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Earth First!

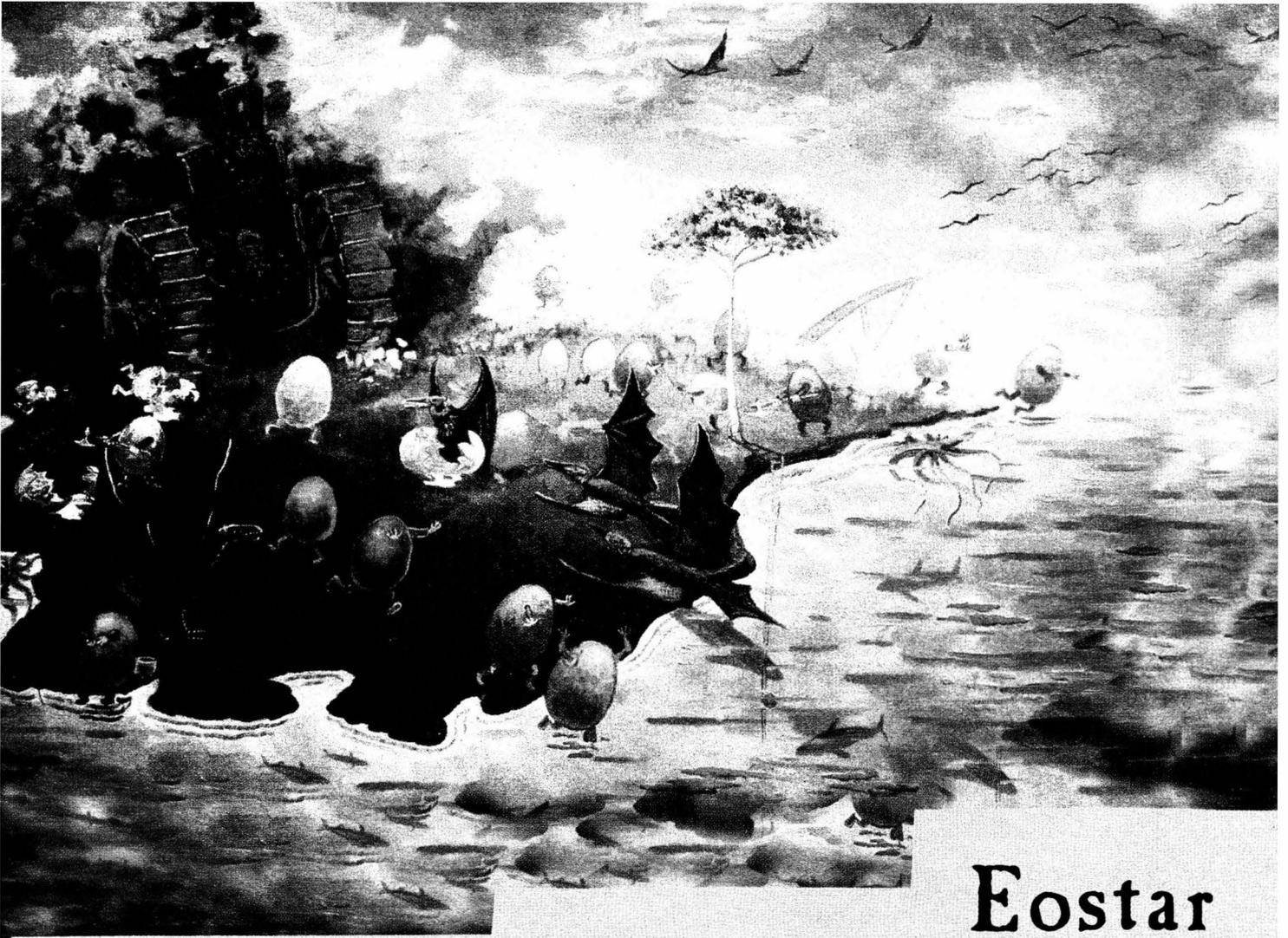
Eostar
March - April 2002

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- MICHAEL FRANTI SPEAKS ABOUT COMPASSION •
- WHY GEORGE BUSH IS AN ECOTERRORIST •
- FIGHTING TREE BY TREE: ECUADOR'S FIRST TREESIT •



Eostar

In pagan herstory, Eostar marked the Spring equinox. Named after the goddess of fertility and new beginnings. It was the time of year when the Earth was reawakening and one thought of planting seeds. Eostar's sacred animal was the fertile rabbit that appears in the Spring. Symbolizing the potential of regeneration, eggs were colored for ritual festivities. That was before the

Christian patriarchs subsumed these traditions.

Can we find our way back to the roots of this holiday
signifying the balance of light and dark?

Or will we surrender to the bulldozer of Civilization?

Earth First!

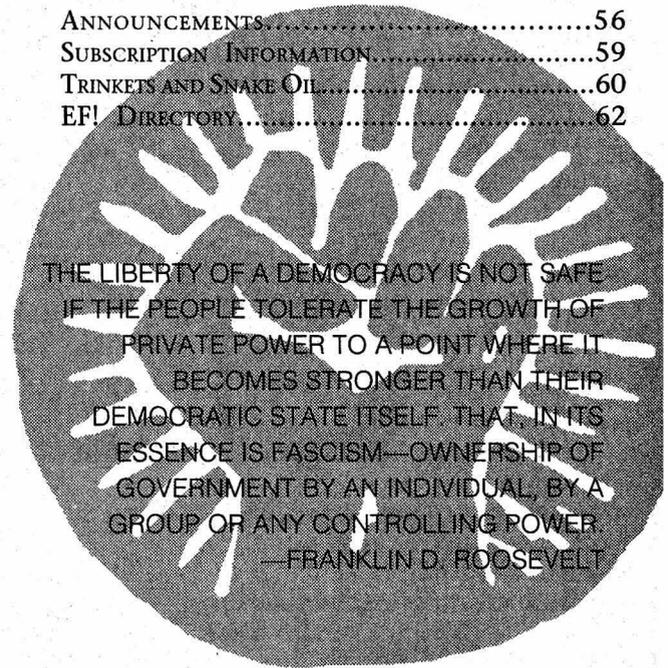
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The cover art is an historical propaganda poster, printed in the Soviet Union in 1941. The use of the poster should in no way be misconstrued as an endorsement of communism.

