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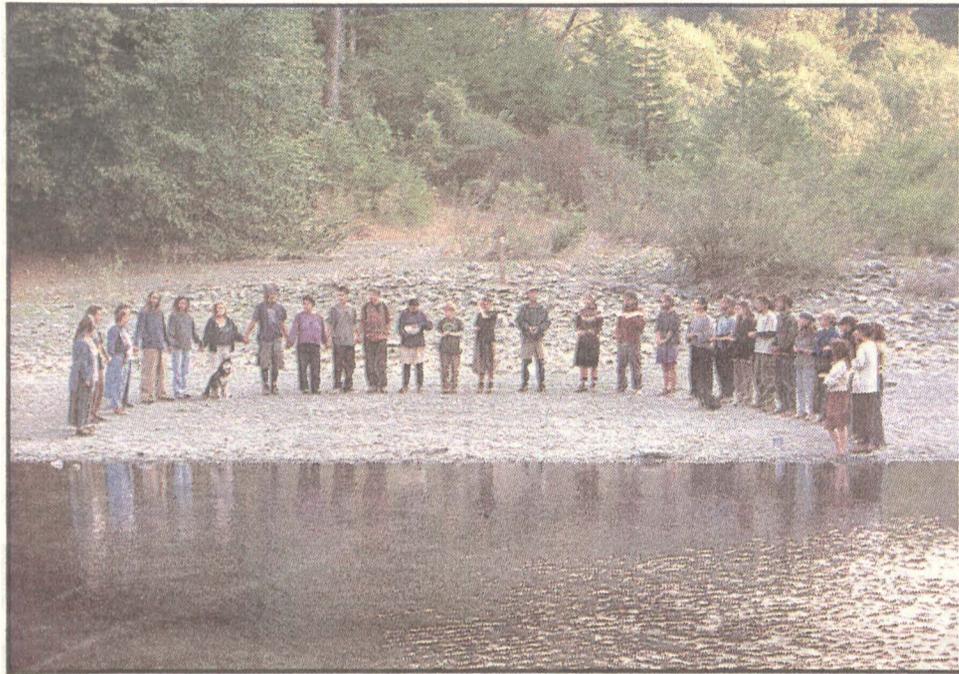
Suggested citation: 1/2 Fish, et al., eds., *Earth First! Journal* 20, no. 1 (1 November 1999).
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REMEMBERING GYPSY IN THE REDWOODS



Many gathered in a crescent moon and threw ashes into the river for Gypsy.

BY GARLIC

An open letter to all activists unable to join us at Gypsy's memorial. You were in our thoughts.

The memorial on September 17 drew many of the old friends of the Head-

waters Forest movement in a reunion to grieve and to celebrate Gypsy's passionate, well-lived life. Gypsy's mother, Cindy, his grandmother, aunts, uncles and nephews flew in from Texas for the week. I have never felt so grateful to be alive and in such

lively company. We drank (Cindy is such a party girl!), sang and told stories. Cindy arrived in California four days early and spent the time meeting many of Gypsy's old friends and those activists who were with him when he was killed. She is an incredibly understanding and loving woman. Cindy is completely dedicated to the forests her son died defending. I am in awe of her strength.

Julie Freitas was hoping to join us, but her plans changed and she was only able to come the next day and visit with Gypsy's family. Julie is the mother of Terance Freitas, who was murdered in Colombia last March, along with two other activists, helping the U'wa tribe fight Occidental Petroleum. She and Cindy have become close friends through the death of their sons.

Earth First!ers arrived at Grizzly Creek State Park around noon on the 17th (the formal memorial was later in the day). We walked down the highway to the bottom of "Gypsy Mountain," and the entrance of the haul road leading up to the site where he was killed. It felt very important that we be at the mountain between

12:15 and 12:30, the time Gypsy died. We built a small altar and began to circle up. The circle of people kept growing until 60 or more stood in the dusty landing just off Highway 36. It was a warm clear day. The truck traffic hurtled by. A few shouts of "Get a job!" flew from their windows. Some things never change.

As people began to share thoughts, four or five black and white butterflies flew in and around the circle. We all noticed their presence, dipping over and under our clasped hands. Many mothers in the movement had come. They spoke to Cindy directly, praising her strength and offering support. Our tear-streaked cheeks glistened under the sun. A local Earth First! activist walked into the circle, over to the altar and knelt in front of it, placing his sacred pipe bundle down. He had just returned from the sun dance at Mount Shasta. He slowly pieced together his carved pipe, ceremoniously packing it, stood and honored the four directions and set the pipe at the foot of a picture of Gypsy climbing a tree. Then he melted back into the circle.

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Indian Villagers Neck-deep Over Narmada Dam

BY SUSANNE WONG

On a typical day in July, young men and women gathered in the capital of Gujarat state in India. As they collected copies of Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy's latest book, they began to chant. A few of them lit matches while others watched as pages of *The Greater Common Good* went up in flames. The book criticizes the economic, social and environmental impacts of the \$8.1 billion Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP)—a project others see as the lifeline of Gujarat.

Nearly one hundred miles away, Luharia Bhilala, a gaunt farmer in his thirties, squatted on his porch and looked onto his fields. For generations, the Narmada River has sustained Bhilala and his community. Only a couple of days before, he watched helplessly as his fields were flooded by water backing up behind the Sardar Sarovar Dam. Yet, despite the rising water, he and thousands like him refuse to move to resettlement sites.

Why has this project sparked outrage and calls for censorship in Gujarat? Why have thousands of people vowed to drown rather than move?

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Heartwood Spanks Naughty Forest Service

BY ANDY MAHLER AND PHIL NANAS

Participants in Heartwood's fourth annual reunion had more to celebrate this year than good times with good friends. At the beginning of the event they learned that US District Court Judge Phil Gilbert had ruled in their favor, shutting down a bogus "ecological restoration" timber sale adjacent to Bell Smith Springs National Natural Landmark in Illinois' Shawnee National Forest. That good news was later eclipsed when the same judge ruled in their favor in a huge case with national repercussions.

On October 1, Judge Gilbert issued an injunction canceling all national forest timber sales where the Forest Service used "categorical exclusions" to evade the environmental analysis and public participation required by the National Environmental Policy Act. This is the first time a federal judge has issued an injunction on the entire national forest system.

The ruling applies to all such sales authorized after the suit was filed September 16, 1998, by Heartwood, Jim Bensman and Mark Donham. Bensman and Donham, ForestWatch coordinators for Heartwood, have been monitoring and challenging Forest Service decisions through adminis-



This year's Heartwood reunion came with some celebratory surprises.

trative procedures and the courts for more than a decade. Both activists are self-taught, and their dedication and persistence was largely responsible for both victories.

Under the Forest Service's interpretation of categorical exclusion, "salvage" timber sales of up to one million board feet and "green" timber sales of up to 250,000 board feet were illegally authorized. The Forest Service routinely chopped large timber sales into many smaller ones in order to side-step public scrutiny and continue its logging program. Since the Forest Service used categorical exclusions nationwide, Judge Gilbert specifically ruled that "... any remedy ordered must also be national in scope."

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EARTH FIRST!

NO COMPROMISE IN DEFENSE OF MOTHER EARTH

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



WAAHH, WAAHH, WAAHHH A CHARMING, YET WITTY, RANT BETWEEN ME AND YOU

As I bask in the reflected sunlight glinting off the glowing computer screen, I realize the dog days of summer are soon to end. The nights are getting longer and I find myself eating more and more, storing up for the long, rainy winter that might start tomorrow. I can't help but become introspective as I notice leaves falling to the ground. The smell of the air has changed, and so have I.

I am a much more responsible person these days. When I started working at the *Journal* nearly a year ago I was a happy-go-lucky slacker. Certainly I had been a participant in many campaigns, even organizing a few, but usually I was a lackey, happy to let others organize and steer issues anyway they saw fit.

These days it is harder to feel so relaxed. My job as a long-term *journalista* has forced me into a position of greater responsibility (considered the dirtiest four-letter word by many). During the day I work, eat, think, discuss *Journal*. At night I dream about it. I'm pretty certain my sweat smells of *Journal*.

It's not always the most fun, and sometimes it is even scary. You people have entrusted the staff with so much. We are expected to collate your beliefs then present them in a fashionable way, designed to entertain and stimulate discussions. You depend on us to represent you to the general public. Wow, what a duty. Don't get me wrong, I am honored. I enjoy working on the paper but it certainly isn't easy.

It takes five editors, as well as numerous office personnel to produce the fine *Earth First! Journal*. Every issue, the long-termers choose an affinity group of editors to work with us. This can be quite a task. Since there are only two long-termers these days, we must find three people to come to Eugene and voluntarily immerse themselves into a month of hard-core reading and computer time. This despite the fact that the sun and trees beckon from just outside the office door. We choose short-termers from a list with around a year-long wait. The long-termers may not have ever met the short-termers. Just as often they are old friends. Either way, it can be awkward.

People can be pushy, moody, grouchy or just plain mean. They can also be creative, humorous and kind. Your friends can turn out to be flakes. Individuals, unable to drown out the sound of the movement breathing down their necks, can turn psycho. But most of the time people handle it well. They grow with the affinity group, influencing the *Journal* with differing thoughts and opinions.

From the first meeting to the end-of-the-issue-breakfast debriefing, people change. It can be a beautiful progression

from the uncomfortable first day in the office—when newbies try to absorb the vast amount of information necessary to produce the paper—to the mailing party—when short-termers lead even newer volunteers through the process.

And then there is all the reading. Whether it's an article about monkeywrenching in Plain Town, USA or a paper on deep ecology, we read them. What doesn't get printed is often times as interesting as what does. It is impossible to walk away from any issue of the *Journal* without feeling more informed.

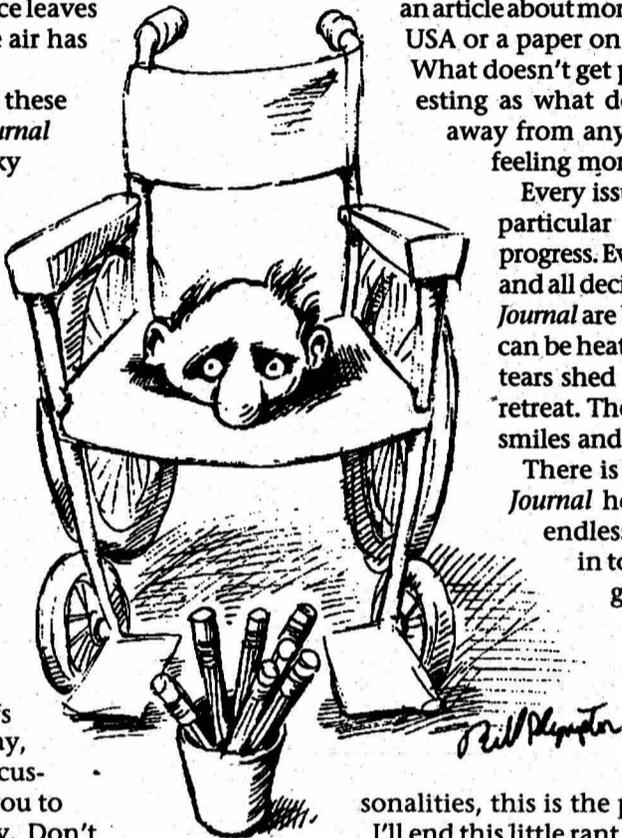
Every issue is different, evolving in no particular direction, anarchistic in its progress. Every collective member is equal, and all decisions about the content of the *Journal* are based on consensus. Meetings can be heated—voices raised over beliefs, tears shed and doors slammed in angry retreat. They can also be pleasant, full of smiles and witty retorts.

There is rarely a dull moment at the *Journal* house. Office distractions are endless, constant calls keeping us in touch with actions around the globe. An eccentric staff tops

off an ever-revolving collage of low-baggers needing to check their e-mail. And every issue I get to meet and work with new people. For a lover of personalities, this is the perfect job. Recluses beware.

I'll end this little rant with an encouraging word to all those activists who want to work with a great affinity group producing an international paper: Come work at the *Journal*—it sure is interesting. The rain here's not that bad, and if you have a truly productive imagination you can almost get a tan from the Macintosh in the corner.

—KRIS



Old timers and packrats: the *Earth First! Journal* is seeking back issues. To our dismay we have discovered that we do not have a full set. We would even be happy to have photocopies of the missing issues. Please send only the ones listed below, not your whole set of back issues. Any from 1981, (we have Yule)

- 1982
- Most of 1983, (we have Beltane and Litha)
- Mabon and Yule, 1984
- Litha and Samhain, 1986
- Brigid and Eostar, 1987
- Brigid, Eostar, Beltane and Yule, 1988
- Brigid and Lughnasadh, 1990
- Eostar, 1991
- Samhain, 1994
- Brigid, 1995
- Litha, Lughnasadh, Mabon and Samhain, 1996

Earth First! Journal Samhain

November 1, 1999

Vol. 20, No. 1

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

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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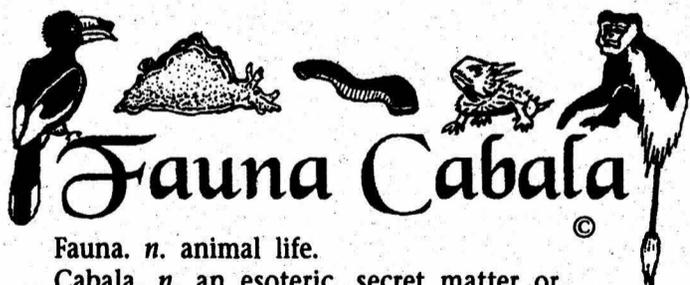
"Starting Over"

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:

November 15



Fauna. n. animal life.

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

Many species of ants and acacia trees have mutualistic relationships: Ants benefit by living inside the trees' modified thorns, and the trees benefit by having their insect and vertebrate herbivores attacked by patrolling ants. However, trees such as *Acacia zanzibarica* of east-

BY FAITH WALKER

ern Africa rely heavily on bees for pollination, which are attacked by the trees' aggressive tenants. How is this conflict of interest resolved?

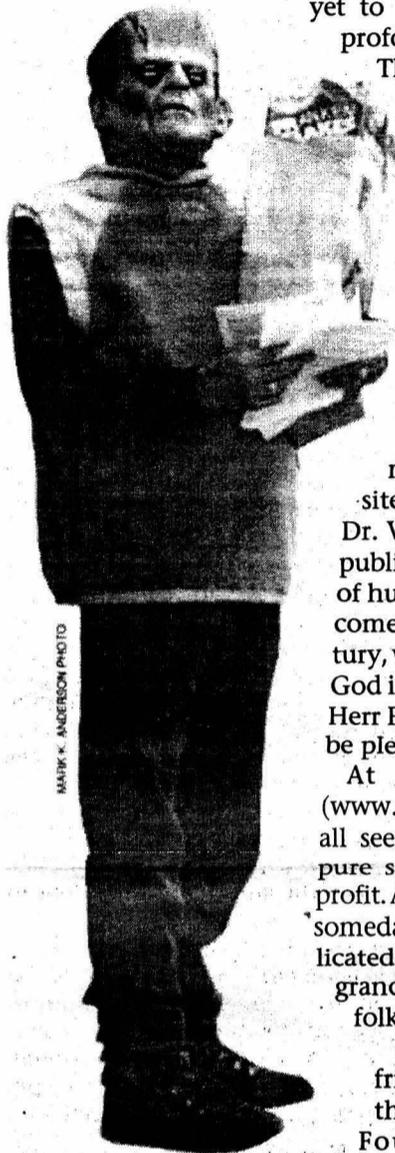
On close inspection it has become clear that ants avoid the young flowers. They patrol buds and older flowers but not the most fertile ones. They do this because flowers produce an anti-ant compound during peak fertility that makes ants reel. Ants, therefore, protect the developing flowers from petal eaters, leave at the appropriate time for pollinators to reach mature flowers and then reappear to defend developing seeds from flower-munching beetles and seed eaters. Thus, nature's manipulation of one species by another can be key to superficially peaceful mutualisms.

THE SPAWN OF FRANKENSTEIN

REMEMBER TO REGISTER WITH THE CLONING FOUNDATION BEFORE CREATING

BY OAK

Those would-be creators lurking deep in their dungeons are growing bolder by the day. No longer content being sequestered in their hellish cloning labs, obsessed with the nightmare of becoming the first to manufacture a human life, they have now ventured out into cyberspace (not to mention *real space*) to ply their evil trade. The consequences of their actions, both known and yet to be discovered, are profoundly disturbing.



MARK K. ANDERSON PHOTO

The question is: Will angry townspeople march on the castle and burn it to the ground?

The recent issue of *GeneWatch* (the Bulletin of the Council for Responsible Genetics) directed this angry townsman to various web sites where the heirs to Dr. Victor Frankenstein publicly extol the virtues of human cloning. Welcome to the 21st century, where man remakes God into his own image. Herr Frankenstein would be pleased.

At Clonaid (www.clonaid.com) they all seem pleased as well; pure science means pure profit. At this site you might someday have yourself replicated for as little as 200 grand! (I'm not kidding folks.)

Perhaps the more frightening website is the Human Cloning Foundation (HCF) (www.humancloning.org).

Unlike Clonaid, or its parody, Clone-all (<http://members.tripod.com/~sauim/clone.htm>), the creators at HCF seek the higher ground. Here, human cloning is promoted on pages with such intriguing titles as "all the reasons why we should clone human beings" and "the three ways to clone mammals." At HCF you can "register with the human cloning foundation" or there's "help for students writing essays or doing projects." This one might be helpful to Junior in his efforts to clone the family dog or goldfish.

Visitors to HCF might want to be more proactive and order a "DNA storage kit," the first baby step toward immortality. Make no mistake, immortality is exactly what HCF is all about. If you have any doubts, visit the bio page for the father of cloning himself, that son of Frankenstein, Richard G. Seed, Ph.D. (Was he really born with that name? In fact, was he really born?) By way of introduction, let me point out that Seed was the guy who announced his full intention to become the first to clone a human being during the wake of the public controversy around Dolly, the cloned sheep. As we speak, Dr. Seed has allegedly raised \$15 million and bought land on an island named Hokkaido in northern Japan (not to be confused with *The Island of Dr. Moreau*). Supposedly the facility opened in August for infertile couples to begin populating the world with little replicas of themselves.

The HCF web page devoted to Seed is apparently some kind of vindication for the bashing he took in the media following his announcement. Angry townspeople should note that Seed's picture appears, pie-target-like, next to his address at 79 Quincy, Riverside, Illinois 60546-2128; (708) 442-0500; 442-1500 (fax); ljseed@pol.net or seed@interaccess.com. While HCF has been quick to distance itself from Seed from the outset, it goes on to glean points from Seed's writings. Here we find that "cloning is a legitimate treatment of infertility" and that "cloning can be used to replace a lost loved one..." Hard to believe? How about "human cloning can take a 65-year old and turn the age of that person back to zero." Would you rather skip the baby stuff? Well, go for this: "...in the future we can turn the age of the 65-year old back to 25!" All right! Party forever!

This kind of madness makes ol' Ponce DeLeon seem tame by comparison. By the way, one of the

principles at Advanced Cell Technology (ACT) in Worcester, Massachusetts—the folks who cloned a set of cows—is actually named Ponce DeLeon. The search for the fountain of youth is no longer a dream. Today, sociopaths like Richard Seed and the team at HCF are busily engaged in the work of turning that dream—ah, nightmare—into reality.

So, what are the consequences of this vulgar technology? With regard to morality, the most obvious is the gut reaction most people have toward a process which defies some of the basic tenets of all major religions and most human ethics. It was this repulsion on which Mary Shelly based her novel, *Frankenstein; The Modern Prometheus*,—humanity shouldering the mantle of the Gods and screwing up royally. There are some things we simply are not supposed to do, and our minds and bodies tell us in instinctual ways. People are, for the most part, repelled at the thought of creating human life artificially. Of course, given our lame propensity to be so utterly human-centered, the artificial creation of non-humans produces a much tamer response.

Hence we failed to witness much negative response to the 276 "failed" lambs that preceded Dolly. We fail to hear news reports on the morality of creating bio-factories for human drugs (cows that dispense genetically altered medicinal milk for human consumption) or pigs and mice which might generate human organ replacements. Nor do we hear what might result if these inheritors of the horrors of Dr. Moreau were to escape into the biosphere and integrate into native populations.

The public reaction to failures in human cloning will, no doubt, be much louder. Already there has been debate on the morals of creating humans as organ banks. This is truly ghastly stuff as the *Brave New World* realized. However, as social ecologist Brian Tokar pointed out in a 1997 issue of the journal *Food & Water*, "The success rate for cloning in Scottish sheep was one live birth out of 277 successful cell fusions. Who will be able to collect the 277, or perhaps 2,770 human eggs necessary to produce a human clone? How many deformed and sterile human clones will scientists create before one is able to live a normal life? There are other more technical obstacles as well, but the single greatest constraint on human cloning may be that no one wants to be responsible for the mistakes.

Dear Shit for Brains, your long letters are killing us

Dear SFB,

As a member of the Sierra Club, I was overjoyed that Carl Pope was pied by the BBB. He really needed a kick in the ass. As an angry environmentalist, yours is the only publication I can stomach. Thank for not making me vomit.

—INNOCENCIA

Dear shit for brains,

It was most disheartening to see the cover of the last *Journal*, hope that next issue has some tree hugging steelworkers on the cover... hugging trees!

Also, regarding the almighty salmon, it's an oxymoron that governments become impoverished in the overdeveloped countries... hell, the prime motivation of most modern states is generating an income, and the control (speaking as an anarchist) that they exercise is just a means to that end... impoverished?

Hell, tear down the state, wherever, bit by bit, and the "middle class" will do their best to rebuild... but we gotta keep tearing down, right?

Get some of those treehugging steelworkers to help close down

the iron mines...

Just a voice howling in the wilderness...

—SMOKEY

Dear SFB,

Our people will get a chuckle out of this! The phone rings at FBI headquarters. "Hello?"

"Hello, is this the FBI?"

"Yes. What do you want?"

"I'm calling to report my neighbor Adrian Thibodeaux! He is hiding marijuana inside his firewood."

"Thank you very much for the call, sir."

The next day, the FBI agents descend on Thibodeaux's house. They search the shed where the firewood is kept. Using axes, they bust open every piece of wood but find no marijuana. They swear at Thibodeaux and leave.

The phone rings at Thibodeaux's house. "Hey, Adrian! Did the FBI come?"

"Yeah!"

"Did they chop your firewood?"

"Yep"

"Great, now it's your turn to call. I need my garden plowed."

Dear SFB readers,

A recent issue had a review of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association's new book (for children) called *Let's Talk About Clearcutting*. The website shown didn't work for me, so I sent a letter to the PFA requesting info. I was given the following web site, which did describe the book. In fact, you can order from the site, as well: www.cas.psu.edu/docs/CASDEPT/FOREST/PFA/pubs&prod.htm#Clearcutting.

Hope this proves helpful. Boy, if I had \$7.50 to spare, I'd LOVE to get my hands on a copy!

—BRITT

Dear SFB,

George Franklin (Lughnasadh '99 issue, p.3), not Ted K., "got the question wrong." As with EF! and the steelworkers alliance today, the German CP of the 1930s appealed to the *working class* because to appeal to the "middle class"—as Franklin now suggests—would have been to adopt the *Nazi* programme of cross-class 'national unity.' So, as Ted asked, do we want to appease the Nazis or have an analysis of the system that allows us to organize effective

resistance to it?

As to what form resistance will take, Franklin is reminded the German CP was the largest and most militant in Europe, but still couldn't stop the Nazis. The key reason is because they were shackled by social democratic/trade union consciousness that forced accommodation with a system they supposedly opposed. In this compromise, their liberatory claims were as sham as the Nazis, and their politics as manipulative in containing genuine grassroots revolutionary instincts.

Then, those instincts manifested in (admittedly flawed) insurrectionary ultra-Left currents like Rosa Luxembourg's Spartacists, prepared to turn analysis into an all-out attack on the totality. Now, Ted K's actions show similar praxis, threatening to paralyze Amerika's entire mail and air infrastructures and holding the US's technocratic elite hostage. His campaign was a greater threat to the totality than any Franklin might conceive as it was 'no compromise' resistance aimed at bringing down the sys-

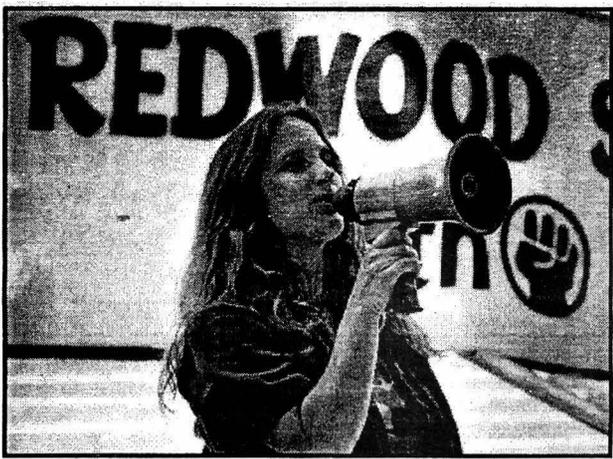


tem as a whole.

Instead of insisting a movement be built first, Franklin should use such bold acts to build a likewise uncompromising movement. It doesn't work the other way round. No one will join a movement that doesn't act boldly and compromises to 'build the movement' just lead to its recuperation. If he's not prepared to do this, no wonder Ted wants to leave his sort behind.

Yours, for the destruction of Civilisation,

—OXFORD GA'S.



Judi in Ukiah during a Redwood Summer rally

BY ALICIA LITTLE TREE

Northern California Earth First! activists Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney won a stunning victory in their federal civil rights lawsuit against the FBI and the Oakland Police (OPD) on September 24, when the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco rejected the Oakland defendants' motion to be released from the case. But the three-judge panel went even further, reinstating charges that the Oakland officers conspired with the FBI to violate Bari and Cherney's First Amendment rights. You can check out the full text of the ruling at www.ce9.uscourts.gov.

The Appeals Court decision denied the OPD's claims of immunity from prosecution for its false arrest and illegal searches of Bari and Cherney after a motion-triggered pipe bomb exploded beneath Bari's seat as they drove through Oakland on May 24, 1990. In a huge win for the environmentalists, the appellate panel also granted the plaintiffs' counter-appeal and reinstated conspiracy charges against the OPD, reversing a 1997 District Court decision.

Erica Etelson, attorney for Cherney and for Bari's estate said, "The Oakland Police suffered a major setback... we are now set to prove their illegal conspiracy to a jury." Said plaintiff Darryl Cherney, "The appeals court has raked the Oakland Police over the coals for their attempts to delay our case and their violation of our freedom of speech. The FBI and OPD's continuing abuses of the rights of American citizens must be stopped."

At the core of the ruling is evidence of the OPD's role in falsely arresting Bari and Cherney within

JUSTICE NEARING FOR BARI/CHERNEY

hours of the blast and in concocting two separate search warrant affidavits, both of which grossly misrepresented key facts about the bomb and about the nature of Earth First!'s political activities. The OPD argued that the FBI gave them false information that the bomb had been visible on the back seat floorboard and thus the activists must have known they were carrying it. The appellate court ruled the OPD had no right to rely on false statements by the FBI, stating, "[The OPD] had been at the scene and had personally observed the location of the hole caused by the explosion... underneath the driver's seat." The court also points to the plaintiffs' assertion that the OPD "knowingly or recklessly omitted mention of the death threats against Bari," clear indications that she and Cherney were targets of a politically motivated assassination attempt due to their environmental activism.

Finally, the court ruled that Bari and Cherney "have presented sufficient circumstantial evidence that [the Oakland Police] intended to inhibit their First Amendment activities, and that they entered a conspiracy to further this goal." This included providing inaccurate information to the media, monitoring Earth First! prior to the bombing and acting "in close cooperation with [FBI] conspirators" to contribute misinformation during the process of obtaining search warrants of Bari and Cherney's homes. The ruling clears a significant hurdle for the environmental activists on their way to a jury trial. We now expect the court to set a date for the trial within the next three months.

The false arrest of Judi and Darryl for bombing themselves is a case study in how law enforcement creates its own myths about effective activist groups and then sets out to use the media to convince the public that we are a danger and must be stopped. We can see this trend happening all over the country, from Ohio to New Mexico, with the use of arson, pepper spray and bombs against environmental activists in 1999. In all of these cases the activists are usually blamed, and no charges have been filed against any of the perpetrators.

Also noteworthy is the Appellate Court's affirmation of the repressive relationship between

the police and the FBI. By reinstating the conspiracy charges against the Oakland Police, the court is casting light on an insidious reality well-known to activists and other targets of law enforcement abuses: the FBI's use of local cops to gather information and to make arrests at times when constitutional protections would otherwise prevent the FBI from taking suspects into custody.

Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney's civil rights lawsuit was filed in 1991, one year after the environmental activists were bombed while driving through Oakland on an organizing tour for the nonviolent Earth First! Redwood Summer campaign. The bomb nearly killed Judi, leaving her severely disabled. She died of breast cancer in 1997.

Within minutes of the blast, the FBI arrived on the scene, and the Oakland Police arrested Bari and Cherney just hours later for transporting the bomb that had been meant to kill them. The lawsuit charges the FBI and OPD with false arrest, illegal search and seizure, and conspiracy to violate the activists' First Amendment rights by using the bombing as an excuse to falsely associate Bari, Cherney and Earth First! with violence in order to undermine their political activism in defense of the redwoods. No legitimate investigation was ever conducted, and the bombers remain at large.

The Redwood Summer Justice Project has continued to pursue this case against the FBI and Oakland Police to expose the FBI's use of illegal counter-intelligence operations targeting environmental activists. Other notorious cases of FBI disruption include the frame-up and illegal imprisonment of Black Panther leader Geronimo Ji Jaga (Pratt) and American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier, still incarcerated after 24 years.

For more information contact Redwood Summer Justice Project, POB 14720, Santa Rosa, CA 95402; (707) 887-0262, 887-0865 (fax); www.monitor.net/~bari.

LAKOTA STUDENTS OCCUPY ISLAND

BY ALEX

As few as 60 years ago, the waters of the Missouri River in the northern Great Plains rose in the spring, fed by winter's melting snows, and gave life to the myriad of flora and fauna that depended on them. That intricate cycle of death and rebirth had been witnessed by the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota ever since the Great Spirit created them. But the harmony between man and nature was violently interrupted in the 1940s when the government that had forced the native people to draw lines around themselves started building massive dams on the river. The Pick-Sloan Dam system flooded huge parcels of fertile land, prime hunting grounds and entire villages recognized by treaty as the territory of a sovereign Sioux Nation.

"The assimilation of the Sioux Nation began with the building of the dams," says Gary Crowe, a Dakota elder and community organizer. The treaties of the 1800s had required the Sioux to abandon their traditional land-based livelihoods in favor of meager government handouts, and the missionaries and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) notorious schools taught native children to be ashamed of their culture and look up to the white man's ways long before the dams were built. But with the dams had come "economic development," and the assimilation began in earnest with the growth of a commercial and recreational economy on the Missouri.

Today the outlook for young Native Americans on any of the five divided reservations in South Dakota is as bleak as ever. Pine Ridge Reservation (Oglala Lakota) is the poorest county in the US; unemployment is estimated at over 90 percent, and alcoholism and substance abuse are often the only ways out for many. The white people's development marches steadily onward, scarring treaty-protected land.

Most recently, Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD), the current Senate minority leader, working in concert with the Republican Governor Bill Janklow, introduced stealth legislation in Washington that would unilaterally transfer 200,000 acres of treaty land from federal jurisdiction to the state and the tribal councils of two of the reservations.

Traditional elders, who once constituted the tribal decision-making leadership, have often been deeply skeptical of tribal council motives since the days when members were hand-picked by the BIA and served American corporate interests. If Daschle's Mitigation Act passes Congress, the state wants water-skiing, motels and possibly riverboat gambling on the 90 percent of Missouri River banks within state borders. In addition to violating sovereignty, elders worry the Act will threaten wildlife, medicinal plants and centuries-old burial sites.

The Paha Sapa (Black Hills), revered as a shrine by over 20 plains tribes, have already been illegally taken, and in a great insult to a proud, resistant people, both a town and a state park in the Hills have been named after General Custer, one of the most virulent Indian killers from an age of savage butchery of native peoples. It is no coincidence either that the Hills of Mount Rushmore have been defaced with massive carved portraits of the invaders' leaders.

When FBI-sanctioned militias began a terror campaign on Pine Ridge in the early 1970s, scores of political or traditional Lakotas started being mysteriously murdered, and the FBI refused to investigate. The fledgling American Indian Movement (AIM), a warrior society led by Leonard Peltier and others, took an armed stand for survival at Wounded Knee, resulting in a 71-day siege and gun battle with federal agents. But while AIM survives despite



Transporting the sacred fire to Washington DC (notice stovepipe)

Leonard's unjust incarceration and the FBI's COINTELPRO (counter intelligence program) tactics, the Lakota Student Alliance believes that this time nonviolent action is more appropriate to counter American thievery.

Since March 22, it has led an occupation, under the guidance of elders, at LaFramboise Island, an undisturbed piece of wilderness on the Missouri within sight of the State House. The island is a rare reminder of the sandbars that were once common habitat for wildlife and diverse plant species. A sacred fire has been burning in the camp, called *Oceti Sakowin*, since the start of the occupation. The name refers to the seven sacred council fires, which symbolize the seven original Lakota bands.

The organizers' goal is to call international attention to the blatant violation of the terms of the 1868 Ft. Laramie treaty, which states that treaty land cannot be ceded without the consent of at least three-quarters of the Sioux Nation's adult men. Since both the US Constitution and Supreme Court recognize the superiority of treaty law over federal law, Daschle's act is on weak legal foundation.

About 50 outraged tribal representatives left Pierre, South Dakota, in caravan on September 9 to lobby Washington bureaucrats for a repeal of the bill.

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Military Fences in Chiapas Communities

TEAR GAS AND BARBED-WIRE ACCOMPANY GOVERNMENT-SANCTIONED ROADS

BY IRLANDESA

Rich in natural resources—oil, hydroelectric power, minerals and biosphere—Chiapas also reflects, in stunning relief, the polarities being wrought by the unchecked, chaotic advance of the globalizing economy. Partly in order to guard and to facilitate the extraction of these resources, the military has swelled around Mexico's southernmost state. Seventy thousand soldiers have been dispatched to the state over the last five years—one-third of the Mexican army. Even with the massive wealth of the area's resources, 70 percent of the children of the state are classified as being severely malnourished.

