logging in Cedar River

The Seattle City Council on July 12 agreed to end commercial logging in the Cedar River Watershed for the next 50 years. In voting to implement recommendations on the proposed Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan, the city continued a local tradition of watershed management. Located in the Cascade foothills, the 95,000-acre Cedar River Watershed is owned and managed by the City of Seattle and provides drinking water for the majority of the city's residents. By ending commercial logging in the watershed, Seattle becomes a national pioneer in public land management. Activists with EF! have been working to save this watershed for 14 years.

Bats Halt Logging

The US Forest Service will stop all ongoing logging in a four-county region of the Nantahala National Forest in Indiana. The Forest Service recently announced that timber sales affecting trees larger than nine inches in diameter would stop after 28 endangered Indiana bats were discovered in a hemlock tree. Logging in Graham, Swain, Macon and Cherokee counties, will be affected. However, sections of the Nantahala National Forest outside the four counties remain unaffected.

Radiation Found Near Salmon Spawning Site

Scientist Norm Buske has discovered radioactive strontium 90 at 25 times safe levels in mulberry bushes whose roots reach into the Hanford Reach, a stretch of the Columbia River near White Bluffs, Washington. The roots are less than 100 feet from beds of fall spawning Chinook salmon. Strontium 90, a byproduct of plutonium production, is a highly toxic element that attacks bone marrow.

Interestingly, it was not the Department of Energy (DOE) or the contractor paid to monitor the river banks that discovered this oversight, but rather Buske, a private researcher working for the Government Accountability Project. He has long been a gadfly along the river banks, where he discovered that plants have been absorbing radioactivity from groundwater. He once sent the governor a jar of jam made from allegedly radioactive berries plucked at the site.

DOE officials knew about a plume of highly toxic chromium that had made its way to the same spot where Buske found the suspected strontium. But DOE officials say the chromium plume has stopped, fortunately, at the water's edge. The DOE has also assured the public, wrongly, that the nuclear waste would never reach the river.

Lawmakers Oppose World Trade Organization Timber Deal

Rep. George Miller (D-CA) and 40 other lawmakers signed a letter to President Clinton opposing US participation in World Trade Organization negotiations on increasing trade in forest products. The WTO will be holding the negotiations at a ministerial meeting in Seattle beginning in November. The lawmakers oppose the negotiations in part because the agreement will increase world logging by reducing tariffs on wood products. The letter states that NAFTA and the WTO "promise[d] that free trade would improve environmental protection. Evidence shows the opposite has been true."

BARE BONES

School of Americas Bill

After a 10-year campaign, activists opposing the US Army School of the Americas (SOA) in Ft. Benning, Georgia, won their first legislative victory when the US House of Representatives voted 230-197 in the early hours of July 30 to cut the school's funding by almost half. The measure eliminates the budget for recruiting and transporting students to the school. SOA provides training for military officers from Latin America.

The US spends approximately \$2 million a year on SOA recruitment and training. The SOA's operating budget of about \$2.5 million a year comes from the military budget and is not affected by the amendment. Although the funding cut would theoretically force the school to close down, the amendment is unlikely to survive a conference with the Senate, which has already passed a version of the foreign aid bill leaving the SOA funding in place. But SOA opponents were delighted and surprised by the vote, in which 58 Republicans joined 172 Democrats to pass the amendment.

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Wins Suit Against Homestake Mine

The Cheyenne River Sioux and the US government have successfully sued the Homestake Mining Company of California for polluting waterways in South Dakota.

Homestake will pay \$4 million for the restoration of the Whitewood, Belle Fourche and Cheyenne Rivers. They will also pay \$1 million to the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Fund to be used jointly by the United States and South Dakota for restoration.

The lawsuit was filed in 1997 alleging that the company dumped over 100 million tons of cyanide and arsenic contaminated tailings into Whitewood Creek, the Belle Fourche River, the Cheyenne River and the Missouri River for 101 years.

The mine is located northeast of the tribe's reservation and was the first major mine in the United States. The land acquisition from the Sioux has long been greatly controversial.

"This is the first time Homestake has ever had to pay anything for any of the damage they've caused," said Steven Emery, the tribe's attorney.

This is also the first time the Sioux have had their land returned to them through the US court system. Four hundred acres in the Black Hills will be returned to the Sioux, who fought for more than two decades in the late 1800s to stop the influx of gold miners. The tribe also has the power to decide which parcel it wants.

Javan Rhinos Hanging on in Vietnam

The Javan rhinoceros of Vietnam, a species long thought extinct, has been found clinging to existence in extremely small numbers. Scientists have managed to photograph the rare animal, but its fate remains in doubt.

The Javan rhino, once spread throughout Southeast Asia, began careening toward extinction early in this century. Poachers hunted the mammoth rhino for its horns, which were in great demand for use in traditional Chinese medicine. During the Vietnam War, the rhino's habitat was devastated by fighting, land mines and Agent Orange. After the war, scientists were convinced that the animal was extinct. Nevertheless, reports of sightings in the hilly terrain of southern Vietnam persisted. The Javan rhino of Vietnam lives in Cat Tien National Park, 18 million acres of forest put under protected status in 1992.

W BIG MOUNTAIN WAITING TO EXHALE

BY GLORIA PICADILLI

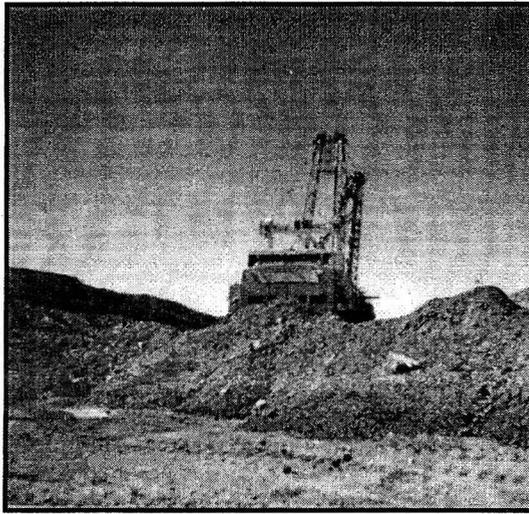
It is monsoon season in northern Arizona. Out in the Big Mountain/Black Mesa region of the Navajo/Hopi Reservation, the dark clouds and rain bring relief from the desert sun. The corn is tall, nearing harvest time. The days creep by, and the air feels like a sigh waiting to be exhaled. Many of the traditional Dine' (Navajo) living here are holding their breath wondering if they will be here next year to harvest their corn or if they will have enough sheep to get through the winter. Every day is a struggle for them, a struggle to protect their land, their homes and their culture from destruction by multinational energy corporations and the powers that be.

Twenty-five years ago a law was passed by the federal government forcing over 10,000 Navajo people to relocate from their homelands because of a supposed "Navajo-Hopi land dispute." However, there is another issue at hand: Underneath the ground at Black Mesa lies the largest deposit of coal in North America. By removing all the people who are living here, they have effectively opened up the land for mining. Peabody Western Coal Company has been operating the US's largest coal mine here for 33 years, destroying over 110-square miles of what used to be people's homes, medicinal herb gathering lands, ceremonial sites and burial grounds. And they have only just begun. The coal being mined is burned for electricity, most of which goes to Las Vegas and its casinos. Here is a sad story of the American dream—rather, the nightmare—of complete domination over land and indigenous people for utter greed and progress.

Today it is the Hopi tribal government and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) that carry out the laws created by white men to relocate and make living conditions difficult for the Dine'. There remain a few hundred Dine' living in

the disputed area. Those remaining suffer from livestock impoundments, homes and ceremonial hogans being bulldozed and military jet fly-bys, among other things. Those who resist the government face forced relocation by February 1, 2000. Through the eyes of many Dine', relocation equals death to their people and culture.

This summer a Sundance was held at



Dragline at the Kayenta Mine in Black Mesa, Arizona.

Anna Mae Camp at Big Mountain, marking the closing of a four-year cycle of this sacred Lakota ceremony. The permit to hold the ceremony was denied, but the family decided to hold the ceremony anyway. Hundreds of people came from all over the world to offer prayers to this scarred land. Elder matriarch, Ruth Benally, on whose land the Sundance was held, was ordered to remove the ceremonial structures and sweat lodges on the site; however, the sweat lodges are still being used. They feel that if these structures are removed or destroyed it would be a breach of their religious freedom. This family also says that they have been given word by the Hopi tribal government that two hogans (traditional Dine' house and church) at the site must be dismantled and removed. Hopi Tribal Chairman Chief of Staff Eugene Kaye states that,

Commodification of the Sacred

The following is a statement by Roberta Blackgoat, a Diné elder, resisting forced relocation in Big Mountain, Arizona.

Great Spirit gave us this land to live in a good way. We're not living here for free; everything we have we have worked hard for. We humble ourselves before Great Spirit, and it is according to them (The Holy Ones) that we live here. Before non-Indians came, we were put here with original guidelines to live in harmony. Some prayers we say are for our veterans, our young ones. They go to war and it is those prayers and ceremonies that keep them in good health and able to come back.

All the natural resources that abound are not here to be exploited but to be revered. All the things that we hold sacred have been commodified. It's commodification of the sacred. We are given no respect as human beings. The problems of relocation and all the mental anguish we've gone through, and the deprivation of rights, religious rights, is equivalent to the internment of the Dine' at Fort Sumner (a brutal concentration camp) in 1864-1868. The government and people in this country encompass our demise.

We need as much help as possible to reverse this relocation process. The government of this country must come to a compassionate understanding and allow us to go back to our traditional lifestyles. Guidance was given to us from the original instructions.

We've been told to get permission from the Hopi tribe to gather herbs and religious paraphernalia. We already have permission from the Great Spirit to gather herbs for performing ceremonies, which we were told to do according to the original instructions. We are not living arbitrarily, the way we are living has definite significance.

These laws and guidelines that we were given allow us to

"As far as I know we haven't done that or will do that to a person living in a hogan who has a right to be there." Whether they have a right to be there is determined by the Hopi tribal government.

Ruth Benally recently stated: "My daughters and I are looking forward to people coming out here to pray, work and witness with us. I will be first on the line, standing day and night if I have to. Anna Mae Camp is a ceremonial place. We pray there, we do not want anybody to destroy it. The land here is very dry and windy. At the ceremonial grounds we pray to the Spirit People and ask for rain. We wonder, what is it the Hopi tribe is planning? They told us they are going to tear down two hogans and ceremonial structures. They said it's closed, but we still have ceremonies there. We don't want anyone to push us around. We get our freedom from the Spirit People. We invite everybody to come. We need help with everything. Come with your cameras, come from all over the world."

Families are inviting you to stay with them to help with the daily life of sheepherding, firewood chopping, home repair, cooking, elder care and observing any potential harassment if you wish to come support on the land at Black Mesa. Black Mesa Indigenous Support (BMIS) offers supporter information packets with guidelines in cultural sensitivity, self sustainability and potential rides to the land. If you wish to help with office or organizational work, contact BMIS at POB 23501, Flagstaff, AZ 86002; (520) 773-8086.

If you have questions on the issues, you can contact the Hopi tribal council at POB 123, Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039; (520) 734-3100; Wayne Taylor, Hopi tribal chairman, ext. 101; Eugene Kaye, Chairman's Chief of Staff, ext. 107; Clayton Honyumptewa, Office of Hopi Lands, ext. 802.

If you wish to share your opinions or questions with other responsible parties, contact Senator John McCain at Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510; (202) 224-2235 ext. 241.

maintain certain values and truths, a certain ideology. To ask us to live other ways and ignore these laws is to ignore the truth. These non-Indians have no regard for our existence. We want all people to know that everything we are doing (our struggle) encompasses environmental issues and all other things that go with it. We want no more energy exploitation, no more mining, cutting up, drilling of our Mother Earth. We do not benefit from these anyway. We want Mother Earth to heal again, and this will only happen when we stop all the fencing and scarring of the land that modern industrialized man is doing.

I'm pleading with the entire nation and the whole world. Pleading with you. We were put upon here by Creator within the four sacred mountains: Mt. Blanca to the east, Mt. Taylor to the south, San Francisco Peaks to the west and Mt. Hesperus to the north. We were given instructions to live in a sacred way here. These mountains encompass a hogan in which we were told to carry on our lifestyle in harmony. The influence and influx of outsiders and cultural assimilation has dwindled us, and the traditionals have been reduced to a handful.

That's why I appeal to everyone of you. I don't know what the government and the media have told you, but that is the situation here. Thank you for listening. We spend billions and billions of dollars overseas to help nations in need, most recently Bosnia and Kosovo. The money is derived from our natural resources, but we've been ignored in this country.

The land we occupy was made possible by the medicine people, and it is according to their deeds that we are able to live here. I've told that already to Kelsey Begaye (president of the Navajo Nation). I've been saying these things for years and years; is anybody listening?

Contact Roberta Blackgoat, POB 349, Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039.

JUDGE DWYER'S COURT OF LAST RESORT

BY JEFFREY ST. CLAIR

Who's the most feared environmentalist in the Pacific Northwest? That's easy. A Reagan-appointed federal judge in Seattle named William Dwyer. This says a lot about Dwyer's character, but even more about the spineless character of the current crop of environmentalists in the region.