The poster was created after Stalin's famous speech of July 3, in which he exhorted Soviet citizens to form partisan units and act to destroy their own infrastructure in the face of an advancing German army. Stalin recognized that the Germans had a superior military force and made early efforts to avoid direct battle. Instead he asked the citizenry to create "intolerable conditions" for the invaders. The Soviet people obliterated their own roads, bridges and telephone wires to keep the encroaching fascists from utilizing them to project their expanding power. It was the most strategic decision the Soviets could make, given the superior firepower of the Germans. By 1942, the partisan movement was widespread and effective.

Today, those of us fighting fascism and the concomitant domination of nature can take a lesson from history. They've got us outgunned, making a direct attack foolhardy. But a systematic effort to destroy the material foundation the fascists need for global domination has a successful historical precedent.

DEFEAT IN DISGUISE

I'm the queen of defeatism. Usually I'm the first one to admit it, so those who know me best have an easier job cajoling or pushing me to look logically at my self-defeating behavior. Given a little time, I can usually see that the source of my defeatism is fear or despair. Faced with a situation that seems overwhelming, or dangerous, or even a potential source of embarrassment, my core response is fear. I deal with my fear by employing a strategy that assumes failure: self-defeatism. The other source of my self-defeating behavior is the feeling of being ineffectual, the perception that a situation is beyond influence or control.

Defeatism is a neat strategy, as it gets you off the hook in three important ways. First, if the situation at hand seems likely to result in what you consider failure, you already expected it, predicted it even. Therefore, you maintain the illusion of control.

Second, it justifies inaction and sluggishness. If you decide you can't keep from losing, or that the outcome doesn't matter, only a fool would continue slogging away determinedly.

Third, when you're truly living your life and giving your all, you more completely feel joy and pain. A self-defeating strategy allows a certain detachment, therefore protecting you from feeling that pain.

So what does this have to do with radical ecocentrism? Well, I think

I've heard a few defeatist strategies in disguise from some folks who understand the magnitude of ecological destruction.

One strategy can be described as a version of, "If things get really bad faster, that will help bring on the revolution." I can't tell you the number of times I heard that one when Bush was running for president. People even (jokingly?) said they were going to vote for Bush, because if he won, things would get so bad that citizens would have to revolt. Well, Bush is worse than I imagined and I don't have to mention his current approval rating to show how misguided that thinking was.

The people who claimed to be cheering for Bush didn't actually believe that his victory would be a strategic step in the right direction. They felt fear that he actually would win, and a lack of ability to effectively counter the magnitude of his evil deeds. In the face of an overwhelming Bush attack on biodiversity, they opted for the illusion of control and asserted that the attack was ultimately a good thing.

But if ecological collapse induces industrial collapse, we lose. *The object is to bring industrial collapse before ecological collapse.* We have to figure out how to bring down the system without using waste as a tactic.

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Submissions are welcomed and should be typed or clearly printed. Send a SASE if you would like them returned. If you want confirmation of receipt for a submission, please request it. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via email. 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.

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BY FAITH WALKER

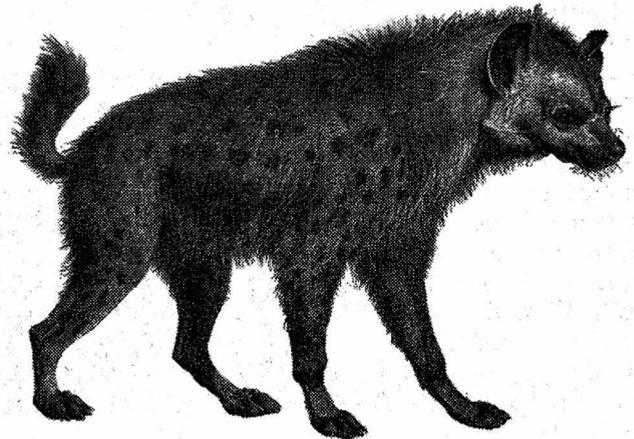
Spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) genitals are no laughing matter. The female sports a masculinized clitoris that is a precise replica of the male penis. It completely surrounds the urogenital canal and is both capable of erection and wedged to a fat-filled scrotum. It is through this bizarre contraption that she mates and gives birth. Mating is facilitated by muscles that pull the phallus up like a sleeve, allowing penetration. Birthing is more problematic, often resulting in death. The fetus not only must travel twice as far as in less endowed mammals, but must negotiate a 180-degree turn in the pelvis followed by an impossibly tight squeeze down the clitoris. In a first-time mother a fetus can jam for an extended period, freed only by a clitoral split. Often she'll expire from the labor itself, or from becoming lion cannelloni. If she survives, one of her twin cubs will likely die from oxygen deprivation during the trek down her tackle.

Why this penis menace should evolve is suggested by the species' social system. It begins in an abandoned aardvark hole, where twin cubs attempt to hack each other to bits immediately after they're born. Soon one becomes dominant, preventing its sibling from nursing until it eventually succumbs or becomes permanently subordinate. This aggressive hyena demeanor is cultivated by females, but not males, into adulthood. The core of a hyena clan is composed of related females and their young, among which there is a defined, stable and enforced hierarchy. Mothers impart their rank upon daughters, who remain in their birth clan for life. Sons forfeit their maternal rank, departing at puberty to join another clan at the bottom of

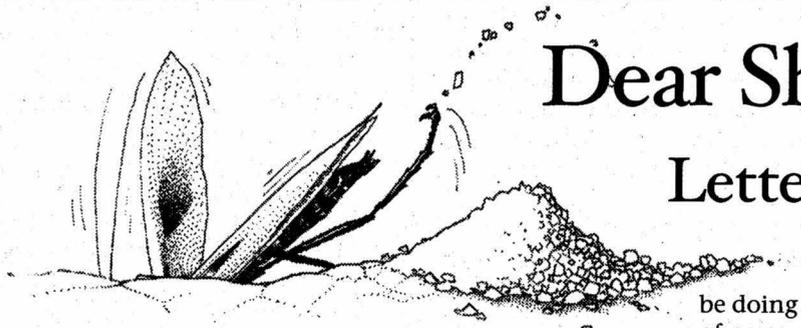
the male hierarchy, one based on seniority, not violence.

Rank comes into play when dining on large mammals. On the East African savanna, where spotted hyenas live at high population densities, about 30 of the clan commonly converge on a kill, creating acute competition for food. Even a large carcass soon vanishes under a pirannic mass of frantic gorging. As soon as females arrive, males, who are smaller, subordinate to all females, and comparatively placid, disappear. High-ranking females then drive others of their sex away, so that soon only the alpha female and her cubs are feasting. This right to food translates into a two to threefold increase in the number of young a female can raise during her lifetime.