On January 1, 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) went into effect. That same day the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) rose up, stunning and mesmerizing Chiapas, Mexico and the world with their *ya basta!* (enough already!) to 500 years of oppression, marginalization and exclusion.

The EZLN is protected under a federal law that was put in place during the peace talks, which broke off in 1996 due to the government's refusal to honor accords which it had signed with them on indigenous rights and culture. The government has, equally, refused to honor the words of the law.

Subsequently, the Mexican government—through its notoriously corrupt single party political structure—has been carrying out a program of low intensity warfare in Chiapas: forming, arming and training paramilitary groups; inciting and encouraging inter-community, inter-ethnicity and inter-religious conflict; and creating a *de facto* police state with blatant disregard for fundamental, protected rights, such as freedom of expression, movement and security.

Part of the government's work, of course, has involved making Chiapas safe for the long arm of multinational investors and the peripatetic northern entrepreneur. The government understands that the Zapatistas are a threat to that agenda, with their unseemly calls for dignity, honor and fairness in a global system that long ago discarded the Mayan people and their ways.

The Zapatistas do not want the government's roads because of what they bring. The government's agenda is simple: open up natural areas for current and future exploitation while moving the Army into the indigenous communities. And what they bring is not so simple: military and paramilitary harassment, alcohol, prostitution, social and economic peonage, chaos and the destruction of their lives and of their futures. The communities have been denouncing this degradation forever.

The Zapatistas are far from being against development,

but they demand that the development be of their own making and in harmony with their lives. Against profound odds, they have been quietly developing autonomous municipalities, locally elected structures that manage the administration of their communities. Zapatista rebel autonomous schools, clinics, cooperatives and communications are all being met by guns, blackmail and dislocation.

They did not want the road in Amador Hernandez, a town in the



Riot-clad military face off with community members.

rebel municipality of Emiliano Zapata, constitutional municipality of Ocosingo. It sits in the Amador Valley, at the edge of the Montes Azules biosphere reserve.

The Chiapas government has been determined to build a highway through the *selva* (jungle), skirting the Montes Azules biosphere reserve. It began roadwork on August 12, 1999, on the stretch from Amador Hernandez-San Quintin, the site of a large military complex. Local residents, both from Amador Hernandez and from nearby communities, are firmly opposed to this construction. The Zapatistas understand this is an excuse for the deployment of more military and security forces into the *selva* region. Since August 14, the Mexican army has sent 10,000 soldiers into new camps in the Lacandon Jungle.

The other longer-term reason for the government's interest in building

roads through these areas has been the current and future protection of exploitable resources. These are resources the government has gone to extreme measures to keep shrouded in the mists of secrecy and labyrinthine sophistry. Some of these resources are called oil. Others are called biosphere samples for the pirates who are even now plundering the protected areas of the Montes Azules. Others have not yet been named.

Residents from the community and neighboring villages had begun a peaceful and relentless sit-in on August 12 in front of the soldiers' line and barbed-wire. They were shortly joined by students who had been gathered in La Realidad for a conference organized by the EZLN. Then more students, teachers and solidarity groups came. The government responded with paratroopers, an abundance of sophisticated weaponry, tear gas, and equally inflammatory words and threats. They continued to unroll kilometers of barbed wire, appropriated a working field in order to set up a

landing strip for their helicopters and established a military camp.

Ultimately, the community's words and dignity were heard, and the roadwork was halted. At least for now and at least this time. The Mexican government will, most certainly, bide its time, reassure investors and continue to quietly funnel soldiers, armored tanks, high-powered weapons and electronic surveillance equipment into the heart of the *selva* and into the lives of the indigenous.

And, equally certain, the Zapatistas will continue to oppose them. As Subcomandante Insurgente Marcos of the Clandestine Revolutionary Indigenous Committee of the EZLN made clear in August: "We want the highways to serve so that the wealth that is in the Chiapaneco soil will be for the benefit of all Mexicans and not for it to be sold to foreign money. We want the highways to be for Mexico's independence and sovereignty, and not for the great and powerful to order us about as if we were their slaves and to buy this country as if it were cheap goods..."

"But as long as the highways serve to increase oppression, misery and death among the indigenous communities, the Zapatistas will be opposed to them, we will resist. Even though we suffer in the resistance, even though they attack us, even though they imprison us, even though they kill us, even though they tell lies about us, we will not permit the government's actions that only cause death, misery, neglect and fear..."

For more information contact the Mexico Solidarity Network at (773) 583-7728; msn@mexicosolidarity.org; www.mexicosolidarity.org.

Free-trade Luncheon Crashed

On September 16, some 60 demonstrators crashed a luncheon Colorado Governor Bill Owens was attending with a trade delegation he is leading to Mexico.

The purposes of the intervention were: 1) to protest the violation of human rights by the Mexican army and federal and state governments; 2) to enlighten investors about the consequences of their activity to the people of Mexico, especially the Mayan indigenous; and 3) to unmask the deceit of the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce about the situation of war in Chiapas. Protesters entered the dining room in Denver's Downtown Embassy Suites Hotel and shouted their message with a bullhorn. After the arrival of more police and the arrests, protesters continued demonstrating in front of the hotel and in the nearby area.

Among those present besides the governor were Gil Cisneros, executive director of the United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, the Mexican consul in Denver, and many of the 55 business and community leaders who will travel to Mexico to encourage more trade between Colorado and Mexico. They will meet with President Ernesto Zedillo, to whom the protesters want Owens to carry a message to stop the war in Chiapas.

BARE BONES

Pigeon shoot canceled

What would have been the 66th annual Hegins Pigeon Shoot was canceled at the end of August by the event's organizers. The event began in 1934 and has been the focus of animal rights activists for the last decade. Each Labor Day, thousands of pigeons were released from boxes and fired upon at close range by shotgun wielding participants who paid a fee to compete for prizes and cash. The annual event raised over \$40,000 a year for Hegins, Pennsylvania. The Fund for Animals has documented that only 25 percent of the birds were killed immediately by the gunfire. The wounded birds were retrieved by youth of the community called "trapper boys" who dispatched the wounded pigeons by tearing the birds' heads from their bodies, smashing them against the ground, stomping on them or tossing them into a barrel filled with other dead and dying pigeons.

In 1995 the Animal Liberation Front freed 500 pigeons that were to be part of the event. In 1997, seven activists formed a human road block by linking their arms within 10-gallon containers of concrete, closing the primary road leading to the pigeon shoot and delaying the event. Robert Tobash, a member of the committee that sponsors the pigeon shoot, was disappointed that outside interference forced the event's cancellation. "We are not willing to subject our townspeople to additional violence and terrorism by a group of out-of-state individuals who feel they are morally superior to our local citizens," he said. "It isn't that we hate pigeons, we treat them well until they get shot."

Judge halts construction of Ralco Dam

Santiago Judge Mario Carroza recently upheld a September 8 decision halting construction at the \$540 million Ralco Dam on Chile's Bio Bio River. He ruled that if the work were allowed to proceed before courts had a chance to investigate the merits of a case brought by two Pehuenche indigenous opponents of the dam, "the environmental damage would be irreversible and create numerous difficulties for the residents of the area." The rejection of the appeal made by state environmental authorities and energy company Endesa Espana (EE), the giant Spanish energy conglomerate, will indefinitely postpone construction of the 570 MW hydroelectric project because the appeals court has no prescribed time in which it must act.

The huge project is the second of a series of dams proposed for construction on the Bio Bio River to assure Chile's energy requirements into the next century. Opponents, however, say the arrival of cheap natural gas from Argentina changes the economic need and viability of additional hydroelectric power. They further argue that local indigenous cultures will be destroyed as a result of the dam's construction, as will eco-tourism development possibilities.

In related news, EE, which earlier this year took control of Chilean energy firm Endesa Chile, officially confirmed its intentions to go forward with the controversial 570 MW Ralco Dam hydroelectric project. A company spokesman had said earlier this month that the Ralco project was "under review," sparking speculation that the new owners might abandon the project. Approximately \$130 million of an estimated construction cost of \$540 million has been spent.

Frontlines

Old McDonald's farm visits McDonalds

French farmers have met the enemy of the peasants, and it is the McDonald's hamburger.

In recent weeks thousands of small-scale French farmers have been giving the US-based fast-food giant, the symbol and agent of the invasion of Europe by American agribusiness and its techniques, a very rough time.

The construction site of a new McDonalds in Millau, France, was trashed by militants of the Confederation Paysanne, a radical rural group. Other "McDos," as the French have nicknamed the eateries, have been blockaded by farmers or had truckloads of rotting fruit and vegetables dumped in their parking lots.

In the town of Bergerac, farm animals were let loose inside the McDonalds in an ongoing, nasty fight pitting the United States against France and its European Union partners.

For some luminaries in the Paris intelligentsia, the mini-revolt in the countryside has been embraced as yet another case of brave Gallic resistance to US dictate. "America, imperial power doesn't just intend to stuff our heads with its diplomatic obsessions or its cultural products," wrote Franz-Olivier Giesbert, editor of the conservative daily *Le Figaro*.

Disgruntled cows tell Blair "No to GM"

Hundreds of protesters dressed as cows and chickens marched to the annual conference of Britain's ruling Labour Party on September 26, with one message for the government—"say no to genetic modification (GM)."

In a carnival-like atmosphere 500 people gathered outside Labour's centennial conference to ram home fears about the safety of GM technology. They called on Prime Minister Tony Blair to end the sale of GM food and crop trials.

The procession of farmyard animals against so-called "Frankenstein foods" sang songs including "Old Monsanto Had A Farm" and danced before presenting a 15,000-signature petition against GM to the government.

The issue has even penetrated the cantens of the House of Commons, which has put up signs saying that food served to Britain's lawmakers is GM-free.

Round-up with dinner?

People attending the Seeds of Resistance gathering from September 6-8, challenged participants at the World Seed Conference in Cambridge, England on the claimed benefits of seed monopolization. They raised questions about the implications of terminator technology and the privatization of seeds in developing countries. Activists highlighted seed issues and sold Illegal Seeds—plant varieties that are not registered or kept on the National Seed Listing which cannot be legally sold.

During a dinner for the conference Seeds of Resistance protesters entered the enormous banquet hall proclaiming the need to save the seed. Cutlery was quickly put down and some applause was given. People carrying spray bottles labeled as Round-up wandered from table to table asking diners if they would like some Round-up with their meals. Most declined but were told, "Well neither do we, but we have no choice," before having the remains of their meals sprayed with harmless salt-water. Most delegates and their guests seemed amused.

BLOCKADERS UP THE ANTE AT HIGHWAY 55

BY THE BIG WOODS EARTH FIRST! MEDIA COLLECTIVE

On September 25, over 400 people gathered for a march and rally sponsored by the North-South 55 Alliance to protest the destruction of Minnehaha Park and sacred land on the south side and the destruction of affordable housing on the north side of Minneapolis.

The event began with a rally at the site of the destroyed housing on the north side and proceeded to city hall. Police escorted the marchers, blocking traffic as we crossed intersections and followed the group to "protect us" from any angry motorists. We took the streets!

At City Hall over 800 people listened to speakers, singers and poets and watched street theater protesting the behavior of city officials who turn deaf ears and blind eyes to the needs and demands of our vibrant communities. During the rally, Earth First! activists scaled a parking garage and hung a huge banner that said "Homes Not Roads: Stop the 55 Reroute" with a big anarchy symbol on it. After dangling from ropes for about an hour, all the activists escaped without arrest.

We then marched the remainder of the nine miles to the site of the Four Oaks Spiritual Encampment for a Dakota pipe ceremony and a community potluck feast. It was a beautiful day, and the event laid the groundwork for the events of the coming week.

During the early morning hours of September 27, several activists protesting the reroute of Highway 55 in south Minneapolis set up a tripod and locked down over the Minnehaha Creek bridge. Two people U-locked to the tripod, one at the top and one at the base. A treesit in a 300-year-old cottonwood tree located next to the bridge along the banks of the creek has been ongoing for the past two months.

For the next 14 hours the bridge was closed, forcing the police to reroute all traffic around the site. A 15-block section was closed to through traffic during the afternoon rush. Construction activity continued and dump trucks drove in and out of the site until one truck was blocked by activists who locked on to its front bumper. Newspaper journalists and television crews were at the scene throughout the day.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. state police along with Minneapolis Police began to set up a line with yellow tape and parked squad cars. As news helicopters circled overhead 400 people from the neighborhood and community watched while police attempted to move the crowd back away from the tripod and the cottonwood. A few people flattened squad tires and a couple of nuns from a nearby church placed bumper stickers on the squad cars and began to sing "We Shall Overcome."

At 6:30, after the evening newscast was finished, police officers along with fire department personnel set up a blue curtain around the tripod. Thirty

minutes later activists were removed using the jaws of life. Once broken free and checked, both were immediately handcuffed and taken into custody. At 7:00, while seven people were occupying the cottonwood, one clinging to a traverse line, a tree cutting crew in a raised cherry picker bucket began to cut whole limbs and branches over the roadway to scare the treesitters down. Outraged the entire crowd began to storm the police lines, only to be pushed back, causing nine arrests,



A multifaceted coalition took to the streets on September 25.

including one for throwing eggs.

The traverse line was cut leaving the cottonwood sitters in a life threatening situation. The police claimed that cutting was necessary in order to make it easier to bring a bucket or ladder truck up to the height of the protesters. While the police were doing this, one of the protesters jumped down on the raised arm of the cherry picker causing it to fall. He then locked to it. Another swung down from the tree, but fell 15 feet and was immediately taken to the hospital. Luckily no serious injuries occurred.

By 10:00 only four people were left up in the tree. Seven state patrol cars parked right below it for the night. In all 17 people were arrested that day. A candlelight vigil was set up, and many people stayed, holding signs and candles. The crowd on the bridge ranged from 10 to 50 people throughout the following days. On September 30, two of the four treesitters decided to come down to save food and water for the remaining two. A large crowd showed up to witness it. On October 2, one more treesitter came down because of extremely cold nights and only enough blankets for one in the tree.

As things stand, one person is still occupying the tree and folks are still holding signs and chanting, while state troopers sit right across the road waging their war of attrition, denying the sitter the vital support, visits and love she needs. There is enough food and water in the tree for six weeks, but not enough blankets or warm clothes to withstand the cold Minnesota nights.

At a different site on September 28, 13 students involved with the Student Coalition Against the Reroute (SCAR) entered the front lobby of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and using lockboxes and U-locks occupied the building for several hours. This action, coming right on the heels of the tripod/road blockade and carried out by people who did not

live at the encampment, surprised the MnDOT.

In retaliation MnDOT sent a tree cutting crew to the site of the original Minnehaha Free State. Here they cut 13 trees the first day, one for every person arrested at MnDOT headquarters. New treesits are being constructed and the level of police and worker violence is increasing.

If you are unable to come and join us, send money or items of support to power4u c/o Bob Greenberg, 201

E 27th St., #1, Minneapolis, MN 55408; (612) 362-3387.

We are in need of money (please put Minnehaha Free State in memo of check), climbing gear, shelters (tents, tipis, tarps), food, etc.

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; Mr. Alan R. Steger, Division Administrator, FHWA Galtier Plaza, Suite 500, 175 E 5th Street, St. Paul, MN 55101; (651) 291-6100.

ELF Wrenches Highway 55

From the communiqué:

"We are claiming responsibility for the second attack upon CS McCrossan's machinery. In the early morning hours of October 3, the Earth Liberation Front entered the construction site on highway 55 in Minneapolis. Machines that were found with accessible holes had sand poured into the oil or were drained. Three machines had hoses and wires cut before the elves escaped into the night. This follows an attack earlier in the week on September 27, when a visit was paid to CS McCrossan's offices in Maple Grove, where we slashed conveyor belts and damaged machinery. We see highway 55 as symbolic of the larger system that is strangling us of air and water. The NAFTA superhighway and the roads into the forests are all a symptom of the sick capitalist system that puts profits before people or ecosystems. As long as the trees continue to fall, so will the profits made of this project. This is just the beginning of a new level of battling against Highway 55 and car culture. We urge the elves of the world to unite against the profit hauling infrastructures around the globe. Target machines, offices and equipment used to build roads. We are everywhere, and we are watching. We will be back.

HOG WASTE SPLOOGES IN THE WAKE OF FLOYD'S FLOODS

BY FETZER MILLS JR.

A hideous stench hangs in the air of Duplin County, North Carolina. It's a smell unlike anything else: rotting animal carcasses, raw sewage, animal waste and decaying vegetation. As Hurricane Floyd's record-breaking floodwaters receded, pools of rank, fetid water topped with an oily rainbow slick are everywhere.

Driving down Highway 41, the main artery in this quarter of the county, things appear normal. The once-submerged houses along the route are now above water and mostly appear undamaged. Upon closer inspection almost every house is abandoned. All the furnishings, carpeting, linoleum, drywall, clothing and household goods of the occupants are piled high in the yards waiting for trucks to haul them away to the dump.

At some houses a pall of black smoke hangs in the air, as the owners pile their contaminated belongings onto enormous fiery pyres, sending contaminants into the air. The empty houses, without their window dressings or drywall, doors and windows open wide, appear skeletal, like gaping skulls.

The floodwaters in Duplin County were so contaminated by drowned hogs and chickens, spilled and overflowing hog lagoons, human sewage and other contaminants that anything soaked by it was unsalvageable. Most area residents picked up bottled water, afraid that the groundwater and rivers are so thoroughly contaminated that it will be years before it's safe to drink again.

They're probably right. Leon Chesnin, professor emeritus of waste management and utilization at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, said that it takes 20 years for the waste from a hog lagoon overflow or spill to filter down through the groundwater and another 20 years to clean itself. That means the water will be contaminated for another 40 years.

In addition to animal wastes from an estimated 100 flooded or spilled hog lagoons and a large number of poultry operations, 24 human wastewater treatment plants flooded and hundreds, possibly thousands of tanks containing petroleum products, pesticides and other chemicals spilled. Thousands of flooded homes, businesses, automobiles and junkyards released toxic chemicals into the floodwaters.

A hurricane may be an "act of God," but the magnitude of the environmental disaster in North Carolina was strictly human-made. Much of the flooding and the groundwater contamination can be attributed to the state's furious drainage and development of wetland areas and its resistance to vigilant environmental regulation of agribusiness.

Since North Carolina began draining its 11-million acres of wetlands in the 1700s, more than half have been destroyed forever. Between the mid-1970s and the mid-1980s, North Carolina led the nation in lost wetlands acreage, says Derb Carter of the Southern Environmental Center. The state still issues permits to drain around 1,000 acres of wetlands every year, he says.

Although Governor James B. Hunt is calling Floyd a "500-year flood" and assuring residents that it will not happen again during their lifetimes, that's not strictly accurate. It's true that the extent of this month's flooding was unprecedented, but the heavy rainfall is not without comparison. Two hurricanes, Floyd and Dennis, hit North Carolina just weeks apart, both dropping heavy rains. There have been other cases of multiple hurricanes battering the state. In 1955, for instance, three major hurricanes—Connie, Diane and Ione—hit North Carolina just weeks apart. All of them dropped extraordinarily heavy rains, in a year that had already featured massive storms.

Most scientists believe the reason for Floyd's massive damage is due to the massive drainage of the state's wetlands. Doug Rader, a biologist with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) who's conferred with a number of other experts about the flood, said, "We, as scientists, believe that a significant part of the flooding and the severity of its impact is a result of poor management decisions [regarding

wetlands] made over the last 30 years. It is our opinion that intensive land use in marginal areas has directly contributed to the seriousness of the flooding from expectedly and predictably large amounts of rainfall."

Wetlands provide a natural escape valve for flooding by distributing and absorbing excess water. Swamps and marshes absorb and disperse floodwaters, and areas called "dry wetlands," found around the headwaters of streams and in the 100-year flood plain, complete the job. Wetlands serve another function as well: They're a natural filtration system, like human kidneys, removing all sorts of toxins and pollutants from the water, especially nitrates from animal waste. Nitrogen depletes oxygen and can kill fish. All of North Carolina's shellfishing beds are closed now, and experts expect major fish kills in the future.

While the dry wetlands are one of the most important natural resources for controlling and containing floods, they are also the most vulnerable to being lost because they're not picturesque like marshes and swamps with their cattails and swamp grasses. It's more difficult to make a case for the preservation of dry wetlands and much easier to engineer their draining. Consequently, housing developments, factories, junkyards, hog farms, hog lagoons, agricultural operations and other businesses have cropped up in the 100-year flood plain, legally.

But the consequences of building in the flood plain



Hog waste lagoons and drowned hogs spilled into the Neuse River floodwaters.

have been two fold. It has deprived the area of a natural barrier against flooding. Structures built on flood plains, once submerged, release into the water what one state official called "a witch's brew" of toxic substances—household chemicals, chemicals and petroleum products from automobiles, pesticides and heating oil.

The 24 human wastewater facilities that flooded don't begin to tell the story of human-waste contamination of the waters. Most municipal sewage lines in eastern North Carolina run through the flood plain in order to take advantage of natural drainage properties and save money on pumping stations and elevated sewer lines. There's no way to tell how much sewage leaked into the flooded waters through outlets on sewer lines built where they shouldn't have been. Kinston, a small city with a population of around 25,000 people, for example, is built on the Neuse River. Kinston's sewage treatment plant, built in the Neuse flood plain, was totally submerged by the floods.

"That means," said Rick Dove with Neuse Riverkeeper, "every toilet that flushes in Kinston during the flood discharges directly into the Neuse." Dove said that the Neuse is now a maroon color from waste and chemical spills.



Hogs began to pile up as clean-up started.

The legislature has repeatedly refused to restrict or regulate building in the flood plains or to provide funding to enforce existing regulations. Don Reuter, spokesman for the state's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said that in the 1988 and 1989 sessions of the General Assembly, the legislature refused to provide funding for a wetlands protection bill that could have mitigated the extent of the flooding.

Likewise, the state has balked at regulating the agriculture industry, whose lax treatment of animal waste has contributed to the pollution problems. North Carolina has more hogs than people, around seven-million people to nine-million hogs. A hog produces between two to five times as much waste on a daily basis as a human. Yet hog farmers haven't been required to treat the waste or dispose of it in an environmentally sound manner. Most store the waste in open-air lagoons, essentially ponds filled with hog waste. When the lagoons fill farmers reduce the level by spraying the untreated waste on fields, where it runs off into the watersheds.

From the 1970s until 1995, the hog industry was virtually unregulated. Indeed, any attempts at regulation were blocked by the legislature. Because of lavish campaign contributions from the hog industry, the legislature passed bill after bill allowing special tax exemptions and lax environmental regulations.

In 1991 the legislature passed a bill that enabled the state to levy strong fines against polluters for discharging animal wastes into streams. But an amendment tacked onto it by Sen. Wendell Murphy, then the state's largest hog farmer with a billion-dollar operation, exempted poultry and hog farms. That same year, a bill allowed the North Carolina Pork Producers Association to collect a one-cent-per-hog levy, in order to lobby legislators and pay for lawsuits brought against the hog industry.

In 1993 legislation was passed denying the state Department of Environmental Management—the agency charged with regulating hog wastes—access to information, kept by the state Department of Agriculture, about the number and location of hog farms.

In 1995, an eight-acre hog waste lagoon at Ocean View Farms in Onslow County spilled more than 20-million gallons of waste into the New River, and momentum began to shift away from hog farmers. Most proposed environmental regulations of hog farms have passed since 1995—but almost always in a significantly weaker form than introduced.

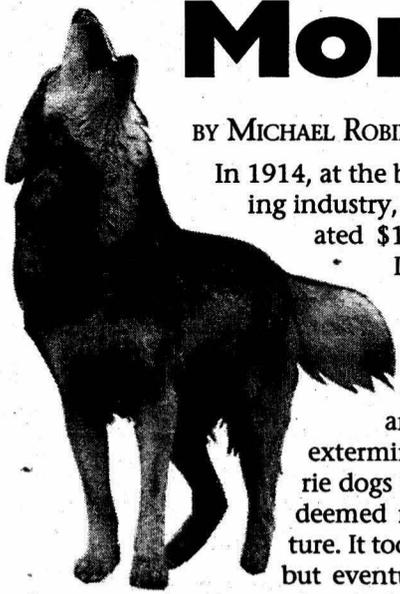
The legislature, for instance, put a moratorium on establishing new hog farms or expanding existing ones unless the farms implement new, environmentally safe measures to deal with hog wastes. But existing hog farms were not required to do away with hog lagoons or convert to new waste management technologies, and many farms have been able to expand dramatically without imposing new systems, thanks to loopholes in the law.

The worst is not necessarily over for North Carolina. If stricter policies regulating wetlands and hog farms are not enacted the next "500" year flood could bring unwelcome toxic wastes, hogs, chickens and other random floaters to your dinner table.

Fetzer Mills Jr. is a North Carolina native and the former Raleigh bureau chief for Freedom Newspapers. He is now a Tennessee freelance writer. This article originally appeared in Salon.

More Mexican Wolves Dead

BY MICHAEL ROBINSON



In 1914, at the behest of the ranching industry, Congress appropriated \$115,000 for the US Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Biological Survey to conduct demonstrations and experiments in exterminating wolves, prairie dogs and other creatures deemed noxious to agriculture. It took decades of effort, but eventually every wolf in

the American Southwest was poisoned, trapped or shot, and with shipments of American poison to Mexico, the trickle of wolves across the border dried up and stopped.

Eighty-five years after that first federal commitment of extermination and a full 30 years after Congress passed the Threatened and Endangered Species Act, ranchers are calling the shots on wolf recovery efforts and bending the federal government to their will. As a result, there is a very real possibility that the heady success in reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone and central Idaho could be followed by the collapse of the Mexican gray wolf reintroduction program and the species' renewed extinction in the wild.

After the first Mexican wolf release last year into the Blue Range of southeastern Arizona, atop the heavily roaded Mogollon Rim, five of the 11 wolves were shot in quick succession, and two others disappeared suspiciously, including the first wolf pup born outside a cage in the Southwest since the 1920s. The recovery team recaptured the survivors for the wolves own protection.

This year, in response to the public clamor to place the wolves in more secure locations, three new family groups were released further east below the rim, inside the half-million acre Blue River/San Francisco River roadless area. Here, the animals have so far been safe from poachers, yet not safe from the federal government's obeisance to the politics of ranching.

A pair of wolves and their yearling daughter released near Pipestem Mountain illustrates the ongoing tragedy of this hijacked recovery program. Shortly after their release from a holding pen, the alpha female dug a den and gave birth to six pups. But with cattle crowding their range in the national forest, it wasn't long before she and her mate were spotted feeding on two cows, which they may or may not have killed. In quick order, Animal Damage Control/Wildlife Services (the institutional descendent of the original Biological Survey) trapped the male, the juvenile female and five pups, returning them to captivity.

Shortly after their capture, three of the pups died of parvovirus. Parvo is usually fatal to around half the canids infected. The infections are often much more severe in stressed animals. It may be the pups contracted the disease in the wild but would have survived without the stress of captivity. Shortly thereafter, two more pups from another captive pack in the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge also

succumbed to parvo, almost certainly infected by the Pipestem pups.

By all accounts, the Sevilleta facility, home to some of the captive breeding that has allowed the reintroduction to take place, is a well-run facility. But captive situations are always more susceptible to contagion. In the month of September, five wolves died. While three might have died anyway, two died solely because conflicts with ranchers brought their infected brethren into captivity.

Meanwhile, the adult female and one of her newborn pups remain at large, despite all efforts to trap them. This pup is the only wild-born Mexican wolf in the wilderness today. Although the captive breeding program has dimmed some of the wolves' fear of humans, the ones surviving shootings and the government's destructive management are quickly learning the evasiveness for which their wild progenitors were renowned.

Further east in the roadless area and close to the border of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico, the Gavilan Pack struggles to survive. Eight pups born in a cage are now roaming wild with their parents, inhabiting some of the least-human-visited terrain in the 48 contiguous states. This landscape is so severely grazed that virtually no deer, elk, javelina or even rabbits are present. The land has been completely cow-nuked, and there simply isn't enough grass to support natural prey.

Surprisingly, even the Forest Service recognized the severity of the grazing and ordered a reduction in stocking on the Wild Bunch Allotment and a complete removal of cattle from the region the wolves now occupy (for range reasons having no relation to the wolves). The rancher, asserting mythical private property rights to the national forest, has refused to remove his cattle, and the Forest Service has failed to enforce its decision. In the meantime the wolves have killed three cattle to feed their pups. As a result, the Fish and Wildlife Service has announced it may remove this pack from the wild.

The field biologists with Fish and Wildlife are dedicated professionals doing their best to ensure the recovery of the Mexican wolf. They are hampered, however, by Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's kowtowing to the ranching industry. The regional office of Fish and Wildlife has requested permission to place "problem wolves" in the Gila National Forest, as permitted under the reintroduction plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The regional office has also requested an amendment to the EIS allowing first time release of wolves in the Gila. Large segments of the Gila National Forest, the entirety of which is part of the official recovery area, do not have the problems of the Blue Range: heavy road access above the Mogollon Rim and heavy cow use below. In fact, most of the Gila Wilderness is now cow-free.

But Babbitt is blocking approval to release wolves into their best habitat, most likely to avoid the wrath of New Mexico's ranchers. If ranchers' opposition to wolves was based on pecuniary fears, they would be satisfied with the compensation Defenders of Wildlife pays for cattle lost to wolves, and they certainly wouldn't object to placing wolves in an area without

livestock. Clearly, however, their opposition (like conservationists' support) is based on principle: They simply can't abide the idea of wild predators.

Thus, even though the Gila is destined to receive wolves through natural migration, the ranchers would rather the animals pass through the large area of private land separating the Gila from the Blue Range. Their strategy appears to be based on increasing conflict—and the resultant wolf killings and management removals—in the hope of aborting the entire recovery program. Unfortunately, their strategy could succeed.

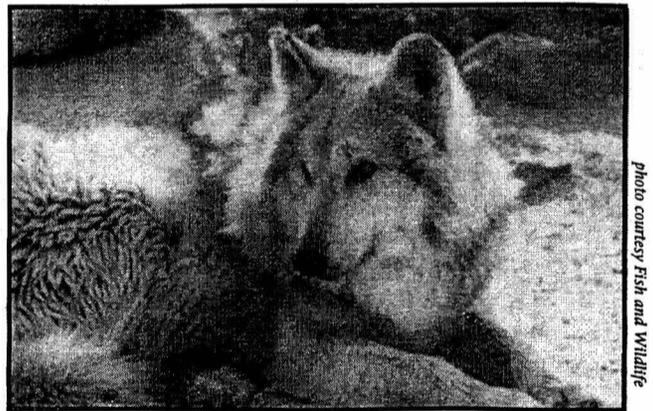
Two New Mexico ranchers are among the most powerful individuals in Washington DC. Joe Skeen is a sheep rancher who represents all of southern New Mexico in the House of Representatives. He chairs the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee. Coincidentally, Animal Damage Control/Wildlife Services, whose budget is set by Skeen's committee, makes dozens of visits per year to Skeen's public land allotment to kill wildlife.

But Joe Skeen is a peon compared to Pete Domenici, New Mexico's senior senator and also a rancher. Domenici chairs the Senate Budget Committee and thus exercises more control over federal expenditures than anyone else. Both Skeen and Domenici have used their political clout primarily to benefit the ranching industry. Despicable though it is, one cannot be surprised that Babbitt would sacrifice Mexican gray wolves for other political considerations.

If wolves continue to die in high numbers and if they continue to be placed where their only choice is to eat domestic livestock to survive, the next presidential administration could use these conflicts as an excuse to terminate the program. With Republicans possibly controlling both the Congress and the presidency at the end of next year, it is imperative for the next round of reintroductions scheduled for early spring 2000, to be an unequivocal success.

Please contact Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt and insist he follow the recommendations of his own Fish and Wildlife Service regional office and place the next wolves in the Gila National Forest. One century of exterminating Mexican wolves was enough. Let's start the next millennium by recovering the species. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Rm. 6156, 1849 C St., Washington DC 20240.

Michael Robinson is completing a book on the history of the wolf extermination campaign.



Mexican gray wolf waiting to be reintroduced.

Wolves & Poodles

A wolf@defensefuckers.com to the hackers who have perpetrated the most extensive cyber-attack ever aimed at the US government. They have systematically broken into the Department of Defense's computers over the last year, as well as compromising computer networks at the Energy Department's nuclear weapons and research labs, NASA,



and numerous universities and defense contractors. Whether important secret information was stolen or web sites simply changed has not been determined. The FBI and police have no leads.

A gutsy, conspiracy fearing wolf to the two plaintiffs in a massive class-action suit being mounted against the CIA, the Justice Department and other government agencies by a team of lawyers convinced that the 1980s crack epidemic was rooted in a specific, identifiable cause: the illicit funding of the Contra rebels in Nicaragua through drugs smuggling and the complicity of US agents in permitting the export of cheap cocaine to their own inner cities.

A skin peeling back, lungs rotting, coughing poodle to New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani for dismissing complaints about the spraying of malathion on the city in an effort to eradicate mosquitoes. According to *The New York Times*, Guliani referred to concerned citizens as hysterical, "environmental terrorists" who "like to get you angry because it gets them on television." The spraying is harmless, he insisted. Malathion is a nerve gas developed during WW II.

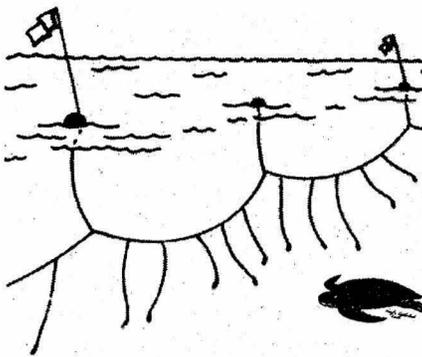
An eat-cat-shit, puke-it-up, eat it again poodle to the *Oregonian* for the four-part series "Crimes in the Name of the Environment" by Bryan Denson and James Long who, like Mayor Guliani, purposely convoluted the idea of terrorism, creating an atmosphere of fear that is dangerous to activists everywhere.

The *Oregonian* is long overdue for a four-part series on the real eco-terrorists, Boise Cascade, Monsanto, Weyerhaeuser and the rest of the real eco-destroying terrorists.