Time and time again Dwyer has come down hard on the federal government for trampling over environmental laws. On August 2, Dwyer issued his latest rebuke, a blistering ruling that chastises the Clinton administration for not following its own logging plan for Northwest forests. Dwyer, who said the Forest Service and BLM had failed to survey dozens of rare species, issued a temporary injunction immediately halting nine timber sales. The judge followed this up with a decision stopping 26 more sales. By the end of the year, more than 125 sales may fall under Dwyer's protective order.

Dwyer's favorite target is the Forest Service, an agency that seems institutionally incapable of following the National Environmental Policy Act. A string of rulings from Dwyer in the early 1990s rocked the Northwest, when he determined that the fierce pace of Forest Service logging in ancient forests was driving the northern spotted owl, and more than 180 other species that dwell in the deep forests west of the Cascade Range, toward extinction. He handed down an injunction on new timber sales in spotted owl habitat, and the old-growth wars were on.

Then along came Bill Clinton and Al Gore, who vowed in a 1992 campaign stop in Portland, Oregon, to "end the stand off" over the fate of Northwest forests once and for all. Of course, the stand off was serving the owl pretty well. What was to come would drive the owl even closer to extinction.

Within days of taking office, the Clinton/Gore team set its sights on getting the injunction lifted and the big logs rolling back to the mills. The scheme was pure Clinton. Convene a staged "town hall" style meeting, put out a pre-fabricated plan and induce your liberal friends to swallow their principles and sign off on it. This shadow play was the April 1993 Forest Summit, a ridiculous display of consensus-mongering that saw Clinton's minions play footsy with executives from Weyerhaeuser. The event is best remembered for the Clinton administration's crass attempt to censor the opening remarks of E. Kimbark McCall, the Oregon state historian who attempted to put the session in its proper context—a hundred years of conscienceless logging by an industry that treats its workers as ruthlessly as it treats salmon streams.

McCall refused to be muzzled. He couldn't understand why the administration wouldn't allow anyone to bring up the indelicate subject of log exports. Wasn't that costing the sawmill workers three times as many jobs as would be lost by protecting the owl? McCall's question went unanswered. The enviros swallowed their tongues and went along with the show. At every turn they exhibited a willingness to compromise even more. No log exports, no eastside forests, no mention of Zero Cut. The result was a foregone conclusion. At the close of the day, Clinton promised that he would have the Dwyer injunction lifted by the end of the summer.

Then the blackmail started. The message was delivered by Will Stelle, a hired gun working on "enviro relations" for the administration. He had garnered the trust of a few green lobbyists by stripping off his

Oxford shirt one day to reveal an Earth First! t-shirt hidden beneath. Stelle said that if enviros wanted to get most of what they asked for in the new forest plan, they had to offer up something in return. Namely, they needed to go to Judge Dwyer and ask him to release some of the sales he had halted as posing a threat to the owl. Many, including the Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, were ready to give up the battle at that very moment. But others held out.

Then Clinton rolled out his big gun: Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior and former president of the League of Conservation Voters. Babbitt—who only offers carrots to industry—came carrying a big stick. For one he knew exactly how to scare the hell out of his former colleagues: Threaten them with "sufficiency language," a law passed by Congress that allows agencies, such as the Forest Service and BLM, to violate laws like the Endangered Species Act with impunity. Unless they were willing to go along, the Clinton administration would be forced to ask Congress (then controlled by the Dems, remember) to enact a legislative rider that would overturn the injunctions. And maybe something much worse.

The deal was struck with little dissent. The most notable exception was Larry Tuttle, then head of the Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC). Tuttle refused to sign off on the deal and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (desperate to retain its

clout with the administration and recoup handsome legal fees) threatened to "fire" ONRC as it's client. Tuttle was savagely undercut by ONRC's conservation director, Andy Kerr. To his enormous credit, Tuttle left ONRC shortly after this debacle and has now started up a feisty group in Portland called the Center for Environmental Equity, which has taken on the mining industry, the big ranches and the energy companies. Since the "deal of shame," ONRC—despite being rewarded with lavish handouts from the top foundations—has veered

close to bankruptcy, proving that it's tough to keep fooling your members.

Interestingly, the plan didn't stop the logging of ancient forests. In fact, more than 35 percent of the remaining spotted owl habitat was put into a free-fire zone called the matrix, where logging could go forward just like the good old days. But even the remaining 65 percent of old-growth forest wasn't safe. Although the plan said these lands were put in a category called late successional/old-growth reserves, these zones were not off limits to logging. The plan's fine print allowed these lands to be, in Babbitt's unforgettable phrase, cut for their own good. Ecological logging—considered a joke during the Bush era—came into its own with a vengeance.

When the green groups and their lawyers approached Dwyer with the outlines of this deal, he was skeptical. He harshly questioned the enviros' lawyers. He noted again and again that the Clinton plan was the bare minimum that minimalist laws would tolerate. Whether this would save the owl from extinction, Dwyer said, he couldn't be sure. But unfortunately the case wasn't about the owl; it was about following proper procedure. Dwyer had no choice. He had to let the injunction go and he had to approve the new Clinton forest plan—there simply wasn't any opposition to it. However, the judge did issue a warning: If any element of the plan wasn't put into action, its legal

standing would crumble and an even more sweeping injunction could be in the offing.

The plan was undermined from the very beginning. First of all, the science behind the plan was makeshift. It grossly overestimated the number of owls, marbled murrelets and salmon in the region and downplayed how badly these species would be hurt by the amount of logging scheduled by the plan. Then, old-growth reserves took a big hit when thousands of acres were clearcut as a result of the release of the sales formerly protected under the original Dwyer injunction. This was followed by the Salvage Rider, signed into law by Clinton in 1995, which consigned several thousand more acres of old growth to the chainsaw.

Then the Forest Service got some bad news: Planned timber sales in marbled murrelet habitat in coastal forests were halted by a federal court. Instead of canceling the sales and returning the down payments to the logging companies, the Clinton administration offered rewards of "like volume" on non-murrelet forests. This meant that the companies were given old growth in the Cascade Range. Much of this was inside old-growth reserves and was prime spotted owl habitat.

By 1998, the evidence was clear. The Clinton plan was driving the owl to extinction much faster than the old cutting plans of the Bush era that Dwyer had swatted down as illegal. The Forest Service's own biologists found that across its range the spotted owl was declining at more than eight percent per year since the Clinton plan had been put into effect. In California, the rate was even higher, more than 10 percent per year. But the most rapid decline was seen on the Olympic peninsula, where the owls, isolated by geographical features such as Puget Sound and by millions of acres of corporate land clearcut by Weyerhaeuser, Simpson, ITT-Rayonier and John Hancock, were plummeting at the alarming rate of 12.3 percent per year. At that rate, the Olympic peninsula owl will be extirpated in seven years. Maybe less.

The owl is not going alone. Marbled murrelet populations, doomed by increased cutting on private lands under a clutch of Habitat Conservation Plans blessed by Babbitt, may be in even worse shape, but their population trends are much more difficult to track. Same with the coho salmon and runs of sea-run cutthroat trout. Pacific fisher, pine marten, red tree voles, bull trout, dozens of salamanders, mollusks and deep forest wildflowers, such as the candystick plant, aren't far behind.

All of this was quite clear more than a year ago, and nobody did a thing. In fact, when a lawsuit was finally filed by ONRC and 13 other cautious outfits, such as Tim McKay's Northcoast Environmental Center, they didn't cite the damage done to these plants and animals by Clinton's logging plan. Instead, they retreated to familiar procedural arguments, arguing that the administration had failed to survey for many of these species before green lighting logging plans. The suit was so timid that it didn't even request an injunction when it was originally filed more than a year ago. But when Dwyer got the chance, he slammed the Clinton administration despite the sheepishness of the lawsuit. Simply put, Dwyer castigated the Forest Service and BLM for repeatedly violating their own logging plan.

While the big green groups were pursuing their procedural arguments (the surest route to recouping your attorneys' fees), the Native Forest Council, Friends of Brietenbush Cascades and Chad Hanson were filing suit in Dwyer's court asking for a halt to all logging in the region. They came armed with powerful evidence—the Forest Service's own data on the spotted owl's rapid decline. This is precisely the kind of in-house evidence that Dwyer used to issue his first injunction on the owl back in 1989.

According to Tim Hermach, head of the Eugene-based Native Forest Council, his group will soon file a motion to have their case consolidated with the monitoring case so that Dwyer can use the evidence in their brief to expand his injunction across all federal forest lands in the spotted owl region. It's about time this courageous judge is put in the same courtroom with courageous plaintiffs.



Winberry treesitter defends Northwest forests abandoned by Clinton.

Photo by Paul Dix

THE GRANBY

BY PHIL KNIGHT

In mid-July I had the pleasure of visiting the Granby River area of south-central British Columbia, an area identified by Native Forest Network's Last Refuge Campaign as a highly threatened roadless region worthy of international protection and attention.

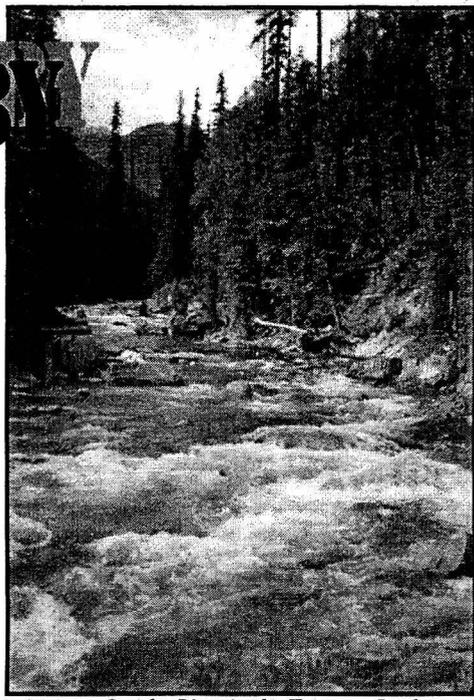
The Granby Provincial Park, created in 1995, encompasses much of the longest undeveloped watershed remaining in British Columbia's (BC) southern interior. The beautiful, clear waters of the Granby River flow into the Kettle River, which crosses the US/Canadian border three times before emptying into the Columbia River.

However, the headwaters of the Granby and Kettle Rivers are in grave danger. All virgin watersheds around the park are slated for severe logging. In these watersheds the Forest Practices Code allows clearcutting up to the edges of small streams. That practice (denied to loggers of US national forests) clogs streams with sediment and promotes spring flooding in BC and US communities. Moreover, most unroaded wilderness around the Granby and nearby Gladstone Provincial Parks will be roaded and logged by the year 2003, according to Forest Development plans. These areas surround the wild core of the parks and will turn into the ever-more-typical degraded landscape of roads, clearcuts, landslides and vanishing wildlife.

Traverse Creek

The Granby Park's border left out a crucial component: the Traverse Creek area. A spectacular mix of canyon, old-growth cedar/hemlock forest, grizzly bear habitat and historic native trails, these 1,900 hectares form the gateway to Granby. In fact, most visitors to Granby never leave the Traverse Creek area, thinking they've seen the park. But they haven't, and they would be sad to know the wilderness they've enjoyed is due for logging by the Pope and Talbot lumber company of Portland, Oregon.

The Traverse Creek area is proposed as a stand-alone provincial park which would function as an addition



Granby River in the Traverse Creek area.

photo by Phil Knight/Last Refuge

to the Granby Wilderness. The BC government has responded to pleas for protection with an insulting proposal of a 100-meter protected corridor on either side of the river.

David Simm of the Friends of Granby Environmental Society and I hiked into the Traverse Creek area, encountering a black bear on the way and walking among fantastic old-growth western red Cedar along the rushing Granby River. We also saw the results of a recent landslide which originated in an old (late '80s) clearcut over one ki-

lometer above the Granby River. The slide destroyed a small tributary and dumped tons of boulders and sediment directly into the River.

The Granby Grizzly

The Granby wilderness, including the Traverse Creek area, is home to the Granby grizzly bear, a small population which has adapted to dry-land conditions and may be genetically unique. Dr. Brian Horejsi, an independent Canadian wildlife scientist and forester, recently released a comprehensive report on the status of the Boundary-Granby grizzly population concluding that these bears are endangered, with no more than 30-50 adult bears present. Even though grizzlies are no longer legally hunted in the region, past and planned logging and roads around the protected areas and along the Burrell Creek corridor will fragment the bear's habitat impeding migration between Granby and Gladstone Parks. For a copy of Dr. Horejsi's excellent report on the Granby-Gladstone grizzly bear population, contact Brian L. Horejsi, Western Wildlife Environments Consulting Ltd., POB 84006, PO Market Mall, Calgary, AB T3A 5C4, Canada.

The Sinixt Nation

The Granby Wilderness and all surrounding lands are the traditional, unceded territory of the Sinixt

First Nation, also known as the Arrow Lakes People, who in 1956 were wrongly declared "extinct" by the Canadian government. The Sinixt have survived disasters, smallpox epidemics and rampant white greed to maintain their lineage and their connection with the land. The Granby area contains culturally modified trees which show historic human use (stripping for bark, etc.) without killing the trees. The Sinixt have quietly returned to other parts of their homeland, such as the Slocan Valley. For more information contact the Sinixt Nation, Gr. 16-C2, Whitelaw, BC V0G 2G0, Canada; amt@teleport.com.