The reproductive advantage conferred by social rank indicates selection in the evolutionary past for aggressive behavior in females, achieved by bombarding the fetus with androgens. A side-effect is masculinized bits. In the Carnivora, cursorial predation likely arose in the Pleistocene; before this the species' ancestors were probably scavengers, occurring at low densities. With the advent of hunting in a social group to bring down large prey came an increase in density and fierce competition. Why spotted hyenas addressed this competition with such extravagance is a mystery.



Spotted Hyena



Dear Shit fer Brains...

Letters to the Editors

Dear friends,

As is all too common nowadays, I received an emotionally charged—though poorly reasoned—email about the need to band together as a nation and boycott companies that export Middle Eastern oil (the logic being that this would cut funding of terrorism) and to only buy from the benevolent oil companies that produce elsewhere. From an ecological standpoint this seems shortsighted or at least unrealistic and uninformed. It would seem to me that there are no angels in the oil industry and that they must

be doing harm somewhere to some rainforest or section of preserve somewhere.

What do you know about the following (supposed "good") oil companies that might help me form a more informed decision: Sunoco, Citgo, Conoco, Philips and Sinclair?

Please send me any information you may have on these companies. Thanks for your help.

In solidarity,

—ROB BUSCAGLIA
MUHOOPS@EROLS.COM
continued on page 36

Fighting the *Oleoducto de Crudos Pesados* Tree by Tree

PROTECTING THE ECUADORIAN FOREST

BY AMAZON WATCH

The blockade of Ecuador's newest oil pipeline by South America's first treesitters is stoking intense international controversy and shaking the Ecuadorian oil industry. Swearing he would fight environmentalists "trench by trench," Ecuadorian President Gustavo Noboa denounced pipeline opponents as a "bunch of jerks." Yet with treesitters dedicated to fighting the pipeline "tree by tree" for as long as it takes, the spirit of Ecuadorian resistance to the pipeline is proving hard to break.

The Mindo cloud forest treesit is the latest battle in the long war between oil companies and ecologists over Ecuador's new crude oil pipeline project, the *Oleoducto de Crudos Pesados* (OCP). Local opposition to the pipeline is a decade old and has used every available avenue to challenge the OCP from legal action and public hearings to protest marches and street theater. The Ecuadorian government and the consortium of international oil companies behind the OCP have turned deaf ears to opponents.

Protest has focused on the pipeline route through the ecologically prized Mindo Nambillo Cloud Forest Reserve. Mindo is the first "Important Bird Area" of South America and is home to more than 450 species of birds, 46 of which are threatened by extinction. Almost all 1,200 residents of Mindo came out against the OCP as it threatens the area's burgeoning eco-tourism industry. Communities are alarmed about the pipeline route. On its way through Mindo, the pipeline will cling precariously to the top of sheer mountain ridges—a spill would flood the entire mountainside with oil and contaminate local rivers.

To protect the forest, Mindo women and children have staged blockades by clambering aboard construction machinery. After exhausting all other methods, Mindo residents felt they were left with no other option than to put their bodies on the line again to block the OCP construction. Mindo inhabitants form the majority of the treesitters currently chained to trees who insist that the pipeline cannot run along Mindo's knife-edge ridge tops without exposing the entire ecosystem to contamination.

Conditions are grueling. Perched on a two-mile high mountain crest, the treesitters have built platforms and traverse lines to occupy five trees. Daily torrential rains have hampered logistics, but the treesitters are determined not to come down until the pipeline is rerouted. Spokesperson Edwin Villota declared, "We will not give up until the OCP route changes. We are right because they can't finish off the water system, our way of life and the forest."

As the latest deaths among Amazonia OCP protestors show, Ecuador's security forces are known for their brutality toward democratic protesters and have no experience in dealing with treetop protests.

The OCP has responded aggressively to peaceful demonstrators. In August 2001, OCP staff assaulted women from Ecuador's high profile ecological group *Acción Ecológica* during a peaceful occupation of OCP offices. Accompanying photographers were beaten, and their cameras were destroyed.

The tense climate surrounding the treesit is aggravated by Noboa's insistence that the OCP will be built. The Ecuadorian government and the International Monetary Fund tout the project as the cornerstone of the economic plan to alleviate the country's burgeoning external debt. Ecuador already has an oil pipeline—the SOTE—but its limited capacity is capping oil exports and government



photo by Acción Ecológica



photo by Acción Ecológica

Treesitting area in Ecuador

revenues. Hence, the need for the OCP to increase the volume of crude oil transported from the Ecuadorian Amazon to refineries located on the Pacific coast.

Moreover, OCP is composed of a daunting lineup of multinational energy companies from Italy, Canada, Spain, Argentina and the US. Condemned internationally for its drilling operations in U'wa ancestral lands in Colombia, Occidental Petroleum is a major player in the consortium.

What Noboa and the oil companies refuse to recognize is that communities throughout Ecuador will bear the real costs of the OCP. The one billion dollar investment needed for the pipeline does not include the price to be paid by marginalized peoples and fragile ecosystems along its 300-mile route. To fill the OCP, oil production in the Ecuadorian Amazon will double. In January, the Ecuadorian government launched a new round of oil licensing (the Ninth Round) to open up two million hectares of Ecuador's last Amazon frontier forests and the ancestral territories of isolated indigenous peoples.

Oil and violence go hand in hand. With Colombia's civil war boiling over the border into Ecuador, there are fears that the OCP will be a tempting new target for Colombian guerrillas taking aim at oil infrastructure. In the past 12 years, Colombia's Caño Limon oil pipeline has been attacked more than 700 times by guerrilla groups, spilling more than two million barrels of crude oil. Five attacks on Ecuador's SOTE have already left several people dead.

Oil spills are common in the region. Dozens of ruptures in the SOTE pipeline caused by torrential rainfall have spilled millions of gallons of crude oil into forests and rivers. In June, a landslide pumped 7,000 barrels of oil into the ecosystem. This accident was the 14th major spill since 1998. The OCP confronts the same hazards.

Despite horrendous evidence to the contrary, Noboa's government has repeatedly claimed that the project will benefit the nation. Beset by economic recession and political crisis, Noboa is relying on increased oil royalties

to kick start an economic recovery and provide foreign currency to pay the country's \$16 billion debt. More significantly, the International Monetary Fund has implicitly tied future credit to the success of the OCP.

Noboa's claims crumble in the face of the realities of oil production in Ecuador. Since the country first turned to oil 30 years ago, standards of living have deteriorated and debt has spiraled. Corporate greed, corrupt politicians, inefficient governments and the debt burden have sucked oil profits away from the neediest sectors of society. The main oil production zone in the northern Amazon is among the most impoverished areas of the country.