An imploding, exploding, playing-god poodle to the Brookhaven National Laboratories, one of the government's foremost research bodies, for the production of the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collared (RHIC) in a lab on Long Island, New York. The RHIC, designed to reproduce the Big Bang beginning of our universe for scientists to study in a lab situation, is the most powerful nuclear particle accelerator on the planet. Critics say subatomic particles that result could start an uncontrollable chain reaction, converting anything they touch into more strange matter. The possibility that colliding particles could produce a universe-swallowing black hole also exists.



ENDANGERED LEATHERBACKS



BY PETER FUGAZZOTTO

You're a leatherback sea turtle, following the usual migratory path north of the Hawaiian Islands. You're not really thinking about anything but why there seem to be fewer and fewer other leatherbacks around. All of a sudden, you're not going anywhere, and there's a vicious looking hook caught beneath your front flipper. You struggle against the hook, but only manage to entangle yourself in the nearly invisible monofilament line. You panic and your legendary ability to hold your breath seems to be failing. Things are not good.

Welcome to the world of longlines.

The Plight of the Sea Turtle

All seven species of sea turtles, ancient ocean dwellers that have existed since before the time of dinosaurs, are in serious trouble. All have been listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable by the Endangered Species Act or international bodies. While sea turtles face a variety of threats, including the illegal poaching of their eggs and the destruction of once pristine nesting beaches due to commercial development, the greatest threat they face is incidental capture and killing by industrial fishing operations. For years turtles have drowned in shrimp trawl nets and drift nets. Now, as progress in stopping the use of nets is being made, another threat is on the rise: longline fishing. Unfortunately, the leatherback sea turtle is becoming the poster child of what is

wrong with longlining.

The leatherback, *Dermochelys coriacea*, is a species best described by superlatives. It is the largest sea turtle, growing up to nine and one-half feet long, and weighing almost 2,000 pounds. The leatherback is the only sea turtle without a shell, having a leathery carapace, with prominent ridges. It dives deeper, about one mile, and swims into colder waters than any other turtle.

Scientists have warned that Pacific leatherback sea turtles are threatened with extinction in the next decade if their severe mortality rate does not stop. Alarming reports are emerging of turtles being caught by longliners in the Pacific, from the coast of Latin America to Hawaii.

While the global nesting population of leatherbacks is estimated to be about 34,000, populations, especially in the Pacific, are crashing. On one of Mexico's most important nesting beaches, Mexiquillo, Michoacán, the number of leatherbacks has dropped from 2,000 to 10 in a little more than a decade. The outlook is bleak.

Longlines: Underwater Ecocide

Longlines, referred to by some as "land mines of the sea," consist of monofilament fishing line, up to 60-miles long, baited with as many as 3,000 hooks, that remain in the water for up to 16 hours. In Hawaiian waters, some 16-million hooks are set every year. Globally, up to 10-billion longlines are set. The target catch is both tuna and swordfish, two highly lucrative fish. A single tuna, bound for the sashimi market, can net \$60,000. Longline tuna also finds its way into tins sold in the US market. Increasingly, longliners are also catching sharks to sell in Asian markets.

Without the excessive demand for

Longlining Toward Extinction

seafood there would be no longlining. The average per capita US consumption of seafood rose from 12.5 pounds per person per year in 1980 to 14.6 pounds per person in 1997. Human are placing increasing pressure on marine resources. Unsustainable and outright destructive industrial fishing practices are also threatening our long-term food supply, depleting fishery stocks worldwide and wreaking havoc on marine biodiversity.

Longlining is non-selective, capturing anything that bites the bait or becomes entangled in the lines. The list of longliner victims reads like a collection of ocean denizens. Approximately 40,000 sea turtles are caught every year. Nets are believed to be responsible for the decline of bluefin tuna, swordfish and sharks in the Atlantic. Every year, longlines kill an estimated 180,000 seabirds, including endangered albatrosses and petrels.

About 100,000 sharks are purposely taken each year by Hawaii-based longliners, about 60 percent of these have their fins removed while they are still alive. Shark fins are valuable on the market as aphrodisiacs, as well as being a delicacy, while the rest of the animal has almost no market value. Therefore, the sharks definned bodies are heaved back into the water to drown. In southern Australia, it was reported that in just two months, Japanese longliners finned 34,000 black tipped sharks.

Existing longline regulations are not effective. The massive incidental catch of longline fishing is undermining recovery efforts intended to protect and restore endangered species. Because gear modification is not a practical solution, the long-term answer is to establish closures in critical habitat areas (coupled with restrictions on the number of hooks, length of line and soak time) and eventually instate a moratorium on longlining.

What You Can Do

If you must eat Pacific tuna or swordfish, ask your retailer or waiter where your fish comes from and how it is caught. If it's from Pacific longliners, refuse to eat it, and explain why.

Write a letter expressing your outrage at the continued killing of sea turtles by commercial longline fleets, especially in light of crashing leatherback populations to Penny Dalton, director National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 14564, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Get involved by contacting Sea Turtle Restoration Project at POB 400, Forest Knolls, CA 94933; (415) 488-0370; www.seaturtles.org.

Peter Fugazzotto is the associate director of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project. In addition to working on industrial longlining, he works on the conflict between "free" trade and endangered species.



Dead leatherback turtle

photo courtesy Sea Turtle Restoration

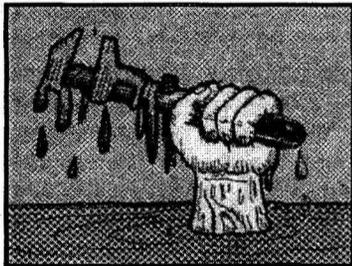
This article was written by Clif Rocklin and is reprinted from the Earth First! Journal, Samhain, 1984.

...The parking lot harbored black Cadillacs and Continentals, lined up like so many hearses. Distinguished gentlemen rode in noisy little carts around the 27 hole golf course drinking dry martinis from plastic cups. Afterward they gathered in the plush bar to tell lies about their sex lives. Their wives bantered about the chemical-laced whirlpools trying to regain their youth. They were well-taken care of. For them, life was easy: just pay the price and enjoy technological comfort upon command.

I walked around the golf course as the day waned, with the past beating upon my brow like a nine-iron. But there was a sweetness about the air that evening: tomorrow my long-dead swamp would be avenged.

I arose early the next morning. Axle, Kris, and Maggie were up and about soon after. Kris went to work to endure another day of contributing to "the good life." The rest of us prepared for the day's deeds. First, we checked on the results of our project the previous evening. It checked out to our complete satisfaction. Large stretches of the golf course fairways swam beneath spreading pools of water. It seemed that the elaborate sprinkler system had ruptured in several places. The pins and flags were gone. The noisy little carts all had flat tires. Many of the fine-trimmed greens appeared to have been partially roto-tilled, or possibly ravaged by the cruel wheels of a motor vehicle.

That afternoon, we checked in with Kris in the dining room, which overlooked the golf course where she was about to take up her authority as head



EARTH FIRST!

SAMHAIN EDITION

November 1, 1984

Vol. V, No. 1

THE NO-COMPROMISE ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL ONE DOLLAR

The Swamp Strikes Back

maitre'd during dinner for the large convention being held that weekend. All systems were go.

The first step involved a large, well-lit reader board on the highway, which read: Welcome Oregon Association of Developers and Realtors. After about 30 seconds of adjustments it read: Welcome Oregon Association of Vile Rapists.

We then made our way to the swimming pools in the condominium complex. We placed "pool closed" signs on the entrance gates, and went to work placing punctured plastic packets of tomato juice in each pool, and plugging the filters. Mr. Bubble went into the whirlpools. We dumped a half-clothed, life-like mannequin into the main pool, and scattered other plastic body parts around for added effect. (Pool open.) It looked like a bloody mess.

The heating system to the convention center was fed by a main duct in the boiler room. The oil-fired boiler was able to be controlled by a timer. We set it for 6:30 PM: cocktail hour. In the midst of the central duct, not far above the boiler, we hung two large wire mesh buckets on the inside, using cloth adhesive hooks. The buckets contained excrement gathered from various sources.

On to the dining room. The elaborate reader board in the entrance to the dining room announced the deluxe dinner planned for the hungry developers with

disgusting superlatives. After our adjustments, the guests were greeted with: We Make a Living Destroying Wetlands and Fucking Wild Animals.

The convention room was nearly filled with wealthy real estate tycoons when an unbearable heat and foul aroma began to pervade the room. Then, quite suddenly, the soft music turned from Perry Como to the Eagles ("some rich men came and raped the land, nobody caught 'em. Put up a bunch of ugly boxes, and Jesus' people bought 'em").

Unfortunately, the red-faced employees got the shit baskets before the aroma completely dominated the room, and the phantom tape player was confiscated. But that didn't matter much, as dinner was about to be served.

What the rapists actually got was nothing. The scampi and prime rib had disappeared. Even the salad fixings were gone. But the waiters didn't serve the assorted garbage that took the place of the fine cuisine. They did, however, get caught along with the guests (those who had not yet departed in wrath) in the shower when the overhead sprinkler system ignited.

While Maggie and Kris and I were servicing the dining area, Axle had been fixing the plumbing in the convention center with M-80's. He then redecorated the office of the resort manager and the penthouse of the owners with dead opossums hung from the curtained alcoves and various insects in the pantries. He splashed a mixture of bleach and ammonia onto the posh shag rugs in ragged script which read: "The Swamp Shall Live Again."

Our tasks were completed only minutes before... To find out what happens next order Samhain, 1984 from our back issues for \$4, or order our almost complete set for \$400.

RECLAIM THE SEEDS: GE CROPS TRASHED

BY BIOENGINEERING ACTION NETWORK

Since the last issue of the *Journal*, direct actions against US genetically-engineered crops and biotech corporations have increased dramatically, sparking what some have called "The California Uprising." In the past month, there have been eight actions ranging from The Bolt Weevils in Minnesota to Reclaim the Seeds actions in Berkeley and Davis, California, to an unnamed group of saboteurs in Vermont.

Here's a Round-up (no pun intended) of the most recent actions:

- In Vermont sometime around August 26, a 50-foot swath was cut into a commercial crop of Bt corn. Left behind were cutouts of monarch butterflies and literature explaining why the action was taken. Research published a few months ago at Cornell University showed that Bt has an extremely lethal effect on Monarch butterflies. Despite warnings by environmentalists, industry and government have gone ahead, sowing thousands of acres of Bt corn and wreaking ecological havoc on sensitive insect populations.

- On September 3, Bt corn was again the target of decontamination—this time in Minnesota. The Minneapolis Bolt Weevils debuted by wiping out over 1,000 stalks of Novartis' controversial biohazard. That same night, Novartis' locks were glued at its corporate headquarters by a separate group of pesky Bolt Weevils. From the communiqué: "This action should be seen as an incitement to join the biotech resistance by taking direct action against this menace in all its forms."

- Just two weeks later, the Bolt Weevils struck again—this time at Pioneer Hi-Bred, the world's largest seed company (owned by DuPont). The town of Mankato, MN, provided good cover for the gardeners as they cut down 50 rows of research corn, damaged company vehicles and spray-painted "Stop Agribusiness" and "Pioneering Armageddon" on the company's walls.

- Reclaim the Seeds (RTS) took action in mid-September—first at UC-Berkeley's Oxford Tract and then at UC-Davis' extensive biotechnology program. UC-Berkeley signed a "strategic alliance" with the mega-giant Novartis last year, worth \$25 million. RTS targeted the researcher at UC who is the first recipient of the Novartis grant. A "crop circle of conscience" was carved into the tract and bags of organic corn seed were scattered throughout the field, further disrupting research. Their communiqué said it succinctly: "We are not going to demand anything. We are not going to ask for anything. We are going to



Karate kicks to GE corn

reclaim the seeds. We are going to stop genetic mutilation."

- A few days later, RTS proceeded in blitzkrieg UC-Davis, leaving a devastating trail in their path. In a matter

of three weeks, four actions were conducted that were not only remarkably effective at damaging plants but also in receiving extensive media coverage. The sum total: eight acres of Round-up Ready corn, one-quarter acre of Monsanto sugar beets, five rows of transgenic melons, 16 rows of transgenic walnut trees and 60 rows of pesticide-ridden tomatoes! Additionally, two pieces of research equipment were damaged and the "Danger" signs for the pesticide were removed from the site for safekeeping.

Not to be biased toward university decontamination, RTS struck again in early October, damaging melons, corn and sunflowers at Pioneer Hi-Bred and Rogers NK in Woodland, CA.

To facilitate press coverage and to have a public voice for actions, a media office has been set up. The Genetix

Alert media office circulates statements from underground groups to the mainstream press and alternative media/activist networks. Anonymously e-mailed communiqués and phone statements made to (619) 584-6462; jeffrey@towardsfreedom.com, will be released to the public immediately. Also, feel free to send donations (badly needed) to Jeffrey Tufenkian, POB 3992, San Diego, CA 92163.

The Bioengineering Action Network (BAN) is a North American network of activists working against genetic engineering (GE), especially focused on GE in agriculture. The BAN collective is a small group, spread around the country, facilitating projects like the BAN web site, a newsletter, international networking and alternative media outreach. The collective is especially focused on supporting and publicizing *direct action* (from banner hangings to crop sabotage) against the agricultural biotech industry and its government and university collaborators. One hundred twenty activists receive and share information and reports on an e-mail listserv that is open to the public, receiving between five-15 messages per week.

You can subscribe to the BAN Alert mailing list, from which you will receive periodic action alerts, reports and *The Cross-Pollinator* newsletter. Just write ban@tao.ca with the subject: BANAlert. To subscribe, write to majordomo@tao.ca, with the following message: ban-request. Our web site is www.tao.ca/~ban. There are sections on biotech news, action reports, a literature distribution and an excellent section on research targets.

NEW JERSEY DEVELOPERS FIDDLE AS WATER SHORTAGE WORSENS

BY DOUGLAS JEWELL

Water has been dubbed the "gold of the 21st century" by national media. With more strain on water supplies from a bulging population and agribusiness, the value of our most precious commodity will soon hit unheard of levels. In Cape May County, New Jersey, water is already the number one problem. The flat, sandy, seaside county has no reservoirs, depending instead upon underground aquifers for its entire supply of freshwater. The water has been in the aquifers since dinosaurs roamed the Earth, but now it's running out.

New Jersey's southern most county is on a peninsula, averaging just five miles in width, excluding the barrier islands. The Atlantic Ocean surrounds to the east and south; the Delaware Bay lies to the west. As water is pumped out of the aquifers, saltwater intrudes at a rate of 200 feet per year from three sides. The southern tip city of Cape May has already had to build a \$10 million desalinization plant to make its aquifer water drinkable.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) expects Cape May County to be in a permanent water emergency by 2010. The current deficit is one million gallons a day, with the predicted figure reaching seven million gallons a day in ten years.

It seems obvious to the swelling local grassroots environmental ranks that development needs to be curtailed. It's a simple common sense solution. However, developers with local politicians in their pockets, don't see it that way. They continue with their "business as usual" mentality.

They deny and ignore the problem.

Development figures show the county growing from 100,000 to 250,000 residents by 2020. That's 50,000 new homes added to the already existing 85,000. So how can local government officials turn their backs on this water supply problem? That's easy—greed. Money talks.

Local environmentalists have been joined by the Sierra Club, Audobon Society, American Littoral Society, Conservation Foundations, Pinelands Preservation Alliance and more in the battle for clear water. This state-wide interest has fueled an intense battle. Using pickets, media events and letter writing campaigns, environmentalists are turning the tide.

Politicians, especially State Senator Bill Gormley (dubbed Senator Sprawl), and State Assemblymen Jack Gibson and Nick Asselta, have come up with scary answers to where the water to support this overdevelopment will come from. They feel it's okay to build, then deal with the water supply deficit later.

These establishment folks want to get future water from one of three sources. The first is the 1.1 million acre Pinelands Preserve, the last untouched wilderness in the state. The environmental ramifications of using this pristine area are deadly.

The second source is sinking multiple wells in the northern end of the county where saltwater intrusion will hit last. This would be a stop gap measure. In addition most of the development in this area is significantly reducing the aquifer's recharge capabilities.

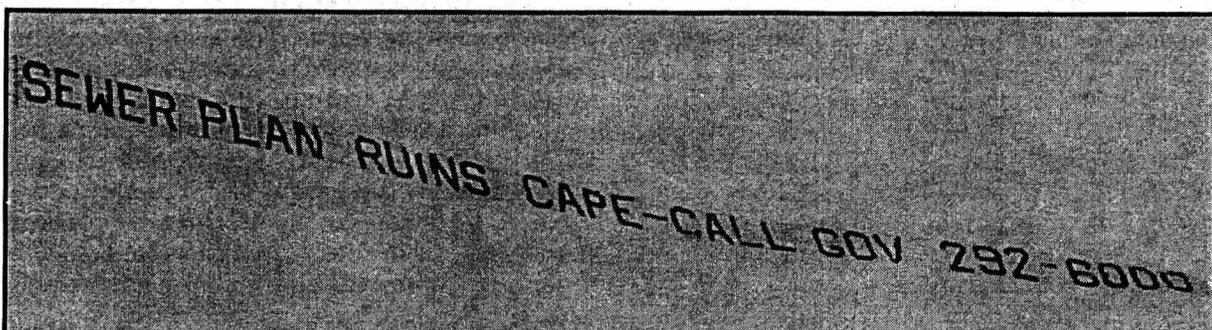
The third alternative they propose is desalinization plants dotting the countryside. Get real! The one in Cape May City doesn't work correctly. As more water is pumped out, the aquifer's salt content will increase, making desalinization more difficult.

Environmentalists are particularly concerned with the public sewers that promote overdevelopment. Through the Water Quality Wastewater Management Plan, the county has proposed adding 100 miles of new sewers. This monstrosity has to be approved by the DEP, which has been the target of massive letter writing campaigns and pressure by citizens. The NJDEP may be a strange ally, but locals hope it will act as the environmental consciousness of Cape May County.

The sewers pump treated wastewater out into the ocean. That's five-billion gallons of water per year that is not returned to the ground to recharge the aquifers. It's lost forever.

The freshwater supply problem in Cape May County won't just go away. But neither will the environmental movement. Stay tuned.

Douglas Jewell is a prolific author of environmental stories having written 5,000 published articles since 1991. He can be contacted at 5 Timber Lane, Swainton, NJ 08210; jewell@jerseycape.com.



Developers and vacationers along the New Jersey shore get the message: go fly a kite

LOGGERS TERRORIZE STOLTSMANN BASECAMP

The Stoltmann Wilderness in the upper Elaho Valley in British Columbia has been the site of many protests over the years (see *EF!*, September-October '99). It is home to the world's oldest grove of Douglas fir and is a healthy millennium-old ecosystem. On August 9, a blockade was erected near Squamish, BC. From the beginning it has been a campaign plagued with violent attacks with protesters being attacked, endangered and arrested. On September 15 the violence erupted once again.

At 11 a.m. International Forest Products Ltd. (Interfor) allowed 100 employees to leave work to descend on the Stoltmann Peace Camp and terrorize the seven people present. The camp was completely burned down, and all equip-

ment was smashed, including video cameras and the satellite phone. A young woman suffered severe neck injuries and a man was kicked repeatedly in the kidneys. The trail foreman of the nearby millennial research camp had his van ransacked as loggers forced their way in to stop him from calling for help on the satellite phone. They then crushed his hand and smashed the phone.

After a full day of harassment and threats from Interfor employees, an injured treesitter came down at 9 p.m. The young man suffered a wound to the head after an employee threw a rock at him. Interfor employees then cut down the man's supplies and used gasoline to burn his sleeping bag, passport, glasses and other belongings.



Terrorists invade Stoltmann peace camp

photo courtesy PATH

Despite the violence and the immediate physical danger to the protesters, the police took a long time to respond. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are now saying that resources are too low to warrant an overnight police presence.

More recently, a determined grassroots women's network, Canadian Party of Women, along with members of the Raging Grannies closed Tree Farm License 38's main gate and the logging roads leading into the contested Stoltmann Wilderness.

Betty Krawczyk blockaded the road for three days before she was arrested becoming the fourteenth protester to be arrested since the peace camp began in August.

Others continue on the road demanding an end to the pillage of the last remaining temperate rainforests. For details, please contact PATH at POB 19596, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5T 4E7; (604) 255-4145 or (604) 838-3953 (cell); path@envirolink.org.



Protesting the swap at Senator Slade Gorton's pot luck in Chehalis, Washington

photo by Fossil

Lone Star Digs Away at Puget Sound

BY SHARON NELSON

On an island in Puget Sound, a battle to save the environment and salmon is being waged. Vashon/Maury Islands lie between two cities, Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. The Puget Sound islands are fragile, self-contained ecosystems, and Vashon and Maury are known for their beauty and tranquillity.

Now, Lone Star NW has proposed removing 63-million cubic yards of sand and gravel from Maury Island—excavating approximately half the width of the island at the proposed mining site. For the past 20 years the mining operation on Maury has been very small, producing 10,000 cubic yards per year. Now, the mining company wishes to remove four times that amount in a day—barging over sensitive salmon habitat. The mining corporation says spills from their operation cannot occur, yet the past testifies that they

have. Two sunken barges already lie near the Lone Star dock—phantoms from barging which occurred in the late '60s and '70s.

Approximately ten percent of the land mass of this small six square-mile island could be removed in as little as 11 years by the proposed mining operation. The current high point at the Lone Star site will be lowered from 360 feet to approximately 65 feet above sea level. As a result, serious issues regard-



Aging dock to be used to take away Maury Island

photo by Sharon Nelson

ing the future of the island's drinking water supply has arisen. The sand and gravel which is sought as a "mineral resource" also serves as an underground storage reservoir for the island's aquifer. As the mining progresses, recharge to the aquifer will be altered and streams and wells will be impacted. The strip mine will also cause the loss of healthy madrone forest. There are over 100 acres of madrone at the site.

This is a priority one ecosystem, which has been subject to blight and loss in many other locations in the Pacific Northwest. Lone Star's site has some of the highest levels of arsenic found to date on Vashon and Maury Islands. Disturbance of this carcinogen poses a risk for all life on the island. Islanders are very concerned regarding handling and storage of this toxic near residential sites and the Sound. The proposed strip mine is opposed by Deep Impacts, an ad hoc subcommittee of the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council.

For more information contact Deep Impacts, 7318 SW 258th Pl, Vashon, WA 98070; BenRohj@aol.com; www.VashonAction.org.

BY TIM REAM AND ASANTE RIVERWIND

The campaign to save Watch Mountain and Fossil Creek from Plum Creek clearcutting in the wake of the I-90 land exchange is continuing to pick up steam (see *EF!*, September-October '99). The ranks swelled late September when 150 came for a weekend action camp to prepare for the winter. The tressit on Watch Mountain has now passed the 100-day mark.

Recently, a coalition of townfolk and environmentalists put its case to lawmakers in Washington DC and to the Sierra Club's national board of directors in San Francisco. The outcome was a unanimous national resolution reversing the Cascade chapter's inclusion of Watch Mountain and Fossil Creek sacrifice zones in the land exchange and a second resolution calling for a moratorium on supporting any land exchange pending a re-examination of Sierra Club policy. One week later townfolk succeeded again when the Washington State Democratic Party embarrassed Senator Patty Murray, who supports the trade with a unanimous resolution also calling for Watch Mountain and Fossil Creek to be dropped from the I-90 land exchange. This leaves the Democratic Senator allied with Republican Senator Slade Gorton, Plum Creek Timber and no one else.

With land exchanges serving as the new tool to satisfy Big Timber's cravings for public forests and with more than 100 exchanges in the works around the country, this opening salvo of direct action and enviro/local coalition building to stop exchanges bodes well. For information on how to fight land exchanges in your area check out the newly published *Citizen's Handbook on Federal Land Exchanges* at www.westlx.org or call the Western Land Exchange Project at (206) 325-3503.

Legislation Supports Land Exchanges

These exchanges are becoming so controversial that legislators and the industry are now attempting to place them into congressional bills. The Northeast Oregon Assembled Land Exchange (90,000 acres of BLM lands for 70,000 acres of timber industry logged-over land) and the Triangle Land Exchange (3,900 acres of Forest Service land for 5,700 acres of logged timber land) are part of an attempt to legislate these destructive trades into existence. Clearwater Land Exchange Inc. of Orofino, Idaho, has enlisted the help of Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) and US Representative Waden in introducing the Oregon Land Exchange Act into Congress. Scheduled for initial hearings in the Senate and House, this bill would circumvent federal laws protecting wildlife, fish, old-growth forests and the public's interest. Its would also trade away publicly owned old-growth forests for logged-over stump lands. Many of the ancient forests slated to be lost contain tributaries of the strongest remaining runs of wild salmon in the lower 48 states. (For more information see the *EF!*, February-March '99.)

Help stop these illegal land grabs immediately, and insist on an end to both the Oregon Land Exchange Act and these trades. Call the switchboard (202) 224-3121 and ask for Wyden, Smith and Walden withdraw their support.

Lakota Occupation

continued from page 4

The resisters know that if it passes into law, repercussions will devastate all future native treaty rights, and they have sworn to withstand the harassment and occasional gunfire at the camp until Congressional oversight hearings defenestrate the act. They are acutely conscious that they represent the people and maintain strict rules prohibiting alcohol, drugs and firearms. Regular sweats and shared manual labor strengthen body, mind, and spirit and serve to remind protesters of the ideals behind the encampment.

Outside support is much needed, whether in material form or through active participation. The camp could use donations of food, winter clothing and a large army-style tent. Prospective guests should realize the seriousness of representing another people's interests and culture and prepare to take part in the life of the camp under the rules which everyone follows. For details, contact the camp directly at (605) 222-1780; oceti_sakowin@hotmail.com; www.fireonprairie.org; or contact Charmaine White Face at (605) 399-1253.

GINA LYNN, THE GRAND JURY AND JAIL

LOOSE LIPS IMPLICATE JOURNALIST WHO REFUSES TO GIVE FINGERPRINTS, HANDPRINTS AND HANDWRITING SAMPLES



Activist demonstrate against grand juries in San Francisco.

BY GINA LYNN

Gina Lynn, 27, is an animal rights activist from California. She has been involved with the animal liberation movement for most of her life, is founder of and an organizer for the Animal Rights Direct Action Coalition and is currently a key member of the volunteer staff for No Compromise: The Militant, Direct Action Magazine Of Grassroots Animal Liberationists & Their Supporters (see ad on page 34). The following is testimony of her recent harassment by a federal grand jury.

The harassment started in February of this year when the FBI (Watsonville, California) visited my house to ask me some questions. I wasn't home at the time, so my roommate took their card and told them to go away. When I returned, I had an attorney call them and tell them I had nothing to say and to not come on my property again.

They returned a few weeks later, pulling my truck over when a friend was driving it, apparently attempting to serve me with a subpoena. The FBI and US Attorney in St. Louis, Missouri maintained contact with my lawyer, telling him that they wanted my fingerprints, hand prints and handwriting samples, indicating that they had a federal grand jury subpoena. It wasn't until July that I was served with the subpoena at a court date for a previous animal rights related arrest. FBI Special Agent Gregory Ferner (Oakland) had been sitting in the halls of the courthouse eavesdropping on our conversations and taking notes. When approached by a couple of activists, he attempted to intimidate them with his knowledge of their activism.

The subpoena asked for fingerprints, hand prints and handwriting samples in lieu of my appearance before the grand jury in Missouri on July 29. Apparently, the grand jury is investigating letters sent to Anheuser-Busch (headquartered in St. Louis) threatening to bomb them if they don't release whales from Sea World.

I had nothing to do with these letters and couldn't imagine any possible reason why they would be interested in questioning me. However, I recently received transcripts from one day of the grand jury proceedings where a man identified only as Mr. Crowe attempted to justify the subpoena with innuendo and hearsay that, even if true, doesn't provide legitimate grounds for considering me a suspect.

According to Crowe, the sole basis for this subpoena is statements made by activists who said that I was more "radical" than other activists they knew. They went on to speculate that I was thus more likely to write a threatening letter than others they happened to know.

I'm sure that these people didn't think that they were saying anything harmful or incriminating, but it got me subpoenaed to a federal grand jury, arrested by the FBI and has cost me my job. So, to reiterate what's already been said a million times, never speak with law enforcement agencies. They will twist your words and use them against you or others. What may seem like a benign statement, may result in exactly this kind of repression. When approached by law enforcement, simply say, "No comment—talk to my lawyer" and nothing else.

For information on dealing with law enforce-

ment, read *If An Agent Knocks: Federal Investigators and Your Rights* and *War at Home* available from *No Compromise*. Speculation about who may be doing (or be likely to do) actions is never appropriate. Comments, even in jest, should not ever be made to law enforcement agents.

In keeping with this model of non-cooperation, I am refusing to cooperate with this grand jury. A wonderful Missouri lawyer named Jennifer Brewer filed a motion to quash the subpoena which was denied. I then declined to appear at the grand jury on July 29. At about 8 a.m. on September 10, I was arrested at my home by four FBI agents on a federal warrant for contempt of a federal grand jury. I was too tired to answer the door so the armed thugs forcibly entered my home and took me into custody. I was held in an Oakland jail through the weekend and released by a federal magistrate on Monday morning on a promise to go to Missouri to fight the contempt charges provided the government would pay my way. They refused at first but at the last minute agreed.

At the hearing in Missouri on October 5, Federal Judge Rodney Sipple asked whether I would cooperate with the grand jury. I refused and the judge ordered me into custody immediately. An appeal will be filed and letters to Judge Sipple politely urging him to order my released may be sent to

US Court and Customs House, 100 S. Central St., 1114 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101; (314) 539-7872 (fax).

While I've been in jail, local activists have been absolutely fantastic: putting out press releases daily, holding protests, visiting, producing flyers about the abuses of grand juries, coming to court and informing the public about what has been going on. This kind of support and publicity is key in combating the tools of government repression.

Federal grand juries and the FBI's traditional COINTELPRO (counter intelligence program) tactics have been used as tools of repression to neutralize, discredit and destroy any progressive

movement that poses a threat to the status quo. My case is no different. I am being persecuted simply for my belief and activism in animal rights. Regardless of the law and although my compliance with this grand jury would fully exonerate me, I have to follow my heart. And my heart tells me that it would be morally bankrupt to aid the FBI in their malicious attempts to destroy the cause that I've devoted my life to. We will not be intimidated. We will not be silenced. We will not go away. Like it or not, the animal liberation

movement is here to stay.

For updates on the situation check out *No Compromise* at POB 5236, Old Bridge, NJ 08857; (800) 604-5427; www.nocompromise.org. Write to Gina Lynn #35341 at St. Louis County Jail, Clayton, MO 63105.



Gina Lynn and Lexxie

JUSTIN SAMUEL THROWN IN BELGIUM PRISON



Justin Samuel at home.

In September 1998, a grand jury convened in Madison, Wisconsin, to investigate the previous year's release of several thousand mink from fur farms in Independence, Medford, Granton and Tomaahawk, Wisconsin. The investigation indicted two young men, charging them with "animal enterprise terrorism" and "unlawful interference with interstate commerce." It alleged that Peter Young, 22, and Justin Samuel, 20, both from Washington, attacked at least two of the farms and released 3,600 mink with the intent to cause significant economic damage to the farms. The indictment also claimed that the two undertook "overt actions in three states as part of a conspiracy to engage in extortion by attempting to coerce the farmers to close their business rather than face the threat of further economic losses as a result of their attacks."

All told the two faced a six-count indictment with a possible 82-year prison sentence each when they disappeared. For nearly two years nothing was seen of either Peter or Justin. Then on September 4, Justin was arrested in Hasselt, Belgium.

Awaiting extradition, he writes on September 28 from the Prison of Hasselt:

Dear everyone,

First of all I want to say thank you for all of the love and support I feel that helps keep me strong and without fear for the future. As of writing this it has been three weeks since my arrest in Belgium, and I'm still here... waiting. I have not been charged with anything in any country in Europe but am being held in accordance with the request of the US government for my extradition (specifically the international warrant for my arrest issued by a

Wisconsin judge last September). At this point the US has 75 days from the time of my arrest to provide an official copy of the arrest warrant, which the Belgian courts require before they will begin extradition proceedings where they will decide whether there are sufficient grounds to grant the request...

As far as my mental state is concerned, I'm doing great. The important thing is remaining positive, and the support I've been getting helps tremendously. There's also the underlying knowledge of not having done anything wrong, and the bearing of injustice is an inspiration to stay strong. My physical conditions here are okay, too, and I have good access to vegan food, so I can focus my energies on the more important things I have to deal with...

I have great faith in the corporate/state-controlled media to continue to portray me as a violent terrorist trying to create fear and hurt people, as that is one of their main functions... I can only hope alternative/support media can refrain from doing the same.

What really gives me strength is to see people continuing to follow their hearts, not deterred by fear or consumed by anger when any one of us is subject to a small piece of the injustice this world has to offer. The thing is to always remember one's real purpose and not to get caught up in negative emotions that will only leave us drained of energy and inspiration. I do ask that anything being done in support of me and my situation (be it letters written or demonstrations or anything else) be done out of love and compassion, not with any anger or violence in your heart... Love, Justin.

Your letters and cards are critical to Justin's ongoing well being. Many prisoners agree that support from the outside was beneficial in helping them keep a positive attitude. Please send correspondence to Justin Samuel, Gevangenis Hasselt, Martelarenlaan 42, 3500 Hasselt, Belgium. Contributions appreciated at the Justin Samuel Support Fund, POB 22504, Seattle, WA 98122-0504.

HOME DEPOT VICTORY

BY JENNIFER KRILL

Home Depot, the largest retailer of old-growth forest products in the world, made an historic announcement August 26 to stop selling products derived from endangered forests. Home Depot has provided an action plan for a three-year phase out, in which it specifically referred to eliminating "certain redwood, cedar and luan products," and accepted the World Resources Institute's (WRI) widely respected classification of threatened forest types and areas. This means that Home Depot, with over 850 stores in four countries, \$30 billion in annual sales and ten percent of the global lumber market, is planning to stop selling old-growth products.