Recommendations from the Granby Wilderness Society

There is a way to make Granby Provincial Park truly a park, preserve water quality and grizzly habitat, and promote ecotourism in the region. That is to draw the boundaries correctly, to give the Traverse Creek area the designation of "Goal 2" Protected Area under the Kootenay-Boundary Land Use Plan. Interim recommendations to protect a total of only 100 meters on both sides of the Granby River would lead to a ludicrous situation: In the US, a reserve of 91 meters on each side of any fish bearing stream is part of doing business.

In addition, Pope and Talbot must discontinue the cutting of old-growth forests and start making more out of less trees, rather than 2x4s for export, thereby creating more jobs. And across the province, the Ministry of Forests must shift its policies away from volume driven logging, toward forestry sensitive to ecosystems. Finally, the provincial government must enact legislation protecting endangered species habitat.

Maybe then, visitors to Granby or any other BC park can feel confident that they are seeing the real thing, instead of a park that is not a park but just a pretty picture disguising its own ongoing destruction.

To help protect the Traverse Creek area write to Derek Thompson, Land Use Coordination Office, POB 9426, Stn. Provincial Government, Victoria, BC V8W 9V1, Canada. Also write to Mr. Peter T. Pope, Chairman Pope and Talbot Inc., 1500 SW First Ave., Portland, OR 97201.

For more information contact Nadine Dechiron, the Granby Wilderness Society, POB 2532, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0, Canada; (250) 442-8210; gws@sunshinecable.com, or David Simm, Friends of the Granby Environmental Society, POB 1802, Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0, Canada; (250) 442-3556; granby@bc.sympatico.com.

STOP THE SWAP CONTINUES,

continued from front page

They threatened to call off the deal unless the trade could be completed quicker. Charlie Raines acceded and began working in secret, with Plum Creek and Washington Senators Slade Gorton and Patty Murray, to craft a rider to subvert public input. The spending bill and rider passed in October 1998.

On July 11, the night before the deeds were available to change hands, the CDN found a tree, which they named Homestead, on Watch Mountain and began to climb. Two treesits were up within 24 hours, and Plum Creek and the Forest Service were notified. Meanwhile, Plum Creek employed a sophisticated radar system to search their new parcels for endangered marbled murrelets. Birds were found on the Green River parcels, and suddenly the deal came to a screeching halt. With the exchange on hold, the on-going outreach in Randle went into overdrive, fueled by mainstream media from Seattle that had never seen a tree village in Washington.

A most unlikely love affair has blossomed. On our side, we bathe and change before we go into town, we don't steal, and we thoroughly fulfill our vow to a sober and drug-free basecamp. In return, we have received such gifts as all the firewood and food we can use, a free apartment to serve as an office and an ex-mill worker and a local boy scout who spend nights in the trees. The Taidnapum Kowlitchk Illahee, original inhabitants, have given us permission to occupy the forest to defend it. The locals have formed Friends of East Lewis County and have written numerous letters, sent a town-wide mailing and have begun a phone banking project. The town is beginning to sport purple "Stop the Swap" signs in businesses and truck windows. A treesitter/town picnic is planned for the end of the month. No day passes without several visitors from town.

Homestead now bears a 120 square-foot "donut" platform and via a rubber-wrapped walkway through Sunrise and Meditation (the other occupied trees) one arrives at a 64 square-foot "spider" suspended in mid-air from four ancient trees. Taking a cue from the Winberry treesit we have begun installation of a water system and have rocket stoves in the trees for above-ground, fossil fuel-free cooking. The tree village is so popular with locals and powerful in its message

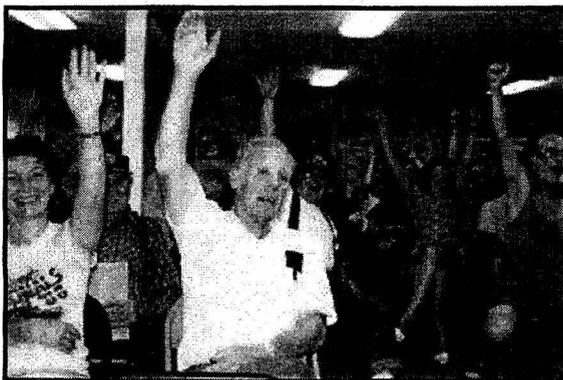
that the Forest Service was compelled to grant us a Special Use Permit to "occupy temporary structures on the ground and in the trees" through October 31. That's right, we are the first federally permitted treesit!

Watch Mountain is not the only Gifford Pinchot National Forest rural sacrifice zone. Fossil Creek is the name given to nearly 2,800 acres of incredible multi-species, multi-age, midelevation ancient forest doomed to be cut in the current legislation. Plum Creek wants out of Green River because the murrelets have stopped the cut. We want Watch Mountain and Fossil Creek back. To do so will require the classic combination of mainstream groups working the politicians, grassroots groups organizing locals and direct action activists in the woods letting the corporation know that the deal is not as sweet as it first thought. Fighting a timber company known both for exporting more than half of its logs completely unprocessed and for a legal team successful at fending off downhill citizens washed out by Plum Creek landslides is proving easier than expected.

There are lots of ways that you can be involved in this incredible campaign. Let Plum Creek know some of the things they might face trying to cut Watch Mountain or Fossil Creek at 999 3rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104; (206) 467-3600. Let The Sierra Club, 408 C st. NE, Washington DC 20002; (202) 675-6699 know what you think of its efforts in conjunction with Plum Creek, the senators and riders. Let Senators Patty Murray, US Senate, Washington DC 20510; (202) 224-2621 and Slade Gorton, US Senate, Washington DC 20510; (202) 224-3441 know that politically weak rural areas are not sacrifice zones for urbanites.

Titles are targeted for transfer October 31. Land exchanges are the timber beast's next wave to unlock ecosystem protections. This is the first volley of direct action against them. The alliance between a timber town and radical activists is the stuff dreams are made of. We need sitters, ground support and in town grassroots organizers NOW. Let us introduce you to the cutest bunch of elders you could possibly imagine. We might even send you on a ride around town with Francis Looney's father, John, still behind the wheel at age 96.

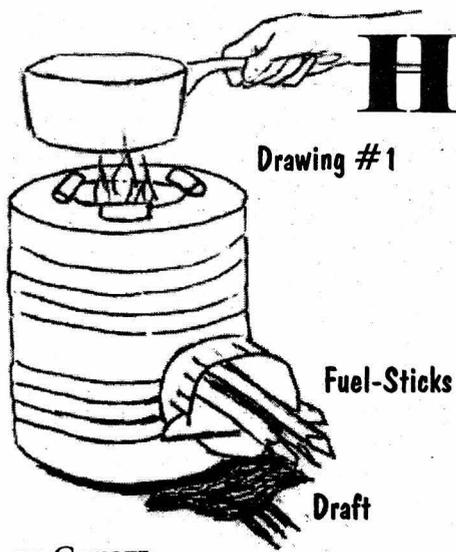
For information, to send donations or to purchase a 30 minute video on land exchanges and the Watch Mountain treesit contact Cascadia Defense Network, POB 718, Randle, WA 98377; (360) 497-2333; cdn@chickmail.com.



Raise your hand if you want the swap to stop. Town meeting in Randle, Washington

photo by Diane Evans

How To: Build A Rocket Stove



Drawing #1

Fuel-Sticks

Draft

BY COYOTE

With the world in the state of affairs it's in and Y2K on the horizon, it's a good idea to start searching out and using alternative methods of performing everyday tasks without relying on the capitalist infrastructure. Cooking is a good example. Instead of electric or gas ranges, other options are available. Where a fire may be unsuitable, a rocket stove could be just the item. A rocket stove is a low mass, insulated wood burning stove.

One pound of dry wood releases about 8,600 British thermal units (Btu) of energy when burned. Trees can act like batteries; they store energy collected from sunlight!

Wood is like a battery that has been storing energy for decades. By using wood efficiently, people can cook food using branches and twigs instead of split logs.

Rocket stoves are based on an ingenious combination of principles. The combustion chamber is insulated in order to keep the fire hot and burn the wood more completely, reducing smoke from uncombusted fuel. Rocket stoves are low mass, robbing less heat from the pot. An insulated chimney creates a very strong draft which helps the wood burn more fiercely. Since the stove operates at very high temperatures, there is very little smoke, and it is possible to cook directly over the chimney.

Supplies needed: one gallon tin

can and lid (#10 can); four soup cans; insulated material (wood ash or pumice). Tools needed: tin shears; can opener; hammer; flathead screwdriver; hacksaw; marker.

Step 1. With the can opener, cut the ends off the soup cans. Notice the diameter of the cans. Trace the outline of a soup can in the middle of the lid of the large can. Be sure it's centered. With your screwdriver and hammer, punch a hole in the lid large enough to fit the tin shears into. With the tin shears, cut a hole in the center of the lid that fits snugly around the soup can.

Step 2. Cut a hole the diameter of a soup can in the #10 can. This is your stove body. Cut the hole about one and one half inches up from the bottom of the can (see drawing #2). Use a marker to draw a cutting guide. Turn the can on its side and use the hacksaw to cut a slot in the can within the pattern. Use the screwdriver to enlarge the slot and tin shears to cut out the hole. You want a snug fit.

Step 3. In order to assemble the chimney and feed chamber, three soup cans need to be joined in the following way.

A. Cut a hole in one soup can about one inch from the bottom. Do this in the same way you cut the hole in the #10 can and at the same height so that the soup can will fit through the #10 can and into the inner can (see drawing #3).

B. With the third can, cut small thin slits, close together, around one end using tin shears. Don't cut them too long.

C. After cutting the end of the can, push the crimped end into the upper end of the soup can with the third hole. This forms your chimney (see drawing #4).

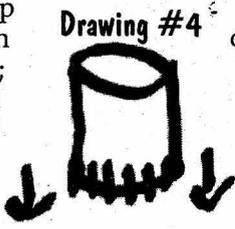
D. Position the chimney and feed chamber in the stove body.

E. Next fill the stove body with insulation. Wood ash works well. Pack it in around the soup cans. This serves to stabilize the chimney and feed chamber. Fill the can to about one inch below the top (see drawing #5).

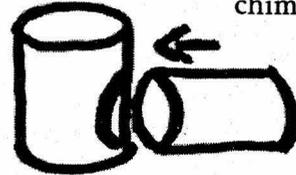
Step 4. Now cut flanges to support the lid of your stove. Using the tin shears, cut three flanges about one inch long and one inch wide at three spots evenly spaced around the top of the stove body. Then bend them into the can so they rest on top of the insulation.

Step 5. If the top of your chimney extends above the top of the stove, cut the top can to the level of the outer shell. Then cut three smaller supports in the chimney can and bend them out towards the shell. This forms the support for your lid. Now that the body of your stove is completed, fit the hole in the lid over the chimney and down onto the supports, covering the insulation.

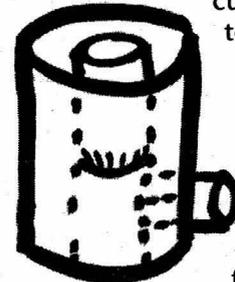
Step 6. Next a shelf needs to be cut for the feed chamber. Cut your fourth can open with tin shears. Cut along the seam and pound flat with the hammer. When flat, cut out a shelf the width of the can extending from the stove. Cut slots in the can and slide the shelf into the slots (see drawing #6).



Drawing #4



Drawing #5



Drawing #6

A rocket stove works well because a strong draft is created.

To use the stove:

Drop kindling in the top and light through the feed chamber. As fire catches, continue to feed in sticks and twigs by laying them in toward the fire. Allow the free flow of air under the shelf as this provides the draft. Your pot is placed on top of the stove (see drawing #1). Be sure to allow sufficient out flow of hot gases. You may need to adjust the height of your pot from the surface of your stove or cut wider flange slots to allow hot air to flow out from the pot. Practice! Have fun! Practice building and cooking with your rocket stove.

Consider using a haybox (an insulated fireless cooker) as an additional step in the cooking process. After bringing your pot to a boil, seal it in the haybox to finish cooking.

I am proud I was able to contribute to the welfare of the forest by sending stoves out to the treesitters at Winberry and Fall Creek but even more proud of the people in the trees who took the initiative to stop consuming corporate packaged fuels like white gas. Remember, self reliance and working closely with your immediate community is key to surviving. Prepare and survive.

For more information contact APROTECH at (541) 684-8603.



cut one inch slots midway in opening

Drawing #6

INTERCOM WRENCHING

7# (PAUSE) 80

BY JEN KRILL

As most of you probably know Home Depot is the largest retailer of old-growth forest products in the world. On the shelves of over 700 stores you can find products ripped out of the heart of every major threatened forest on the planet.

The 22 percent of the world's remaining old-growth forests are home to the majority of the world's cultural and biological diversity, and we are losing more and more every day. The continued sale of products derived from these forests must stop in order to turn the tide of mass destruction. For the past year a growing coalition of grassroots forest activists have put pressure on Home Depot.

There have been actions at hundreds of Home Depots throughout North America, ranging from dead rainforest tours to banner hangs and lockdowns. Home Depot's response has been a trail of broken promises as it tries to lie and greenwash this problem away. It tried to fund a Run for the Rainforest. It launched a massive Earth Day tree planting campaign for kids (in their parking lots). And it continues to deceive the general public with advertising touting their concern about the environment.