International opposition to the OCP has played a crucial role in spotlighting local protest. When the news got out that Germany's major bank Westdeutsche Landesbank (WestLB) would loan \$900 million to OCP, German environmental activists weighed in to support Ecuadorian protesters. Greenpeace fanned the flames through daring direct action demonstrations and stunning banner hangs in Germany. Germany's powerful Green Party came out against WestLB and a string of international protests in Europe, North America and Australia turned up the heat on the German bankers.

President Noboa has said from the start, "The OCP is going in, like it or not." Yet his aggression is matched by strong local defiance and international solidarity. The OCP project has become a tug-of-war between the IMF creditors and oil interests squeezing Noboa and the activists fighting the OCP tree by tree. With construction suspended until Spring, determined resistance appears to be paying off. The spirit of the Mindo treesitters could yet loosen the grip of corporate oil on the Ecuadorian people.

Take action to support the treesitters. 1) Make a donation—financial support is needed to keep the treesitters stocked with equipment and supplies. They do not have resources and are relying on international solidarity to continue their action. 2) Organize an action—while the international campaign is focusing on Germany's WestLB, US activists are encouraged to act against Citigroup for financing one of the OCP companies.

For more information, contact Amazon Watch Oil Campaigner Kevin Koenig, (510) 419-0617; kevin@amazonwatch.org, www.amazonwatch.org; or Rainforest Action Network's Patrick Reinsborough, organize@ran.org; www.ran.org.

Amazon Watch works with indigenous and environmental organizations in the Amazon Basin to defend the environment and advance indigenous peoples' rights in the face of large-scale industrial development—oil and gas pipelines, dams and other damaging mega-projects.

Why George W. Bush

George W. Bush had a "productive" first year in the White House. Here's a small sampling of his deeds. One year down, three to go.

1. Significantly eased testing controls of genetically engineered crops.

2. Cut funding for research into renewable energy by 50 percent.

3. Attempted to revoke rules that reduced the acceptable levels of arsenic in drinking water.

4. Proposed to eliminate new marine protections for the Channel Islands and the coral reefs off the northwest coast of Hawaii.

5. Cut funding for research into cleaner, more fuel efficient cars and trucks by 28 percent.

6. Suspended rules that would strengthen the government's ability to deny contracts to companies that violate workplace safety, environmental and other federal laws.

7. Authorized Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to send out letters to state officials soliciting suggestions for opening up national monuments to oil and gas drilling, coal mining and logging.

8. Abandoned a campaign pledge to invest \$100 million for rainforest conservation.

9. Rescinded a proposal to increase public access to information about the potential consequences of chemical plant accidents.

10. Suspended rules that would require hardrock miners to clean up sites on public lands in the West.

11. Pulled out of the 1997 global warming agreement, the Kyoto treaty.

12. Eliminated funding for the Wetlands Reserve Program, which encourages farmers to maintain wetlands habitat on their properties.

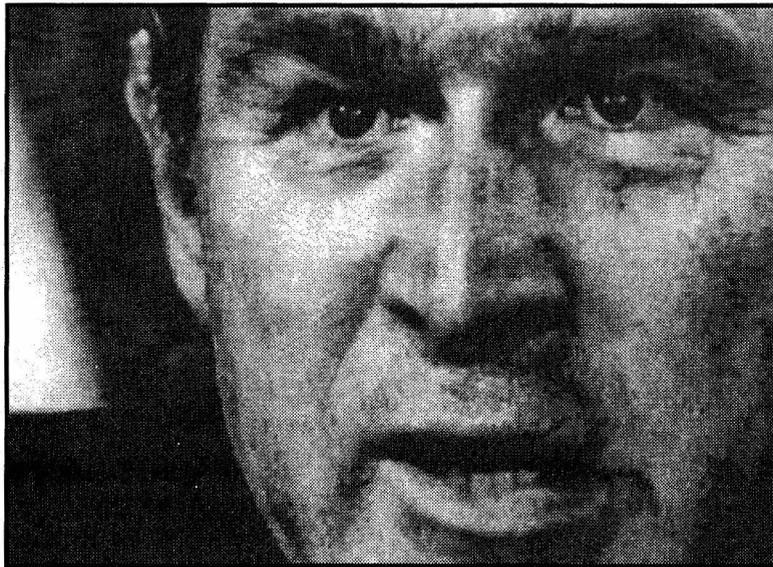
13. Reduced the Environmental Protection Agency budget by \$500 million.

14. Proposed to curtail the ability of organizations to sue in order to get an animal designated as "endangered" or "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

15. Abandoned a campaign pledge to regulate carbon dioxide, the waste gas that contributes to global warming.

16. Nominated David Lauriski—an ex-mining company executive—to the post of Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

17. Encouraged Gale Norton to go forward with a plan to



The madness of King George

auction oil and gas development tracts off the coast of eastern Florida.

18. Announced his intention to open up Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest to oil and gas drilling.

19. Proposed to redraw boundaries of national monuments, which would technically allow oil and gas drilling "outside" of national monuments.

20. Allowed Gale Norton to shelve a grizzly bear reintroduction plan scheduled for Idaho and Montana wilderness.

21. Appointed recycling foe Lynn Scarlett as Undersecretary of the Interior.

22. Took steps to abolish the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

23. Cut funds to cleanup a uranium-slag heap in Utah.

24. Appointed a vice president quoted as saying, "If you want to do something about carbon dioxide emissions, then you ought to build nuclear power plants."

25. Proposed to reverse regulation which protects 60 million acres of national forest from logging and road building.

26. Nominated Linda Fisher—an executive with Monsanto—for the number-two job at the Environmental Protection Agency.

27. Canceled the 2004 deadline for automakers to develop prototype high-mileage cars.

28. Nominated J. Steven Giles—an oil and coal lobbyist—for the Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

29. Nominated Bennett Raley—who advocates repealing the Endangered Species Act—for Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science.

30. Proposed to ease the permit process—including environmental considerations—for oil refinery, nuclear and hydroelectric dam construction.

31. Proposed to expand government authority of eminent domain to take private property for powerlines.

32. Proposed that more than one billion dollars in funding for alternative renewable energy come from selling oil and gas lease tracts in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

33. Decided to serve genetically engineered foods at all official government functions.

34. Appointed a timber industry lobbyist to oversee the Forest Service.

—COMPILED BY LENA AG OF STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

is an Eco-Terrorist

GREASY AFFAIRS

America Wars for Oil Once Again

Oozing with greedy deceit, the corporate war agenda is again in full force. If you still believe that this is a war against terrorism, do not be deceived. The only "terrorists" that the US government are interested in are those that threaten get-rich-quick business deals.