After seven years of excuses, denials, stalling tactics and outright lies, Home Depot has succumbed to grassroots pressure. And what pressure it was! They were inundated with protests from over a quarter of a million people expressing their outrage through petitions, postcards, fax blasts, phone calls and thousands of children's drawings. They were confronted by shareholder resolutions, religious organizing, opposition on planning boards and in classrooms and communities across the continent. Their stores were hit with demonstrations, informational pickets, guerrilla theater, banner hangs, lock downs, blockades, kamikaze stickering, product dumping, dead rainforest tours and intercom take-overs. Together, because of grassroots activists like you, we won an incredible victory for the world's forests. This victory goes far beyond the work that any one group did and belongs to the entire grassroots movement. It is for all of us.

The significance of the Home Depot announcement can't be overstated. It proves that the marketplace is an incredibly effective new front in grassroots forests campaigns. Together we exposed the marketplace as the weakest link in

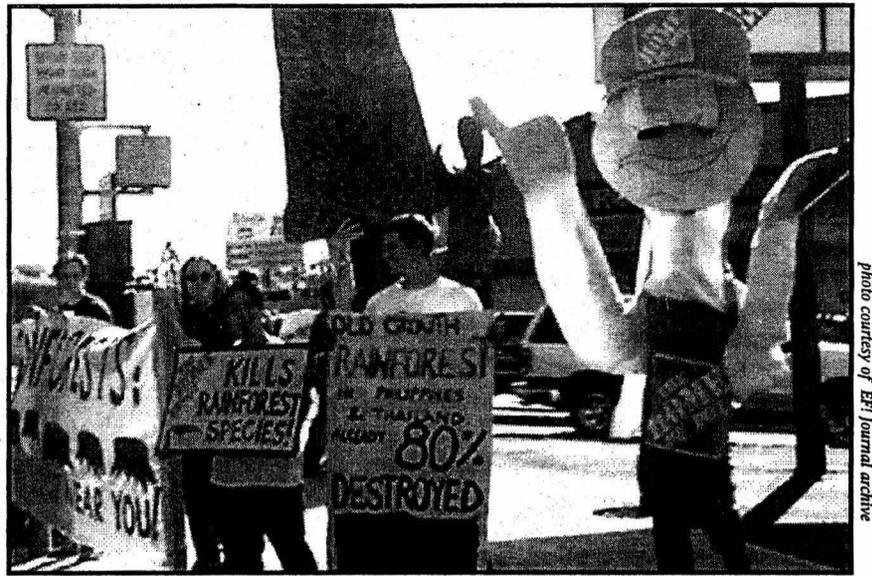
the chain of global forest destruction by ripping away the veil that allows consumers to unwittingly purchase old-growth forest products. Let the mega-retailers take note—wherever corporations are profiting off the liquidation of the world's remaining ancient forests, grassroots activists will be there to hold them accountable.

Needless to say we all need to keep up the pressure and ensure Home Depot follows through with its promises. But as it stands the capitulation is one of the biggest victories for the grassroots forest protection movement. We've shown corporate America what we can do. Now we've got to show them that we're just getting started!

We all have a litany of questions and concerns right now about both the validity of Home Depot's announcement as well as our next step to stop the consumption of the world's old-growth forests.

Home Depot has a lousy history and giant corporations by their very structure are notoriously untrustworthy. Its past commitments were all made in private letters to organizations. This announcement, however, was made in a public press conference by CEO Arthur Blank at its 20th anniversary celebration. We now have, for the first time, Home Depot on record publicly confessing its role in forest destruction and promising sweeping action. Additionally, Home Depot has been making significant internal progress over the last year—meeting with vendors and creating systems to track its products.

Despite the announcement, no one is suggesting we embrace Home Depot or any other transnational corporation as a model institution for a sustainable world. Even once all the old



Depot demo in Wisconsin, 1998

growth is off the shelves, Home Depot will still be a giant multinational corporation which aggressively destroys local businesses, is vehemently anti-labor, promotes urban sprawl and over-consumption, and generally represents an out-of-control economic system that concentrates wealth and power in the hands of an unaccountable elite.

Ultimately, it's all of our jobs as forest and anti-corporate activists to maintain our skepticism. Home Depot has yet to show us the full details about the phase out (they say they will within the month), but until all the old-growth products are actually off its shelves none of us should be complacent. At the same time, its announcement offers us a strategic opportunity to expand our campaign. Now is the time to take on the whole home improvement industry and bring us one step closer to ending the traffic of old-growth forest products. Home Depot controls forty percent of the US home improvement industry. Let's do the same thing to the rest of the industry.

For more information or to help, contact Jennifer Krill at jkkrill@ran.org, or Rainforest Action Network, 221 Pine St., SF, CA 94104; (415) 398-4404, (800) 989-RAIN; www.ran.org.

Together we can get old-growth forests off the shelves of the home improvement industry!

DEEP ECOLOGY GETS SLAPPED—WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?

On October 1, 1999 the United States Forest Service, along with the Superior Wilderness Action Network (SWAN) and the Forest Guardians, were named as defendants in a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) suit. The suit argues that the Forest Service is being held hostage by the aggressive maneuvering of environmental groups. The plaintiffs, the 125 dues-paying member Associated Contract Loggers (ACL) and Olsen Logging Inc., claim that the growing opposition to logging is fundamentally religious in nature—an outgrowth of the so called deep ecology movement, which, they insist, masks its spiritual aims with "pseudo science." They are charging the USFS of violating the first amendment, which prohibits the governments favoring or endorsing religion.

Excerpts from the suit explain it all: "Plaintiffs seek to prevent the establishment of religion by defendant USFS, or, at minimum, neutrality by defendant USFS in matters of religious faith."

"Nationally, the amount of wood fiber harvested from national forests under management by defendant USFS fell from 12-billion board feet in 1989 to only 3.3-billion board feet in 1998."

"Defendant USFS has been derelict in its duties under 16 U.S.C. Secs 475, 528, and 529 because it has, at a minimum, shown favoritism to the religion of deep ecology as manifested in the actions and demands of defen-

dants SWAN and Forest Guardians, and at a maximum, cooperated with such defendants in establishing the premises of deep ecology as part of government management of national forests in Minnesota. Defendant USFS has allowed itself to be used as a tool, agent or instrument of defendants SWAN and Forest Guardians for religious purposes."

"Defendant Forest Guardians makes a constant effort to end commercial logging on public lands and stop aspen clearcutting by the USFS."

"The purpose of defendant SWAN is to stop logging in Minnesota."

"SWAN is guided by the premises and beliefs of deep ecology."

"Deep ecology is a rival to such religious texts as Genesis from the Old Testament of Judeo-Christian tradition. It is a religion similar in many beliefs to the neo-pagan religions of Druid practices, Wicca and Gaia worship. Deep ecology has appropriated religious practices of Native Americans."

"The beliefs of deep ecology are also reflected in the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation, an interfaith forest ethic to articulate a right relationship to forests and wild areas from a religious perspective. The Episcopal Dioceses of Minnesota Environmental Stewardship Commission considers the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness part of the Chippewa National Forest to be "sacred ground." The Christian Environmental Coun-

cil seeks the end of all commercial logging on national forests because, it believes, Christian Scriptures clearly teach that forests are a place where God is present and cares and provides for his creatures who inhabit them. The leadership of National Religious Partnership for the Environment believes that "environmentalism started with Genesis, not Earth Day."

"The tactics used by defendants SWAN and Forest Guardians have placed great administrative burdens on defendant USFS in Minnesota so that sales of timber are postponed, delayed or abandoned."

"Such postponement, delay and abandonment have caused defendant USFS to breach its duty to provide Plaintiffs with timber and temporary access roads in a timely manner."

"Contrary to the express provisions of 16 U.S.C. Secs 475, 528 and 529, defendant USFS recognizes that promotion of spirituality is one of its goals in management of lands owned by the United States."

"Mike Dombeck, Chief of defendant USFS in February 1999, stated that "spiritual values" have become more and more important as national goals for management of national forests by defendant USFS. On March 28, 1999, the same Mike Dombeck announced that conservation biology would be the first priority of defendant USFS in the future. On June 12, 1999 defendant USFS issued the first draft of plan-

ning regulations making conservation biology and ecological sustainability the first priority on national forests. The draft stated that "the fundamental goal of the national forest system is to maintain and restore ecological sustainability, the long-term maintenance of the diversity of native plant and animal communities and the productive capacity of ecological systems." This plan shifts defendant USFS away from multiple-use of national forests in line with the theological dictates of deep ecology on the sanctity of non-human nature."

"If defendants SWAN and Forest Guardians are successful in their imposition of deep ecology on defendant USFS, the business of Plaintiff Olson may be forced to close and the businesses of plaintiff ACL members will be permanently harmed as all timber from lands owned by the United States in Minnesota is placed off limits to logging and no temporary access is permitted to assist loggers gaining access to land where they hold contracts for harvesting timber."

"Injunctive relief that defendant USFS cease and desist in establishing, promoting or favoring deep ecology or any similar religion."

For more information contact Forest Guardians, 1141 2nd St., Sante Fe, NM 87505; (505) 988-9126; swild@sguardians.org or the Superior Wilderness Action Network, 2052 Carroll, St. Paul, MN 55104.

BARE BONES

Arizona bans contest hunts

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission recently voted to ban contest hunts. The year and a half long effort spearheaded by the Tucson, Arizona-based Wildlife Damage Review was begun when the "Predator Hunt Extreme," an advertised contest to kill mountain lions, bobcats, foxes and coyotes for prizes, was spotlighted in the news in the spring of 1998. During the comment periods on this rule making process, Game and Fish received almost 12,000 letters, cards and comments. Of those, 10,700 were asking for a ban on these contests.

SF Food Not Bombs Harassed Again

Food Not Bombs (FNB)-San Francisco has recently been approached by police and told to stop serving free meals. On September 3, two FNB servers were given citations for dishing up food. On September 12, a FNB member was told that he might get a citation from the health department. But according to FNB, the health department official said, "I don't want to get involved." While the police and FNBers were able to discuss the situation calmly, the cops made it clear that there was some kind of political pressure to sweep the food servers out of the area.

Food Not Bombs-San Francisco has had a long history of harassment and repression by the city government. For many years servers were arrested routinely, had food confiscated and had banners seized. Many were arrested in Golden Gate Park in 1988 and in Civic Center under the Agnos' administration. Art Agnos was able to secure a court injunction against FNB, making it illegal to serve free food in public. FNBers were also arrested hundreds of times under the Jordan administration at daily community meals.

Innu go to court over Voisey Bay

The Innu nation is suing the federal and Newfoundland governments of Canada reverse a decision to allow Donner Minerals to proceed with the Voisey's Bay nickel mine project.

Both governments announced in September that Inco, Voisey's Bay's developer, would not have to wait until agreements have been reached with the Innu before being granted environmental approval for the giant nickel, copper and cobalt development in northern Labrador. The mine, if approved, will be located at Voisey's Bay, 49 miles from Utshimassits on the eastern coast of Canada.

In a court application recently filed, the Innu argued that the federal government was wrong in its decision to not ratify a land claims agreement or to negotiate equivalent or alternative measures with the Innu. According to the Innu, the government promised to consult and negotiate with them, and they maintain that the government acted in bad faith by approving the project without allowing a proper opportunity for consultation.

OXY GRANTED DRILLING RIGHTS

Once again, multinational business and ancient indigenous beliefs have collided as Colombia's U'wa tribe again threatened to commit mass suicide following the September 21 decision by the Colombian government to give Occidental Petroleum Corporation (OXY) drilling rights on disputed ancestral lands.

"We are looking at the information to see what action the community will take. Mass suicide is one option we are considering," said Evaristo Tegria, a spokesman for the U'wa. "The community must consider how best to defend its social, cultural, territorial and political rights," he added.

Following a seven-year battle, Colombia's Environment Ministry granted OXY a permit to sink the first test well just outside the recently enlarged U'wa reservation. The 500,000-acre exploration area, known as the Samore block, is expected to yield up to 2.5-billion barrels of crude, making it one of Colombia's largest-ever oil finds.

The 5,000-member U'wa tribe, however, claims the entire Samore block, including parts outside their government-approved reservation, spanning the cloud forests and plains of northeast Colombia, as their traditional ancestral territory. The U'wa's long-established spiritual beliefs hold that drilling for oil on tribal lands is tantamount to sucking the lifeblood out of Mother Earth.

Originally granted an exploration contract for the Samore block in 1992, OXY suspended all work after carrying out \$12 million of seismic surveying be-

cause of U'wa protests, including a threat to commit mass suicide to prevent encroachment on their land. This tactic is said to have been used by many of their ancestors to escape capture by Spanish conquistadors 500 years ago.

With oil as Colombia's top export and with output stagnating, the country faces the prospect of having to import oil by 2004 if no major new finds are made. In order to open the way for Colombia's continued energy self-sufficiency and in an apparent effort to defuse U'wa protests, the government in August enlarged the U'wa reservation from 98,000 acres to more than 543,000 acres. Conveniently OXY's proposed Gibraltar 1 test well is located just a few miles outside the limits of the new reservation. OXY has not issued a formal statement on the Environment Ministry's decision, but work on sinking the 14,000-foot test well could begin immediately.

The U'wa have successfully mobilized an international campaign, in addition to their own protests. Steve Kretzmann, a spokesman for the California-based U'wa Defense Working Group, says the enlarging of the reservation should not be seen as "a *quid pro quo* for oil development." He argues that the oil industry has failed to bring promised social development to impoverished regions of Colombia and that drilling for crude near U'wa lands could generate tensions and spark political violence.

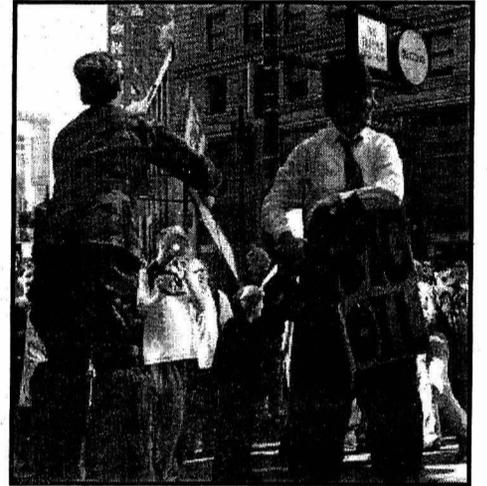
Already, a guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), has threatened

to attack OXY in support of the U'wa's demands against oil drilling. In a recent communiqué, the ELN warned that it is declaring the Colombian affiliate of OXY, public officials and employees of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise as military targets. The rebels listed possible tactics such as the abduction of employees and the destruction of machinery and vowed to fight any military personnel who support the employees and the oil company.

For more information, contact Rainforest Action Network, 221 Pine St., SF, CA 94104; (415) 398-4404, (800) 989-RAIN; www.ran.org.

Write OXY and ask that the company cancel the plans for the Samore block. Let OXY know that you hold it responsible for the U'wa's welfare and expect the company to fully respect the U'wa's rights protected under international law.

Dr. Ray R. Irani, CEO, Occidental Petroleum Corp., 10889 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024; (310) 443-6922 (fax).



Demonstration in San Francisco against Oxy.

GLN OF THE DOWNS, IRELAND

BY BLUE

Decisive action by the vigil keepers and supporters of Ireland's Glen of the Downs road protest thwarted a raid to evict them, sending the issue into the courts to be resolved. On August 27, the campaign's solicitor received a fax indicating that Wicklow County Council had obtained the necessary legal and state clearances to evict the vigil keepers and start cutting the threatened woodland. Yet three days earlier, the council had received official notification that the Glen had been included in a list of proposed nature reserves which would be protected by European law.

After the council's eviction decision, about 60 people arrived with music, food and shelter to defend the trees—believing that dawn on August 29 would bring destruction. A crew of determined campaigners quickly assembled, mobilizing defenses that were prepared in advance of the inevitable arrival of yellow-jacketed council workers. But nothing happened. No chainsaws, police or council workers appeared, much to the relief of the Glen community. Throughout the day most of the supporters dispersed; 15 people remained in the woods to maintain the vigil.

The Glen of the Downs is a breathtaking, forested, steep-sided valley cut out of quartz rock between the Great and Little Sugar Loaf mountains in north Wicklow on the east coast of Ireland—about an hour south from Dublin, the capital. Fertile beech, oak, and ash-hazel woodlands rise into the Wicklow sky in a wondrous expression of life. Some say this is one of the last surviving stands of native forest that two millennia ago covered three-fifths of Ireland. The rich ground flora is ungrazed by domestic animals. This area is also an intrinsic aspect of Irish culture and heritage.

Following an Irish High Court hearing earlier in the year, undertakings restraining Wicklow from felling trees and the Glen community from entering the cut zone were lifted. An appeal to the Supreme Court was lodged over the interpretation of the Wildlife Act—the domestic legislation that should have protected the Glen. Wicklow, however, believed they could go ahead without waiting for a court date.

By August 30, when it became obvious that the council was not sending in the chainsaws, the campaign's legal team went back to court and secured a hearing with the Supreme Court. The council admitted that it had intended to go into the Glen at dawn the previous day. Wicklow subsequently gave an

undertaking that they would wait until the Supreme Court hearing which is set for October 19. Since the end of August, supporters of the Glen have intensified their efforts to highlight the issues that characterize the protest. If the court action fails—which astute observers of this issue believe will happen because the judges are expected to rule that it is not within their jurisdiction and should be a matter for the state—the defense of the Glen will begin in earnest.

The Glen of the Downs has been under threat since the late '80s when the Wicklow County Council applied to the European Union (EU) for money to widen the existing two-lane road linking Larne in northeastern Ireland and Rosslare in the southeast. When it became known that the state was determined to go ahead with its road-widening scheme and that the local greens had given up, local opposition faded away, believing no more could be done. Then the direct action campaign began. It was sparked by a gathering in the back room of Mulligan's Pub—a haunt of journalists, students, writers, blue and white collar workers—in Poolbeg Street, Dublin, on a sunny March afternoon in 1997. The gathering brought together people who understood why the Glen needed to be occupied. A stone had been thrown into a restless pond. The ripples have been widening ever since. Later that summer the Glen was occupied. It quickly became the front-line battle against the Irish state's £6 billion national road-building program.

In a moment of irony that sums up the Celtic Tiger economy in modern Ireland, the local police wanted to evict the first vigil keepers during the summer of 1997 because they had lit a fire. This, said Sgt. Brennan of the Greystones Police, contravened the Wildlife Act. Cutting down the trees would contravene the act, Brennan was told in return.

Now the Glen is protected by European law in the form of the Habitats Directive, legislation that seeks to protect special areas of conservation through the EU. Member states are supposed to make sure that this legislation is adopted and enforced. Unfortunately for those who want to see the Glen remain intact, Irish courts are not willing to enforce European law. There is also a legal loophole that would allow the Irish State and Wicklow to remove trees—if they can argue there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature.

The campaign to save the Glen has caught the imagination of the Irish people. For more information contact An Talamh Glas (Earth First!), 1 Fortfield, Castlebar, Co Mayo Eire, 353 94-26179; blueplanet@ireland.com.

SLOVAKS OUST 2006 OLYMPICS

BY MARIA HUDAKOVA

Many Slovaks gave a sigh of relief on June 19 when the evaluation board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) chose Torino, Italy, to host the Winter Olympic Games (WOG) in 2006. The Slovak region Poprad-Tatry was one of the candidates, yet the recent decision hasn't ended our campaign against future WOG in Slovakia (see *EF!J*, May-June '99).

After the decision against hosting the 2006 WOG, we heard representatives of the Slovak candidate city Poprad-Tatry and various government officials say they intend to campaign for the next Olympics in 2010. They added that they will be better prepared next time with more sporting facilities and better infrastructure. Behind these words are intentions to quietly continue logging long before the candidacy and start construction of new hotels, roads and parking lots. All this will occur in the area of two precious national parks, where the majority of sporting events are planned. The High Tatra and Low Tatra National Parks don't need any development. These small mountains are for visitors seeking an oasis of silence and peace. They are too small to become Disney Land!

At the end of May we contacted a non-governmental organization in Seoul, the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), and asked them to protest against the candidacy. Seoul is where the IOC planned to choose the site for the Olympics. These wonderful people did a great job, protesting two days prior to the IOC decision despite the dangers that may have resulted.

In Korea, the Demonstration and Rally Act, enacted by the previous dictatorship, requires police permission 48 hours prior to any demonstration or protest of more than three people. It allows for no more than one demonstration in an area. The Shilla Hotel, where the IOC session was held, reported a rally 200 meters away from its doors before KFEM's activists announced their protest. This was simply a tactic to forestall any demonstration. Without the unobtainable permission, our friends nevertheless planned to protest the Winter Olympic Games in Slovakia. The day before the meetings the police threatened to arrest all the

activists if more than two people protested. In response, our friends held a one-man protest.

Dressed in a black gown with banners in both hands and sign boards in front and back, one protester shouted slogans condemning the Slovak candidacy. Despite police attempts to keep the hotel area clear of protesters, three activists managed to get to the main gate, arguing the point that there should be no problem with a one-man protest. Another two disseminated our press release and a copy of the letter sent to the president of the IOC.

About eight reporters, including the AP and Reuters, came to the protest. The *Hankyoreh*, one of the five major newspapers in Korea, covered the action on its front page the next morning. It mentioned our appeal to "Save Slovak forests from Olympic bulldozers," as well as a quote from a KFEM ecological activist that our environment should not be destroyed by the WOG, which calls itself a global festival for peace.

One national newspaper closed its article with, "According to unofficial and unconfirmed information, a 30-member group of the WOLF Forest Protection Movement arrived in Seoul. During the whole candidature process they protested against holding the WOG 2006 in the Poprad-Tatry region. They were not able to get close to the Shilla Hotel with protest banners, where Alexander Slafkovsky, the mayor of Liptovsky Mikulas (a city below Low Tatra National Park), was expecting them. This raises the question of who had financed the trip of 30 conservationists to Seoul?"

How interesting! Koreans were identified as Europeans, and three people appeared as 30. The press didn't explain why WOLF opposes the candidacy nor mention the fact that we oppose logging in national parks and nature reserves and want protection of this critical forest environment. The author—strangely, or perhaps not so strangely—overlooked the presence of more than 100 representatives from Slovakia supporting the candidacy in Seoul whose expenses were paid by the government.

In any case, we have decided to sue a press agency for spreading misinformation about WOLF and harming our reputation. If we win, the money will support our



The highly successful one-man protest.

project of saving the forest through its purchase.

The final statement of the IOC evaluation board for Slovak candidacy stated: "Conservationists are against the unavoidable logging of forests in national parks." One part of the fight against the WOG was successfully concluded. We expect the same success for Poprad-Tatry's candidacy for the WOG as far into the future as necessary.

Like a soap opera, the Committee for the Candidacy for Winter Olympic Games will change actors, making it necessary for our children to continue the fight. One life is too short to defeat human irrationality, irresponsibility, carelessness and blindness in protecting the environment.

We inform contributors to our Saving the Forest project in the Cergov Mountains of Eastern Slovakia (see "Help Save Them—Buy Your Own Tree" *EF! J*, July-August '98), which will create the first private reserve of beech-fir forest in all of Central and Eastern Europe. So far we have raised 1,670,000 Sk (Slovak crown) out of the 3.2 million needed. Thank you to all of you who have contributed. We appreciate further donations by the symbolic purchase of trees (\$30 per tree). Make checks payable to the Rainforest Information Center, and mail them to the Earth Trust Foundation, 20110 Rockport Way, Malibu, CA 90265. For more information contact the WOLF Forest Protection Movement, c.d. 27, 08213 Tulcijk, Slovakia; wolf@vadium.sk.

"READING, RIOTING AND REVOLUTION"—UK GATHERING

BY TK

"Reading, Rioting and Revolution: Inside the amazing summer camp where anarchists learn the skills of class war..." announced the pithy headline in the British newspaper *The Daily Mail* after a couple of sleazy journalists managed to sneak into the UK Earth First! gathering, held in a farmer's field near Bungay, Suffolk, England in mid-August.

No one was really surprised by the infiltration as the UK *EF!* crowd had been under intense media scrutiny ever since the immensely successful, London-inspired June 18 Carnival Against Capitalism. Couple this with all the activities of the anti-genetix crop-pullers and the recent closing of the odious Hillgrove Farm animal experimentation breeding facility, and you get an idea of just how significant a force Britain's multi-faceted ecological resistance movement is these days.

The attendance at the gathering also bore this out. By Saturday the numbers had swelled to about 500, and a sea of tents clustered in one corner of the field created havoc at night as revelers swam through searching for their domed homes away from home. But partying was not the main item on the well-organized agenda—skill-sharing, information-sharing, campaign updates and direct action were.

This year's gathering was pulled together by the wonderful folks in Leeds who have been responsible for putting out the *Earth First! Action Update* over the past year. I must say the Brits defi-

nately outshine their US counterparts when it comes to making sure the annual gathering of the tribe runs smoothly. A handout describing the schedule of workshops was given to activists as they came through the welcome gate and paid their ten pounds. A fantastic, well-stocked mobile library was set up to feed activist's minds.

There was an average of 20 different workshops offered daily over the course of the four-day event. The first I attended Thursday morning was on the artificial life crisis—a discussion on the approaching disaster of a totally artificial and technological world and how we can stop it. At the same time there were other offer-

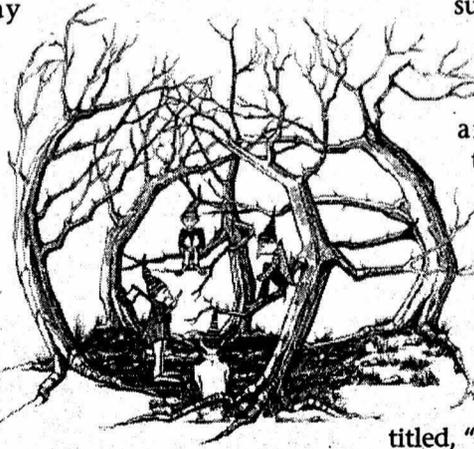
ings which looked equally interesting on localism and autonomy, an introduction to genetics, dealing with the media and a presentation by the Blatant Incitement Collective. Compared to US gatherings, one thing that was very different, was that as you stood in the lunch line (or "queue" as they call it) you could hear voices from all over the world discussing how to subvert the dominant paradigm in a host of different languages. There were *EF!*-oriented activists from Australia, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Holland, France,

Spain, Palestine and New Guinea.

There were practical workshops on subjects like dealing with the police, how to organize mass actions, permaculture, what to do when arrested, blockading, tree climbing, running squats, security consciousness, coping with burnout, women's self-defense, recruiting and involving new people, quartermastering, increasing participation in meetings, conducting prison support, setting up an ecovillage, the finer points of catapult (slingshot) usage and snatch-squad training (de-arresting techniques).

Most of one day's workshops were devoted to analyzing various aspects of the June 18 Global Day of Action. After the opening session entitled, "How was it for you?"

there were small group discussions held on the tactics of the day, our media and propaganda, national and international organizing and one called The Empire Strikes Back, addressing issues like the state's response to June 18, the status of the people who have been arrested, the media backlash and how to support those facing trial. It came out that the most repressive response on record for a June 18 action happened right in the *EF! Journal's* backyard in Eugene, Oregon. Anarchist Robert Thaxton was convicted on spurious, trumped-up charges that



resulted in a sentence of 88 months for throwing a rock at a cop!

The evenings were low-key, and lots of networking went on around the campfire. There were videos about June 18 and Mumia Abu Jamal, and one night's inspiring keynote speaker was from West Papua, New Guinea. Risking his personal freedom and possibly his life by bringing news of his people's struggle, this anti-modernity activist spoke passionately to a large crowd gathered in the big top about the resistance movement he is a part of—the Liberation Army of the Free West Papua Movement. He said, "We are not terrorists, we do not like democracy, we do not fancy modern life and we refuse development." After a Dutch-made video depicting the guerrilla's struggle was shown, the West Papuan native explained how his territory had been invaded by force and manipulation by Indonesia, with the UN and USA having disastrous vested interests in its policies. "Their slogan," he said, was the simple yet eloquent request, "Just leave us alone, please!"

So much important information was shared, and all of the activists assembled there established contacts and learned skills that they can take back to their regional groups. The over-arching themes of the UK *EF!* summer gathering were definitely and defiantly, *Viva La Revolution!*, actions speak louder than words—watch out global capitalism, corporate domination and the nature-destroying juggernaut of industrial civilization—we've got you in our sights!



Young coyote, wild and free

Photo by Michael Durham

HART MOUNTAIN COYOTE DECEPTION EXPOSED

BY JOY BELSKY

Over the last four years, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in southeastern Oregon has waged a misinformation campaign about the need to control coyotes. During this period, the managers and biologists of the Refuge, which is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, repeatedly told the public and the press that coyotes were killing pronghorn fawns and thus reducing the numbers of the species. They used this information in an attempt to alter their 1994 Comprehensive Management Plan, which stated that there should be no predator control on the Refuge. The Plan concluded that wildlife populations should be allowed to fluctuate naturally with changes in weather, habitat, food, disease and predation.

In four years of attempts to introduce aerial shooting of coyotes and coyote hunting, Refuge spokespeople have repeatedly told the public that there is an overabundance of coyotes and that coyote predation is the main reason for low pronghorn fawn survival and declining pronghorn numbers. They always mentioned the record-low fawn survival rate in 1995, when less than one fawn per 100 does survived (as opposed to the long-term average of 25-30 fawns per 100 does). Based on this low number, the Refuge proposed an expensive campaign to shoot coyotes from airplanes.

What is most interesting about this proposal is that, according to Dan Alonso, the manager of Hart Mountain Refuge at that time, the fawns in 1995 were born during a spring snowstorm and "most literally froze to the ground." In other words, Hart Mountain Refuge started a four-year campaign to kill coyotes based on fawns freezing to death in a

snowstorm. Except for this one quote in a newspaper, the Refuge has withheld this information, insisting that coyote predation caused low fawn survival that year.

To further support its decision to kill coyotes, the Refuge initiated two research projects. One, carried out by the Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit of Oregon State University, concluded after a multi-year study that the low fawn survival in 1995 was due to poor diet quality and severe weather conditions. These conclusions, contradicting the Refuge's official position, were never released.

The second study used blood samples and radio collars to determine the health and cause of death of newborn pronghorn fawns on Hart Mountain. Not surprisingly, the study found that coyote predation occurring predominantly during the first three weeks of a pronghorn's life was the major cause of fawn mortality. During the three years of the study, the Refuge repeatedly told the press and public that blood studies showed the newborn fawns to be in excellent health and that they had no nutritional deficiencies or diseases that predisposed them to predation. The Refuge spokespeople said these results could only be explained by an overabundance of coyotes and that they had to be killed to save pronghorns.

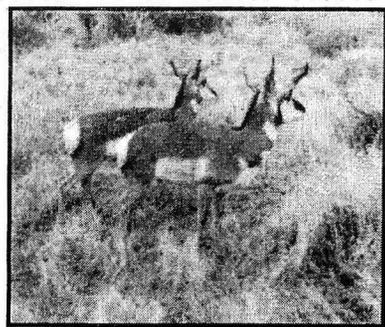
Scientific reports published by the Refuge tell a very different story. The studies report that the fawns were "not in excellent health" and that they had below normal values of hemoglobin, albumin, total protein and blood urea nitrogen, plus low values of the crucial nutrients selenium, copper and vitamin E (Hart Mountain Technical Reports, 1997-1998). This information was withheld from the press and the public. Although in one interview, Hart Mountain/Sheldon Complex manager Mike Nunn and complex biologist Mike Dunbar admitted that protein-deficient pronghorn fawns such as those studied at Hart would bleat for their mothers and not lie still. They said that these are "activities that would draw coyotes." But they continued to tell the public in all other interviews that the fawns had no health conditions predisposing them to predation.

Finally, the pronghorn count in mid-July of 1999 showed phenomenal increases in fawn survival (38 fawns per 100 does) and in total pronghorn numbers (up 500 animals). These increases occurred in spite of the absence of coyote control. Once again, the public was not informed. The Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) found out about the large increases a month later and released the information. One can only conclude that Refuge managers and biologists did not want the public to know that their dire predictions about the need for coyote control were incorrect. The reporters we called told us that when pronghorn fawn numbers are low, the Refuge calls them the day after the count. When fawn numbers are high, like this year, they aren't called at all.

Ever since ONDA told the Refuge and the Regional Headquarters of the Fish and Wildlife Service of our discoveries in an attempt to get straight answers, they have worked hard to confuse the issue with scientific double-talk. This is unconscionable. Research dollars for American wildlife studies are too few for them to be used by an agency that covers up results that are inconvenient. The Refuge's campaign to kill coyotes may have already cost the public more than a half million dollars, and it continues.

If that money had gone to research on pronghorn, Hart Mountain National Pronghorn Refuge might now know enough to write a competent pronghorn management plan. Instead we have a long, sorry tale of deception.

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Pronghorn at Hart Mountain

Photo courtesy Predator Defense Institute

SIERRA NEVADA GETS SERIOUS

BY SCOTT SCHRODER

The Sierra Nevada, stretching from the Modoc plateau in northeastern California to the desert mountains in the south, where John Muir first explored the giant sequoias and envisioned a national forest reserve system, is undergoing dramatic changes in management. The forest plans—the documents which guide direction of individual national forests—for all 11 national forests in the Sierra are being revised in one large process which is legally compelled to introduce stronger conservation measures. At the same time, ever since a public lands system has existed, private interests and industry have been trying to take it away from the public. The most recent of these attempts takes place in the same location the reserve system was first envisioned and is called the Quincy Library Group (QLG). Two processes are going on right now, but ultimately, they will determine only one fate for the Sierra Nevada.

The forest plan revisions started in 1992 when the Forest Service began to adopt temporary guidelines for the California spotted owl. The old-growth dependent California spotted owl—unlike its cousin species the northern spotted owl and the Mexican spotted owl—is not listed under the Endangered Species Act, although it is in worse trouble. As time went on under the temporary guidelines and issues accumulated, which the Forest Service legally had to address, a new strategy developed. On May 1, 1998, the Forest Service announced a new region-wide forest plan revision process to manage an entire ecosystem.

Old-growth forest types, which used to comprise 65 percent of the Sierra's forests and contained the world's largest living trees, have been reduced to 16 percent of their original quantity. Ecosystem processes and species dependent on old-growth forests have declined precipitously, and some ultimately may not be able to hold onto the fragile existence they currently maintain.

Aquatic and riparian ecosystems are the most altered and degraded in the Sierra Nevada due to dams, water diversion, logging and roadbuilding. Fifteen of the 30 native amphibians of the Sierra are in decline. Just as California extirpated its state animal, the grizzly, it is now extirpating the state fish, the golden trout.