Now is the time for all activists who have been keeping the heat on the Depot to take this struggle to the hearts and minds of the customer. Let's cut through

Home Depot's corporate propaganda, and hit it with our most powerful weapon—the truth!

An exciting new tactic is coming of age in this campaign: intercom activism. At stores across the continent ingenious activists have found ways to utilize Home Depot's public announcement (PA) system to educate customers about rainforest destruction. We've heard from sources high up that intercom takeovers have been one of the most powerful forces in this campaign—so let's notch it up!

There is a code by which you can use any phone in the store. There are usually two or three per aisle, but don't forget those out-of-the-way ones in the garden center and near the bathrooms in the back. For most stores the code is 7# (pause) 80. Some stores have changed the code because the tactic has been so effective. But this shouldn't stop the committed forest defender.

Since all Home Depots rely heavily upon their PA system for announcements, price checks, etc., getting the new code is as easy as requesting a price check and looking over the employee's shoulder when he punches it in. Individuals can also scan the extension lists posted near random phones.

A few pointers to keep your intercom takeovers effective: Remember we are confronting Home Depot's lies, not its employees. Don't swear. The idea is to educate customers, not to offend them. Don't yell. Don't run. Leave when asked to leave. Expect to be approached by security and ousted from the store.

Look them calmly in the eye, smile and be polite. Know what you want to say. Practice your rap in advance. Short pithy announcements are best so that you can be quick and do several announcements before getting caught. Consider your announcement as a performance in which you use tone of voice and emphasis on certain words to drive the point home. Speak clearly and slowly no matter how nervous you are. Be prepared to cut it short when security approaches. Act as if you belong in the store. For some of us this may mean dressing up. Gather props to help you look like a shopper. Remain calm. Don't allow yourself to be provoked. Be on your best activist behavior, be careful and have fun.

By coordinating a small group posing as shoppers you can spread out around the store. Individuals can make an announcement whenever timely, then quickly and discreetly move away. You can really raise quite a ruckus before security finally boots you all.

If busted by Home Depot security act politely, but let them know that you feel their customers have a right to know the truth about Home Depot's business practices. If they ask you to leave and you don't, you may be risking arrest. Often times it is effective to bring some leaflets so that after you've been kicked out you can flyer. Once you've saturated the store and been booted out, head on to the next one and start over. If you live in an urban area you should be able to hit several stores in a couple of hours. Have fun!

For questions, insights or collaborative measures contact the Old-Growth Campaign at the Rainforest Action Network, 221 Pine Street Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94104; (415) 398-4404; jkrill@ran.org.

Broken Solidarity in San Luis

continued from page 3

We all become afraid at times. Fear is a major obstacle to any revolution. Be it fear of death, change or just losing simple comforts. People seemed afraid that day of making the commitment to actually be arrested when they knowingly walked on that mountain. Also, there was a fear of losing the connection they felt they made with the workers. Moreover, there was a fear that things would return to a violent situation. Some were afraid to face the community and their friends because they felt they let them down by not opposing certain decisions. Fear is a natural part in any action and becomes a problem when we let it control our actions.

Police use intimidation at almost every action. We try to combat this by discussing past incidents to better prepare ourselves for the future. Aside from the intimidation given on this occasion in the form of violent pain-compliance tactics, risk of arrest, etc., there was a new one that few of us have had to deal with. Intimidation came from within our own group. Rising out of some people's fears around these new connections, a subtle form of intimidation appeared in ways to keep the group from discussing the community, La Sierra and all the amazing species whose existence depends on stop-

ping the pillage of the area. Instead, the discussion remained devoted toward scab workers. This was accomplished by inviting the loggers to join our consensus process. Loggers that were asked to join the process by radical anti-industrial logging activists.

Most activists believe they come to San Luis to support cross-cultural community organizing, to protest logging and to be on the frontlines in defense of La Sierra. It seemed that day, some felt there was a better tactic to take by organizing the loggers, also. Why then, didn't these activists stay? Especially if these loggers touched people and changed the face of frontline activism for some, forever. Nothing changed for the people here. The people who have been here, will remain here and will keep fighting, until the mountain is once again commons and the injustices to this area are stopped.

San Luis activists who remain here realize that whenever we work on a campaign we need to be true to ourselves, our boundaries and beliefs. To get involved because we can remain true to our commitments, not because we're action junkies.

We must stand strong and speak out to what we feel no matter how tired, in shock or against the group we are because we'll never know when it'll be the biggest mistake of our life not to do so. Lastly, to always respect the land, species, allies and people we fight for. Without that we are no better than the greedy bastards who are destroying the splendor that surrounds us.

—ANCIENT FOREST RESCUE

TAYLOR RANCH CHANGES HANDS

For Sale: Taylor Ranch; 54,000 acres in the beautiful Sangre de Cristos; pinyon-juniper, spruce, ponderosa and a 14,000-foot mountain; wonderful views and lots of elk; you can walk all over the local people; sunny days and lots of chili verde; \$15 million, price negotiable. What a bargain!

Yes, Zachary Taylor has sold the Taylor Ranch for a reported \$13.5 million to Western Properties Investors (WPI). Little is known of this company, however, Lou Pai who purchased 23,000 acres from Taylor Ranch in 1997 is thought to be involved. Yet it is difficult to determine the real owners since Lou Pai's law firm sits on the board of this new company.

WPI has stated it wants to be "good neighbors," but has only opened a limited dialogue with the community. What are their real intentions and why do they have only lawyers on their board? The communities of the Culebra River have an unsure future ahead with this mysterious company. The activists of Ancient Forest Rescue can only wait, continue organizing and prepare legal action that may shut down the logging. *La lucha sigue!*

For more information contact Ancient Forest Rescue at POB 762, San Luis, CO 81152; (719) 672-3012; afr@amigo.net.

TORTURE IN GUERRERO

continued from page 1

The contractual arrangement also allowed the company to avoid liability for any violations of local environmental laws, which are rarely enforced. Workers would earn \$4.75 a day (one-thirtieth of what they would pay workers in the US) to cut and deliver logs to Boise Cascade.

Because of scant capacity in the region for research and data collection, it is difficult to report the full impacts of logging on local biodiversity. However, it is safe to say that in forest ecosystems with such high degrees of species diversity and endemism, large-scale logging almost always leaves a destructive legacy.

One of the problems was the impacts of logging on local water supplies. The region's poor farmers, *campesinos*, depend on the availability of water, which requires healthy forests upstream in the hills above their fields. Many farmers opposed signing the logging contracts out of fear for their access to water. Once supplies began to diminish, people found themselves with less and less water for growing food, cooking, washing clothes, dishes and themselves and even for drinking. As a result, community opposition became more visible, and so did the government's repression.

One of the people singled out for repression, Rodolfo Montiel Flores, has been a leading critic of the logging. Rodolfo is a *campesino*. He owns no land and must work on other people's land to support his family. They live in a small village called El Mameyal, where their tin-roofed shack rests along a dirt road with other similar dwellings. These are the people whose lives were to be enriched by new foreign investment, but instead they found nature being extracted.

Rodolfo united other *campesinos*

together with ecologists from along the coast to form a local organization, *Ecologistas de la Sierra de Petatlán*. They protested to the legal authorities, lodging their official complaints about what was happening and how local environmental laws were being violated, and requested action. Locals would travel for hours down from the mountains to the coastal towns to look for support and to show up at the offices of industry and government officials. Newspapers reported their claims. Soon many people knew about the situation in the Sierra de Petatlán, which was growing more volatile every day.

Some communities which endured endless logging trucks rumbling down their tiny village roads eventually erected a toll booth to collect money from the passing truck drivers. Because their communities received no benefits from the logging, they demanded some compensation. Logging executives responded by destroying the booths. The government responded by deploying soldiers to the most resistant villages. Several people who publicly resisted the logging were dragged from their homes at night, never to be seen again. Others were shot and killed.

Ultimately, water-starved communities took direct action against the logging operations. People blocked roads, mounted trucks, unloaded logs and returned them to the communities. In early 1998, Boise Cascade suspended its contracts, citing that it could no longer rely on a dependable supply of logs from the region. The cessation of logging was a major citizens' victory against one of the world's largest transnational timber corporations. By comparison, dozens of American communities have tried unsuccessfully for years to get Boise Cascade to leave their regions. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that Rodolfo and his colleagues accomplished this goal with no support, or even any contact, with US environmental groups.

Although Rodolfo never received any

recognition for his achievements, he is now being brutally punished for his actions. Although he never received any assistance from abroad while the logging was happening, he needs support from the international community now.

Since the logging ended, armed men have threatened Rodolfo several times at public forums and even in front of newspaper reporters. For the past year, Boise Cascade's local contractors have called for Rodolfo's arrest. They accused him of trafficking weapons and narcotics and even being a member of an "eco-guerrilla organization."

On May 2, federal troops found Rodolfo selling clothes with a friend on the street of a small village, Pizotla. According to many witnesses, soldiers entered the village shooting and killed one young man, Rodolfo, along with Teodoro Cabrera Garcia, was arrested. He was badly beaten, bound and taken to prison. There, according to investigations by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission, Rodolfo was tortured with electric shock and beaten still more. He has been denied adequate medical treatment for his wounds. He also has to pay for his food and water. Charged with possession of military weapons and uniforms, Rodolfo now sits in solitary confinement in the prison at Coyuca de Catalan, Guerrero. Immediately after his arrest, local contractors tried to restart logging, but, so far, communities have stopped them.

Over one hundred Mexican environmental, human rights, *campesino* and other groups have begun a national campaign for Rodolfo's immediate release. In the US, the American Lands Alliance and the International Forum on Globalization are raising international support for his release.

Rodolfo's story highlights a number of issues that the international environmental movement faces, yet few recognize:

1. The crisis in Mexican forests: Ranked fifth by the United Nations in terms of species diversity, 80 percent of Mexico's forest are publicly owned, but globalization of trade and investment is chang-

ing the value of these lands.

2. Globalization and the environment: Up until now, NAFTA's environmental story was the toxic mess on the border. What has yet to be recognized is how this same process of trade expansion and economic integration is fueling the destruction of Mexico's forests.

3. Corporate responsibility: As US companies abandon clearcut lands and poison communities in the US, they increasingly shop for jurisdictions where environmental and labor regulatory burdens are lighter. Under current imbalanced rules, new foreign investment is extracting wealth from local host communities, rather than creating real improved living standards.

4. Human rights and the environment: Rodolfo's story reveals two important relationships between the two issues: How environmental destruction itself can lead to human rights violations, as in this case with access to water, and direct violent repression against people who are defending the natural environment. In a terrifying global trend visible from California's redwood forests to the Niger Delta, individuals who attempt to protect the environment are becoming the targets of brutal repression.

5. Poor people and the environment: Rodolfo's accomplishments challenge the stereotype that poor people do not care about the environment and that they are one of its greatest destroyers. Here we see that it is often the poorest of people who rely on a healthy environment.

For more information contact Pat Rasmussen, American Lands Alliance, 726 7th Street SE, Washington DC; (509) 548-7640; prasmussen@igc.apc.org or Silvestre Pacheco Leon (speaks only Spanish), Mar Muerto, # 87 Colonia Infonavit, La Parota, CP 40880 Zihuatenejo, Guerrero, Mexico; (52) 7-554-4205; 554-4228 (fax).

ARMED WITH VISIONS

RELATIVELY PRECIOUS

I AWOKE LAST NIGHT STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLEARCUT
ON A MOUNTAINSIDE FAR FROM CAMP,
AND AMIDST THE WAILING & MOANING OF LOST SOULS IN THE FULL MOONLIGHT,
I FOUND A DIAMOND GLITTERING ON THE GROUND.

I wish I'd of let it be.

DAMMIT.

FOR WHEN I PICKED IT UP I WAS NOTHING LESS THAN ASTOUNDED TO SEE
IT HAD BECOME A MAN:
A FULL-GROWN MAN WITH A CHAINSAW IN HIS HAND.

I dropped it.

NOW LET IT NOT BE SAID THAT I AM NOT A FOOL,
AND I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME WHAT A STOOPID THING I DONE.

I picked up ANOTHER ONE.
Duh, ditto.

AND NEXT THING YOU KNOW THERE WAS LITTLE OLE WEIRD ME,
STUCK IN A WORLD WITH EXACTLY TWO UNEMPLOYED LOGGERS AND ZERO TREES.

ONE SAID TO THE OTHER, "THAT AIN'T NUTHIN, HERE TO CUT"
THE OTHER SAID, "OH YEA?"
AND THEY BOTH LOOKED AT ME.

I RACED MY OH-SO LILY WHITE BUTT OUTTA THERE AS FAST AS I COULD,
BUT IT DIDN'T DO A BIT OF DAMN GOOD.
SCREAMING SOMETHING ABOUT GOOD-FOR-NUTHIN, TREE-HUGGIN FAGASS HIDDIES,
THEY CHOPPED ME INTO MILLIONS OF PIECES,
BUT INSTEAD OF BLOOD & GUTS STREW'N EVERYWHERE,
MY EVER-SO DETACHED EYEBALLS WERE AMAZED TO SEE

DIAMONDS.
DIAMONDS, DIAMONDS AND MORE DIAMONDS:
MILLIONS UPON BILLIONS UPON TRILLIONS UPON ZILLIONS OF DIAMONDS.