For the past decade, Unocal, an oil corporation infamous for supporting repressive governments, has had its eye on a pipeline that would take oil reserves from the Caspian Sea through Afghanistan and Iran. Since these dictatorships have been hostile to US "influence," the Bush administration has been employed to make these regions hospitable. Unocal, Cheney, Bush and other elites have much to gain from this pipeline and little to lose. The oil reserves in the Caspian Sea are believed to be second only to those in the Persian Gulf.

In 1998, Unocal signed an agreement that would generate \$25 million in royalties from an 890-mile natural gas pipeline built with help from the Taliban, running from Turkmenistan to Pakistan. Unocal's website now claims that they had nothing to do with the Taliban. That it was just trying to help this war-torn country back on its feet and now they are not interested in the pipeline. Yet on December 31—nine days after the US-backed interim government took office in Kabul—Bush appointed former Unocal consultant Zalmay Khalilzad to office as special envoy to Afghanistan.

The nomination underscores the real economic and financial interests at stake in the US military intervention in Central Asia. Khalilzad is intimately involved in long-running US efforts to obtain direct access to oil and gas resources of the region. As an adviser for Unocal, Khalilzad drew up a risk analysis of the proposed gas pipeline. He participated in talks between the oil company and Taliban officials in 1997. Though Unocal denies involvement now, the potential bounty of delivering \$700 million of gas each year is bound to tempt some corporation. Chevron, ExxonMobil,

Arco, France's TotalFinaElf, British Petroleum, Royal Dutch Shell and other multinational giants already have billions of dollars of investments in the region.

The events of September 11 have provided a qualitatively new opportunity for the US, acting particularly on behalf of giant oil companies, to permanently entrench its military in the former Soviet Republics of Central Asia and the Transcaucasus where there are vast oil reserves. The way is now open to jump start projects for oil and gas pipelines through Afghanistan and Pakistan to Karachi on the Arabian Sea—the best and cheapest route for transporting these fuels to market. Afghanistan also has considerable amounts of untapped oil and gas, as does Pakistan.

Also implicated is Enron, the largest contributor to the Bush-Cheney election of 2000, which conducted the feasibility study for a two-and-a-half billion dollar trans-Caspian gas pipeline being built under a joint venture agreement signed in February 1999 between Turkmenistan, Bechtel and General Electric Capital Services. If they can control these regions then these players' profits will soar.

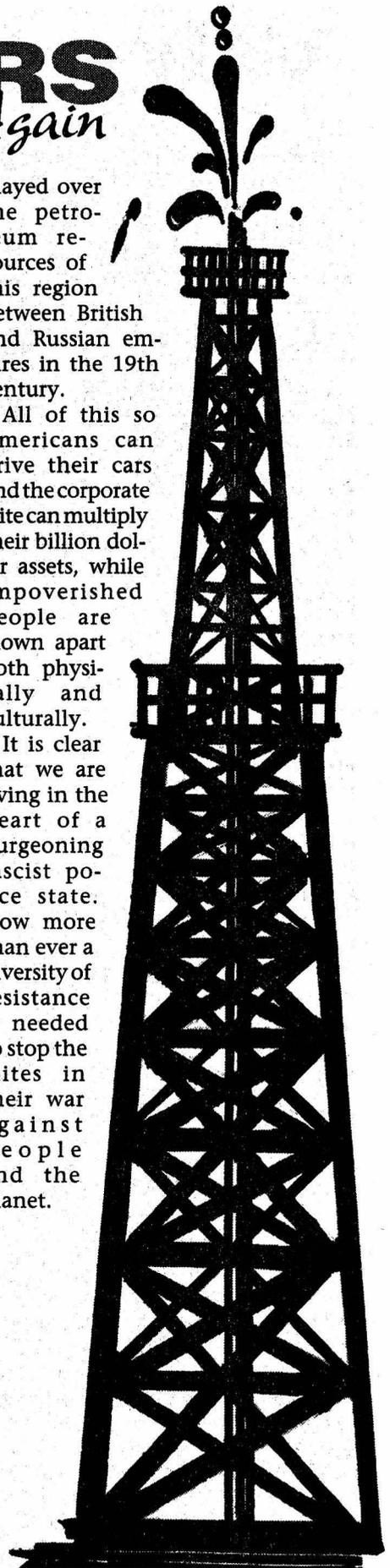
This war is about oil corporation profits which can be greatly enhanced by selling to energy-hungry south and southeast Asia. This can be implemented by outflanking China and Russia for Caspian Sea basin oil and natural gas. Newly discovered huge oil reserves in Kazakhstan could easily be piped through existing conduits traversing Russia. Western corporations would benefit while Russian petroleum operations would be hindered because of heavy reliance on European customers. Western oil corporations would gain greater access to the European market.

Building the Afghanistan pipeline would also mean spurning an even more direct route to the Persian Gulf through Iran. This helps to thwart the growing cooperation between Iran and Russia. These events echo "the great game"

played over the petroleum resources of this region between British and Russian empires in the 19th century.

All of this so Americans can drive their cars and the corporate elite can multiply their billion dollar assets, while impoverished people are blown apart both physically and culturally.

It is clear that we are living in the heart of a burgeoning fascist police state. Now more than ever a diversity of resistance is needed to stop the elites in their war against people and the planet.



Privatization's Trojan Horse

The Charter Forest Proposal

The anarchist in each of us hates to admit it, but currently, the few protections for biodiversity on our public lands are laws enforced by the federal government and favored by Eastern liberals. Most Western members of Congress consistently vote to hand public lands over to extractive and exploitative industries.

So while turning public land management over to "local control" via the Bush administration's charter forest proposal is an idea that at first glance may appeal to our bioregional sensibilities, some among us who consistently follow the political process think otherwise.

Think "board of directors."

Think "demonstration project."

How does "public/private partnership" sound to you?

The charter forest plan is Bush's attempt to further commodify and privatize the collective public domain

of national forests by implementing ideas formulated by libertarian think tank free marketeers and the American Recreation Coalition (ARC). Put forth as part of the President's budget plan on February 4, the framework of the proposal is a pilot program that would establish a new category of federal forest given to a local board of "trustees" for oversight. Specific details have not been revealed, and lawmakers have stated they would like to have more information.