The potent force of fire, which has played a role in influencing ecosystems for millennia, has been systematically subdued and removed from the landscape since the 1930s. This has resulted in unnaturally high accumulations of fuel so that when fires are ignited, they burn far more intensely (i.e. kill more trees) over a far greater area, than they did before.

The May 1, 1998, announcement initiated a process to address these issues. A draft plan should be out soon.

Back in the days when public lands management was a resource extraction free-for-all, rural communities and counties containing large portions of public lands did not seem to mind the idea of land being held in the public trust. In the last 30 years, as environmental regulations have become more strict, opposition has grown from resource extractive industries and the wise use movement. One of the popular outcomes of these movements has been consensus processes between environmentalists (living in generally hostile, isolated areas) and industry and local government officials to come up with plans to manage federal lands in their area. One such group was the QLG in the northern Sierra Nevada. The QLG was not unique insofar as it was a consensus group with a plan, but they became unique when Congressman Wally Herger took the plan to Congress and passed it through the House. Thanks to some underhanded dealings on the part of California Senator Dianne Feinstein, the bill was attached as a completely unrelated rider to the federal budget for 1999 and passed.

The QLG proposal more than doubles commercial logging on the Plumas and Lassen National Forests and one ranger district of the Tahoe. The ostensible justification is to reduce the risk of wildfire through cutting one-quarter mile-wide fuelbreaks, thinning and one-half to two-acre clearcuts. Even though the Forest Service admits it needs to take immediate action to curtail population declines of wildlife and plant species and deal with precipitous ecosystem issues that affect the entire Sierra Nevada, it has decided to accept a proposal to double logging in the northern portion of the range.

The Record of Decision authorizing the project calmly states, "Over the course of the pilot project, suitable habitat for old growth forest-dependent species and aquatic/riparian-dependent species (including amphibians) shall not be reduced by more than 10 percent below 1999 levels." Great, guys. Even if the ecosystem was not already in tatters and barely hanging on from 150 years of abuse, figuring a five-year pilot project reducing habitat by 10 percent, would absolutely guarantee the extirpation of old-growth forest-dependent and aquatic/riparian-dependent species within 50 years. Realistically, it would be much sooner before populations became unviable.

But the fight is not over yet. Serious legal questions exist around the Quincy issue, and the decision will inevitably end up in court. Our vision for maintaining this ecosystem intact and functioning should be bold and without reservation. From the magical chorus of the Yosemite toad in the high-elevation meadows, to the jagged canyon cliffs running down to cold water rushing over rocks teeming with Chinook salmon, to the red-tailed hawk circling the sky in the open oak cover and gentle golden hillsides, our vision should remain strong.

For more information on how you can keep the Sierra Nevada alive, contact Range of Light Ecological Defense, 228 Commercial St., Suite 174, Nevada City, CA 95959; (530) 478-9284; scott_s@oro.net.



You know what they say about little men and big stumps. These are the old days in the Sierra.

Photo courtesy Harold G. Schmitt Collection

MISANTHROPY IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

OPEN LETTER TO ALL DOOMED HUMANS FROM A DOOMED MISANTHROPE

When asked why I am a misanthrope, I used to simply answer, "What is there to like about humans?" It was a flippant response, and never really seemed to answer the question. However, I have recently reevaluated this response; now I think it is the pretty accurate response if explained and/or analyzed.

To do so, we need to set some parameters: 1) I am speaking as a member of western society, speaking to other members of my society; 2) we all claim to be conservationists, ecologists, and/or environmentalists etc.; 3) we are allegedly "enlightened" individuals.

I will be speaking as the above and to the above, since it is what I know. Now let's talk about humans and identify their role in the world.

In western culture, humans are entirely divorced from the natural world.

Although some of us spend time in the woods we do not actually perform a true role in that environment. We are so on top of the foodchain; we are infact an overwhelming parasite on it. When I say parasite I mean it in the truest sense of the word; we rely on other organisms without giving anything (of substance) back. This is really what we do as westernized humans. We sit atop of the food pyramid standing on the necks of all that is still wild and pick our teeth until the next endangered species is placed before us for consumption. Ecologically speaking it is that simple. We are on the top, giving nothing and taking everything. We are a pain in the ass of wildness and diversity.

We are a beast of hypocrisy, indulgence, idiocy, and lunacy— in short we reek havoc on all that comes in contact with us. But that seems flippant, so let's look at those fork-tongued terms and back them up; working from the back forward.

Lunacy/Idiocy

Is it not a tad bit crazy to knowingly use up all natural resources which you really on for survival: eat up the seas, while polluting the water; cut down the trees, while polluting the air. To keep on doing these things despite the obvious consequences holds no logic.

Indulgence/Over-Indulgence

Taking a look at the acts of the lunatic and idiot (above) and then factor in the world's population and the appetite of western culture for goods and you have the over-indulgent population.

Undisciplined/Hypocrite

This is my final point. It is the one that makes me sigh each time I use it in the context. I easily put all westerners in the above categories (lunacy etc.) This last category is specific to anyone who considers themselves to be amongst the "enlightened"; this would be those who think they are aware of the current situation involving humans and the natural world: the environmentalists, scholars, etc. We are those who lecture about the state of the world; we are the ones who wear the t-shirts; hold signs or sit in trees. We are the ones that seem to know that for every action there is a reaction. We claim to know the consequences for our actions. Yet, there we are constantly making the most offensively assinine choices. Do I need to give examples or are you already cowering under this judgment?

Is it the hypocrite or 'enlightned' that eats salmon? To you I say 1) the hypocrite, and 2) I hope the fish's last revenge is to choke you on its own bones.

Is it the hypocrite or Earth Firster that travels (by the hundreds) thousands of miles annually for a party (oh, I mean RRR). It is both it is the EF!er as the hypocrite. Just as it is the case for the jet-setting conservationists always jumping on a plane to go to conferences. It is the "travelling" activist that spends more time consuming fossil fuels than truly "saving" anything. I wonder if we are actually activists or people who need to be entertained; we sure do seem to spend a lot of resources keeping ourselves busy doing nothing truly remarkable. Do I need to state the whole environmentalists having children issue? True, it is each person's choice; that is not the question. There is not question about individual's rights to choice. It is actually about the insult to reality when making the choice (remember by conservative estimates 5% of the world's population consumes 40% of the world's resources; we, the above mentioned idiots and lunatics, are the 5%).

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Par•a•site \ n 3 : something that resembles a biological parasite in dependence on something else for existence or support without making a useful or adequate return.

THE FUTURE IS COMING
ARE YOU READY?



IS MISANTHROPY REAL?

A Debate with My Own Misanthropic Side.

Am I a misanthrope? Do I hate or distrust humanity in general, as a species? Many have argued I am. I have even used the term to represent myself on many occasions. But it is a hard question to answer honestly without just being knee-jerk about it. I do definitely have misanthropic tendencies, and depending on my mood (usually after work) I rip into humanity in general for their hatred, violence and ignorance. Sometimes my day is so bad I daydream of sitting on a rooftop with an AK-47. But what can be expected of me? I was born in and raised within "western culture" the good of the human species has/is a myth to me: I've read books on the beauty of tribal people and I do know that for most of human history we lived in mostly an egalitarian fashion, not just with each other but with the world around us as well. The question is not whether we have been a sustainable species or an "evil" one; the question is can we, as a species, walk away from this "Death Culture." The culture we are apart of and force others to join at gun point.

MISANTHROPE'S MYTH OF THE "EVIL" HUMAN SPECIES

If we are to discuss misanthropy in any real way we must first be honest. Just as the humanists and leftists have perpetuated half-truths and propaganda about population and the glories of technology, the misanthropic fringe has run with some half-truths as well. We must be honest about our own species and it's past. **HUMANITY AS "UNNATURAL" OR "ALIEN"**

Homo sapiens are a natural species. Nothing we do is "unnatural", it is just out of balance. Since the rise civilized we as "civilized" humans have not lived within the balance of the evolution or nature. We can't say we are unnatural but we can say we are throwing things out of balance, killing ourselves (as well as thousands of other species) and denying many other species their chance to evolve. But we must remove humans causing the extinction of some species and the mass extinction of mammoths and other large mammals as an example how "evil" we are, but all new species introduced in an environment changes that environment. Some species go extinct, that's evolution, that is how nature works; by eliminating humans from this equation we continue the "civilized" notion of humans as separate. The same notion that created the environmental and social problems we face today. Who is arrogant enough to say this is not natural, I'm not. I don't like it, I fight to change this but I'm only human, I can't know for certain.

HUMANS HAVE THE ABILITY TO KILL THE EARTH

Do any of us really believe we have the ability to kill the Earth? Life (nature or evolution whatever you want to call it) was around long before humans. There have been five major extinctions without human involvement. All of them were followed by growth and biodiversity. This is no different except that we, too, are going to go extinct. It is true that we are taking many other species out with us, I don't like this fact but we will not kill the Earth. Life will continue, species will evolve. There is no way that humans can kill all Life, we are just killing ourselves and there is nothing wrong with that(it's called evolution). By this I don't mean that we should stop fighting for the freedom of all life (including humans) or trying to halt the destruction. Just that we need to recognize the insignificance of humans as a blip in time of evolution.

HUMANS CAN PRESERVE THE EARTH

Many environmentalists want (or at least use the language) to preserve nature as it is. This is anti-evolution. Nothing is static. Evolution/extinction is a naturally occurring event; we should not try to interfere with this process. We should try to work on how we as a species live, fight mass extinction, industry and management of the wild. But fighting for the wild should not be a fight to keep things as

con't on back page

ARE WE Y2K COMPLIANT... SURE HOPE NOT!

Oh, those silly huMANS...

A Darwin award is bestowed posthumously each year to the individual or group of individuals that best demonstrate Darwin's theory of natural selection by permanently removing their contribution from the human gene pool. You may recall previous Darwin Award winners: A man who found out moments before making a 300 mph dent in an Arizona cliff that the JATO (Jet Assist Take Off) unit he'd strapped to his car could not be turned off once it was turned on. Another winner was a fellow who was killed by a Coke machine which toppled on top of him as he was attempting to tip a free soda out of it.

Three young men in Oklahoma were enjoying the upcoming Fourth of July holiday and wanted to apparently test fire some fireworks. Their only real problem was that their launch pad and



seating arrangements were atop a several hundred thousand gallon fuel distillation storage tank. Oddly enough, some fumes were ignited, producing a fireball seen for miles. They were launched several hundred feet into the air and were found dead 250 yards from their respective seats.

A young Canadian man, searching for a way of getting drunk cheaply because he had no money to buy alcohol, mixed gasoline with milk. Not surprisingly, this concoction made him ill, and he vomited into the fireplace in his house. The resulting explosion and fire burned his house down, killing both him and his sister.

A 34-year-old white male found dead in the basement of his home died of suffocation, police said. He was approximately 6' 2" and 225 lb. He was wearing a pleated skirt, white bra, black and white saddle shoes, and a woman's wig. It appeared that he was trying to create a schoolgirl's uniform look. He was also wearing a military gas mask that had the filter canister removed and a rubber hose attached in its place. The other end of the hose was connected to a hollow wooden section of bedpost approximately a foot long and 3" in diameter. This bedpost was inserted into his rear end for reasons unknown, and was the cause of his suffocation. Police found the task of explaining the circum-

stances of his death to his family members very awkward.

Three Brazilian men were flying in a light aircraft at low altitude when another plane approached. It appears they decided to "moon" the occupants of the other plane, but lost control of the plane and crashed. They were all found dead in the wreckage with their pants around their ankles.

A police officer in Ohio responded to a call that was made to 911. She had no details before arriving except that someone was reporting that his father was not breathing. Upon arrival, the officer found the man face down on the couch, naked. When she rolled him over to check for a pulse and to start CPR if necessary, she noticed burn marks around his genitals. After the ambulance arrived and removed the man (who turned out to be dead on arrival at hospital), the police made a closer inspection of the couch, and noticed that the man had made a hole between the cushions. Upon flipping the couch over they discovered what caused his death. Apparently the man had a habit of putting his penis between the cushions, down into the hole and between two electric sanders (with the sandpaper removed for obvious reasons). According to the story, after his orgasm the... ahem... discharge shorted out one of the sanders, electrocuting him to death.

A 27-year-old French woman lost control over her car on a highway near Marseilles and crashed into a tree, seriously injuring her passenger and killing her. As a commonplace road accident, this would not have qualified for a Darwin award were it not for the fact that the driver's attention had been distracted by her Tamagotchi key ring (electronic "pet"), which had started urgently beeping for food as she drove along. In attempting to press the correct buttons to save the Tamagotchi's life, the woman lost her own.

A man in Alabama died from rattlesnake bites. Big deal you may say, but there's a twist here that makes him a candidate. It seems he and a friend were playing catch with a rattlesnake. You can guess what happened from here. The friend (a future Darwin Awards candidate) was hospitalized.

In 1990, a Renton, Washington man tried to commit a robbery. This was probably his first attempt, as suggested by the fact that he had no previous record of violent crime, and by his terminally stupid choices as listed below:

1. The target was H&J Leather & Firearms, a gun shop;
2. The shop was full of customers, in a state where a substantial portion of the adult population is licensed to carry concealed handguns in public places;
3. To enter the shop, he had to step around a marked Police patrol car parked at the front door;
4. An officer in uniform was standing next to the counter, having coffee before reporting to duty. Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a holdup and fired a few wild shots. The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, removing him from the gene pool. Several other customers also drew their guns, but didn't fire. No one else was hurt.

A drunk security man asked a comrade at the Moscow bank they were guarding to stab his bullet-proof vest to see if it would protect him against a knife attack. It didn't, and the 25-year-old guard died of a heart wound.



In France, Jacques LeFevrier left nothing to chance when he decided to commit suicide. He stood at the top of a tall cliff and tied a noose around his neck. He tied the other end of the rope to a large rock. He drank some poison and set fire to his clothes. He even tried to shoot himself at the last moment. He jumped and fired the pistol. The bullet missed him completely and cut through the rope above him. Free of the threat of hanging, he plunged into the sea. The sudden dunking extinguished the flames and made him vomit the poison. He was dragged out of the water by a kind fisherman and was taken to hospital, where he died... of hypothermia.

[San Jose Mercury News]: An unidentified man, using a shotgun like a club to break a former girlfriend's windshield, accidentally shot himself to death when the gun discharged, blowing a hole in his gut.

[Kalamazoo Gazette]: James Barnes, 34, of Alamo, MI, was killed in March as he was trying to repair what police described as a "farm-type truck." Barnes got a friend to drive the truck on a highway while Barnes hung underneath so that he could ascertain the source of a troubling noise. Barnes'



Oct. 7, 1957 — A nuclear reactor N of Liverpool throughout the continent said that 39 people died in 1957 — A chemical reactor in Russia, in tanks containing material and forced a reaction. Jan. 3, 1961 — An explosion near Idaho Falls killed 10 people in U.S. reactor levels, but damage was minimal. Oct. 5, 1966 — A partial core meltdown caused a partial core meltdown. Jan. 21, 1969 — A partial meltdown in the reactor of a nuclear power plant which was then sealed. Mar. 22, 1975 — A lit candle caused a reactor in Decatur, AL, lowering the cooling water.

Why don't they just go away?

clothes caught on something, however, and the other man found Barnes "wrapped in the drive shaft."

Six people drowned Monday while trying to rescue a chicken that had fallen into a well in southern Egypt. An 18-year-old farmer was the first to descend into the 60-foot well. He drowned, apparently after an undercurrent in the water pulled him down, police said. His sister and two brothers, none of whom could swim well, went in one by one to help him, but also drowned. Two elderly farmers then came to help, but they apparently were pulled by the same undercurrent. The bodies of the six were later pulled out of the well. The chicken was also pulled out. It survived.

[Bloomberg News Service]: A terrible diet and room with no ventilation are being blamed for the death of a man who was killed by his own gas. There was no mark on his body but autopsy showed large amounts of methane gas in his system. His diet had consisted primarily of beans and cabbage (and a couple of other things). It was just the right combination of foods. It appears that the man died in his sleep from breathing from the

Notable Nuclear Accidents

A fire in the Windscale plutonium production pool, England, spread radioactive material into the countryside. In 1983, the British government probably died of cancer as a result.
 A nuclear explosion in Kashi, USSR (now in China) containing nuclear waste, spread radioactive material over a large area.
 An experimental reactor at a federal installation in Idaho, killed three workers—the only fatalities. The plant had high radiation levels.
 A sodium cooling system malfunction at the Enrico Fermi demonstration reactor near Detroit, MI. Radiation was contained.
 A coolant malfunction from an experimental reactor at Lucerne, Switzerland, resulted in a large amount of radiation being released into a cavern.
 A technician checking for air leaks with a candle at a \$100 million fire at the Brown's Ferry AL. The fire burned out electrical controls, putting water to dangerous levels.

Mar. 28, 1979 — The worst commercial nuclear accident in the U.S. occurred as equipment failures and human mistakes led to a loss of coolant and partial core meltdown at the Three Mile Island reactor in Middletown, PA.
 Feb. 11, 1981 — Eight workers were contaminated when more than 100,000 gallons of radioactive coolant leaked into the containment building of the TVA's Sequoyah 1 plant in Tennessee.
 Apr. 25, 1981 — Some 100 workers were exposed to radioactive material during repairs of a nuclear plant at Tsuruga, Japan.
 Jan. 6, 1986 — A cylinder of nuclear material burst after being improperly heated at a Kerr-McGee plant at Gore, OK. One worker died, and 100 were hospitalized.
 Apr. 26, 1986 — In the worst accident in the history of the nuclear power industry, fires and explosions resulting from an unauthorized experiment at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant near Kiev, USSR (now in Ukraine), left at least 31 people dead in the immediate aftermath of the disaster and spread significant quantities of radioactive material over much of Europe. An estimated 135,000 people were evacuated from areas around Chernobyl, some of which were rendered uninhabitable for years. As a result of the radiation released into the atmosphere, tens of thousands of excess cancer deaths (as well as increased rates of birth defects) were expected in succeeding decades.

poisonous cloud that was hanging over his bed. Had he been outside or had his windows been opened it wouldn't have been fatal. But the man was shut up in his near airtight bedroom. He was "... a big man with a huge capacity for creating [this deadly gas]." Three of the rescuers got sick and one was hospitalized.

Police said a lawyer demonstrating the safety of windows in a downtown Toronto skyscraper crashed through a pane with his shoulder and plunged 24 floors to his death. A police spokesman said Garry Hoy, 39, fell into the courtyard of the Toronto Dominion Bank Tower as he was explaining the strength of the building's windows to visiting law students. Hoy previously had conducted demonstrations of window strength according to police reports. Peter Lauwers, managing partner of the firm Holden Day Wilson, told the Toronto Sun newspaper that Hoy was "one of the best and brightest" members of the 200-man association.

[San Jose Mercury News]: A 24-year-old salesman from Hialeah, FL, was killed near Lantana, FL, when his car smashed into a pole in the median strip of Interstate 95 in the middle of the afternoon. Police said that the man was traveling at 80 mph and, judging by the sales manual that was found open and clutched to his chest, had been busy reading.

[AP, Mammoth Lakes]: A San Anselmo man died when he hit a lift tower at the Mammoth Mountain ski area while riding down the slope on a foam pad, authorities said. Matthew David Hubal, 22, was pronounced dead at Centinela Mammoth Hospital. The accident occurred about 3 a.m., the Mono County Sheriff's Department said. Hubal and his friends apparently had hiked up a ski run called Stump Alley and undid some yellow foam

protectors from the lift towers, said Lieutenant Mike Donnelly of the Mammoth Lakes Police Department. The pads are used to protect skiers who might hit the towers. The group apparently used the pads to slide down the ski slope and Hubal crashed into a tower. It was not clear if the tower he hit was one with its pad removed. "With the cold temperatures, the snow was probably pretty fast," said Donnelly.

[Reuters, Warsaw, Poland]: A poacher electrocuting fish in a lake fell into the water and suffered the same fate as his quarry, police said Thursday. The 24-year-old man was one of four who went fishing with a cable, one end of which they attached to a net and the other to a high-voltage electricity supply line, a Polish news agency quoted a police official in Wloclawek as saying. "For a while everything went according to the poachers' plan and they had fish in their bags. But at a certain moment the man holding the net tripped and fell into the water," the agency said. The other poachers tried in vain to revive him, it said.

A Darwin award occurred at a Metallica concert at the amphitheater at George, Washington in 1998. The starring roles go to John Pemicky and Sal Hawkins of Washington. The two didn't have tickets to the concert, but they did have 18 beers. When they polished off the beers in the parking lot, they decided it would be easy to scale the nine-foot fence and sneak into the show. They pulled the

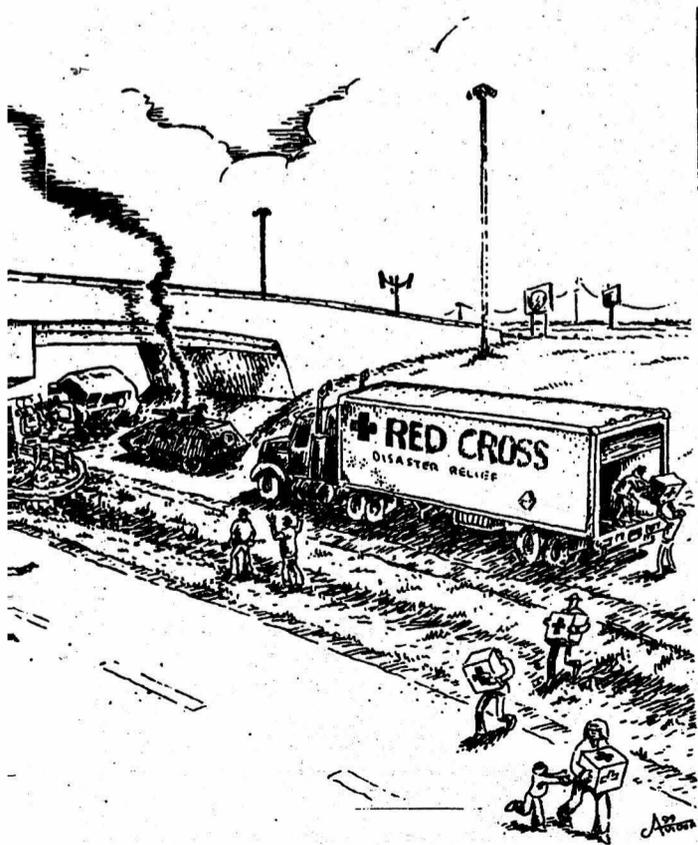


pickup up next to the fence, and John, who was 100 pounds heavier than Sal, was going to hop over and then help Sal. They didn't know there was a 30-foot drop on the other side of the fence, so when John threw himself over the fence, he found himself crashing through a tree. His fall was stopped by a large branch, which snagged him by the shorts. With one arm broken and dangling from a tree by his shorts, John looked down and saw some bushes below him. He figured they would break his hard fall, so he pulled a pocket knife from his shorts and cut himself free. He fell into holly bushes which severely scratched his nearly naked body. One holly branch penetrated him in a place that would make it very hard to sit down. And the pocket knife that fell with him was shoved three inches into his left



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thigh. Sal, meantime, goes into action. He throws John a rope, but being much lighter finds he can't haul John out by himself. He ties the rope to the pickup. Sal, drunk, puts the truck in reverse and slams down the gas pedal. The truck crashes through the fence and lands on John, killing him. Sal is thrown from the truck and dies at the scene. Here's what the police find when they show up: the dead pickup driver thrown 100 feet from the truck, a half-naked dead man, scratched from the fall and the holly bush, a holly stick in a highly unusual place, a knife stabbed into his thigh, and a pair of shorts dangling from a tree 25 feet above them.



Hunters' Harvest

a modest proposal to thin the herd

by Joyce Carol Oates

In New Jersey, exciting steps have recently been taken to curb the rampant and potentially treacherous wild turkey population with the reintroduction of seasonal hunting (official term, harvesting) of these ungainly birds. (A historic note: The wild turkey became extinct in New Jersey in the 20th century through land development and overhunting and had to be reintroduced from Vermont 20 years ago.) Deer hunting by gun and by bow and arrow is allowed, in fact, encouraged, in certain counties, in an effort to control the burgeoning deer population, which numbers now in the many thousands and is a considerable problem to motorists and to suburban property owners whose trees, shrubs and flowers are devoured by the starving animals. Of course, there is widespread sentimental opposition to hunting on the part of individuals, often female, with an unreasonable repugnance for the display of human violence against helpless, semi-tame creatures; and on the part of individuals who more selfishly shrink from the sight of wounded and dying creatures staggering about on their property—deer with clumsily aimed arrows through their haunches or necks, for instance. Persons who object to the harvesting of wild turkeys are similarly shortsighted, refusing to see that the turkey, while seemingly harmless and in some quarters considered a beautiful and exotic bird with the singular heft and gawky grace of the peacock, has the capacity like any species to over-breed. If left unchecked, in a few years there could be millions of wild turkeys swarming over New Jersey expressways, into malls and onto private property. To consider the droppings alone is to recoil in disgust.

New Jersey, one of our most densely populated and "civilized" states—a bellwether for the nation?

Such hunting—harvesting—rituals are beneficial to the commonwealth, then. Yet more important, they are beneficial to the hunter, an individual, usually male, of strong atavistic passions and needs. For hunting, as we know, is not just a crude, cruel, anachronistic display of adolescent aggression but a deeply mystical, even sacred, rite that unites 20th century man with his distant carnivore ancestors.

But such forms of hunting, while temporarily exciting and diverting, are finally inadequate. How often we hear the more manly hunter lament that the slaughter of harmless game such as deer, squirrels, turkeys, geese and fish is not truly satisfying. One wants something more, somehow; the primitive blood lust of the hunter craves fulfillment and may wither away if unexpressed. Or erupt into domestic violence. My proposal would change all this.

Many have complained of stupefying traffic congestion on the state's highways, especially the New Jersey Turnpike at rush hours and Route 1 in the vicinity of Princeton. The threat to New Jersey's fabled civility from an excess of human beings is very real, not to be lightly dismissed as ecologically induced paranoia. Clearly, the human population problem is a far more immediate and terrifying one than even that of the deer and wild turkey.

(Human beings, too, are frequent carriers of ticks, including the notorious Lyme disease-bearing deer tick. This escalates the natural danger humans pose to one another, particularly in hot, humid weather.)

Accordingly, I submit the following proposal: Let's select a comparatively rural, scenic county (Hunterdon, for instance) to play host to a widely publicized Hunters' Open Week—or Hunter's Harvest Week—each autumn, during which qualified, licensed hunters could, for a fee, legally hunt one another in a public display of camaraderie, courage and mystical "love of sport." Weapons would be limited to rifles, shotguns and bows and arrows; excluded, at least initially, would be automatic weapons, handmade bombs, airborne toxins, booby traps and other paramilitary paraphernalia. What a rush of collective male adrenaline would be wafted on the autumn breeze! What a quickening of the communal pulse! Here would be a watershed in our American saga: For once, civilian hunters would be trailing, wounding and killing not the usual confused, uncomprehending "wild" beasts *but their own cunning and worthy kind*.

What a celebration of the American frontier! Of the individual and his God-given right to bear arms!

I predict that the Hunters' Open would soon rival Atlantic City in its boon to the local economy. Hunters from every state, as well as foreign countries, would clamor to participate. State politicians from the governor downward, presidential candidates and freelance consciences such as Pat Buchanan would hurry to have their photographs taken having bagged a human trophy or two. In contrast to the limp dead duck with which George Bush was proudly photographed in a waning year of his presidency, what an iconic, marketable image the man-killer would present! Here would be a brilliant synthesis of American passions for sport, red-blooded masculinity and political acumen.

Of 20,000 hunters licensed to hunt one another, perhaps 2000 would emerge in various stages of well-being. Or perhaps only 200 would emerge, or two. Or one. (And what international celebrity would accrue to that one!) More important, consider the societal benefits of such a hunt:

- soaring business in the sale of sports equipment, camouflage gear, bullet-proof vests, rations, etc.
- soaring business in the medical trade (ambulances, hospitals, surgeons bills, etc.)
- soaring business in the death trade (funerals, burials, cremations, sales of cemetery plots, plastic geraniums and begonias, etc.)
- soaring business in the tourist trade (motels, restaurants, souvenirs, etc.)
- decline in population
- general rise of population IQ

I await the inevitable sentimental-liberal objection to my proposal but am at a loss to anticipate what it could be.

Reprinted from *Playboy*, December 1996.

con't from front page

IS MISANTHROPY REAL?

they are; it is letting life evolve on its own for itself. We must stop meddling with and managing the wild.

All of the above mentioned myths not only hurt the arguments of misanthropes because they are based on half-truths but they are founded in human arrogance. These myths continue the idea of humans as separate and strengthen anthropocentric ideology cloaked as biocentrism. All of these ideas believe humans are superior.

MISANTHROPY AS A DEFENSE TO HUMANISM

Even with the flaws of the misanthropic arguments it has served as an effective tactic against humanist ideology. Humanism has been an effective tool in keeping the destructive ideologies of our culture in motion. It has continued the myth of humans as separate and superior. With its destruction of the God thesis (which I thank them for) they have created the Human as God thesis that has strengthened our violent and arrogant behavior. It has increased our dependency on technology and justified our control of the wild world and one another.

Misanthropy has challenged the lies produced by humanism about the effects of human population (now at 6 billion) and western consumption, it also challenges those environmentalists who are trying to ease their guilt for contributing to the population issue. Human population needs to be addressed as the gigantic issue it is. But in doing so we must reevaluate how we discuss human population. In the discussion of human population, western consumption needs to be addressed; this would directly address the necessary guilt of those who are contributing to the western population. We need a complete critique of the industrial and/or technological culture which is consuming the world; from this we would have a stronger analysis of our effect (westerners) on the rest of the world. This does not (and can not) be done in a fascist manner. Racism, classism, homophobia and any other bigoted tendencies have no place in this discussion they are just examples of the "control culture" that has led to our destruction of wildness. But if human population is removed from our discussions, or ignored, extinction and domestication of the world (as we know it) will continue.

MISANTHROPY AS A TENDENCY NOT AN IDEOLOGY

I feel misanthropy can and does play a vital role in our critique of the human world and its effects on our larger home around us (the natural world); but it can't be an ideology, it needs to be spontaneous feelings that come and go. A realistic fight for evolution must not be afraid to challenge the institutions and ideologies that hinder it, I feel our misanthropic tendencies help shield us from these fears. In the process of these feelings coming and going we are able to challenge humanity and at the same time challenge the oppression against humanity. Fighting for the freedom of all life can not exclude humanity, but it must also embrace those misanthropic emotions that many people try to repress.

con't from front page

LETTER TO THE DOOMED...

In taking these simple examples I am left with this conclusion: humans, whether 'enlightened' or an average Joe is first and foremost a self-serving species without the ability to discipline their activities. We do what we want, no matter the consequences. We sit on a false altar demanding the world listen to us, the enlightened ones, as we clean our teeth with endangered species or spew pollution going about our daily business. We put ourselves above all that we actually do represent. We claim to be separate from all the sickness of western civilization and we are simply a part of it.

I say all of this in full recognition of myself in this too. Yes, I try to eat lower on the food chain, I don't own a car etc. In all that rejection though, I still cause much harm with my very existence; I realize it is just how it is. My remedy? There is none. We are an inherently useless species. I wish for the 6th extinction.

So, for now do what you can, because really there is nothing worse than a useless and lazy asshole. But realize what you are, a parasite. Realize your true comrades are your human friends and all other parasite: lice, fleas etc. Simply stated we are doomed and we get what we deserve.

Mis•an•thro•py \ n : a hatred or distrust of mankind.

Womyn and Nature: Sexism in Earth First!

BY YAEL GRAUER

I think it took me a couple of months to overcome my fear of speaking out about nature—to realize that she was a part of me and that any friendships I lost because of this knowledge were irrelevant.

I remember when I started wearing eco-slogans on my pins and t-shirts and how I used to walk into rooms wondering if it was safe—if I'd be accepted or at least given a chance to speak. As I spent more time outside of suburban sprawl and became more politically active, my apprehensions more or less faded away.

But I still don't feel safe being a womyn. Womyn are often ignored, as is nature. Just like capitalist politicians who want to reduce this beautiful Earth to teeny tiny areas they'll see while driving their SUVs. So many people have no problem relegating womyn to the sideline. Earth First!ers know that nature is more than something pretty put here for humans to look at. I challenge each and every comrade to start treating womyn the same way—and to closely examine your words and behavior.

Sexism in eco-activism is often blatant. Rape, sexual assault and obvious sexual harassment come to mind. But sexism can be so subtle. Time and time again I see, experience or hear stories of womyn being dismissed, ignored or otherwise silenced. My own experiences echo those of many other womyn with whom I have spoken.

When I write "you" in the following, I am not necessarily referring to all men or even just to men. I am talking about the predominant patriarchal attitude that I come across in Earth First! on a regular basis.

How is sexism subtle? It's in the way I try to speak at meetings and you don't listen. How every idea I bring up (or any womyn brings up) is shot down or not taken seriously. I hear you repeating things that womyn have said and taking credit for it. People listen when you say it.

I walk into a meeting and I am surrounded by men. And you talk at me, not to me. You don't listen. You think I need to prove myself. You don't include me in your conversations. You act like I'm too stupid to do shit work. You act like I'm a flake.

When I do speak up you often feel the need to interpret. You tell me you've figured out what my problem is instead of listening to what I say. You don't respect my choices and boundaries and limitations.

Your attitude is paternal and condescending. When I say I'm going to do something, you tell people to remind me. You call around to check up on me. You never address your concerns with me. You tell me to ask my father/brother/boyfriend if it's okay for me to do something or be somewhere because it might be unsafe. When I

tell you I am capable of something, you ignore me.