AS FOUR UNEMPLOYED LOGGERS EYEBALLS GLEAMED IN ASTONISHMENT UPON THE MOONLIT
DIAMOND MOUNTAIN,
THE WAILING AND THE MOANING IN THE WIND BEGAN.
THE FIRST LOGGER PICKED UP THE BIGGEST DIAMOND AROUND.
THE OTHER SNATCHED IT OUT OF HIS HAND,
AND THEY BOTH BECAME TREES.

AND ALL THE DIAMONDS BECAME BABIES:
MILLIONS UPON BILLIONS UPON TRILLIONS UPON ZILLIONS OF BABIES,
ALL PUKING AND SHITTING AND SCREAMING AND DYING AND ROTTING
IN A SQUIRMING, FESTERING HEAP.

THEN I WOKE UP,
BENEATH A FULL MOON,
IN THE MIDDLE OF A CLEARCUT.

GRASSHOPPER A.K.A. V-KELLY



Clear as cut glass and just as dangerous

UNTITLED

Each day I CARRY WITH ME
A SCANNER
BINOCULARS
TAPE RECORDER
CAMERA
CAMOUFLAGE

WHO AM I THAT I SHOULD LIVE THIS WAY?

I'M A SHEPHERDER AT BIG MOUNTAIN.

I TEND THE FLOCK
I PLANT THE CORN
I CHOP THE WOOD
I GATHER THE MEDICINE
I SING
I DANCE
I PRAY
I SWEAT

HOW IS IT THAT I AM SUCH A THREAT TO THOSE
THAT EAT THEIR GRANDCHILDREN?

THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION
MASQUERADES AS A SECRET
IN THE LAND WHERE NEROES, ART
IS THE LIFESTYLE OF CHOICE

BO-PEEP

THERE'S A GHOST IN THE POOL

IN RAMSEY'S CANYON
A MEMORY OF A GOLDEN EAGLE
TOO WET TO FLY.

SAVE THE WATER
SAVE THE SILENCE

LIKE THE VINCA IN RAMSEY'S
CANYON
SIERRA VISTA SPRAWLING OVER
THE DESERT

SAVE THE WATER
SAVE THE SILENCE

OVER THE DESERT GRINGO HUGHES
CRAFT PERSISTENT AS THINKING;
LOUD AS A CHURCH WHISPER

SAVE THE WATER
SAVE THE SILENCE

SMOKE TRAILS FADING. FOLLOW THE
MILITARY MONEY THROUGH THE AIR TO
THE POLLUTED GROUNDWATER

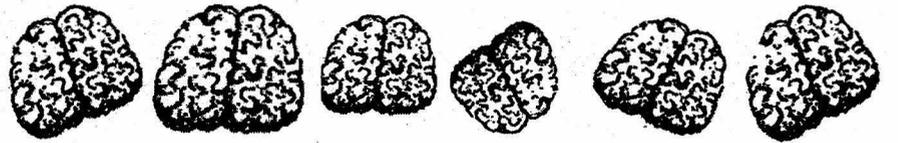
SAVE THE WATER
SAVE THE SILENCE

TURTLE

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MORE 4 YOUR



continued from page 3
Dear diarrhea brain stems (dbs/SFB),

INK, INK, INK. That's the sound of more fruitless words scratching across newsprint. Specifically the Lughnasadh editorial. Who wants to make the world relevant to EF!, or EF! relevant to the world! You all should think a lot more about who your audience is. It's not the majority of working class and poor people—it's the youth and people who are already psyched to fight hard for the lands they love—or just for the hell of it.

There are no "realistic alternatives" to industrialism. Most of us do know enough about what revolution entails and how hard it will be. Community organizing? The editorial talks about the Black Panthers and Young Lords—brave people, but failed experiments and poor role models. Besides we now face a very different world—and time is relevant for the species that are dying and the system that threatens to take most of us down with it.

If generals are always fighting the last war... activists always debate the past and... the wrong mistakes. To actually prevent war or to envision possible futures takes a lot more creative effort and risk than simply whining... and "keeping busy" reaching out to people so downtrodden they shovel McDonalds into their mouths with all the gusto of a retirement home cafeteria.

Many trees in the Northwest struggle joyously to overcome the movement's perceived problems with social concerns and cultural insensitivity. They are building community with their wildness in the wild. They are practicing anarchy and redefining both environmentalism and the meaning of community. We warmly welcome poor people in the cities to come experiment with us in a real community. All we have to offer the cities is sanctuary when the system finally collapses from its sickness and the lack of community on which it was built. Hurry—for all of our sakes.

—TREE-FROG AND ZITTSY

Dear Journalistas,

I read David Rovics' article in the recent *Journal* and would like to point out that poetry is important to the movement too. I am submitting the following response.

The Power of Poetry

I. What's poetry to an Earth Firster? II. What's Earth First! to a poet?

I. Earth First! calls itself a movement, and movements need cultural glue. Poetry, songs and graphics are all forms of cultural glue. Furthermore, as Steve Steel puts it, a movement without leaders relies heavily on symbols to keep everyone going in the same direction, i.e. moving. The production, use and ownership of symbols thus becomes extremely important. A line or image that sticks in the mind of everyone that hears it becomes part of a shared reality and hence, identity.

II. Poets have traditionally participated in social movements; this we know. The poet either tries to articulate the movement's goals or philosophy, in which case he might simply function as a propagandist, or else use the fact of those goals as material to write his poems from. The first is an act of architecture; the second way, an act of singing. Yet no poet stands alone, outside the natural world. With one foot in the cultural and the other in

the natural, he strides like a colossus. Out of the natural world birdsong, trees, wind, rain, bear grunts and wolf howls. At least that's what the poet is capable of; yet few do it successfully or well—especially today. It's almost as if poets who do are a kind of throwback—look at John Clare—self-taught, the 'Peasant Poet'—who spent most of his time wandering the fields listening to birds, then the end of his life in an insane asylum. Or Robinson

Jeffers—like Clare famous for 15 minutes, then studiously ignored by the intelligentsia—the society of the powerful.

Jeffers' sin wasn't that he wrote about nature, but that his politics were anti-war—at a time when almost everybody else was getting behind the war effort (this was WW

II). Robert Frost managed to get it right, but later suffered a period of disfavor when the rest of society became anti-war—the intelligentsia, anyway.

The poetry of these three "throwbacks" is still popular—when it is accessible. And access is determined by publishers, teachers, critics with their own agenda. What made these poets so popular and gave them their authority? Simply this—they were keen observers of the natural world, and it shows in their poetry. And since we are losing the natural world more and more each day, there is a nostalgia for what people miss from their lives. Of course if you never had it you can't miss it, and that's the weakness of nature poetry—as nature disappears it loses context. And art without context is just pretty pictures on a museum wall somewhere—hardly something that affects your daily life.

So—what's Earth First! to a poet? Simply a refreshing view of things, an ability to imagine what it would be like without the cement, without the asphalt. An attitude that it's not only o.k. to dream about these things, but to work out ways of actualizing them. Earth First!'s visionary edge is what's missing from much of what's being written today.

—DENNIS FRITZINGER

EF!,

In your recent publication, *Litha*, I noticed in the letter to editor section images of Native Americans. Another thing I noticed was the absence of womyn natives and

the dominance of male images. I felt truly saddened with this observation. In a straight, white, male-run society, it is disturbing to see the dominance of males to carry over to representing other

than the white norm. Maybe womyn Native American images are not as readily available—but question why. Who wrote the books the images were taken from? Who influenced the writer? What gender was the person who picked the images? Who edited the pages? Was the absence of womyn images even noticed? Why or why not? These are all important questions to ask—for the producers of the *Journal*—and for readers.

As a womyn in our society and as a womyn activist, I feel the effects of this misrepresentation and lack of equal respect. While others may never think twice of the non-representation of womyn na-

tives (or in other areas) I feel it has a personal and societal effect on womyn as a whole. This lack of recognition of womyn continues to show how ingrained sexism truly is and how much we all need to be aware of such issues. Until womyn are equally represented and acknowledged—then there will continue to be sexism within our society. As long as there is sexism (or racism, speciesism, homophobia, ageism, fat-phobia, etc.) Earth will never be liberated.

—CHELSEA LINCOLN

Editor's note: I agree it's necessary to keep an unbiased mind frame especially when reporting news, but the ratio of men to women in the Litha issue is equal except for the one SFB page. Your sentence regarding "lack of recognition" is incorrect; many of the pictures show women on the frontlines. I think women's issues are really important and we should cover them. But I also think we need to analyze letters and articles without bias instead of readily agreeing because of the PC expectations. Please try to judge the publication as a whole and not just by making generalizations based on one page.

By the way, the pictures came from a book published in the late 1800's. Artists please send us graphics.

—AG

Dear Friend,

I saw recent *Animals Agenda* and was impressed about your organisation. I am a vet surgeon practicing in Sri Lanka. We have lots of problems in clearing of wilderness.

I am sending some copies of paper cuttings so you would be able to read them. We have a wild area called Rumassela—a beautiful hill in Southern part of the island. It has very rare medicinal plants. Even though the newspapers of our native language have exposed that it is being destroyed, the government hasn't yet declared that as a strictly protected area. It is not yet declared as a protected area even. We may lose those plant varieties forever.

Hotel at Ambuluwawa

The Ambuluwawa hill is protected under the soil Conservation Act since 1968 and is located at Gampola. The construction of a hotel was commenced in March 1997 without obtaining EIA, with the blessing of the Minister of Forest and Agriculture. As this is located within the protected area under the Soil Conservation Act it should have gone through the EIA procedure.

Golf Course, Hotel and Air Strip Project At Pelawatta

This project consists of a 27-hole course, 150-room hotel and an air strip in Pelawatta. When a sugar factory was inaugurated, they took over the jungle where elephants were living, reasoning that people are more important than elephants. In mid-1980 amid reports of large scale killing of elephants with bulldozers to excavate and cover carcasses. Now over 80 elephants have been killed. Now they have decided to have golf course and a 150-room hotel in 500-acre land in this area.

We would be grateful if you can intervene in these projects. You may suggest that you can boycott our tea, ready made garments or whatsoever things you like. Addresses are given below.

H. E. President C. Cumaratunge, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo. 1, Sri Lanka; fax 0094333703; Leader of the Opposition Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, Office of the leader of the opposition, Parliamentary complex, Sri Jayawardenapura, Kotte, Sri Lanka.

Thanking you,

—K. SARLITE

Dear EF! Journal,

Almost everything around us is becoming irrelevant and obsolete to our survival. This is particularly true of ideas and 'alternative' movements for change. It's really simple—the goals and tactics—what we have to do: save as much as we can or we all die!

Radical change was the only hope for peaceful change. Moderates had their chance and blew it. They misled people about the difficulties ahead and the sacrifices necessary for effective non-violent revolution. No longer will the 'ticking-clock' or youth and passion be ignored. Our Love for Earth inspires our Rage to defend it.

We fight for an end to industrial technology, the abolition of large businesses and governments, and the drastic reduction of global consumption. Whatever is left of the ruins, we can recycle and share. All we need is food and shelter... and there are enough buildings and shelter already built. The only big problems we face are the government's armed might and our own doubts.

To counter the military threat there needs to be a large migration of people to sympathetic regions and counties of low population where we can win all the elections and mobilize people power. Militant underground allies will serve as a deterrent to attack from outside forces. Limited acts of sabotage against powerlines, corporate eco-rappers and the transportation system will make it clear that we are capable of defending our choices. This strategy is called Eco-Social Defense. To counter our doubts we have to be honest about the future we face and our limited possibilities. You can hide and

whimper, do support for the radicals, or join us in the night as we work our craft. Make yourself relevant! Do something real. If healers and moderates sit on the sidelines there will be more violence than there should be.

Self defense is not violent—it's morally required. So, tighten up your belt and puff up your courage. There's still a place for individuals to stand up for hope. On the frontlines on a stormy night... as you unbolt the powerline tower, plug that culvert or burn down some condo... spray paint the ELF logo and know that you are sending a message about how much you love the wilderness and Her ways. Express your feelings... arm your desires! In organic revelry—

We say fight for this Earth!!!

—COMMUNIQUE: SOLSTICE '99
ELF COASTAL MOUNTAIN BASE

Dear Earth First!,

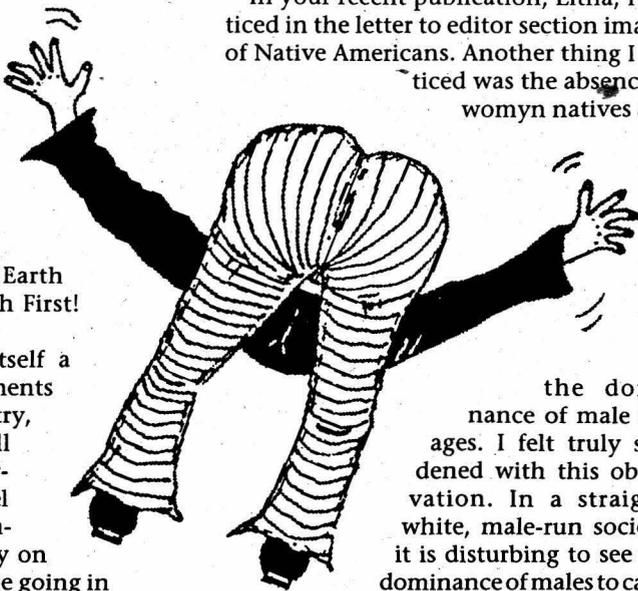
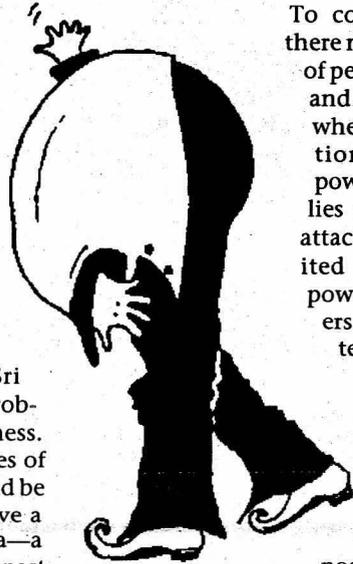
I wrote to you in the past and you were kind enough to print my letter and I hope you will print this one also. I have read Earth First! several times and I am very concerned about all the issues in it. It is very rare to have someone to talk about such matters to. So, if there is someone out there who would like to write me about such things and try to build a friendship it would be greatly appreciated. I have very little contact with the outside world. I thank you for your help.