ARC represents resort developers, more than 100 motorized recreation industries and counts the Walt Disney Corporation as a member. According to its own description, ARC "strives to catalyze public/private partnerships for outdoor recreation opportunities." ARC was the prime mover behind conceptualizing and implementing the fee demonstration program, a pay-to-play plan requiring citizens to pay for

access to national forests at hundreds of sites across the US.

The charter forest concept fits hand in glove with the fee-demo program in a concentrated effort to transform a previously free pastime, such as hiking, into a product, packaged and sold. It seems the potential commodity value of nature is too great for capitalism to leave untapped.

It is possible to draw conclusions about the currently vague charter forest proposal from previous legislation written by ARC and other "conservative conservation" think tanks like the Political Economy Research Center. Prior offerings from these groups have proposed that the local oversight boards would have complete jurisdiction, be responsible for raising funds for "maintenance," have a board of directors and a president, be chartered as a corporation and charge yearly membership fees to citizens.



Mark Rey, the Undersecretary of Agriculture who oversees the Forest Service, claims he wants to see if the government can remove "procedural bottlenecks" in management using the charter forest model. "In some cases, that will mean selling less timber. In other cases, that may mean selling more timber, but that is not the fundamental objective."

Environmental groups are dubious of this statement and rightly point out that local oversight boards will probably be stacked in favor of industry.

The strange thing is, Rey might actually be telling some truth. Selling more timber may not be the fundamental objective.

While forest defenders cannot always observe it on the ground, the upper echelon of the Forest Service has been shifting its focus from resource extraction to providing "value-added" recreation. The charter forest program *would* probably help a desperate Forest Service free itself from the weight of lawsuits, required environmental impact surveys and backlogged timber sales, but some activists believe that this would only be a welcome side benefit of the charter forest program.

"Rec-fees and the charter forest proposal are just the first visible manifestations of an entirely new federal land management paradigm, one that strongly emphasizes and promotes highly developed, intensively motorized recreation," says Scott Silver, executive director of Wild Wilderness.

Prompted by and in partnership with ARC and others, Forest Service bigwigs now understand that their future lies in the sale and branding of nature.

Speaking at the Western Summit on Tourism and Public Lands in 1996, Jim Lyons, Undersecretary of Agriculture under Bill Clinton, announced: "Recreation is going to be our business in the future. By the year 2000, recreation will account for \$97.8 billion of the \$130.7 billion generated by activities on national forests. Fish and wildlife [will] generate \$12.9 billion, minerals \$10.1 billion, timber three-and-a-half billion and grazing about one billion."

During a staff meeting held on September 18, 1997, Forest Service Chief of Staff Francis Pandolfi said: "The next step is to use the recreation fee pilot project to pull together a first class business management plan... For the first time, we are selling a product."

In a not-so-strange coincidence, Pandolfi was Chair of ARC's Recreation Roundtable before Forest Service head Michael Dombeck picked him for the chief of staff position. Pandolfi outlined this concept, "A product or brand could be defined as 'Hiking,' 'Fishing,' 'Camping,' 'Skiing' and other activities. Thinking of outdoor recreation activities as products or brands suggests applying the principles of sound, private-sector marketing as an approach for meeting recreation demands and providing satisfying outdoor recreation products and services."

So the deal is simple. A charter forest board of directors, left on its own to raise revenue and manage a natural area, "discovers" that they can raise more money by charging



Groat was known to many friends and fellow activists for his kindness, his complete devotion to his beliefs and his deep love for the Earth.

In Memoriam

*He brought the wisdom
of the oats*

Gary Lynn Wilhelm, "Groat," passed away February 17 at the age of 50. Groat had resided for many years in Humboldt County, California, and he took part in numerous actions around the country, including many weeks at the tracks of the Concord Naval Weapons Station, the Western Shoshone Defense Project and the Mattole Free State.

Friends remember Groat coming into the Earth First! office in Arcata and asking if he could play his harp. "Of course," they would say. Groat had the ability to soothe the spirits of an EF! office with his music.

\$20 a night for a developed campground site, versus six dollars a night for an undeveloped space. Or better still, bring wealthy patrons to a "forest-based lodge" and provide them with a wide variety of items for purchase at convenient and tastefully rustic shops.

How to finance this development with limited resources? Enter ARC, promoting a public/private partnership with one of its members possessing both the expertise and capital necessary to create a profitable business venture.

ARC already shares responsibility with the Forest Service for the implementation of the fee demonstration project, under the "Challenge Cost Share Agreement" of 1996. With this agreement, ARC is in charge of preparing the press releases and factsheets about fee demonstration projects, facilitating public/private partnerships at a local level, acting as a liaison between national forest managers and potential investors and developing talking points and presentations for Forest Service use.

The charter forest proposal is another effort by the government, at the behest of special interests, to test our acquiescence to private corporate development of natural areas and our willingness to pay for access to these areas.

While the few, but powerful, proponents of recreation user fees are advancing their anti-democratic, pay-to-play agenda, Wild Wilderness and other environmental organizations are working to keep our public lands from being commercialized, privatized and over-developed. In an effort to keep fee demonstration projects from becoming permanently authorized, these organizations are staging the 2002 Fee Demo National Day of Action on June 15.

For more information on charter forests or the Fee Demo National Day of Action, contact Wild Wilderness, (541) 385-5261; ssilver@wildwilderness.org.

Northwest Ancient Forests Under Attack

BY LEEANNE

As if protective policies for national forests were not deficient enough, two new lawsuits threaten to further weaken them. In December, the Douglas Timber Operators, a group of 145 Oregon logging companies, and the American Forest Resources Council (AFRC), a timber industry front-group, filed a federal lawsuit in Eugene, Oregon, seeking to eliminate the Survey and Manage (S&M) protocols under the Northwest Forest Plan. If successful, the lawsuit would bar implementation or enforcement of all S&M Management Recommendations including protections for fungi, lichens, bryophytes, mollusks, arthropods and vascular plants.

S&M was first implemented last year following a lawsuit that forced the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to finally meet a provision of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan which requires that these rare, old-growth-dependent species be surveyed prior to "ground-disturbing activities" (i.e. clearcutting).

As a result, several timber sales in Oregon have recently been reduced in size to provide protective buffers for the red tree vole and species of fungi. The Cascadia Forest Defenders in Oregon conducted its own surveys for rare species which helped to "buffer" a large portion of several sales in the Willamette National Forest, taking many acres of old growth off the chopping block (see *EFJ* December-January 2002).