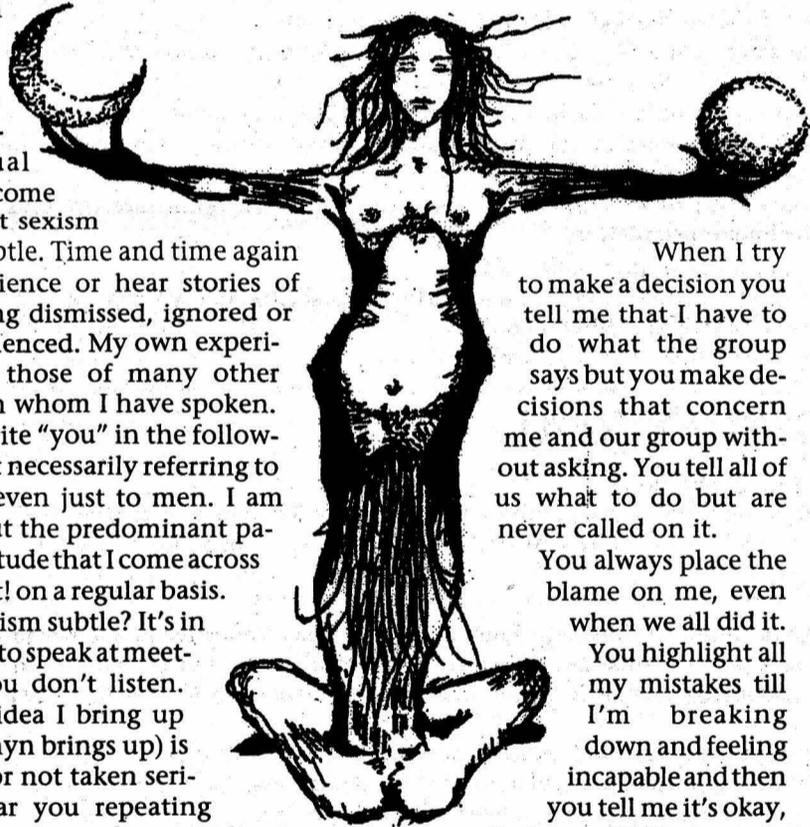
When I try to do those easy things I already know how to do, you don't let me. I don't need you to grab something out of my hands, or to roll up my pants, or to tell me how to take a picture or to walk with me to give someone a flier. And if you choose to do those things, please don't go complaining about how I'm always needing you to help me. I didn't ask you to.

Telling me I should be our spokesperson because I'm cute and young and female does not qualify as training a new generation of eco-activists.

I feel like I need to scream at you so you'll listen, but that doesn't work either. I feel like I have to be an asshole for you to respect me.

When I ask for help it doesn't mean I'm incapable and it doesn't mean I need you to do it for me. It just means that I have some questions I'd like you to answer so that I can do it myself next time.

I want to be empowered to do work for the movement, but when I make a mistake and you tell me you'll fix it, that doesn't help anything.



When I try to make a decision you tell me that I have to do what the group says but you make decisions that concern me and our group without asking. You tell all of us what to do but are never called on it.

You always place the blame on me, even when we all did it.

You highlight all my mistakes till I'm breaking down and feeling incapable and then you tell me it's okay, that you still like me.

You've got your political ideology set. You're pro-feminist. But if you're so confident that you're not sexist, why don't you listen to what I'm saying so we can talk about it?

It is disheartening that somebody's appearance would make much of a difference in the movement. Many womyn are not taken seriously unless certain men in the group find them attractive. Other womyn are not taken seriously because they are considered attractive. This needs to end. I've experienced men using sexuality to try to manipulate womyn. I've had Earth First!ers make inappropriate comments about my physical appearance even after I had asked them to stop. The perpetrators thought it was no big deal, but it was enough to make me seriously question whether I wanted to be involved in a group that disrespected me and made me feel uncomfortable. I put



my energy elsewhere so it definitely weakened the movement.

When womyn are made to feel weak and dependent many things can happen. Womyn start acting weaker and more dependent, do not grow in the movement the way that they can, exert endless amounts of energy trying to express their frustration or find a place where they feel more wanted. Obviously it would be much easier for us to not treat womyn like they're worthless!

In every movement that changed anything there were womyn involved, not just behind the scenes but on the frontlines, whether or not they took the credit. Unfortunately, every movement that I know of was weighed down by the oppression of sexism. We need to eradicate sexism from Earth First! It brings us all down. Sexism stands in the way of systemic social and environmental change.

Sexism is a form of control. When certain people declare themselves in charge and won't teach others how to do things, things don't get done. It is vital for those who know how to do things to pass those skills along. Teach people how to do things so they can do it themselves!

When womyn are continually ignored or dismissed, they stop sharing their ideas. But these ideas are valuable and much needed. If womyn don't feel safe or comfortable in a group, they will stop coming. They will work alone or somewhere else or not at all. Even if they do come, their heart won't be fully in it. We need as much life and soul and passion in the movement as possible. We can't afford to suck energy out of each other.

I think that communication is key. When sexism exists or someone believes that it exists, it needs to be addressed. If a person has a concern with another person, those two people need to talk about it with each other. It seems obvious, but sadly it rarely happens.

Womyn are incredibly valuable in the Earth First! movement. Let's start addressing sexism, ending sexism and giving womyn room to thrive in the daily struggle to save the planet!

To get her 'zine write Yael Grauer at Shimer College, POB 500, Waukegan, IL 60079; starlightdove@hotmail.com.

BARE BONES

Partnership/Restoration Sale Slammed in SW

Forest Guardians joined by Forest Conservation Council, the National Forest Protection Alliance, Flagstaff Activist Network, John Muir Project, the Lands Council and Native Forest Council, won a significant administrative appeal on August 3 of the 1,700 acre Fort Valley "restoration" logging project near Flagstaff, Arizona, a project jointly planned by the US Forest Service and the Grand Canyon Forests Partnership.

The Forest Service concluded that effects to cultural resources had not been documented and that actions that may be reasonably foreseeable had not been addressed in the cumulative effects analysis. The appeal victory sends a strong message to both the "collaboration" and "restoration" logging camps. The Forest Service had argued in its record of decision that all the interested "stakeholders" had been involved, but obviously there was significant dissent as evidenced by this appeal.

Leghold Traps Continue

An amendment offered by Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) to protect wildlife on national wildlife refuges was defeated on September 9. The Torricelli amendment would have restricted the use of US tax dollars to administer, permit or promote steel-jawed leghold traps and neck snares on national wildlife refuges for commercial or recreational purposes. A motion to kill the amendment passed in the Senate 64 to 32. On July 14, the House approved an amendment identical to the one offered by Senator Torricelli 259 to 166.

Each year countless animals are mutilated and killed in steel-jawed leghold traps. The traps, more often than not, catch non-target animals. The traps cause massive lacerations, broken limbs, joint dislocations and death. Some animals chew or twist off their own limbs in a desperate attempt to escape. Steel-jawed leghold traps have been outlawed in 88 countries. Arizona, California, Colorado and Massachusetts recently passed ballot initiatives to ban steel-jawed leghold traps. Florida and New Jersey also have laws banning their use.

Mammoth Utah Timber Sale Blocked Again

For the second time this year, the National Forest Protection Alliance, Forest Conservation Council (FCC) and Forest Guardians were successful in halting one of the largest timber sale projects on national forests in Utah. On September 20, the organizations were notified that their second administrative appeal of the South Spruce timber sale on the Dixie National Forest was upheld.

This timber sale, which would have logged 50-million board feet of timber from 3,870 acres, borders Cedar Breaks National Monument and is home to an abundant array of sensitive wildlife such as the northern goshawk, flammulated owl, neo-tropical migrant birds, wild turkeys and elk.

According to FCC Executive Director Bryan Bird, the Forest Service's sloppiness in preparing the South Spruce project is linked to its public relations campaign designed to convince the public that nature cannot be allowed to run its course and that emergency logging is needed. "Under the guise of a forest health emergency," Bird contends, "the Forest Service feels that it can bypass many of its own requirements for protection of environmental quality."

The World Trade Organization: Pirating the Planet

BY DANDY LION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) formed quietly in 1994 as a result of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Over 130 member countries agree to adhere to many heinous rules regulating international trade. The WTO must be shut down because it is unelected, unaccountable and has the power to undermine local laws that protect the environment and labor from exploitation. Non-elected corporate panels act as judges over economic issues in disputes brought before the WTO. Corporate influence is shaping and binding international trade rules. In 100 cases over the first four years at the WTO, all decisions by these panels have favored corporations over labor, corporations over public health and corporations over the environment.

US Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman, in remarks to the President's Export Council, said agriculture was the one issue that could "make or break" the negotiations at the WTO Ministerial in Seattle, Washington, happening November 30-December 3. According to US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, the main US agenda will be to increase foreign market access for US goods. The US also wants to reduce tariffs and regulatory barriers that inhibit farm exports and ensure that science-based rules govern trade in genetically-engineered (GE) crops and other products of biotechnology. Review of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) and the Trade Related Property Rights Agreement (TRIPS) are all on the agenda.

In February 1998, negotiations for a biosafety protocol to regulate the use of and trade in GE products were blocked due to free trade concerns. Conflict between consistency with WTO rules and the precautionary principle was effectively deadlocked by the Miami Group made up of the US, New Zealand, Ecuador, Argentina and several other countries that are a pro-corporate, pro-US block fighting regulations and labeling of GE products. As a result of this deadlock, biosafety protocol probably has no more than a 50-50 chance of being enacted. A US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) 1992 rule precludes the FDA from regulating GE crops so it is unlikely that the US will ever sign onto either the biosafety or biodiversity protocols. Mandatory labeling of GE products has been enacted in several countries and is also threatened by WTO rules.

Here is a brief look at what is on the WTO's plate:

The TRIPS Agreement

Neem, haldi, pepper, harar, bahera, amla, mus-

tard, basmati, ginger, castor, karela and jamun all have been patented and are victims of a western style Intellectual Property Rights system. Such biopiracy is epidemic. The implementation of TRIPS, which is based on the US style patent regimes, should be stopped immediately.

The WTO's Agreement on TRIPS creates a significant barrier to encouraging less intensive agriculture in non-industrialized areas of the world. Under the current TRIPS agreement all countries need legislation to ensure the "effective" protection of plant varieties including trees. TRIPS is coming up for review in 1999, and corporate pressure from industrialized nations is coming down on countries who don't want to accept patents on life.

In international trade law, health and environmental standards and regulations, and even labeling can be considered technical barriers to trade. Under pressure from the US, the existing labeling of GE ingredients in the UK could be threatened. The US has sent papers to the WTO saying that the mandatory labeling of food, such as that now imposed unilaterally by Britain, can amount to a barrier to trade. Trade experts believe that labeling of GE products by the EU is now the most likely to form the subject of a complaint to a WTO dispute panel—the most powerful sanction any country can resort to, short of war.

The SPS Agreement

The SPS agreement regulates movement of biological goods internationally. It limits the rights of national governments to impose import restrictions on goods such as food that may be contaminated or timber that may carry diseases. The "precautionary principle" is not acceptable under the agreement because it is considered a barrier to trade. The WTO declared an obscure agency, Codex Alimentarius (influenced heavily by corporate interests), as the authority on food safety standards for the world. This agency poses a significant threat to consumer protections and drastically limits consumers' right to know.

The Global Free Logging Agreement

The "accelerated tariff liberalization" in the SPS agreement is an attempt by the US and Canada to remove remaining import taxes known as tariffs on processed wood products in order to penetrate Asian markets. A study by the Forest and Paper Association shows that reduction of tariffs would result in a three to four percent increase in global wood consumption (clearly

their goal). Increased consumption means increased logging making this a virtual "Global Free Logging Agreement" (FLA). In Britain, the introduction of non-trade measures into the agreement could lead to the outlawing of forest protection schemes such as The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The FSC prohibits the use of GE trees while providing independent and international wood certification for the labeling of well-managed forest products.

This sinister FLA is being pushed by Monsanto, big timber, big oil and others with interests and investments in GE trees in hopes that it will produce faster growing plantations and thus make their plantations a more valuable commodity in the future international marketplace. Patents on tree genes are already mounting, resulting in monopoly ownership by transnational corporations.

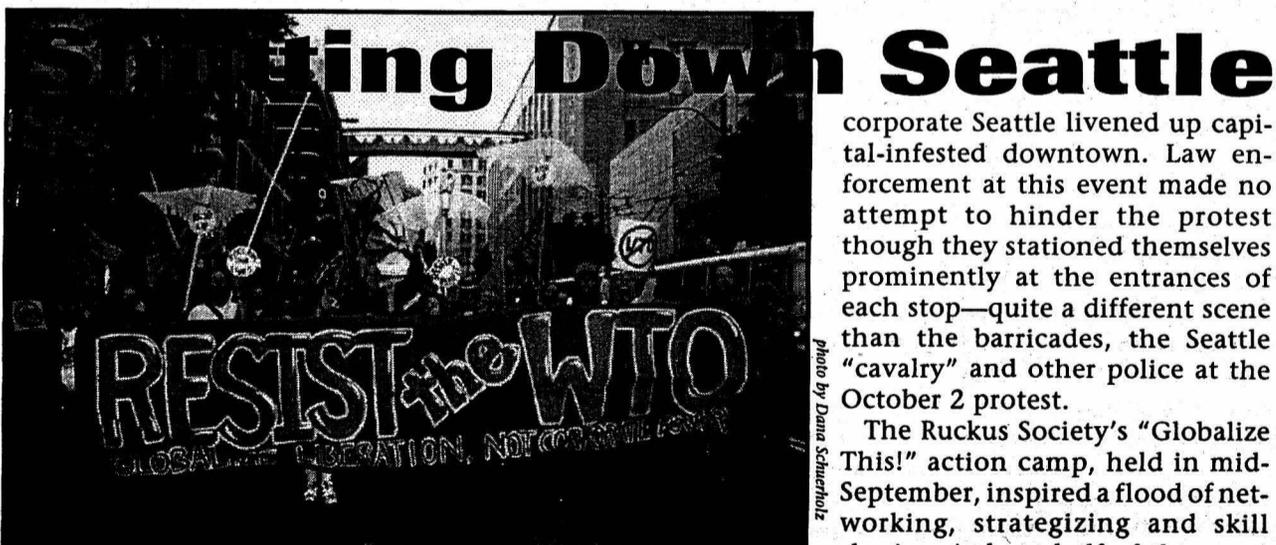
The Agreement on Agriculture

In another arena, the Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) pits small farms against larger, more efficient agribusinesses in both industrialized and non-industrialized parts of the world with disastrous consequences for small-scale agriculture and rural communities. GE agriculture is especially pervasive in so-called "third world" nations (with the most biodiversity) so, regardless of how much American farmers decide to grow, biodiversity faces intense threats. Further AOA negotiations will be launched at the Seattle Ministerial. According to the UN, roughly 1.4-billion people depend on farm-saved seeds for food security. Under WTO-enforced patent laws Monsanto has the right to take farmers to court if they collect and use seeds from its patented plant varieties—including GE seeds. Monsanto has opened more than 475 such seed piracy cases nationwide.

For the past nine years, the EU has banned beef raised with artificial growth hormones. The WTO recently ruled that this public health law is a barrier to trade and must eliminate the ban or face trade sanctions. It chose sanctions and has spawned huge outcry from those actually affected.

Biotechnology will be one of the main issues discussed in Seattle. Potential negotiations about trade in biotechnology goods and products could result in the commercial planting of GE crops around the UK and the importation and sale of unsegregated and/or inadequately labeled GE products.

For more information contact the Bioengineering Action Network, ban@tao.ca; or check out www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution; www.seattlewto.org/n30; www.iatp.org.



October 5 protest in Seattle—warming up for the WTO Ministerial

BY SEA TURTLE'S REVENGE

The newly formed Direct Action Network (DAN) has been busy with a wide array of organizing and Northwest outreach in preparation for the World Trade Organization's upcoming third Ministerial—and first in the US—this November. Already, activists have mobilized to confront Michael Moore, the new director-general of the WTO on his recent Seattle visit.

On October 2, DAN joined with other Seattle groups following Moore during a speaking tour in Seattle.

A colorful October 5 "hall of shame" tour of

logistics and infrastructure for the November 30 Global Day of Action. November 30 will be the first day of the Ministerial.

An independent media center is currently being set up to facilitate coverage of what's going on in the streets and to draw together all the radical video, audio and print resources expected. The November 30 international mobilization collective was formed at Ruckus, and has started circulating the Global N30 proposal. For those of you who can't come to Seattle, organize festivities in your city!

Multi-language versions of the global proposal and

reports of international plans as the time draws near are at www.n30.org. Other technical direct actions will come out of affinity group trainings and strategizing in Seattle during the Direct Action Convergence (November 20-28)—eight days of street theater, giant puppet building workshops, political dance, music performance and nonviolent direct action trainings.

An especially exciting development is the anarchist mobilization being driven by Seattle Anarchist Response, a loose-knit collective who are seeking housing for activists, conducting outreach to international anarchist collectives and activist networks, organizing self-defense trainings and compiling information, as well as participating in the Direct Action Convergence.

Strategically and autonomously organized direct actions are encouraged because of the intense level of security and police. Locals are researching and scouting strategic action targets and will be circulating them through appropriate channels.

N30 and the Ministerial will hopefully carry this international network through to the next global day of action (Mayday 2000). At Ruckus, ideas like internationally coordinated actions and transnational mobilizations planted tantalizing visions in the minds of many.

Contact DAN, POB 95113, Seattle, WA 98145; (206) 632-1656; can@drizzle.org; www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution.

May our resistance be as transnational as capital! Smash WTO! End corporate rule!

Government Scrimmages as Y2K Nears

BY JOSH LAUGHLIN

The end-of-the-millennium jitters are spreading like the flu. Fanatics have thoroughly booked flights back to the homeland in hopes of Christ's return. The weary are buying up the country's generator supply. Canners have never sealed so many jars of apple butter. Corporations are spending millions readying their systems. Even the government has never been so busy with its many year-end preparations. What it's been doing has raised some eyebrows.

Back in May, during the dark of night, nearly 100 Army troops invaded two vacant public housing complexes in Chester, Pennsylvania. In a community riddled with environmental and social injustices (see *EF!J*, March-April '98), it wasn't shocking to hear that Chester was descended upon by fatigue-clad soldiers unloading live rounds of explosives and ammunition. Shocked and terrified neighbors reported seeing "people running in and out of buildings with pistols in their hands like they were really after somebody." According to a *Philadelphia Inquirer* article, Walker Sokalski, an Army special operations spokesperson, said, "It was just a special-operations training in an urban environment, practicing how they would look at a target building and how they would attack it."

Although the invasion was new to the list of injustices against Chester (coming right after the toxic waste incinerators, soil burners and bioremediation plants), it was not new to other parts of the country. In fact, urban warfare takeovers have been happening throughout the country over the past few years. The Marine Corps and its Bay Area training exercise, dubbed the "Urban Warrior Advanced Warfighting Experiment," rocked Oakland, California, March 15-18, 1999.

The *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, one of the city's weekly newspapers, reviewed hundreds of pages of military documents obtained through public records requests and revealed the goals of these takeovers: "Urban Warrior is designed to give Marines practice in seizing control of urban areas—including taking over food and water supplies, utilities and communications systems. Moreover, statements and articles by military leaders suggest that the armed forces are preparing themselves to contain popular uprisings—including uprisings in US cities," a March 10 *Bay Guardian* article states. The documents further describe tactical operations and maneuvering of Marine troops. "Sewer and underground utility systems offer one of the most clandestine avenues for penetrating the urban environment."

Gar Smith of the *Earth Island Journal* who watched the four-day war unfold at the Oakland Naval Hospital, mentioned that prior to the action, the Marines made recruiting rounds to local high schools, publicizing the controversial event.

Who are these commandos and why are they invading our cities? In a gut-wrenching public relations response, Sokalski said exercises like the one in Chester are "a means for a commander to test his [troops'] training in other environments... This army saves lives. We want to thank the communities for being part of saving people's lives in the future."

The National Guard has similar tricks up its sleeve. The Guard has Y2K raid units forming, expected to be in place in all 50 states by January 1, 2000. According to David Bresnahan, a reporter with *WorldNetDaily*, each team is made up of 22 full-time Guard members and is prepared to deal with domestic threats from terrorist groups. In January, *WorldNetDaily* reported that the Guard is testing a method for national mobilization without the use of telephones and computers in the event of Y2K disaster. Teamed up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the two branches are working on an operation named COMEX/MOBEX (communications and mobilization exercise), a method to mobilize all 480,000 Guard members in the absence of phone, radio, computer and television.

The Oregon National Guard has confirmed the existence of COMEX/MOBEX and its continued trials. According to Major David Jeske, spokesperson for the Oregon National Guard, the exercise is designed as an "armory to armory" communications tool that relies on satellite and high frequency

radio. Generator power will fuel the operation.

Asked about Oregon's Y2K raid team, Jeske said that "it is not yet created" and is "still being organized." Oregon employs 10,000 guards who will be on call when the end of the year rolls around. Unlike Washington state, Oregon's governor has not officially called up the National Guard for December 31. Here in Oregon, the governor's committee on Y2K has ordered the Guard to a two-fold task. Assessing equipment such as Black Hawk helicopters, tanks and computers for their Y2K compliancy, Jeske says, is step one. Perfecting the COMEX/MOBEX operation is step two. In response to the call up of Washington's Guard for the end of the year Jeske said, "These guys will probably be sitting in their armories playing cards." When asked about martial law and civilian unrest related to Y2K, Jeske said the governor's committee "has not tasked the National Guard to prepare for that scenario."

Just how much power can state and federal governments assume in a worst-case scenario? William J. Olson and Alan Woll, attorneys with a McLean, Virginia, law firm recently penned a thick investigative report detailing what the true powers of the president and local governments are. This report was a parody, as if the Clinton administration requested a legal summary of



their given power knowing a national crisis was looming. The research and summary were funded by the Gun Owners of America, a 250,000-member organization based in Springfield, Virginia whose aim is to protect the Second Amendment. According to Olson the organization approached the firm with two questions in mind: 1) What are the powers of the federal government in the event of a national crisis? and 2) What powers do they have to seize fire arms?

The detailed report probes back into history, recounting the early days of general strikes and popular revolts and the deployment of the military against them. For example, on April 25, 1914, Colorado Governor Ammons requested federal assistance in ending labor related violence in the coal fields of Huerfano and Los Animas counties. A few days later on April 28, President Woodrow Wilson ordered infantry units into Colorado with orders to disarm all persons including sheriff's deputies, police and members of the Colorado National Guard. Wilson's orders told the Army that "the measure of your authority is what necessity dictates." Wilson's intervention was legally justified by US Revised Statutes that then allowed the use of federal troops to oppose an insurrection against a state's government.

The report documents a handful of other instances where gubernatorial and presidential directives have ordered troops in to quell uprisings—all in the absence of martial law declarations. According to the report, the US Supreme Court has decided that presidents have dictatorial power, including the power to suspend the Constitution whenever they see fit.

On a similar note, Congress recently made changes to the Posse Comitatus Act, the 1878 law which prohibits federal troops from participating in domestic law enforcement. In early October, *WorldNetDaily* reported on the just-established US Joint Forces Command, a unit of federal troops that may now assist domestic law enforcement in national affairs. At a ceremony commemorating the new force, Defense Secretary William Cohen

said, "The American people should not be concerned about it. They should welcome it."

Other wings of the military have had their Y2K quirks come a little early. The Navy has had some of its top secret Y2K documents leaked. In what are being called the "Y2K Pentagon Papers," Jim Lord has reprinted on line (www.JimLord.to) a report titled "The Master Utility List." According to Lord, an ex-Marine himself, this list came to him through anonymous people within the agency. The June 1999 list prepared by the Navy describes over 100 cities in the US that will experience probable, likely, partial or total failure of gas, water, electrical and sewer services. Lord says the survey was conducted to determine the risk of utility failures at Navy facilities worldwide. Military bases in the US are rarely self-sufficient, almost always relying upon local providers. The agency expects 125 cities to be without at least one of these utilities, some losing all four at the turn of the millennium.

When the AP broke the story in August, the Navy claimed the list had always been posted on its web site. But according to Lord, the Navy has been updating the list weekly since it went public. "The progress [of each city's readiness] they claim is so unrealistically impressive it can only make one wonder if the current survey has any meaning at all." To see the list yourself, check (www.nfesc.navy.mil/y2k/utilinfo/MatrixHeader.html)

The possibility of utilities failure has raised larger issues. Malfunction of nuclear reactors has been an area of hot debate. While there will surely be technological glitches worldwide, a gray cloud lingers over nuclear compliancy and power failure. In an August 17, *Los Angeles Times* article, Helen Caldicott, a fiery and prominent critic of the nuclear age, blasted the lackadaisical responses and attitudes of responsible officials toward the dire situation. Caldicott recently met with John Koskenin, the head of the president's Y2K committee, representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Defense and four independent experts at a White House discussion. "The government representatives dismissed concerns that were raised while providing no substantive basis for confidence that we do not face potentially irregular and possibly serious nuclear accidents on or after January 1, 2000," Caldicott wrote.

According to experts, nuclear power plants are dependent upon an external electricity supply to maintain the circulation of about one million gallons of water per minute to cool the radioactive core and also to keep the spent fuels pools cool. "If a section of the grid goes down, the approximately 100-ton fissioning uranium core in the affected reactor will melt within two hours if the backup diesel generators—whose reliability has been estimated at 85 percent—fail," Caldicott wrote.

She mentioned that although the government is acting haphazardly around the seriousness of the issue, it is taking some precautions. "The NRC representatives told us that contingency plans are in place and said that they are arguing with the Federal Emergency Management Agency about which agency will pay for stockpiling potassium iodine tablets that are used to block the absorption of radioactive iodine by the thyroid gland in the event of a meltdown."

As it looks now, it is not just Mormons and survivalists stockpiling for Y2K's technological breakdown. The Gun Owners of America got their two questions answered. Jim Lord's Y2K Pentagon Papers summed up the utilities chaos the Navy is expecting. FEMA will be suitcasing radiation pills. The Marines have figured out how to penetrate the sewer canals. The National Guard should soon be able to communicate among its 480,000-member battalion in the absence of grid electricity. As one National Guard officer told *WorldNetDaily*, "I have no doubts about the bunker mentality of the Clinton administration. Let's put it this way, our civil rights are going to take a nosedive."

One way or another, this New Year's will certainly make for some interesting history.

Josh Laughlin works on the editorial collective of the *Journal* and has been canning many jars of pasta sauce, plum jelly and apple butter. He waits anxiously for New Year's 2000 and all the surprises it will bring.

HAVING A CARNIVAL UK STYLE:

BY LACEY PHILLABAUM

In early September I sat down with one of the women who made the June 18 international day of action the most successfully coordinated day of action this movement has undertaken in recent memory. We talked about the spectacular goings on at the Carnival Against Capital in the City of London (the financial center in the wider city of London) on June 18. I hope this story, characterized by creativity and a refusal to lapse into dogma as it is, can be a guide for our own November 30 organizing.

Describe what happened at the carnival.

... Fliers were put out saying meet at Liverpool Street Station at noon... Every time these sort of Reclaim the Streets events happen, people do their own thing... there is an amazing amount of stuff done... I remember looking and seeing this giant pair of underpants on two sticks, with "Pants to the WTO" or something really silly like that...

People were fairly scared, I think. Not the thousands of people who showed up for a good party, but the people who organized it were really scared because it was like, "They are never, ever going to let it happen. There's no way we could pull this off." The way it happened in the end, the way that it was organized, was thousands of carnival masks were made because... you can't have a carnival without masks, in four different colors... and they were given out into different parts of the crowd, to sort of split the crowd into four sections... and then there were streamers that went off in four different directions and split the crowd up...

I was absolutely stunned because I hardly saw a policeman all day. What happened was that the crowd went off in four different directions and all of a sudden there were four lots of police relaying messages back to two control centers. The control centers couldn't cope with that number of messages and they crashed. The police had no command structure and no one giving orders. So, they just didn't succeed in following any of these people around...

These four groups went down to Upper Thames Street... which is by the Futures Exchange [LIFFE], which is the second largest futures exchange in the world. It was just amazing. All the traders came out onto the balcony and were chucking trading slips down, and it was like this confetti raining down on us... And the sound system came in on the back of a van... and a lorry [truck] with breeze [cinder] blocks and ladders, which, the press has been lying [about], saying the breeze blocks were used to throw at windows and ladders were used to smash through windows. But that's crap, basically... We just threw these breeze blocks down and cement and stuff and bricked up the entrance to the Futures Exchange, which was just so cool. The ladders were used to put banners up...

The whole thing was a carnival and it was amazing because it was the whole world turned upside down. Image it, you look out a window and... you see someone in an immaculate pin-striped suit spraying "fuck corporate scum" across the window of an office. Someone opened up a fire hydrant, and I don't think they realized quite how powerful fire hydrants are... it was literally going about 100 meters in the air... It was just ludicrous. Mad stuff.

So the exchange was shut down?

...Eventually they evacuated the building. They said they continued trading while everything was going on outside. The traders kept coming out on the balcony and watching the carnival so I don't believe they were trading. You know, seconds on one of those exchanges is thousands of pounds... After about an hour and a half of continuous partying and stuff, people attacked the doors to the Futures Exchange... Apparently... they reversed the escalators so that no one could get [up]... Brilliant tactic. So after that they evacuated the LIFFE building. And the police charged down...

Do you have any idea once the building was evacuated what sort of impact that would have had

on international trade?

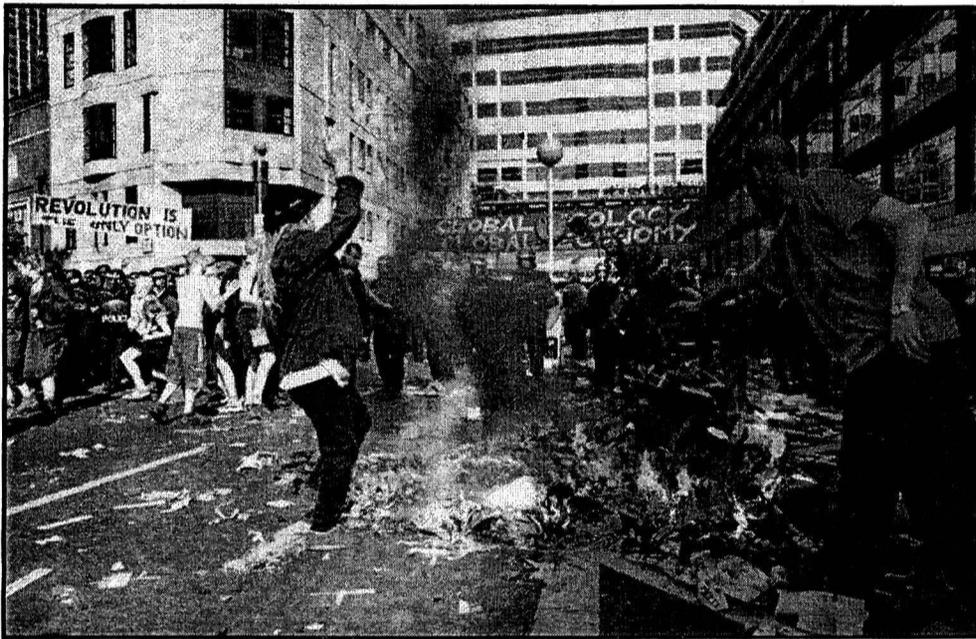
It's difficult to know. I tried to find out what impact actually closing an exchange would have... Now, there has been a lot of fuss since June the 18th about making sure it doesn't happen again. I hesitate to make the comparison, but I know that when the IRA bombed the... Exchange in, I think, 1992, ... international businesses threatened to go somewhere where there wasn't a civil war going on. There are a lot of businesses saying that, if you are going to start bringing your civil unrest into the streets of the City then we are just going to go somewhere else...

In addition to them having to evacuate the exchange, a lot of damage was done.

Two million pounds [over \$3 million] worth of damage. So they claim anyway.

Do you think it was more or less?

It's just impossible to know. I remember leaving the City of London and looking back from Blackfriar's



Keeping the fires raging during Carnival in downtown London

bridge... and there was just smoke rising. It was like, "Whoa, what have we done?..."

What were the actions that happened in the morning?

...There were a lot of actions that took place kind of simultaneously to shut down the Underground [the London Underground or Tube, the subway]... By midday [the authorities] had shut down the whole center of the Underground. I know some people who were on a train, and there was an announcement that went out that said, "I'm sorry. Everybody off. There are no more trains on this line due to civil unrest." ... It starts happening, and it gets reported on the radio, and it gets reported on the TV, and it gets reported in the *Evening Standard*, and people start flooding in because they see it on the news. I think they shut down the Underground to stop more people arriving because by then there was a riot happening...

Most media reports said 4,000 people, and I have heard a lot more than that.

Yes, well, that's crap. There were 8,000 masks produced and they were all given out, and loads of people didn't get them. I reckon 15,000 at a guess... It's difficult to say as well because I reckon at the height there were 15,000 people there, but people were leaving and it wasn't getting smaller because people kept coming. When it broke up there were just hundreds of people everywhere. I was in places where I thought, "Wow, this is the crowd. This is huge. There are thousands of us." And then I found out there were other people, friends of mine, who were miles away with similar numbers of people going, "Wow this is fucking enormous..."

Where else besides the LIFFE building?

...There was another group of about 2,000 people who went off somewhere else and had their one little riot and smashed up a McDonald's. That was where the woman got run over by the police van... When we heard about what was going on, people looked around and were like, "But all the four groups are here. Who are these people? Where are they? What are they doing?" They were 2,000 people who just went off in a separate group somewhere else... Quite a few of the national papers had little maps of the City with little

flames on them, which were the places where things had kicked off and stuff had happened. I was really surprised at how many of them there were because I was like, "Well yes, I was there and I was there, but what happened there?"...

What were some of the other things that happened?

...There were at least two McDonald's outlets that were smashed up and a Mercedes showroom... There was a lot of kind of collateral damage...

Wasn't a big bank, a Danish bank...?

Quite possibly... I saw Treat's Bank, which is outside the City, but it's the most prestigious bank in the country, totally covered in blue paint. Just stuff like that happened everywhere... It was basically 15,000 people doing their own thing. There were some people who were drinking alcohol, and anything available they would throw at the police. There were some people who were smashing up the Futures

Exchange or smashing up the Mercedes building, and there were some people with children who were picnicking in the streets... Some people made these fantastic posters... that were flypostered across the windows of the buildings and some of them had targets on them and literally just said, "This is a target"....

What were some of the most creative tactics you remember?