Yours truly,

—MANUEL PARDO JR. #11983
UNION CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
P DORM P-1-1-12-5
POB 221, RAIFORD, FLORIDA 32083

Dear SFB,

Are you a Wild Human Animal or are you in the Zoo? Global has become local. Survival of the Wild Human Animal is an urgent issue. The Zoo's cage has now grown to encompass almost all of the humanly



KEEP YOUR UNDER **300** WORDS

inhabitable areas of the planet. Some cultures are being held captive by gun point... others by TV and a numbing, electric buzz. Government and corporation are the zookeepers... and they are buying up the last of the planet's unprotected wild animal refuge lands, where human and all other animals can live in harmony with the land under Natural Law.

We, who have been fortunate enough, by whatever means, to escape the Zoo, are the last of the wild Human Animals, scarcely surviving on the fringe... on the very verge of extinction. If we are caged, the voice for all endangered plants and animals is lost, subjecting them to clearcutting and unnatural life within the inharmonious cultural law of the zoo.

We, who have not been numbed, dumbed, or gunned out of our human animal instincts, are obligated to come together and make a stance to protect the only free, inhabitable land still beyond the confines of the Zoo. Survival of all wild plants and animals is at stake. We cannot succumb to the cancer of the Zoo's cultural law, which is spreading rampantly over planet earth.

We, who are still wild and barely dodging the bars of the cage, are at the tail end of evolution... and the front end of revolution. Time is of the essence. We must unite and act now. Are you a wild human animal... or are you in the Zoo?

—ZELDA MOON

Dear fabulous *EFIJ*,

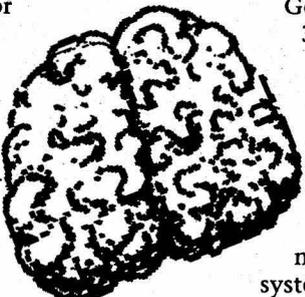
I would like to congratulate and thank Errol Schweizer for a truly excellent and conscious article highlighting "13 Tips for Activists." As self-labeled "activists," we pride ourselves on being aware of the atrocities from which others avert their eyes and ears. Unfortunately, this kind of awareness may come at the expense of our self-awareness. While great conviction and energy may come from this imbalance, our message becomes just as misdirected and unheard. Changing minds is a tough job, and Errol points out that it comes much more easily when we align ourselves with others rather than immediately framing events as conflicts.

Thanks,

—SCOTT MURRAY

EFIJ,

I must sound off, with all due respect, about the pathetic article on the Taylor Ranch action and poor journalism in the last issue. I was a part of the action, indeed. I was one of the six men arrested and jailed in the horrible Costilla County slammer for trespassing on Taylor Ranch. Who the hell is "Red at Rockstar?" C'mon, identify yourself. Who are you, "Red," to write a fluff piece that completely misrepresented the situation and local feelings that came out of the action? Did Barry Clausen write that bullshit? It sure has served to be divisive to the movement. Maybe "Red" felt that the action was beautiful and that he/she really got through to the white loggers from Idaho who are clearcutting La Sierra and who the local subsistence farmers want out of Colorado immediately. What ever happened to fire in this movement? What ever happened to the hardcore? As outsiders, you don't com-



promise with out-of-state loggers who are strongly opposed by local activists and residents. You don't invite them in to your consensus circle. You fight them off until they're gone and the forest is safe! Period. I know that these loggers were claiming that Zack Taylor was cheating them and they weren't making any money. What bullshit that you swallowed. Do you really think they'd still be out there working if they weren't making any money? Hell no. They lied to you to get sympathy and it worked; you weak suckers. As for those of us arrested as we stood firm in defense of La Sierra, we are now facing criminal charges and fines and must travel long distances to face the judge in San Luis. Had you stuck with the agreed-upon

plan to stuff the jail we would have likely been all released and not had to face the legal hassles that now interfere with our activism elsewhere.

So much for solidarity. The *EFIJ* seriously erred in not printing the piece written by Kimba of AFR that told the real story of this action. Shame, very bad journalism. If there are two perspectives on an issue you cover them both, side to side in the paper. This was not done by the editors and was a hard slap to San Luis. I had breakfast with a local chicano farmer/activist the day after the action. He thought *EFIJ* was weak and out-of-line to be making friends with loggers the locals had been trying to run out of town. Great outreach for *EFIJ* with diverse communities, huh? To those of you who thought the Taylor Ranch action was a breakthrough I urge you to call AFR and ask them. A primary rule of roving activism should be that you never take it upon yourself to change the tactics used by local activists. For you may do more damage than help. Anyone who was a part of the action who wants to help cover legal costs for the San Luis six should send money to AFR in San Luis. It's the least you can do.

—DANIEL PATTERSON

Dear Friends,

As someone who was up on "the mountain" at the post RRR action, I am not in agreement with the title that the *Journal* gave to Rockstar's piece. I do not feel "I made friends" with the loggers that day. I feel I was able to put some biases aside and have some dialogue.

I have never before in all my years as an activist taken such a beating after an action. For the record, I stand strongly behind my decision that day to leave. And yes—it was the hardest damn thing as an activist I have ever done. What is important to me is that we reached our identified, consensed upon goals.

- 1) Stop logging for the day. 2) Get local people to the action.
 - 3) Get media coverage. All of these goals were obtained.
- No, I didn't fall for "logger sympathy" or "the oldest trick in the book—psychological warfare." With our goals accomplished, I saw no use in 25 more people prying into the system by going to jail.

I will probably never be friends with a logger. But I want to have government agencies, corporations and their owners and rich landowners as my targets from now on. I am sorry for all of the bad feelings that are circulating from that day. I am also sorry to hear folks say they didn't participate in making the decision to leave when they did. I truly believe that one should not judge when a person chooses to unlock or not. That day I yielded to those whose decision it truly was to make the lockdown. I also think it is unfair for those who were not there to judge either.

It makes me sad that people are ashamed of what they did on that mountain that hot July day. We are a movement of people and people are fallible—on all sides. I understand and respect people's disappointment, and I hope we can learn from each other and move on.

The bottom line to me is I want a revolution, and I believe that when it happens it will come from the working class not solely from a bunch of white-middle class activists. It's time we start putting some of the blame and hatred behind us and build bridges where we can even if just for one day.

—CATHIE BERREY

Dear San Luis friends,

I love all you folks and appreciate all the hard work you have done. But witnessing the Ronde action has compelled me to write an honest critique. If the goal of the action was to shut down logging for one day, then congratulations. If you are serious about long-term effective CD techniques, you blew a golden opportunity for a blockade. The first problem was in not emphasizing enough that the enemy is not hard working blue collar workers—namely loggers and haulers. Apparently new, uninitiated activists locked down to logging trucks. Other fresh activists as well as experienced ones were all part of the process that came to the decision to unlock from the trucks. Several new activists explained to me how the activists had a bonding experience with the workers. The workers convinced the crowd of activists that they should unlock because they were only hurting the workers, not Taylor. "We made a connection," one guy told me. "That's great," I explained, "but just because you did some fine outreach doesn't mean you should stop doing your job. They aren't going to stop doing their job." "But we discovered that they are not the enemy," he returned. So at this point I announced to the group by the tripod, "I don't know of any forest campaign where the workers are our enemy. They are being exploited as well. You need to remember our opponent is the land owner, the government, the corporate controllers not the workers. We need to make connections with the workers, but we need to stop or slow down the destruction while doing outreach." So let's keep our focus and be serious about what it is we want to accomplish.

If the activists had remained locked down all day, we could have set up another tripod or other blockade structures in the same area to sustain the blockade after the activists tired and needed to unlock. More people would have stayed to help out this campaign if we could have sustained a blockade. Now you have fewer people, fewer resources.

When I see actions like this, it makes me wonder why we do CD at all. Maybe we should have let the locals alone to handle matters in their own way. When we cease to be effective, we need to re-evaluate our ways and make necessary adjustments.

Sorry for being so harsh, but I feel it is necessary. It seems you are making the same mistakes you made in September of '96.

—CRUSTY

Dear SFB,

I just wanted to take a minute and give a message to the movement regarding my feelings surrounding the post RRR action. The basic gist of my sorrow and frustration is due to folks coming here and treating it like a campaign somewhere else. During the RRR (and various

other gatherings) we continually discuss diversity in the movement and how to create it and how the San Luis campaign is achieving that in various forms. But I wish to ask you, as was asked of me after the action: Do people in the movement find more solidarity with loggers from Idaho and Oregon (who in the past have tried to kill people and called the people of San Luis dirty fucking Mexicans—these aren't nice guys) rather than solidarity with the six of us in jail and the people who live and survive in the San Luis valley? So how do we achieve diversity in the movement when our solidarity lies with racist Anglos who in order to feed their families in another bioregion take the food from the mouths of a people that have been here for over 150 years. Someone said Judi Bari would be proud of what was done that day—well this isn't northern California it is southern Colorado, and the locals aren't the loggers. The locals are Chicano with a proud and rich heritage in this valley where racism from anglos is perpetuated on a daily basis... even on June 28. So thanx for coming to this bioregion; next time remember which one your in and show your solidarity accordingly.

—KIMBA

Journal,

I am truly disheartened at the lack of editorial ethics displayed by the *Journal* regarding my piece about the post-RRR action at Taylor Ranch in Colorado. For the record, the article I submitted and was led to believe would be published in its entirety was, in fact, edited to the point of out-of-context phrases and namby-pamby fluff. *This was never sent to me for final author approval*, a fact which I deeply resent.

The true, unabridged article contains necessary information such as: why we were there and the extreme difficulty and duress during and following the action. I feel what was left after the unauthorized butchering gave the reader who was not at the mountain that day the feeling that we 'gave in' to the loggers. I would like to repeat that this was the most difficult action many of the people there have undertaken in terms of emotions; however, I do not presume to speak for anyone else (a fact which was also removed in the edited article) and speak only as a woman present that day.

Further, the photo chosen does not accurately represent the content of the article. The tripod pictured was located at the front gate of the ranch, not up on the mountain with the lockdown at the logging trucks. This should have been made clear in the caption.

While I recognize the ability of the *Journal* to title the articles as they deem fit, I would like to also have it known that the title chosen was certainly not of my construct. I find not a serious reflection of the action that took place that day.

For those persons who would like to read the full, author-approved article discussing the background, emotions, and actions of that day, please feel free to email rockstro@warren-wilson.edu or write to the mountain faction of Katuah Earth First!

In resistance,

—RED



Further, the photo chosen does not accurately represent the content of the article. The tripod pictured was located at the front gate of the ranch, not up on the mountain with the lockdown at the logging trucks. This should have been made clear in the caption.

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In resistance,

—RED

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UNITY.

Stop the World Bank Funding of the Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipeline

In October of this year, the World Bank is expected to award loans totaling at least \$225 million to Exxon, Shell and Elf oil companies for building a pipeline to carry oil from southern Chad through Cameroon's rainforests to the sea. Without World Bank funding, the Chad-Cameroon pipeline will almost certainly fail to attract investors. The World Bank is the key.

Write to the president of the World Bank. Tell him that the World Bank should reject this project based on the following points:

- 1) Potential Impact on Rainforests and Animals: The pipeline will pass through ecologically fragile rainforests. Existing seasonal roads will be upgraded, and new roads will be built along the pipeline route. On these roads, loggers and "bushmeat" hunters will rush into previously inaccessible forests.
- 2) Climate Change: Further exploitation of fossil fuels contributes alarmingly to global warming and climate change.
- 3) Corporate Welfare: The main beneficiaries of the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline are multinational oil companies and governments. There is little hope of adequate environmental protection and "trickle-

down" economic benefits.

4) Human Rights Abuses: Security forces have killed over 200 people and jailed the single Parliamentarian who dared voice opposition to the pipeline (he was released after 10 months due to international pressure).

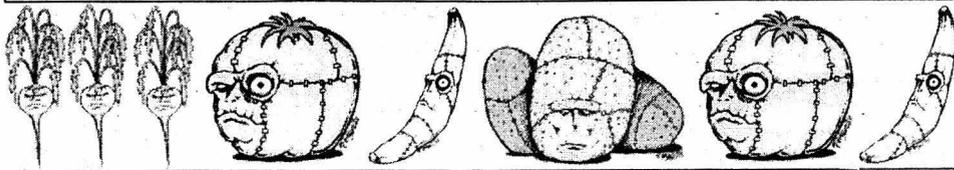
5) Potential Impacts on Human Communities: The 600-mile (965 kilometer) underground pipeline is to originate in Chad's "breadbasket," the fertile region where most of the country's food crops are grown. Oil spills and groundwater contamination would threaten food security nationwide. The region is home to the indigenous nomadic Baka and Bakola peoples who rely on hunting and gathering.