The timber industry claims that the S&M requirements violate several laws including the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, which declares that national forests are to be used "for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish purposes." The industry claims that neither the Forest Service nor the BLM have authority to "create reserves" protecting such little-known species "to the exclusion or limitation of other multiple uses."

Enviros Respond

At press time, environmental groups were gearing up for intervention in the case. Several groups have also recently filed their own S&M lawsuit alleging that the Forest Service and BLM illegally removed 72 species from survey requirements under the Northwest Forest Plan and that the government failed to give adequate consideration to alternatives.

Environmentalists believe that the Forest Service and BLM arbitrarily decided that surveys

were too difficult to implement and refused to consider additional protection of mature and old-growth forests. Wishing to avoid inconvenient survey requirements, the government simply removed protection for many species, including lichens, mosses, mollusks and fungi, all critical to the function of forest ecosystems. The government and the timber industry obviously view these creatures and plants as useless.

Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet

In still another attempt to weaken the already inadequate Northwest Forest Plan, in February the AFRC and logging companies filed a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue to force the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to re-evaluate its Northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet protections. Both species were listed under the Endangered Species Act in the early 1990s.

Seizing upon an Endangered Species Act requirement that the FWS reviews the status of protected species every five years, the AFRC argues that the agency has not reviewed the owl or murrelet since it was first listed. In 1999, however, several FWS and state biologists published a review titled "Rangewide status and trends in Northern spotted owl populations." The study found that spotted owl populations are declining at a rate of nearly four percent per year.

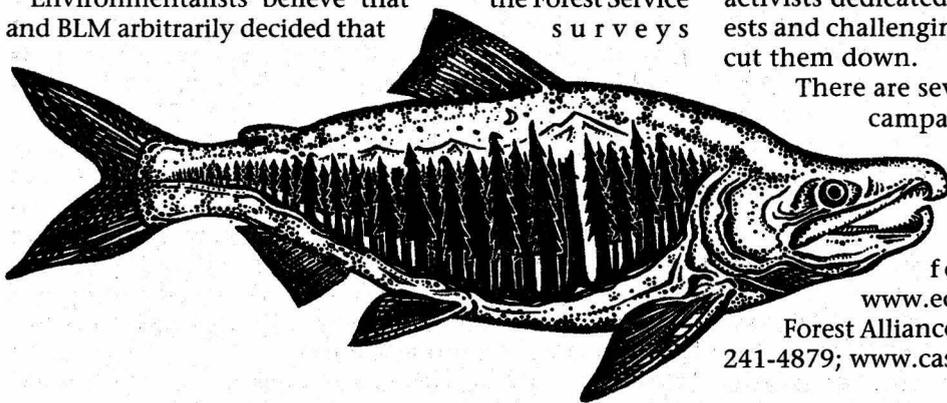
The timber industry is using these lawsuits to seek other ways to lessen restrictions and increase harvest. Final rulings on these cases are not expected for several months. If the court decides in favor of the timber groups, it could wipe out what many say is one of the most crucial protective elements of the Northwest Forest Plan "compromise." The timber industry should wake up and turn its focus toward jobs in restoration and recovery of forests already destroyed by logging and keep its chainsaws out of what little native forests are left.

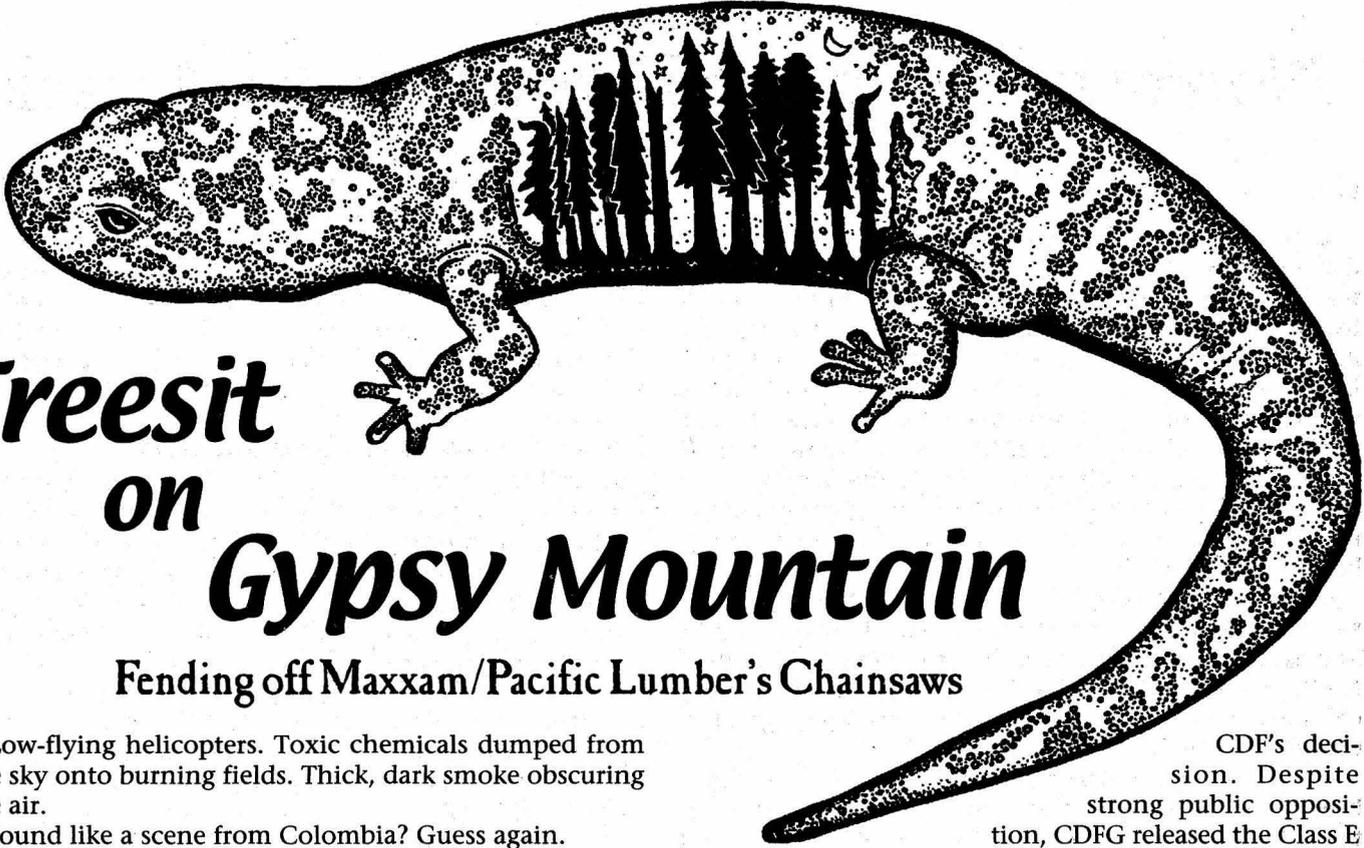
What Can You Do?