There was some amazing stuff used against the police. A lot of what that sort of stuff seems to be about is taking space and holding that space and having people live in the space and then do creative things. A lot of throwing bricks at the police or whatever is about holding off the police to hold the space. There was a lorry, contrary to popular belief... the lorry full of paint just happened to be there... The paint was thrown at the

riot cops. They have riot shields over their faces, and if you get paint on them they can't see where they are going. And they have got big gloves, so they can't clean it off. It was brilliant, it was just so effective... Somebody said that there was people using liberated fire extinguishers against the police line. They were saying that they had never seen a police line retreat before. They actually took back the space, they weren't just holding it...

What were some of the other countermeasures used against the police?

I saw people letting down the tires on police vans. Apparently, there were police vans that got crowbarred open, and there were actually protesters running around with helmets and riot shields. It was quite amusing... I think there were nets strung up. I thought it was volleyball nets going across the road, which it later transpired were extremely useful for stopping police charges, particularly police horse charges... There was a sound system and crowds and a police line to stop the sound system moving, and then on the other side of the police line there was another crowd. The two crowds were playing volleyball over the police line...

I have heard people mention countercharges against the police...

... One of the ways the police use to clear the streets is they charge. Usually, they line up behind riot shields and push forward with the riot shields... They break crowds up, they move them, and countercharging is just basically doing it back. One example... is that there was a Hillgrove demonstration in Oxford on the High Street. About 400 people and a police line, and what they actually did was get behind a big tarpaulin banner. They had everyone behind the banner pushing against the police. The police can't get anybody because there was a thick plastic banner in the way. So they were just pushed back by the weight of 500 people. Well, it is just that sort of thing, using, moving the crowd against the police to take back space...

Instead of having nonviolence trainings beforehand, how to be passive in police situations, people were having public order trainings, or basically riot training?

Interview with a J18 Organizer

Yes, it is a different approach. It is something that there has been a lot of discussion about both, sort of in the last seven years and particularly in the aftermath of June the 18th... There are some particularly good lines in the Manchester guide to public order training that really made me think, basically saying this is not about how to survive a public order situation, it's about how to live it and how to make something positive out of it. The current trend of thinking isn't that that means sitting down in the road in front of police charges in order to maintain the high moral ground and lose people to hospital and lose people to being arrested. The way people approach it... some people... is about understanding how the police deal with crowds and how you can avoid that. I don't know if you have the same sort of thing in America, but there is a police training guide, and there is a video called "Riot Cop" that you can actually rent in the video shop... Also, you know, some people have had quite a lot of experience of actually seeing them doing it in action.

Public order training is basically about preparing people for what that means. If you see snatch squads forming, how to deal with it, and if you see what kind of tactics police use, you can see when they are doing certain things and what they are trying to achieve. Are they trying to break the crowd? In which case, people who know that that is what they are doing can keep the crowd together. If there is a group of 10 people within the crowd who are aware that the police are going to try to cut into the middle, then keeping the crowd together is a good way of holding the space and stopping the police. It's not violence, riot training. It's not about how to wade in there and have a barney. It's about how to hold your own and in many ways stop things from getting too nasty... When the police charge, if a crowd runs away it creates panic, it very quickly gives up the space that the crowd has been holding, and people get hurt. People get trampled. The fastest end up treading on the slower, and it is just generally not a good situation. If there are people aware of what's going on and if you have a crowd that is actually responding constructively to police tactics, then things like that are less likely to happen. It's a very different approach than the idea that nonviolence is always right. But I think in many ways it's a more constructive approach. There was an instance on June the 18th where people linked arms and sat down in front of a police charge, and I think they got up pretty quickly because people were going to get hurt otherwise because the police were not in the mood.

It is a question of tactics because I think in some situations reacting nonviolently to the police is particularly effective, usually in fairly middle class, nice demonstrations where the police have it in their heads that they actually don't want to fight with these people because half of them might be magistrates...

How do you feel about the idea that all June 18 was, was a riot, a self-gratifying riot, for 15,000 people or the couple hundred that helped organize it, and really what it did was turn people off from the cause of anti-capitalism, everybody who read about it or saw it.

...There is more to life than having a riot. Lots of discussion has been raised about, "Was it the right thing to do?..." It's not just discussion amongst the couple of hundred people who organized it... Every national newspaper has had editorials, comments, discussion. It's opened a massive amount of political space. The term anti-capitalism in this country, until June the 18th, was used to describe a boring, left-wing socialist way of organizing that is fairly discredited these days... Everything that groups like Reclaim the Streets and Earth First! have done before in this country, whatever you do, it is like "anti-car protesters" and "environmentalists," and all of a sudden every newspaper said "anti-capitalists," and it wasn't "anti-capitalists march" or "anti-capitalists strike." Perhaps some of those things are actually more powerful, involving, inclusive ways of doing things, but they don't open political space anymore because they have been done. It doesn't even make the news these days if people march. The last striking miners demo I went on was redirected by the police and went around the backstreets of Keninsington, and no one even fucking saw it...

It has become a landmark on the political landscape that people use to help define and think about a new way of protesting... What June the 18th did was open the space for a different way of approaching those issues from these traditional left wings, which is needed because we aren't fighting traditional capitalism anymore...

Were there action guidelines for June 18th?

Absolutely not.

Do you think that inhibited some groups from participating or allowed more people to participate?

I think it probably attracts groups of a different sort. One of the main principals behind June the 18th was that there was nobody telling anybody how to do it. The proposal said, "If you think that the things that you believe in, what you are fighting for, have an enemy in finance capital, capitalism and free trade, then take action on June the 18th and join up with people all over the world who feel the same way." There are drawbacks to that. I understand that the June the 18th actions in Australia were actually congratulated by the far Right in that country for campaigning against globalization... There are groups that we shouldn't be working with...

What about the idea that the people who were rioting prevented anyone who didn't want to be involved in property damage from doing anything else?

I don't think that is true... because of the nature of the autonomous actions, people particularly in the morning doing lots of different actions. There were computer actions, hacking attempts, that would probably be classified as terrorism by the British government. But a lot of the actions that happened in the morning were peaceful. They were symbolic. There was street theater going on... I certainly wasn't up for fighting the police on June the 18th... The violence and the fighting with police would have



Watching the watchers

happened anyway if you had said a nonviolent day of action. People would have laughed. It probably would have happened anyway because you can't, by putting something like that on a flyer, you can't actually stop that kind of thing happening, unless we want to police our own demonstrations, which seems to defeat the object slightly...

What about *Evading Standards*?

Evading Standards is a spoof newspaper. There is a daily newspaper produced in London called the *Evening Standard* which is what everybody reads. You see it on the Tubes when everyone is coming home from work... *Evading Standards* was a newspaper that was produced, and on the front and back were a total rip off of the *Evening Standard* except called *Evading Standards*, and everything was slightly tweaked to subvert, to change it and make it a piece of subversive propaganda. There was a front page article about global market meltdown, an article with a picture of a trader sobbing and an article which talked about what was going on with finance. Then on the back it had stuff about Ronaldo, the Brazilian footballer and how he had been bought up by Nike (because they always have sports on the back of English papers)... Inside it was just free form agit prop—articles about alternative living, articles explaining about what the G8 is, explaining what the WTO is...

What things happened beforehand? Were there plans made for how to deal with the CCTV (closed circuit television)? How much of this was blind luck and how much was commando organizing?

There was quite a lot of commando organizing.

There were some quite amusing things. I believe a reccie [reconnaissance] was done of Upper Thames Street, where it was actually going, months in advance, and then no one went back there, and they did loads of reccies around Bank Square, which is another fairly strategic place in the City, to try and make them think that was where we were going. I think it was completely successful because it was at Bank Square that police horses appeared when we were going down to Upper Thames Street and when we ran off they didn't know where we were going... I know there were really complicated plans for how people were going to get there that were completely foiled because they shut the Underground down. A lot of what happened was just blind luck...

Lots of what happens on this type of events is about crowd spontaneity. The strategic planning is about facilitating rather than managing the crowd.

Facilitating the crowd versus managing the crowd can be extremely difficult, getting the crowd to move when it needs to move or stay when it needs to stay.

Total nightmare. When the first group that arrived at Upper Thames Street got there they had to keep the road clear because the sound system and the equipment were coming in on trucks, and if they blocked the road there would be a traffic jam and the sound system couldn't get in. I think the facilitators of that group were standing in the road saying, "Get out of the street. We have got to keep the road clear, just take our word for it..." People in the crowd are like, "Who the hell do you think you are, trying to tell us what to do..." The first group actually blocked the road two or three times, and then cleared it again before the sound system actually got in. But it worked...

Somebody said at some point the samba band was really key in getting the crowd to move. Was that intentional?

...Samba bands! For anyone who wants to do crowd facilitation they are fucking amazing because they move at the same speed as the crowd and they are all on foot and are completely mobile, not like a sound system which can be boxed in. Bottom line is, a samba band, they are carrying drums, but they are just crowd like anybody else...

Who were your media spokespeople?

We don't have media spokespeople. We have a long running media debate in the UK... The media are the capitalist media. Everybody talks about Rupert Murdoch. These are people who, you know, they are capitalists. They are extremely powerful, and they are not on our side. They are never on our side. There is always this difficult thing because activists want publicity for what they are doing. They want to get the ideas and the issues out into the public domain, and the press really is public access... It is really good and really powerful to get good coverage in the media, but there has just been decades of really bad experience in the UK of just lies, twisted media coverage... You don't get coverage in the capitalist media if you are fighting capitalism. It's fairly obvious... What the debate has often centered around is not, do we want good media coverage or not because of course we do, but is it worth putting that much effort and energy into...

Quite a lot of the Earth First! groups in England, particularly around the north of England, have said, "Fuck the press. We will put our energy into our own media." A lot of the flyers that have been going out for the... actions actually say, "No cameras. No journalists. Actions are for participating." They stopped doing the press work, and the coverage is pretty much identical, which has really opened quite a lot of eyes... There are people who still think that media work should be done... but people feel very strongly, particularly with an action like June the 18th with so many diverse groups involved and people with such a wide range of issues and opinions participating, you can't have a single June the 18th message or a single June the 18th spokesperson... There was press work done but most of it was done in such a way that it was like... "This is our web site. If you want to cover us we are producing this information for everybody..." It's about an imaginative approach to the media. It is about getting away from slogging away at their game, trying to get them to give us good coverage and playing with them.

NARMADA FLOODS INDIAN COMMUNITIES

continued from front page

The SSP is one of more than 30 large dams and thousands of smaller dams planned as part of the Narmada Valley Development Project. Proponents claim that SSP will supply drinking water to 25-million people, irrigate 1.9-million hectares of land and generate 1,450 megawatts of power. These benefits are exaggerated, say critics, who warn that more than one million people in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat will be negatively impacted by the ill-conceived project.

Supplying Water for the Thirsty

Millions of people living in the drought-stricken regions of Kutch and Saurashtra are supposed to receive drinking water from the project, yet no one knows how much this will cost or how many it will supply. Costs of building pipelines and pumping plants in Gujarat were excluded from the project's cost-benefit analysis, and some say the cost of building distribution systems could reach over \$1 billion.

Official statistics for the number of villages to benefit leapt from 4,719 in the early 1980s to 8,215 in 1991 but the amount of water allocated for drinking water has not changed. Patrick McCully of the International Rivers Network stated, "Although it was revealed in 1982 that 236 of these villages were uninhabited, authorities have continued to claim that they will get water anyway."

The government asserts that the project will not support water-intensive sugar cane growing, yet ten large sugar mills have been given licenses to be built close to the head of the main canal. For Kutch and Saurashtra to receive water, it will have to "negotiate its way past the ten sugar mills, the golf courses, the five-star hotels, the water parks and the cash-crop growing, politically powerful, Patel-rich districts of Baroda, Kheda, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Mehsana," stated Arundhati Roy. Roy joined the struggle in March after a brief visit to the Narmada Valley. He has sparked world-wide attention to the struggle.

The Madhya Pradesh government admitted that water availability has been overestimated by 18 percent and that the state will receive 23 percent less power than projected. In March, Madhya Pradesh filed a suit in the Supreme Court seeking a new tribunal to re-evaluate and lower the dam height.

"The thing about multi-purpose dams like the Sardar Sarovar Project is that their 'purposes' (irrigation, power production and flood-control) conflict with each other," pointed out Roy. "The result of these mutually conflicting aims, studies say, is that when the Sardar Sarovar Projects are completed and the scheme is fully functional, you'll end up producing only three percent of the power that its planners say it will, 50 megawatts."

Still, the Gujarat government is resolutely pushing forward, and its finances show it. The *Times of India* reported in July that the state's financial position is "expected to deteriorate" due to a "steep rise in the government's capital expenditure on the Sardar Sarovar Project." Its outstanding borrowings are projected to increase from Rs 14,700 crore (\$3.4 billion) to Rs 35,400 crore (\$8.2 billion) by 2002.

Currently, people throughout Gujarat face water shortages, suffering from the effects of a dry monsoon season. But, because the Gujarat government is investing nearly 85 percent of the state's irrigation budget in SSP, smaller, more feasible water supply schemes—such as rainwater harvesting, conservation and repair of distribution system leaks—have been set aside.

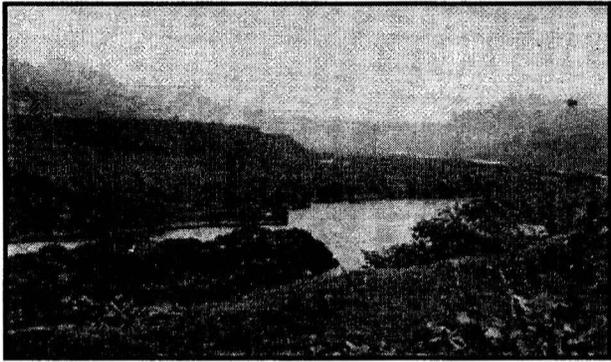
Asking People to Sacrifice

Bhaiji Bhai, a Tadvi tribal from Undava, once owned a two-story house situated on a 19-acre lot. But in the 1980s, he was evicted from all but two acres as the government acquired land for the project's main irrigation canal. His house was demolished, and his farm was excavated and concreted over. Nearly 300,000 more people like Bhaiji will be forced to give up land for the extensive 75,000-kilometer irrigation canal system, a planned nature sanctuary to compensate for wildlife drowned by the reservoir and, ironically, for resettlement sites for those displaced by the reservoir. There are no plans to compensate any of these people.

The reservoir for SSP will flood the homes and lands of more than 200,000 villagers. These people are considered "project-affected people," and therefore

are entitled to land-for-land compensation. However, "there is no land for the resettlement of all the oustees from the three states," said Nandini Oza, an activist with the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), which has led the movement fighting dams on the Narmada for 14 years.

Those who have moved to resettlement sites face severe problems. Villagers complain that there is no drinking water or adequate land for cultivation. Families are housed in tin shacks which are like ovens in summer and freezers in winter, reported Juliette Majot, executive director of the Interna-



Damming the Narmada River

tional Rivers Network, after a recent trip. Due to a shortage of arable land, communities have been split up onto widely scattered sites. The nearly 750 families of Vadgam have been resettled in 33 places, shattering families and communities. Sickness and disease on resettlement sites is prevalent. In April, seven people died following a bout of vomiting and fever during a 10-day period at a resettlement site located near Rameshwarpura.

"If they [pro-dam supporters] were so keen on development for tribal people, what happened in these last 50 years? Why is there not one school, not one hospital, not one road, not one well? Why is development contingent on their having to give up everything of theirs?" wrote Roy. "[Dams] have usurped the resources of the countryside and taken them to the city to serve a metropolitan elite. That has to stop."

The Campaign to Stop the Dam

Over the last decade, the NBA has succeeded in stalling the project through grassroots organizing and intensive lobbying. Led by the passionate Medha Patkar, the NBA helped force the Japanese government to withdraw funding in 1990. Three years later, the World Bank, in an unprecedented move, canceled the remainder of its \$450 million loan after a report by

an independent commission found that the project was "flawed" and that resettlement of displaced peoples was "not possible."

Dam construction was stalled in 1995 after the NBA filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court questioning the social, economic and environmental impacts of the project. This spring, however, the Court lifted the stay and allowed the height to be raised an additional five meters. The decision was based on falsified reports provided by the three affected state governments claiming that there was land available for resettlement.

In response, villagers intensified their protest this summer and launched a *satyagraha* (non-violent resistance). Many protesters vowed to commit *Jal Samarpan* (sacrifice by drowning) and remain on their lands even as waters of the monsoon-swollen Narmada River rose.

Three times this summer the river has swelled and flooded villages. Each time, villagers have remained in their homes and patiently watched as the backed up waters of the Narmada swallowed their fields and filled their houses. Each time, police have entered their homes wading through waist-deep water to arrest them. But on the night of September 21, Medha Patkar and several others stood for hours in water up to their necks in a *satyagraha* house in Domkhedi before being arrested. After their release, Patkar and nearly 500 protesters initiated a sit-in protest in Dhadgaon in Maharashtra. The police, like many times before, beat and dragged the protesters before arresting them.

Tens of thousands have refused to leave their lands and struggle to survive on the edge of the partially-filled reservoir. Flooding has destroyed homes and fields. Thick deposits of silt have accumulated along the reservoir and turned fetching water into a dangerous task. A seven-year-old girl and an elderly man drowned this summer after getting trapped in the silt.

"What choice do we have but to submerge ourselves?" asked Batu, a villager from Domkhedi. "I've tried to find the person to answer this question, but there is no one."

What You Can Do

Please write to the Indian President and urge him to stop construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project. Tell him that you support the NBA's demands that a full review of the project be initiated. Dr. K. R. Narayanan, The Honorable President of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, India; (011) 91 11 3017290; 91 11 3014570 (fax); pressecy@alpha.nic.in.

Susanne Wong is campaigns assistant at the International Rivers Network, a Berkeley-based NGO that works to support communities affected by large dams. For more information e-mail her at swong@irn.org or go to www.narmada.org.

HEARTWOOD POUNCES ON FEDERAL TIMBER SALES

continued from front page

The decision states: "The Court cannot discover any meaningful analysis providing support for the [Forest Service's] conclusion that the categorical exclusion of timber harvests of this magnitude would not have cumulative effects on the environment." It goes on to say "... the Court believes that the continued application of this unlawful categorical exclusion does pose a potential danger both to the environment and to public health."

"The Forest Service seized an opportunity to increase timber cuts while avoiding environmental and public review. They attempted to expand logging volumes by rewriting the rules governing categorical exclusions," said Donham. Judge Gilbert called it, "... a classic example of an arbitrary decision... especially in light of the overwhelming opposition from both federal and state sources as well as the general public."

Donham and Bensman filed the suit challenging the rule-making procedure by which the Forest Service adopted these standards for the use of categorical exclusions only two days before the statute of limitations would have prevented the lawsuit. "I bet they [USFS] are shitting bricks right now because they actually have no idea of how much forest is affected by the ruling," Bensman said.

The effects will be felt on national forests from Alaska to Florida. Estimates show Judge Gilbert's decision will halt logging on more than 200,000 acres of national forest land, including more than 100,000 acres in Texas alone where the Forest Service used categorical exclusions to conduct "thinnings" in endangered red cockaded woodpecker habitat. Also, the entire timber sale program in northern New Mexico was orchestrated under these bogus categorical exclusions, as were more than 30 sales in Alaska.

The US Forest Service has engaged in a pattern of illegal activity designed to increase logging, regardless of environmental damage, public opposition and applicable law. These sales are just the tip of the iceberg. The entire timber sale program is illegal and must be stopped," said Andy Mahler, director of Heartwood, a cooperative regional forest protection network active in 20 eastern, midwestern and southern states.

Momentum is building in the forest conservation movement. Nine eastern states with national forests are now Zero Cut due to legal victories by Heartwood and its member groups. The legislative campaign for the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, which would end the money-losing federal timber sales program, currently has 70 cosponsors. The new National Forest Protection Alliance is expanding exponentially and recently had its convening convention near Carbondale, Illinois. The time has come to get on to the real business of ending *all* exploitation of our public lands.

For more information and to get involved in this campaign, contact the National Forest Protection Alliance at POB 8264, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 542-7565; nfpa@wildrockies.org; or Heartwood at POB 1424, Bloomington, IN 47402; (812) 337-8898; info@heartwood.org; or Protect Our Public Lands at POB 25431, Eugene, OR 97402; (541) 349-8733; popl@forestcouncil.org.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

RED CLOUD THUNDER

I've heard stories of a band of wild street kids
 who are holding down a tree village
 200 feet high in the tops of ancient ones
 that the Forest Service and timber corporations
 would cut down to slash,
 replant from intricate centuries of interwoven Life
 to a sterile tree plantation in rows of sameness.
 These defenders, I've heard, spit fire at the cops,
 leap to defend when one of the women is screaming
 at the hands of a strange man.
 They have no nonviolence code
 yet they're staving off the brutality of chain saws
 ripping through more time and natural laws
 than the human mind can encompass.
 So I go to visit them,
 driving infernal combustion on overkill-newly rocked roads
 deeper into the forest
 where a lookout flies to warn the others
 upon the arrival of an unknown truck,
 reappears with a bandana pressed to his face,
 with pit bulls and a skulking brown dog with eerie blue eyes—
 who later sit in their companions' laps around the fire.
 When we wave, everyone relaxes,
 invite us in, tell us the ourstory of this occupation
 of more than a year.
 Voices high in the old ones resume—
 I crane my neck to see the undersides of platform shelters—
 cables stretched between each named elder
 to ensure that no one can go down
 without threatening to bring the others crashing—
 lives sacrificed.
 mechanical sounds as supplies—
 including the melon I offer—
 are hauled by pulley from one defender to the other.
 As night falls, they are still up there—
 someone from below very insistent in expressing his wonder
 at seeing two long shooting stars—
 "That's great" someone high up finally encourages
 "I love you all" someone in the tree tops
 suddenly calls and is answered by
 "Yeah goodnight, asshole-face-uh, Grasshopper."
 My friend regales supporters by the campfire
 with funny/wise stories and songs
 accompanied by commentary from the tree heights
 laughter and approving howls from high and low.
 The mood mellows with the fire
 to old ballads—war stories of other times,
 the Diggers' song and personal histories.
 In the middle of the night I wake to absolute stillness,
 nothing stirring, clean cool air—
 a sacred purity humans cannot create.
 In the faint pink and pale blue dawn
 the birds wake up first,
 calling me down a well-worn path
 through graceful ferns, hanging moss,
 delicate leaves poised on slender branches
 to receive first light,
 past stout thick-barked ancient firs,
 immense logs to climb over and under
 to a special place the forest people treasure

where an old root as tall and wide as a person
 emerges upright from the forest floor.
 "She looks like Venus de Milo" one of the defenders
 had told me—
 The resemblance rough but with round fertile curves.
 They had adorned her gradually over time—
 different people leaving pretty stones,
 cut crystals in her crannies,
 small necklaces draped over her roundness,
 a drawing of her as a forest woman
 placed at her feet,
 a drawing of a man with a halo held by the curve of her back,
 a long intimate note folded and tucked into her side,
 large votive candles at her feet's emergence
 and nearby to welcome those
 who placed their faith in Nature—
 in our own wild selves,
 free where the earth is soft and sounds hollow
 from life within,
 a centipede slowly making its way,
 drawn to the stream of quiet trickles
 under the green growing
 and to where the stream becomes silent,
 its movement revealed
 only by the trembling reflection of the trees
 as they fear for each other
 even as they comfort the souls
 harbored in their branches,
 living by their roots.
 As I sit on a log in wonder
 next to tiny frilled pink-gray mushrooms
 staining the bark with mysterious black ink
 and star-like miniature flowers,
 the nuthatches' calls are joined by the first
 sleepy voices
 in the tree heights—
 and then a chainsaw in the distance,
 then a jet flying over all this without seeing.
 This is a good place to wake up and hear
 the ravens' calling,
 another day to rouse ourselves and others
 to defend the meaning of Life,
 to continue the struggle of ages—
 not needing to know all the "facts",
 the dead statistics,
 not needing to enter the labyrinth
 of lies, deceptions, half truths and compromises
 to know what is right and necessary
 and what is not—
 what so many have forgotten—
 to breathe in wild Nature,
 absorb that way of knowing in our eyes
 to breathe out our commitment,
 our grounding in our actions.

—August 23, 1999
 Karen Coulter

CLEAR AS CUT GLASS AND JUST AS DANGEROUS

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GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

When you arrive there
 you will know it
 by the constant stream of helicopters
 and clouds of exhaust
 trailing from all the cars and buses
 backed up waiting
 outside the entrance to
 Grand Canyon National Park
 one of the seven natural wonders
 in the world
 Slow down
 Obey all signs

Pay the forest ranger \$100 at the gate
 Seven miles ahead
 through the Ponderosa Curtain
 past the Babbitt's Transient Center
 about a half a mile before the
 Fred Harvey Cow Girl Cafe
 and Roadside Museum
 Imagine—
 a red brick quarry
 one mile wide
 and a mile and a half deep
 next to a parking lot

the size of
 a small suburb
 large enough
 to hold
 7,000 automobiles
 and yours is
 one of them.
 Gerry Glombecki

SEND POEMS TO:
 Warrior Poets Society,
 PMB 361,
 108 MLK Jr. Student Union #4510,
 Berkeley, CA 94720-4510.

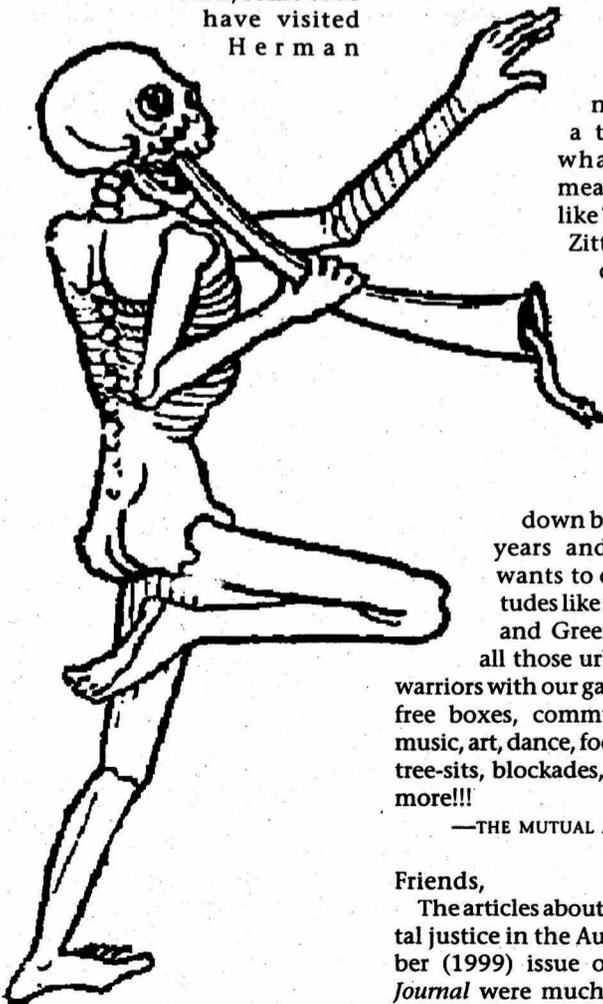
Thoushalt not



Greetings comrades,

After reading that fucking idiotic letter by Tree-frog and Zittsy in last issue, a reply was necessary. What the fuck are they talking about that the Black Panthers and Young Lords were "brave people, but failed experiments and poor role models!?" For one thing, the programs carried out by the Panthers did not fail, in fact, they were so successful that J. Edgar Hoover and his kkkrew framed, imprisoned and assassinated members in order to disrupt the biggest threat to the national security of the united states. And poor role models??? C'mon! Mumia Abu-Jamal, still strong and writing after over 18 years on death row, in a fucking cell while tree-frog and zittsy build "real community in the trees," is a "poor role model?" Herman Bell, of the New York 3 who have been imprisoned for over 23 years, is a poor role model?

Well, some of us have visited
Herman



and he is anything but a failed experiment and poor role model; he is a revolutionary who is just as involved as ever from behind the prison walls. He's working with poor and oppressed peoples to learn how to grow their own food and become self-sufficient. He is extremely passionate about Earth and Life and an inspiration and teacher to all imprisoned in this disgusting system. There is no need to go on person by person, panther by panther, describing their dedication to freedom.

While tree-frog and zittsy frolick in the trees and build "real community," (cause, of course, us folks in the cities don't know what that is), people do consume McShit and t.v. yeah... that's true... but spewing your self-righteous egotistical ranting is not going to help the situation. How do you propose to get "poor people from the cities to come experiment with" you "in a real community?" What about the kids outside

our apartment who have probably never climbed a tree or know what organic means? Letters like Tree-frog and Zittsy's are precisely why some of those "poor city people" aren't coming to Earth First! After being beaten

down by the man for years and years, who wants to deal with attitudes like this!?! Black and Green fists out to all those urban and rural warriors with our gardens, squats, free boxes, community spaces, music, art, dance, food not bombs, tree-sits, blockades, infernos and more!!!

—THE MUTUAL AID COLLECTIVE

Friends,

The articles about environmental justice in the August-September (1999) issue of *Earth First! Journal* were much appreciated.

Still, for the benefit of any readers who are still trying to understand the environmental justice movement, let me offer some quick observations.

First: Remember all of those campfire talks that you heard about "Space-ship Earth" during summer camp? Your teachers used to tell you that all people share the same voyage. If something goes wrong in the environment, all people suffer. Everybody chokes on the same air pollution and everybody goes to bed hungry if Mother Earth takes a beating.

Well, kids, your teachers were lying to you.

Yes, all people are passengers on the same ship. But the ship that we share is something like the *Titanic*. If the ship hits the ice, a fortunate few will be given valet service and reserved seating in the lifeboats. Others will be told to get in line to wait for the leftovers. And others will be down in steerage, pounding on the locked gates. The costs and payoffs of environmental disaster are seldom, if ever, distributed in an equitable manner.

Look around for other examples. When inner city areas become poisoned by urban noise and pollution, wealthy suburbanites go "back to the land" by fleeing to the suburbs. If necessary, they'll hire armed guards to defend their privileged spaces. If public transportation systems fail, the rich will demand more highways to carry their SUVs and other motorized toys. If the public's drinking water supply vanishes, well, there's plenty of bottled water from Europe that can be purchased. When you've got the greenbacks and a bit of imagination, environmental problems just melt away. At worst, you spend a chilly night paddling on the North Atlantic. A minor inconvenience.

Environmental justice advocates ask, "What happens to the poor?" Traditionally, some biocentric radicals have responded, "Who gives a shit?" Some environmentalists have argued that traditional social justice concerns are irrelevant to the environmental agenda. Others have howled against immigrants, and a few have cheered the AIDS epidemic because of its success in "thinning the human population." And, of course, there are always campfire counselors who want to make certain that all people make sacrifices in order to serve Mother Earth. In some families, children use "earth friendly" soap and wear rugged clothes purchased from Orvis and L.L. Bean. On the far side of town, there are kids stuffed into welfare motels or sleeping in abandoned cars. Everybody gets to make a few sacrifices for the good of the planet.

The environmental justice movement is the new movement among environmental radicals. It exists because Afri-

can-Americans, most Native Americans, Latinos and Latinas, most white working people and a long list of others, have long been ignored by radical and mainstream environmentalists. In the environmental justice camp, humanist values are very important. Maybe Earth First! supporters can appreciate the new radicalism. Maybe not. In any event, the environmental justice movement will continue to develop in the years ahead. Lead, follow, or get out of our way!

For justice,

—RONNIE CABRAL

rather than single-issue approach to fighting injustice. We need not do this through some dishonest, manipulative red party or any other form of alienated bureaucratic organization.

The state, capitalism, even civilization itself has proven to be incompatible with environmental stability, free life and human desires. And history proves this fact.

I propose what Ted Kaczynski articulated a few issues back. That the real radicals, revolutionaries and rebels split from EF! to form real subversive, effective movements. Some based on community awareness-raising and above ground activity, others based on carrying out acts of sabotage and violence against the institutions that destroy the environment and rule over our lives.

Destroy Power—
Create Free Life—Fuck the Left—Fuck the Right—Fuck Your Politics.

Sincerely,

—ERIC BLAIR



EF!J,

Having read her letter and now knowing that the EF!J editors did a full hack job with "Red at Rockstar's" post RRR San Luis article, I wish to offer her my understanding. Had I known the EF!J twisted her story so wildly, I would not have mentioned Red in my last letter on the San Luis action this summer. My apologies to you, Red.

Furthermore, I stand united with all activists who had the courage to march on *La Sierra* on June 28. Just because I didn't like the outcome of the action does not mean I'm against anyone who walked off. We must find unity in this movement and move forward every day. But we must also learn from our mistakes and not repeat them.

Editors, I support you as activists and recognize the difficulty of your responsibility to us all, but I must ask: Why no explanation for the mishandling of the San Luis situation this summer? Are we to expect this to happen again on the next sticky issue? Please tell us how the EF!J will act in the future to ensure articles will not be edited past the point of meaning the author intended. This has happened to me so many times that I now hesitate to write for the *Journal*. Writing from San Luis Colorado, where I am to appear in court today regarding my arrest at the post RRR action,

—DANIEL PATTERSON

Editor's note:

Nine sentences were cut from Red's piece in order to fit the photos that accompanied the article. Normally there is time to contact the authors during production. Rendezvous time constraints and

Dear EF! Journal,

When I heard the proposed interview with convicted serial bomber Ted Kaczynski would be featured in the EF! Journal I was delighted. I thought for once EF! would get past all the petty ideological duels on "Anthropy vs. Misanthropy" and "Anthropocentrism vs. Biocentrism" and actually feature some comprehensive analysis on how to destroy this completely fucked industrial civilization and establish eco-anarchist communities, in a dialogue between an EF! activist and Ted Kaczynski, who successfully lived a Thoreau lifestyle for over 20 years and waged war against the powers that be.

Instead, you print more illusionary bullshit on uniting bureaucratic workerist organizations with the "radical" environmental movement. And commie Errol Schweitzer proposes establishing "Organize the Masses" reformist projects with poor people, whatever their cause, as long as they're not white. Last time I checked Errol was a white, middleclass liberal, just what he claims to hate in his editorial.

While I agree with him that eco-radicals must abandon this ideological fetish and try to reach out to everyday people of all races, sexes and ages and create a cohesive, solid radical movement that takes a multi-issue,

write more than 300 words

inexperience prevailed and mistakes were made. I'm learning, 'nuff said.

—KM

Dear EF!