Write to James D. Wolfensohn, President, The World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington DC 20433; (202) 522-1677 (fax); cunit3@worldbank.org. US citizens should also write to the US Secretary of the Treasury, urging him to oppose World Bank financing of the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline. Lawrence H. Summers, Secretary, US Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC 20220; (202) 622-0073.

NORTHEAST DEEPWOODS FALL RENDEZVOUS, OCTOBER 2-3, MAINE NEAR CANADA

Northeast Earth First! will be holding our fall rendezvous on the weekend of October 2-3 in northern Maine, near Canada. The gathering will focus on the forests of Maine, its ties to NAFTA and other international issues. You can call or email for information on time and exact place. It will be late fall up here so be prepared for potential frost. It is a "bring your own food and equipment" gathering, but please contact us if that may be a problem for you. This will be a very good time to visit our fair state, so please bring your friends. The Maine crew will leave the light on for you.

Contact Maine EF! at RFD 1, POB 6000, Athens, ME 04912; (207) 785-6057; wobblie1@yahoo.com.



NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE FOR ANIMALS NOVEMBER 5-7, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Featured speakers include Roger Fonts, Steven Wise, Linda Hogan and Rod Coronado.

Please contact the Animal Protection of New Mexico, POB 11395, Albuquerque, NM 87192-0395; (505) 265-2322.

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PASSIONATE AND DANGEROUS, PO Box 63232, St. Louis, MO 63163 (314)773-2842; mquercus@hotmail.com

RENT STRIKE, JANUARY 1, 2000

Perhaps the simplest and most effective way for Generation X and all Americans to seize control of our politics, our communities and our lives is to stop feeding the machine at the core of the neo-feudalistic debt economy in which we live. This machine is the private multinational corporate banking complex. This soulless techno-corporate beast is founded on the principles of usury, war, deception and the Machiavellian thefts of land from native peoples.

Today the world is suffering from the inevitable results of the neurotic notion that land and natural resources can somehow be owned by men and corporations. The irresponsible machine is easy to destroy. With banks at the core, money is key.

On January 1, millions of Americans will redirect our rent and mortgage payments away from landlords and banks. Instead we shall invest in the healthy development of our communities.

NOVEMBER IS LEONARD PELTIER FREEDOM MONTH

Come join traditional Native American prayer ceremonies, cultural and educational events and a Native American Freedom Fast in front of the White House.

To help organize, operate telephone banks and raise funds for this month long event contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, POB 583, Lawrence, KS 66044; (785) 842-5774; lpdc@idir.net.

RESIST THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS NOVEMBER 1-3, TORONTO, QUEBEC, CANADA

Trade representatives from throughout the western hemisphere will meet in Toronto. Their goal is to remove all social and environmental impediments to trade. Their plan promises to benefit transnational corporations, while devastating national economies, sending people into deeper poverty and destroying the natural environment.

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is an expansion of the 1994 agreement binding 34 countries in the western hemisphere to further remove restrictions on the free movement of capital, goods, and services. Like the attempted Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), the FTAA will further extend the capitalist cause, while eliminating its environmental and labor side-agreements. It will broaden the definitions of investment to further remove distinctions between short and long term investments, thus encouraging socially irresponsible financial speculation.

"Quick buck" speculation, encouraged by the recently liberalized international trade policy, was largely responsible for both the 1995 peso crisis in Mexico and the recent economic crisis in southeast Asia. If the FTAA continues in this direction, the af-

ected nations will be prohibited from distinguishing between domestic and foreign investment. Thus, Latin American countries will be forced to allow foreign companies to take advantage of low environmental and labor standards while providing little benefit to their local economies. In North America, jobs would disappear as companies move operations south. More dangerously, US citizens and courts could lose the right to implement environmental and social protections.

Actions in Toronto start on Halloween! This is a call to action for all people, as groups and individuals, to resist and reconstruct in the face of neoliberal trade agreements. The FTAA is one of many trade agreements in the making at the end of the millennium. Others, such as the MAI and the upcoming WTO in Seattle, Nov. 29-Dec. 3, already have the attention of thousands of activists worldwide. The FTAA must not slip by unnoticed. For further details and more information contact Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571; 864-8203 (fax); acerca@sover.net; www.acerca.org.

**Strengthening Our
Bi-national Alliances
National Conference
on Mexico-US Relations
Sept. 23-26, Washington DC.**

The Mexico Solidarity Network invites you to join 400-500 participants working in solidarity, taking action and building lasting bi-national coalitions. The conference—dedicated to struggles for justice, dignity and democracy—will focus on six major themes: Chiapas, neoliberalism (NAFTA), militarization, immigration/ border issues, democratization and independent labor organizing. Together, we can positively shape the future of US-Mexico relations. Grassroots representatives from Mexican civil society and US-based activists will conduct a series of workshops and plenary sessions focused on education, strategizing and action.

All events are open to the public. Registration for the Mexico Solidarity Network conference includes access to all workshops and conferences of the 50 Years is Enough Conference, to be held concurrently.

For more information contact us at Mexico Solidarity Network, 4834 N. Springfield, Chicago, IL 60625; (773) 583-7728; msn@mexicosolidarity.org; www.mexicosolidarity.org.

TREK FOR TREES

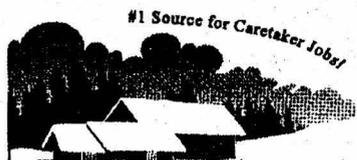
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NATIONAL FOREST PROTECTION CONVENTION

October 15 -17, Touch of Nature Environmental Center, Carbondale, Illinois

The National Forest Protection Alliance invites you to join conservation leaders from across the country who are dedicated to protecting and restoring the integrity of our nation's forests and public lands. We will gather to discuss and build upon the growing campaign to protect public lands from commercial logging and issues that surround this effort.

Program Highlights

The era of restoration: theory and practice, the economics of logging national forests, decommercializing public lands, integrating decommercialization into Forest Watch and planning, NFPA vision, campaign outline and steps to achieving our goals, grassroots and political organizing, strengthening your network.

Invited speaker: Amy Trotter, legislative aide of Rep. James Leach (R-IA).

Touch of Nature

The convention will be held at Touch of Nature, a 3,400-acre wooded retreat on Little Grassy Lake, just eight miles south of Carbondale, Illinois. The retreat is bordered by the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, the Shawnee National Forest and Giant City State Park.

Accommodations

Rustic cabins with beds (linen \$6 extra/night), tent sites available, showers. Bring sleeping bag and warm clothes.

Transportation

Flights should arrive at the St. Louis Airport. NFPA will provide free shuttle service to and from the conference. On Friday, shuttles will leave the airport at approximately noon, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. On Sunday, shuttles will leave the conference at 2 p.m. If you wish to take

advantage of the shuttle service, please schedule your arrival/departure flights accordingly.

Directions

From Interstate 57, take Route 13 west 11 miles. Turn left (south) on Giant City Road and drive eight miles. Turn left on Touch of Nature Road. Map of area available upon registration.

Registration

Mail payment by September 27 to: NFPA, POB 8264, Missoula, MT 59807. The cost of the convention is \$60/person. This includes two nights lodging and six vegetarian meals. Vegan meals are available upon request.

Email Registration

Please email your registration today to Jeanette Russell at russell@wildrockies.org.



Please let us know if you want copies of last issue, or if you're interested in putting in an order for the new #8. We are looking for radical thoughts, humor and graphics.

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WILD HORSE RESCUE AND SANCTUARY

We have been in the process of rescuing 200 wild horses in southeastern Oregon for the past year. To date, we have captured more than half of the wild horses who are currently roaming on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge near Lakeview, Oregon. Nearly all of the horses already caught have been placed in compassionate homes or sanctuaries throughout Oregon and

California. We must still capture another 133 horses. If we fail, the remaining animals on the refuge may be targeted for slaughter by the US government. The US Fish and Wildlife Service claim the animals compete with the endangered pronghorn antelope. We have been contracted by the Service to remove the horses. We are looking for organizations to help us take possession of them and find these endangered animals permanent and loving homes. We have a few requirements to facilitate the adoption process. Please don't hesitate to contact The National Horse Rescue Sanctuary, POB 270, Shingletown, CA 96088; (530) 949-1714.

the Nuclear Resister



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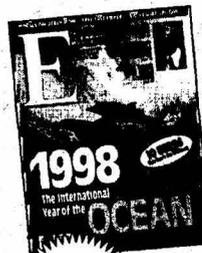


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Frontlines

World Bank Humiliated by Helium Balloon Prank

An unidentified rainforest activist set free a cluster of helium balloons in the 13-story atrium of the World Bank building in Washington DC on July 26. Attached to the balloons was a 40-foot banner reading: "Wolfensohn Stop the Pipeline." James Wolfensohn is the President of the World Bank, and he alone has final say on whether or not the controversial Central African oil project gets funding.

The Chad/Cameroon Rainforest Pipeline project will slice through the heart of pristine rainforests. The proposed oil fields are in the heart of Chad's fertile food-producing region, where even an incidental spill would be devastating.

If the World Bank approves the loan, hundreds of millions of dollars will also go to oil giants Exxon, Shell and Elf, which comprise the rainforest pipeline consortium. In neighboring Nigeria, Shell has contaminated local water supplies with petroleum hydrocarbons that are 360 times higher than levels allowed.

"On behalf of our colleagues in Chad and Cameroon who have spoken out against the pipeline project at great personal risk," said Erick Brownstein, Rainforest Action Network's African Rainforest campaigner, "we sincerely hope the World Bank will not contribute to serious violations of human rights, and the further destruction of nature in central Africa."

Nuclear Voyage Disrupted

On July 19 Britain temporarily abandoned plans to ship nuclear fuel to Japan after a standoff with environmental activists. Seven anti-nuclear protesters were arrested for protesting two shipments of weapons-grade, mixed-oxide fuel prepared to leave Barrow, in northwestern England. Under the cover of dark, activists towed a blow-up effigy of a white elephant excreting nuclear bombs in front of Barrow port. They then set sail in two inflatable boats, carrying banners of protest. They were joined by South Korean environmentalists, who fear the ships will pass through the Straits of Korea en route to Japan. Opponents of the shipments fear environmental fallout, nuclear proliferation and possible hijacking on the high seas.

As a result, the UK government banned the *MV Greenpeace* from UK waters, citing safety concerns. Greenpeace International also had its bank account frozen at the request of British Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (BNFL), one of the state-owned nuclear companies responsible for this transport.

The shipment eventually sailed to Cherbourg, France, on the first leg of its voyage to Japan, where the plutonium fuel was to be loaded into nuclear power reactors. Once in Cherbourg, 11 climbers from Greenpeace-France occupied two cranes to stop the loading of the Japan-bound ship.

This is the first transfer of direct use nuclear weapons material since 1992, with at least 80 plutonium shipments planned over the next decade. The transport is part of contracts involving the Japanese companies Mitsubishi and Toshiba in conjunction with the power utilities KEPCO and TEPCO to bring a total of 76 plutonium/uranium fuel assemblies, containing some 933 kilograms of weapons-usable plutonium from Britain and France to Japan.

The Tender Carnivore and the Sacred Game

BOOK REVIEW BY JOSE JOAQUIN DURAN

As a history student, I had never appreciated what the rural-agricultural roots of modern urban-industrial society meant to the latter's general brutality and destructiveness to the biosphere. Nor did I really expect that my general misgivings about vegetarianism just might be valid, at least not until I read Paul Shepard's *The Tender Carnivore and the Sacred Game*, originally published in 1973 and re-released in 1998 by the University of Georgia Press.

Humans, Shepard argues, not only evolved as hunters, but owe their very humanity to their hunter heritage. It is neither sociability nor tool-making that defines humans as such, because both are general primate traits. Rather, "all major human characteristics—size, metabolism, sexual and reproductive behavior, intuition, intelligence—had come into existence and were oriented to the hunting (or cynegetic) life." This occurred namely through contact with animals in hunter/prey relationships. As humans abandoned, or were forced to abandon, the cynegetic life for the agricultural life 8,000 to 10,000 years ago, their very "human consciousness was reorganized."

This process shares certain parallels with the domestication of animals. Agriculture, particularly animal husbandry, corrupts both animals and humans. Such genetic and behavioral manipulation is designed to promote characteristics in animals which in the wild "would condemn... [them] to swift destruction." In the captive safety of agro-industrial society these animals are "not only protected but prized," while the hardier and more complex wild forms are destroyed as "useless" or harmful.

The parallels in human society are striking. Just as agriculture needs readily exploitable animal deformities, so do the sedentary class societ-

ies need readily exploitable humans. These "goofies," yanked from their evolutionary niches, are processed to enable them to endure the dawn-to-dusk regiment of drudgery that agricultural and capitalist industry demands. Just like in the production of animal "goofies," agro-industrial society promotes the most undesirable character traits in people: venality, selfish insensitivity to other beings, mediocre conformity and the cowardly impulse to hide behind the powers of a state or corporation. All these are encouraged or compelled, while integrity, loyalty, mature independence and creativity, along with courage and forthrightness, is unrewarded and even punished.