Just a little note to let you know that God should be your first love, not the Earth. While we do live here for about 80 some years, that's not very long compared to an eternity in heaven or hell. I care about the Earth too, but there are a need for resources, and we all use them. I would venture to say that the electricity that I am using for my computer is generated by either a dam or some coal that was mined. This is also the same electricity that you use! Oh by the way I also ride off-road motorcycles. Please do not put trees across my and your trails. You do not need to be so violent and radical. Anyway keep on putting stuff on the trails, nails and such. I will keep on taking them off and continue riding on our trails. Have a nice 80 some years! I know I will be enjoying mine! At least I won't spend the whole time hating things!

—JAY

Dear EF!

This letter is in response to Jenni McGowan's article in the August/Sept. issue.

While I agree that the ecological effects of biotechnology are often placed second, I'm not certain that anybody can

say this is bad or wrong. I think it's so important to reach people where they're at—and food safety is so important. Once we've got their attention, we can then go on to releasing other information about the effects of biotechnology. We have gone into grocery stores, asked clerks to see which food is genetically altered (one EF!er in each line) and handed out lit. including information about the devastating non-human-centered effects while the lines were stopped up. But we did focus on food safety and labeling. I fail to see how this "strengthens the opposition."

Finally, I think it's highly hypocritical for a so-called "anarchist" to lecture others about which tactics to take. I also don't understand how pieing people creates more systemic social change than raising awareness through letters and petitions. If we as Earth First!ers can't reach out to normal, somewhat conscious shoppers instead of just "really revolutionary eco-activists" we are nowhere.

—MOUNTAIN GOAT

Dear SFB,

What a gourmet treat to be here sampling the variety of perspectives that make up this movement. I try to keep an open mind and put myself in the shoes of others. But, for over ten years, I find the same problem wherever I go... wherever I read eco-radicals have a phobia against clarity—a fear of even thinking to ourselves about who we stand for, whether our goals make sense... and especially a fear of how we get to those goals.

To tap into the power of the Earth and inspire people to risk their lives we need more honesty, less fear of ridicule and failure, and a coherent story of the future we want and how to get there. The EF! Primer says our goal is to preserve all existing wilderness and restore vast areas back to wilderness (p.2). Maybe that goal made sense 15 or 20 years ago, and maybe our tactics fit those goals then. But we now know that you can't save wilderness in a vacuum separate from the plague of problems surrounding it. Besides the

willingness to sacrifice, creates a mythic story that will enable youth to follow their hearts—to draw on the wild inside of them—and to hold on—no matter what it takes. When we become one with the forest, then our self defense is Her self defense.

A full page of each *Journal* should be reserved for unedited art and commentary by this new movement of youth, anarchists and tree people. People with experience should come forward to help make this new movement powerful and effective.

—COMMANDANTE MAKITA

Dear SFB,

I examined your music selection and noticed that, aside from Exit-13, you ignore a huge subculture of activists and protesters—the underground anarcho punk community. There are tons of peace punks and "crust" punks like me around the globe who love nature and Mother Earth. Most of us are interested in or are active in the struggle against capitalism and ecocide and were introduced to the

struggle through music.

The punk scene is very large and diverse with many different types of music ranging from poppy

peace punk, to hardcore, to raging crust and grindcore. There are also many bands whose sounds cannot be categorized, like Dystopia and Submission Hold. Check out small underground music stores and look for releases by Aus-Rotten, Oi Polloi, Antiproduct, Phobia, Disrupt, Econochrist, and Capitalist Casualties.

Thanks for your time and keep up the good work.

Dear Shit for Brains,

Sometimes it's not about looking a "Freddy" in the face and saying your piece. Sometimes it is not about fucking shit up and stopping logging for an hour or two. Sometimes it's not even about forests. Sometimes it is about towns, and how we live in them. Sometimes it is about rivers, pollutants and the chemical content of the cleansers we use. Sometimes it is about personal responsibility.

I've heard it said that anarchy can create real change by randomly messing with the extant and unarguably fucked system. But I don't think that holds water. The person who said that

thought it was okay to kill people in the interest of the wild world and then ordered a drink in a plastic "to go" cup. Real anarchy requires real personal responsibility.

The infrastructures which support our lives are built inefficiently so as to provide many options for others to make money off of the way our needs are met. Lots of stopping places for "adding value" between production and consumption and jacking the price at the same time.

I propose that we create a faction which appeals to the practical awareness of conservative Americana, rather than trying to shock them into action. High school students are gunning each other down while radios play adds looking for test subjects for anxiety medication for children, a strong indication that the system we live in isn't healthy and the collective unconscious knows it. Sometimes the truth doesn't hurt, sometimes it helps. Especially when faced with a task so great as transforming a culture.

Please write a treatise on how you think we should live and send it to me care of the *Journal*. I want to try to figure out what "right" is.

—JIB

Earth First! Journal,

My name is Asa. I go to a small boarding school in Western Mass. There are a number of us here who would like to receive the *Journal*. Last year my friend Raquel organized a deal where you would send us some issues for free everytime they came out. That worked for awhile, but now it is a new school year and she did not come back this year. So, I got some of my friends to donate some money to get some subscriptions. We are on a limited budget here so we only could collect \$25. We would like to get five or six issues every time one comes out. If our donation doesn't cover printing costs and stuff, just send us however many you can.

Thank you—keep up the good fight.

—ASA

Dear EF! *Journal*,

I support your movement totally but we need scientists to learn about these environments and animals to learn how it will effect our Earth. I am also a member of the Wildlife Conservation Society and a hopeful zoologist that is going to save the sloth bear in Sri Lanka. I believe that we need both activists and scientists to save the Earth and its creatures.

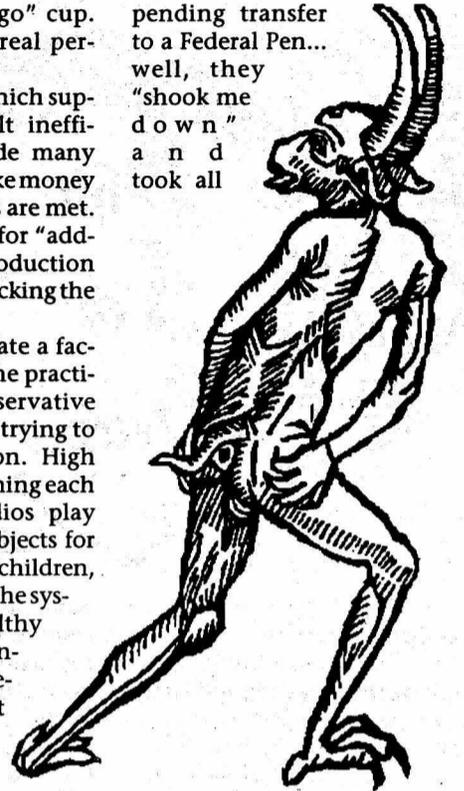
—SLOTHBEAR

Dear EF!

Hey, check this out... I had just received my free sample of your

journal and it was *slammin!* I am incarcerated and tucked away in Nome, Alaska, pending transfer to a Federal Pen... well, they

"shook me down" and took all



of my newspapers away... and alas, my "EF!" with them... I'm heated as I hadn't even gotten one third of the way through it and had also needed addresses to the many folks advertising... I plan on subscribing as soon as I get transferred... Can I please obtain another copy? Thanks! And sorry for the drag! Great Rag!

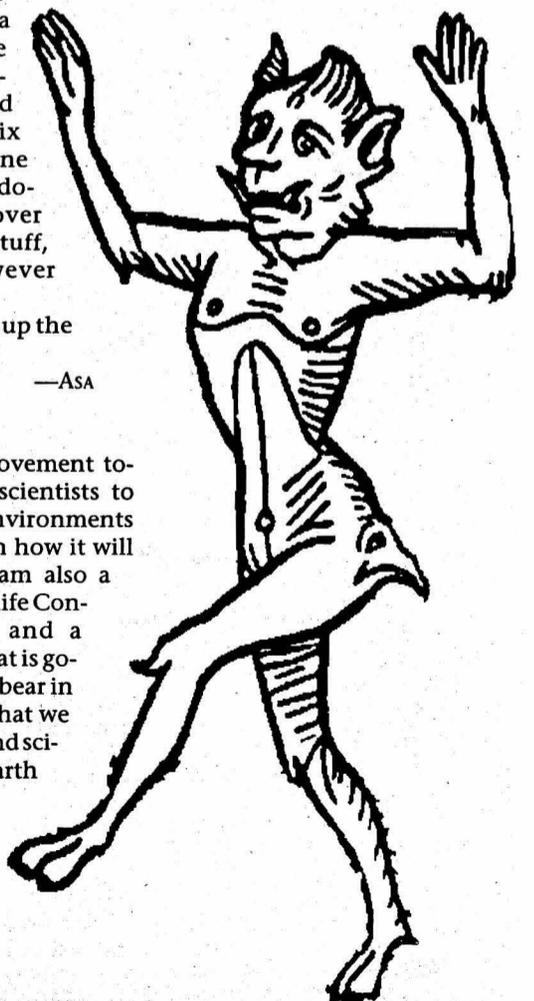
Sincerely...

—MAUREEN MALLOY

Dear SFB,

Short-termining at the *Journal* is diabolical fun! I strongly urge others to join in. Call in, get on the list and sell us your soul. I tell you what!

—SATAN



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE
CHIAPAS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN RESISTANCE**

November 4 • Toronto, Canada

Trade Ministers of over 30 Latin American countries will be in Toronto for meetings regarding the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforest of Central America (ACERCA) and the Mexico Solidarity Network (MSN) are urging nonviolent action at Mexican embassies, consulates and other locations in support of the Zapatistas to coincide with the FTAA meeting and the upcoming WTO meetings in Seattle.

Contact ACERCA, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402; (802) 863-0571; acerca@sover.net or MSN, 4834 N Springfield, Chicago, IL 60625; (773) 583-7728; msn@mexicosolidarity.org for details. *Zapata Vive! La lucha sigue!*

**INTERSECTIONS: WATER QUALITY, WATER QUANTITY
AND NATIVE SPECIES • OCTOBER 30-31**

American Wildlands will host this conference where activists and attorneys will work to provide tools under federal and state laws for protection and restoration of the biological diversity of Northern Rockies watersheds. Contact Judi Brawer for registration information at 40 E. Main St. #2, Bozeman, MT 59715; (406) 586-8175; 586-8242 (fax); jbrawer@wildlands.org; www.wildlands.org.

Can Wilderness Be Wild?

November 6 • Salt Lake City, Utah

High Uintas Preservation Council (HUPC), Wilderness Watch, Save Our Canyons and other organizations from Utah are sponsoring this conference at the University of Utah Alumni House in Salt Lake City. The conference will focus on the High Uintas and will be oriented toward a broad discussion of the value of large wilderness, connected systems and the need to establish native wildlife populations, particularly large carnivores. For more information contact HUPC, POB 72, Hyrum, UT 84319; (435) 245-6747.

**4th REMEMBRANCE ANNIVERSARY OF LATE KEN
SARO WIWA AND 8 OTHER OGO NI ACTIVISTS**

NOVEMBER 10 • Call for International Actions

The murder of the "OGONI 9" was on November 10, 1995. Before his execution, Ken Saro Wiwa's last words were "Lord take my soul, but the struggle continues."

In the four years since the murder of our leaders, the Nigerian government has not met one of the demands in the Ogoni Bill of Rights. Ogoni are still suffocating under the weight of environmental pollution and degradation, poverty and disease. The Nigerian government in collaboration with Shell have still not implemented the independent environmental impact assessment on Ogoniland as recommended by the United Nations. The same fate visited on the Ogonis by military dictatorship is now being met by other communities of the Niger Delta—the Ijaws, the Itsekiris, the Urhobos—for demanding their rights.

The Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) is organizing a series of activities to commemorate this event during the week of November 8-14. For details contact MOSOP, POB 22067, London SW2 5WR, UK; 44 181 678 9605; 171 737 1550 (fax); mosopgb@aol.com; mosopgb@hotmail.com.

**National Day of Action
Against Genetic Engineering**

OCTOBER 27 • Everywhere

Radical gardeners of America arise! Now is the time to step up the pressure on the biotechnology industry and its beholden government regulators. With industry stocks plummeting and the USDA bowing to consumer pressure for labelling of GE foods, the stage is set for a flood of action. Banner hangs, blockades, office occupations, crop pullings (both public and covert) and otherwise strategic nonviolent acts in defense of biodiversity and cultural survival, are all in order, as well as supermarket theater and consumer education. Research your local "life sciences" company or University GE research at www.tao.ca/~ban. Contact BAN for advice and with your reports: ban@tao.ca.

Green Anarchist

The Millennium double issue (GA # 57/58)

Interview with Ted Kaczynski, Y2K survival guide,

June 18 reports, John Ball, Irrationalists, and more.

\$2 from GA-USA, POB 113311, Eugene, OR 97440, USA

**17TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE,
NUCLEAR POWER AND PROPULSION**

Protest Vigil • January 31, 2000

Albuquerque, New Mexico

10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (330 Tijeras NW)

This annual conference of Air Force, NASA, DOE, aerospace industry and nuclear academia promotes the expanded use of nuclear power in space. Join us as we protest the key meeting of those working on the nuclear rocket to Mars; plutonium generators for NASA missions; and nuclear reactors for the Air Force's Star Wars system.

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, POB 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 337-9274; globenet@afn.org; www.globenet.free-online.co.uk/.

ALF/ELF Prisoner Support Network

Families of Animal & Earth Liberation Prisoners Support network mailing list is looking for people interested in joining. We are a small, four-month old self-help network that offers support to the families & friends of those locked up or awaiting trial for Animal/Earth Liberation activities. The families of the prisoners talk to each other and to ex-prisoners and their families, to draw support.

So far we have helped put the family of Justin Samuel—a young activist currently locked up in Belgium—in contact with an ex-prisoner who went on the run prior to his imprisonment and we have provided support to a former Hillgrove Farm prisoner.

For more information contact Families of Animal & Earth Liberation Prisoners Support, BM Box 2407, London WC1N 3XX; 0797 955 2448; noel_molland@iname.com.

Indigenous Solidarity Caravan • November

Join us in demanding the release of Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier, opposing US military support of genocidal governments, showing solidarity with indigenous people fighting for survival and resisting the global capitalist agenda.

The caravan will leave Boston on November 1. Stops will include the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee's month-long occupation of Washington, D.C. Calls for 1,000 tipis to flood the city, in front of the White House, the FBI and Congress have gone out.

Next stop will be the School of the Americas actions at Ft. Benning, Georgia, where the US Army trains other right-wing militaries in counterinsurgency and torture tactics, and then it's on to the LaFramboise Island occupation in Pierre, South Dakota (see page 4). There the Lakota people are resisting the government's continuing wholesale theft of their land and destruction of their culture and sacred Mother Earth. We will also visit the Pine Ridge (Oglala) reservation, frontline of the Indian Wars, to commemorate Thanksgiving Day, a major milestone in the Native holocaust.

The final part of our journey will bring us to Vancouver and Seattle for the massive anti-World Trade Organization actions, where we will demonstrate that the majority of the world's peoples oppose the rich peoples' plans to make multinational capital beyond the reach of democracy.

Anyone is welcome (except law enforcement agents), as long as they come in a spirit of respect and agree to basic principles of democracy and cooperation among the group. Participants should expect to contribute to any part of the caravan organizing they can, including housing, fundraising for gas and food, music, etc. Coordination in Boston will be through the Lucy Parsons Center at (617) 267 6272; lucyparsons@juno.com.

**1999 Conference for the Animals & 20th Anniversary
Celebration "Uniting for New Mexico's Animals"**

November 5-7 • Albuquerque, NM

Animal Protection of New Mexico (APNM) is uniting the state's animal activists for their 1999 Conference for the Animals. The event is at the Radison Hotel & Conference Center in Albuquerque. The conference aims to strengthen activists networks, as well as educate the public about issues affecting domestic and wild animals.

Speakers include Rod Coronado, Roger Fouts, Linda Hogan, Steven Wise and Gary Kowalski among many others.

The three-day conference will provide seminars on legal rights for animals, wildlife and wilderness, vegetarianism, animal overpopulation, animal disaster planning, intro to animal rights, as well as Native American animal/environmental activism. A special cooking demonstration and workshops on adopting a pure vegetarian (vegan) diet will be presented by a master chef.

Animal Protection of New Mexico, POB 11395, Albuquerque, NM 87192-0395; (505) 265-2322; 265-2488 (fax); info@apnm.org; www.apnm.org.

Poland Needs Help!

We request your assistance with the Bialowieza National Park. Several months ago, Poland's Vice-Premier approved budget appropriations for an enlargement of the park to six times its current size, making it the largest National Park in Poland.

At this time, however, the Polish Ministry of Environmental Protection, Forestry and Natural Resources, which is responsible for Polish National Parks, requires that the Polish Cabinet receive a decree for Bialowieza's expansion from the Ministry. Polish law requires this but it has yet to be made.

The Workshop for All Beings asks you to draft a letter in support of the expansion of Bialowieza National Park and send it to Poland's Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek. Please urge that a formal decree from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Forestry and Natural Resources be completed as soon as possible. Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek can be reached at the following address: Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3, 00-583 Warsaw, Poland; (048) 22-6286846 (fax).

For more information contact the Workshop for All Beings, POB 40, 43-304 Bielsko-Biala 4, Poland; (048) 33-8183153; wapienica@pnrwi.most.org.pl.

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NOVEMBER 18-21

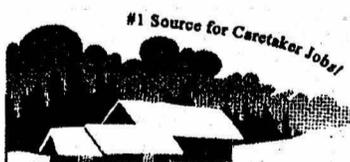
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Liberalization not Globalization! Resist WTO! Seattle, Washington Nov 27 - Dec 3

Activists from around the world will converge on Seattle beginning on November 20, with action planning. Groups from around the world are preparing autonomous actions, protests and carnivals. Proposed actions include street parties, office occupations, blockades, political theater, garden/crop squats, critical mass, distributing agit-prop and sabotaging, wrecking or interfering with capitalist infrastructure.

Seattle Anarchist Response (SAR) is looking for activist housing, creating an autonomous zone/community center and facilitating actions around the city. Contact SAR, 1122 E. Pike Box 477, Seattle, WA 98121; (206) 726-2419; saresponse@hotmail.com.

For general information contact Direct Action Network, POB 95113, Seattle, WA 98145; (206) 632-1656; can@drizzle.com; www.agitprop.org/artandrevolution/wto. For international N30 mobilization information contact n30contacts@angelfire.com; www.seattletwo.org/n30.

November 30 • A Global Day of Action,
Resistance and Carnival Against Global Capitalism

Coordinating Challenges to Corporate Globalization National Conference November 12-14 Chicago, Illinois

Corporate globalization is a most serious threat to survival, human rights, the environment and economic justice. A world-wide movement is needed in order to prevent a future which continues to victimize billions of people while favoring only a few.

Come to an important national strategy and coordination conference hosted by The Preamble Center.

For information contact the World Economy Project, Preamble Center, Terry Provance or Matt Siegel at (202) 265-3263 x232, x330; 234-0981 (fax); provance@preamble.org; siegelm@preamble.org.

Protest the New Death Warrant Issued for Mumia Abu-Jamal

The execution has been set for December 2. Emergency action networks have mobilized around the world in response to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge's signing of a new death warrant for Mumia. The journalist and former Black Panther's legal team plans to file an appeal in federal court and protests were immediately mounted in Philadelphia, San Francisco and many international cities. International Conc. ned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal have called for mass actions and calls to Ridge (717) 787-2500; (717) 772-1198 fax or US Attorney General Janet Reno (202) 514-2000; 514-4371 (fax). For information, (215) 476-8812; 476-8812 (fax); mumia@webcom.com; www.mumia.org.

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STILL REMEMBERING GYPSY

continued from front page

The ceremonies we hold in our blood make me weep with happiness that we haven't lost it. We still know how to honor our dead. Our final homage was a version of the spiral dance, but we danced slowly so we could look into each other's eyes as we passed. The circle was so big I was unable to see all the people that made it up. I saw the people who form every facet of this rag-tag, kick ass movement, the old gang, the mix-matched action groups of the past.

Then we went onto the next memorial. By the time I got back to the state park, one hundred people had arrived. Hugs all around. Naomi Steinberg, a local resident and Jewish rabbi, led the memorial. It wasn't a service, per se, just sharing by anyone who felt the desire. Gypsy's family spoke first, voicing their memories of David Nathan Chain. Uncle Mike said that when he came to California, he met a family he was already a member of and hadn't even known it. He said he now understood why Gypsy came back in 1998. It was for the trees but also for the people. His grand-

mother read an uplifting poem, "Do not weep for me, for I am not there." His mother read a letter that she had found recently. Gypsy had sent it to her from the Liberty treesit in 1997 on his first trip to California. He explained the campaign with tales of treesitting and how we were a movement of equals with no leaders. Jim Page played his song dedicated to Gypsy. The man can tell a story like no other. Sawyer approached the front of the gathering and hung a beautiful blown-up photo of Gypsy on top of the flagpole at the 1997 action in San Francisco. These were the details of a man's life shared between friends and stories Gypsy's family had never heard.

Right after Gypsy died a beautiful ceramic bowl filled with sand from the Eel River with a candle in the center showed up at his memorial in Arcata. We were asked to write a message to Gypsy and

burn it in the bowl. It was an important ritual for those of us who were not with him when he died and were unable to go to the funeral. It was as if we were saying our good-byes. The bowl was supposed to be buried on Gypsy Mountain but never made it. For a year it has been in the possession of the Northcoast Earth First! office. I brought it to the anniversary and asked people to write messages once again. A few at a time would come up to the bowl in the middle of the crowd and light their notes to Gypsy, staying to watch the fire burn out and mix the ashes into the sand. Prayers lifted like birds.

Then Felony said to the crowd, "I think we should be near the river because



Prayers for Gypsy lift like birds from the ceramic bowl filled with Eel River sand.

Gypsy died defending Grizzly Creek and that is the river in which his blood now flows." In the final ceremony of the memorial, we made a procession to the confluence of Van Duzen and Grizzly Creek. The bowl was passed from person to person, and each took a handful of ash and sand. We gathered in a crescent moon, and as the bowl went around I asked each person to call out the name of a comrade who wanted to honor Gypsy with us but was unable to come. Did you hear us call out your name? Treesitters, supporters, mothers, brothers, blockaders, old road-trip friends, all were mentioned. Each of you stood with us in that circle, in spirit. Then we threw the ashes in to the river, howling all the while for Gypsy.

Campfire songs went into the twilight. The sacred pipe was smoked around the altar under a canopy of swaying redwoods. Thank you to everyone who helped in the day's preparations. For the activists who witnessed Gypsy's death and couldn't travel to the memorial: Mike in Michigan, Carey and Ayr on the East Coast, Zoe in Seattle, we think of you every day. You are in every prayer we whisper.

We miss you Gypsy.

P.S. There is currently a solid affinity group living on Gypsy Mountain. They are dedicated to affirming its acquisition in addition to the lands purchased by the Headwaters Forest agreement.

Contact Northcoast Earth First! for an information packet and address of legislators to write. NC EF!, POB 28, Arcata, CA 95518; (707) 825-6598.

Garlic is the legal support coordinator for NC EF! She is currently studying law with the attorneys for Gypsy's family.

DEATH IS NOT THE PUNISHMENT FOR TRESPASS

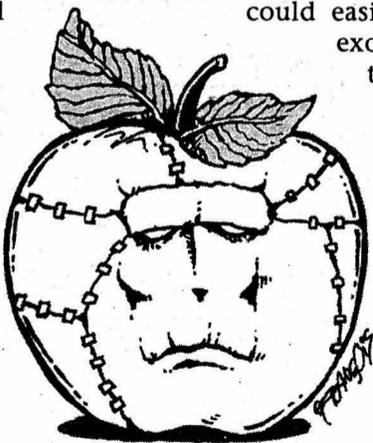
Chain vs. Pacific Lumber Company

On September 10, 1999, a wrongful death lawsuit was filed in Federal Court on behalf of David "Gypsy" Chain's family. Plaintiffs in the case are David Allen Chain and Cindy Allsbrooks, Gypsy's parents. The complaint names as defendants: The Pacific Lumber Company (PL), its subsidiaries, Scotia Pacific Company and Salmon Creek Corporation; John Campbell, president of PL; A.E. Ammons, the logger who killed Gypsy; and Rhett Reback, Ammons' spotter. The complaint accuses the defendants of negligence, violations of the UNRUH Civil Rights Act 51, ultrahazardous activity, wrongful death and negligent infliction of emotional distress. In the following months the discovery process will begin and hopefully unfold the secrets of the biased Sheriff's investigation into Gypsy's death. It will also prove that Pacific Lumber either had a safety policy concerning protesters in the woods, which was willfully inadequate, or that it had no such policy. Either way its conduct encouraged a climate of violence toward activists, with loggers and other employees going without punishment for excessive force used against us. Plaintiffs will also prove that the company used the protesters' presence as economic leverage in the Headwaters Deal to drive the price of ancient redwoods up and thus secure their \$450 million government checks.

THE MONSTER LIVES

continued from page 3

Richard Seed may be willing, given how morally challenged he seems to be. Yet, one wonders how seriously he has entertained the dynamics of such a decision. Putting aside the moral implications of turning humanity into a commodity, one is left to wonder, literally, about the potential assault human cloning might have on diversity. As fashion dictates what most people wear, genetic fashion will favor certain traits and thus narrow the genetic base. The ills of interbred European royalty might pale in comparison. Sophia Kolehmainen, director of the Human Genetics Program at the Council for Responsible Genetics, notes: "Some scientists pretend that they can predict which genes humans would be better off without. However, there is no way to acquire the requisite knowledge to make such a prediction without experimental genetic manipulation, which would have implications for subsequent generations.



Such experiments must not be done, since any errors would be a permanent part of the gene pool." When we venture into genetic manipulation all the boundaries start to become indistinct. We've already begun seeing allergic reactions to genetically-modified food. It seems reasonable to suggest that genetically modified life forms, including viruses for which no being has resistance, could easily become invasive exotics once they leave the laboratory. Do we really want to find out too late that an ill-conceived science has spawned something beyond our abilities to cope with? To paraphrase Mary Shelly's monster, we will have been its creator, but it will be our master.

In the human realm there would be social fallout as well. Speculation in the fields of anthropology and sociology envision the day there could be two distinct species of humanity. There would be no more contact be-

tween the "superhuman" and the "naturals" (or perhaps more derisively, the "degenets") than there are between red and black ants. What interaction does take place might resemble slavery or war. *Homo sapiens* and *Homo technos* may become two distinct species, repulsed by each others' existence—utterly incompatible. This seems like the stuff of science fiction, but so did so many other things which have come to pass.

Thus, social ecology which took ages to develop would be drastically altered in the course of a few decades. Invariably, such drastic social imbalance leads to chaos which leads to environmental destruction.

This sordid business is not going unchallenged, however, the challenges which do exist may not be enough to pull the plug on would-be Frankensteins. Most major religions have weighed in against human cloning but are not about to stand in the way of other applications. The same mindset seems to exist within the Clinton administration, Congress and the States.

Meanwhile, in the real world, challenges to cloning are slowly taking shape. Perhaps one of the first anti-cloning actions was Greenpeace's cathedral climb and banner-hang in Cologne, Germany in March of '97. The following year Massachusetts Earth First! escorted the "real" Dr.

Frankenstein and his creation to an international cloning conference in Boston (see *EF! Journal*, March-April '98) where Herr Doctor attempted to claim that year's achievement award as his own. Later that spring the Biotic Baking Brigade's Nor'eastah Irregulars infiltrated Dr. Neal First's presentation at University of New Hampshire nailing the doctor with several just desserts. First was the first to clone a cow embryo.

More recently there was a demonstration at a meeting of the California State Cloning Committee by members of GenetiX Snowball-USA and others. Also, Jeremy Rifkin and Stuart Newman have been making a creative show of applying for the first patent of a human/non-human organism. The idea of such chimeras doesn't set well with the Patent & Trademark Office which rejected their initial application, however, that hasn't stopped them from granting a patent to ACT for their cows which carry human genes (cowgirls?).

With cloning pretty much off the public's radar screen these days, a handful of actions does not bring about much awareness. Given that the momentum against genetically-engineered foods is finally growing here on Turtle Island, isn't it time to take on cloning as well? I'm quite sure angry townspeople would agree.

Earth First! Trinkets and Snake Oil

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The Monkeywrench Gang

by Edward Abbey. A damn good book about people who like to fuck shit up. Fiction, 387 pages. \$7

Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness

by Edward Abbey. The naturalist poetically shares his experience as a ranger in desert country. Non-fiction, 295 pages. \$6

The End of Nature

by Bill McKibben. A compilation of apocalyptic theory and bottom line solutions. McKibben pulls no punches in this enlightening science-based thrashing of industrial society. Non-fiction, 226 pages. \$12

Anarchist Farm

by Jane Doe. This anarchist version of *Animal Farm* will inspire activists young and old. Fiction, 192 pages. \$10

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edited by Dave Foreman and Bill Haywood. Extensively revised, expanded third edition of the mother of all how-to-fuck-shit-up books. 350 pages. \$20

Grizzly Years: In Search of the American Wilderness

by Doug Peacock. Fiction or non-fiction, one can't really tell with this chilling account of tracking the grizzly in the wilderness of Montana. Regardless of its true content, *Grizzly Years* is a soul jerking adventure story. 375 pages. \$13

Green Rage: Radical Environmentalism and the Unmaking of Civilization

by Christopher Manes. It's a brilliant defense of radical environmentalism, challenging the ethics of modern industrial society and asserting the right of the natural world to blossom, evolve and exist for its own sake. Non-fiction, 291 pages. \$13

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Think Like a Mountain: Toward a Council of All Beings

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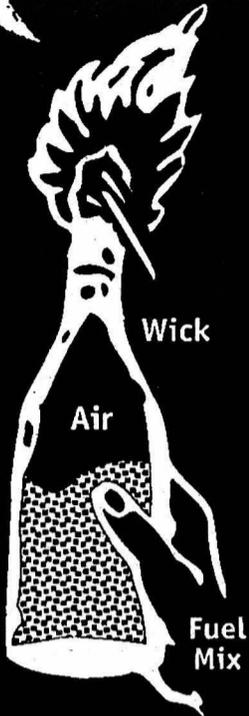
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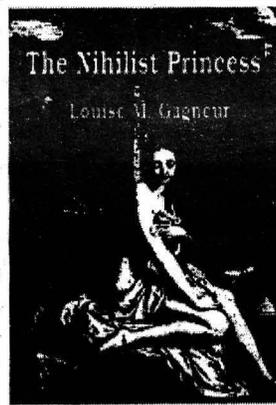
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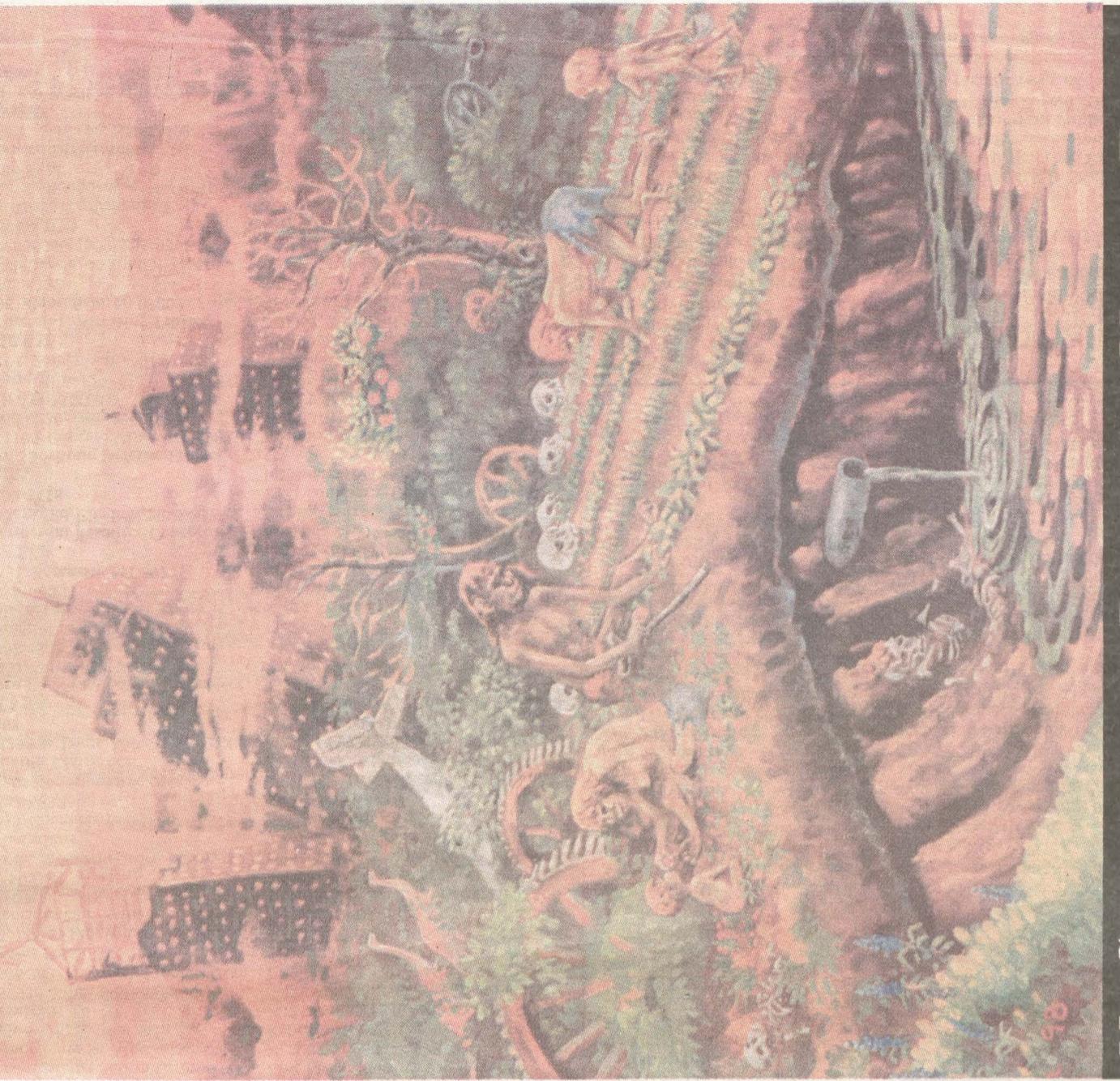
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