More importantly, Shepard demolishes the idea that agriculture enhances abundance along with the corollary notion that humans willingly give up their cynegetic lifestyles to take up the regimes of "drudgery and catastrophe" that agriculture entails. "For every man whose life was improved by that momentous Neolithic revolution, hundreds lost health, freedom and social dignity."

What people would exchange a life in which "productive work" totaled at most two or three eight-hour days per week, perhaps with occasional hunger spells but hardly, if ever, the looming specter of outright famine, for the "drudgery and catastrophe" and inequity of agricultural life? For the past 10,000 years an unrelenting war has been waged by agro-industrial cultures against non-farming peoples. Hunter-gatherers "must always be shown to be subhuman in order to motivate and vindicate cruelty and aggression against him." For the ancient Caananites and Celts, for Amerindians, Pacific Islanders, the *gauchos* of the Southern Cone, as well as the Romani peoples in Eurasia and the Americas, all this is self-explanatory.

The sources of evolutionary status, Shepard argues, lie in the special relationship with fellow animal species in their wild forms, particularly ones that were hunted. Today's human evolved as a hunter, and the survival and continued evolution of specialized human traits depend on the return to, and elaboration of, his cynegetic heritage. As a primate with omnivorous dietary roots, humans became specifically humans (defined by, among other things, upright bipedal body and a highly specialized brain) only when they developed more into a hunter.

As rendered by Shepard, the hunt, properly practiced, involves more than food, survival and exercise. Carried out within the context of traditional cynegetic cultural practices, the hunt becomes a solemn, eco-religious occasion, in which eating the prey creates a vital union between human self and the non-human other. The killing and dissection of the prey enables the human hunters to achieve a metaphorical union with the larger mysteries of the universe.

For these reasons, "The mystery of life does not reveal its secrets to bean-eaters as opposed to bison-eaters." On the contrary, where the hunter through the hunt learns the humility and glory of limits, the vegetarian, Shepard argues, not only betrays arrogance in pretending to rise above the evils of nature, but through a false "dream of innocence and compassion" manifests an unhealthy fear of not only death but life itself. Perhaps it is as Winona LaDuke put it: "The wise hunter approaches the hunt with proper respect because in the end it is not the hunter's skill or strength that brings him success; rather, the prey gives itself to the hunter whose practice is honorable."

REVIEWS

Trees and Water:

MUSIC REVIEW BY PEG MILLETT

The CD/booklet, *Trees & Water, Songs of Resistance to the Reroute of 55*, is essentially the history of the proposed Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) highway reroute heard through story and song. There are over a dozen groups galvanized into the Stop the Reroute Coalition, and it is reflected in the song styles. Everything from the garage grunge punk of "No Compromise" to the poignant sweet folk of "Workman Spare that Tree."

No two artists are alike on this 18-song collection chronicling the reroute resistance. There are native chants from the Thunder Nation and Appalachian humor from Julian. Ballads tell the stories of the Minnehaha Free State and the raid by 800 cops. There is some very beautiful acapella singing by Jessica Braun-Ferris and spoken prose by Leslie that had me weeping. The musicianship varies, and the recording is good. All the people you hear are frontline activists who are serious about loving and working for the preservation of the culturally rich greenway extending from Minnehaha Park to Fort Snelling to the

Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge area. This is the birthplace of Minnesota, the ancient oak savanna and Coldwater Springs.

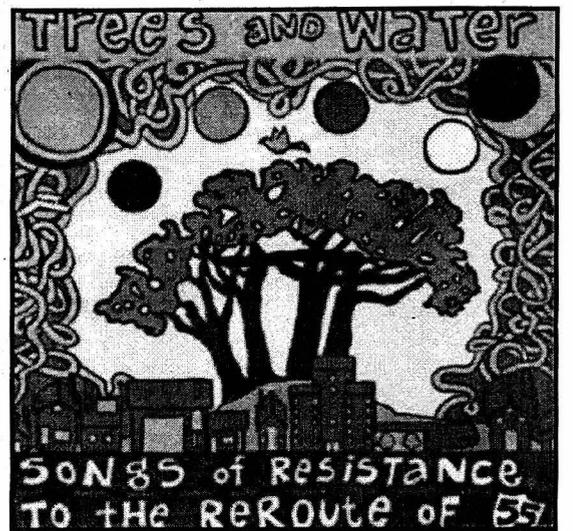
In the booklet you can read the history of the resistance to the reroute, as well as Jim Andersen Red Sky Mahpiya Duta's story of his people, the Mendota and their relationship with the four sacred oaks and Coldwater Springs. This was of particular interest to me, reminding me of my own forebears and their relationship to the sacred oaks and springs on the green island across the Atlantic.

There's an article on the urbanization of Earth First!, a brief history of the American Indian Movement, Witches and Highway 55 and a portion of an interview with Carol Kratz done in January. Carol is a 43 year resident of the razed neighborhood on the Riber Road. There's a chronology of the Minnehaha Free State and a chilling

recollection of the raid by Solstice.

The whole package is well done, from cover art to the recording quality. It's a beautiful way to document the ongoing campaign. The credits give an "extra special thanx to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for five months of free rent. Without their diabolical scheming we would've never brought together such a beautiful and diverse community."

Order the compilation for \$10. Send to Mad Bomb Records, 1405 Fairmont Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105; (612) 879-8929.



Songs of Resistance to the Reroute of 55

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Classic speeches and barn-stomping music woven into a history of EF! and the redwoods.

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No one can create a campaign song as fast as Darryl. He's a campfire favorite.

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"They Sure Don't Make Hippies Like They Used To!" *Free the Dead, Spike a Tree For Jesus* TAPE—\$12

"I Had to Be Born This Century" *Earth First!, Ballad of the BLM* TAPE—\$12

"White Tribal Music" *Grants Pass, Xerox the Money, Jesus Was a Mushroom* TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

David Rovics

From the subways of Boston, David strikes the chord in everyone's struggle.

"Payday at Coal Creek" *Pretty Boy Floyd, Draft Dodger Rag, Hobo's Lullaby* CD—\$17

"We Just Want the World" *Minimum Wage Strike, Judi Bari, The Death of David Chain* CD—\$17

Alice Di Micele

Alice is arguably the Northwest's most talented singer/songwriter. Her voice and lyrics cut straight to your heart.

"Naked" *Trouble in Mind, Make it Last, Out of Control* TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

"Searching" *Defend the Earth, Land of Broken Promises, Lift Us Up* TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

"Too Controversial" *American Dream, I Won't Say Goodbye* TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

"It's a Miracle" *All or Nothing, Not For Sale, First Snow, The Beaver Song* TAPE—\$12

"Demons and Angles" *Spirit of the River, Taking Flight, Alive Awake* TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

"Make a Change" *Let It Rain, Dismantle, Leonard Peltier, In a Gentle Way* TAPE—\$12

"Circle of Women" (WITH

WINDSONG, ELLOUISE, BURRELL, SHELLY PHILLIPS, FREYDA EPSTEIN AND TINA MALIA) *Ancient and contemporary songs and chants. Earth My Body, Circle Round for Freedom, Mother I Feel You, Down By the Riverside* CD—\$17

Danny Dollinger

These songs are a slap upside the head by the big ugly frozen fish of love lost, found and love lost again on a sad and dying planet.

New Music...New Music...New Music...

- Darryl Cherney's "White Tribal Music"
- SETH's "M.A.Z." and "The First Snack"
- Ned Mudd's "Noon Blue Apples"
- David Rovics' "Payday at Coal Creek and "We Just Want the World"
- Casey Neill's "Skree"
- Alice Di Micele's "Demons and Angels"

"Rome Wasn't Burnt in a Day" *Dollar and a Quarter, Blow Me Away, Rudy, Walking in Power* CD—\$12

Robert Hoyt

Robert's tours wow audiences across the country with his virtuoso guitar playing and home-grown lyrics.

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Timothy Hull

An uplifting travelogue of environmental activism, Timothy's music invokes the new spirit of the wild.

"Brightness of Brightness" *Brightest Angel, Twilight Songs, Tough Reckoning, No Destinations, My Shirt* TAPE—\$12 • CD—\$17

"Dragons on the Road" *Nailed and Boarded, Good White Road, The Black Horse* TAPE—\$12

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14 songs from seven favorite EF! musicians: Darryl Cherney, Alice Di Micele, Robert Hoyt, Dana Lyons, Casey Neill, Peg Millett and

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"Turn of the Wrench" *Cry of the*

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The following are those imprisoned in North America for acts of resistance to a nuclear non-future. For more information contact the Nuclear Resister, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733.

•William Streit #03809-052 (5 months) POB 1000, Girard Unit, Morgantown, WV 26507 (Pentagon blood pouring, 12/28/98; out 9/27/99)

•Daniel Sicken #28360-013 (41 months) FPC Lewisburg, POB 2000, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

•Oliver Sachio Coe #28361-013 (30 months) Unit AD, FPC Allenwood, POB 1000, Montgomery, PA 17752-9718 ("Minuteman III Plowshares" direct disarmament of nuclear missile silo, 8/6/98)

•Michele Naar-Obed (12 months) Western Tidewater Regional Jail, 2402 Godwin Blvd., Suffolk VA 23434 or c/o Jonah House, 1301 Moreland, Baltimore, MD 21216 ("Jubilee Plowshares/East" direct disarmament of fast-attack submarine, 8/95. Probation revoked; returned to prison, 7/99)

The following people are now in prison for anti-war related activities in North America

•John Patrick Liteky #83275-020

(two years) FPC Sheridan Unit E-4, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378-6000 (School of the Americas protests at the Pentagon and Ft. Benning, 6/19/98)

•Fr. Bill Bichsel SJ #86275-020 (18 months) FPC Sheridan Unit 5, P.O. Box 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378-6000.

•Sr. Marge Eilerman OSF #88106-020 (14 months) FPC Lexington, 3301 Leestown Rd., Lexington KY 40511.

•Ed Kinane #86279-020 (16 months) FPC Allenwood, POB 1000, Montgomery, PA 17752.

•Mary Trotochaud #88102-020 (14 months) FPC Alderson, Box A, Alderson Women's Prison, Alderson, WV 24910 (School of the Americas sign alteration, 9/29/97, and repeat trespass at School of the Americas, 11/16/97 and in 10/98)

Overseas, this nuclear resister is known to be in prison:

•Angie Zelter, HMP Cornton Vale, Cornton Road, Stirling, FK9 5NY, Scotland, UK (Trident Plowshares 2000 direct disarmament of submarine test equipment, 6/8/99—awaiting trial 9/4/99)

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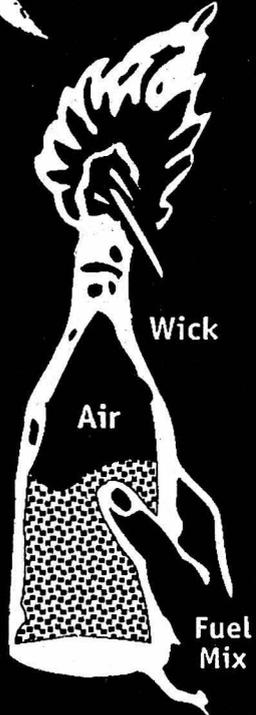
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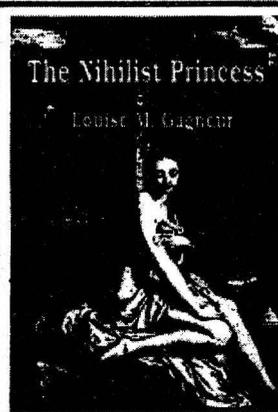
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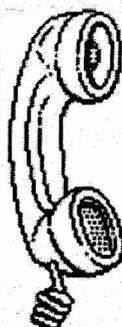
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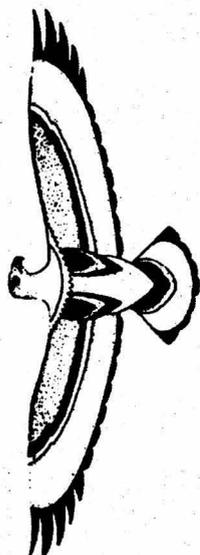
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for a list, contact:
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16 Sholebroke Ave., Chapelton
Leeds, LS7 3HB; 0113 262 9365
actionupdate@gn.apc.org
www.sol.co.uk/d/diffusion/
cornerstone/crc/ef/leedsef.htm
Oxford EF!, Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd,
Oxford, OX4 1RQ, (01865) 791391
South Downs EF!, Dead Trees EF!
and Do or Die, POB 2971, Brighton
BN2 2GY, savage@easynet.co.uk

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Cold Rivers Video Project
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(406) 728-0867; cmcr@wildrockies.org
www.wildrockies.org/cmcr
Direct Action Fund
POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516
(925) 376-7329; fax 631-7958
End Corporate Dominance
HCR 82, Fossil, OR 97830
(541) 468-2028

Northeast Forest Practices Campaign
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Sea Defense Alliance
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sedna@cdsnet.net
Warrior Poets Society
ASUC Box 361, Berkeley, CA 94720-4510
Zero Extraction on Public Lands
EF!J, POB 1415, Eugene, OR 97440;
earthfirst@igc.org

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