The attempts by the timber industry to weaken federal protections and log more old growth is an opportunity and a call to action. Not only do we need the letter writers and "lily-livered" banner hangers, we need direct action. We need some creative energy in the forest. We need activists dedicated to halting the destruction of our forests and challenging the patriarchal system that wants to cut them down.

There are several groups working on direct action campaigns to protect native forests in the Pacific Northwest.

For more information, contact the Cascadia Forest Defenders, POB 11122, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 684-8977; forestdefenders@dojo.tao.ca; www.ecocho.org. Or contact the Cascadia Forest Alliance, POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208; (503) 241-4879; www.cascadiaforestalliance.org.





Treesit on Gypsy Mountain

Fending off Maxxam/Pacific Lumber's Chainsaws

Low-flying helicopters. Toxic chemicals dumped from the sky onto burning fields. Thick, dark smoke obscuring the air.

Sound like a scene from Colombia? Guess again.

Just days after reaching an out-of-court settlement of the civil lawsuit over the death of David "Gypsy" Chain, Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) began marking trees on what has become known to Earth First!ers as "Gypsy Mountain" in Humboldt County, California. In a blatant and cynical dismissal of the spirit of the settlement, Maxxam/PL aimed its chainsaws at the site of Gypsy's murder, including "Aradia," an old-growth redwood tree where activists had a treesit at the moment of his death.

Now, activists are once again forced to take to the trees, with the hopes of stopping Maxxam/PL from destroying the very grove of ancient redwoods that Gypsy gave his life to save.

Treesitters have endured daily buzzing by helicopters flying dangerously close to their trees. Helicopters have also poured barrels of napalm-like chemicals onto neighboring clearcuts, creating fires with flames hundreds of feet tall.

A mobile base camp has been maintained for more than two months, with activists moving amongst sites to avoid sheriff's deputies. The forest defenders have set up four treesits and a garden tree to grow vegetables.

Assisting at the base camp is the Natural Guard, an environmental action group from Washington. The Natural Guard was created to bring aid to nonviolent direct action campaigns. They traveled to Humboldt County when they heard of the recent decision by the California Department of Forestry (CDF) to release Class E marbled murrelet habitat for logging.

Class E is the name given to forests known to support the highest population of the endangered marbled murrelet, and it includes trees up to 15 feet in diameter and 2,000 years old. The release of these areas for cutting required that the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) approve

CDF's decision. Despite strong public opposition, CDFG released the Class E areas on February 16, giving Maxxam/PL the go-ahead to start logging. Maxxam/PL is required to stop cutting on March 24 when the marbled murrelets presumably return to the trees to roost.

According to Shunka, an activist with the campaign, "In a literal cut-and-run style, there's now an encampment of out-of-state loggers at the PL mill, enabling PL to log the Class E stands as quickly as possible."

Gypsy was killed on September 17, 1998, while protesting the logging of ancient redwood forests on Maxxam/PL property in Northern California. The civil lawsuit, filed by Gypsy's parents, alleged that Maxxam/PL was reckless and responsible for Gypsy's death and was settled for an undisclosed sum on October 13. The settlement also stipulated that the 135-foot tree that struck Gypsy would remain where it fell, including a 100-foot buffer to prevent any nearby logging and a memorial to Gypsy to be placed on PL land. Additionally, the settlement set up a community roundtable—a gathering that comes complete with a barbecue and softball game—to be attended by representatives of Maxxam/PL, local law enforcement and the Humboldt County environmental community. The gathering is scheduled to be held in May. "It's what Gypsy's mom wanted," said Shunka.

Activists are committed to protecting both Gypsy Mountain and the newly released Class E stands. Help is needed *now* to protect the last of the old-growth redwoods and to keep Maxxam/PL from further desecrating Gypsy Mountain. Donations are also needed, and help can be sent in the form of money, wool and waterproof clothing, video and still cameras, backwoods gear, organic chocolate and walkie-talkies.

For more info., contact North Coast EF!, (707) 825-6598.

How the IMF is Destroying the World's Forests

BY JASON TOCKMAN

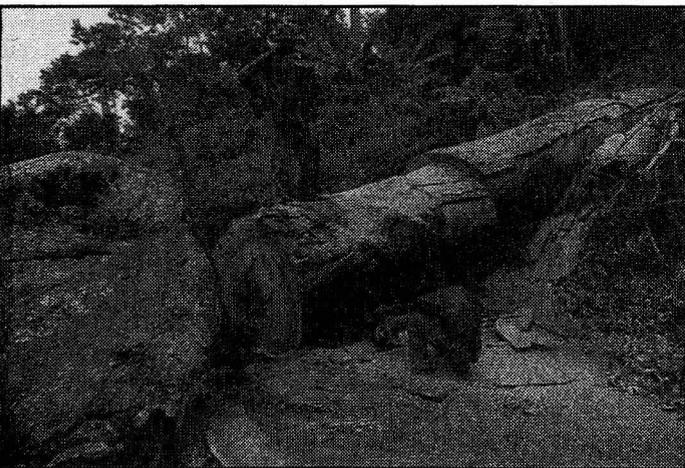
International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and policies have caused extensive deforestation according to a recent American Lands Alliance study of 15 countries from Africa, Latin America and Asia. This forest loss has occurred both directly, through the IMF's promotion of foreign investment in natural resource sectors and austerity measures that cut spending on environmental programs; and indirectly, through programs that have unwittingly worsened the conditions of poverty.

Through Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), the IMF influences countries' economic policies and practices by conditioning loans upon the acceptance of a series of trade and investment liberalization measures. The IMF has been instrumental in promoting a one-size-fits-all regime of privatization, deregulation, foreign investment and export-oriented growth. However, in most IMF client countries, meeting development objectives has proven elusive, and the overall effect of these policies on forests has been devastating.

The IMF prioritizes economic liberalization measures above key social and environmental objectives with policies that reduce export taxes; relax mining and forestry codes; remove bans on raw log exports; offer tax holidays to foreign firms; lift prohibitions on foreign investment and otherwise eliminate barriers to trade. The IMF's focus on promoting export-led growth and foreign investment in the natural resource sectors through these strategies has heavily impacted the world's forests causing accelerated deforestation in many countries. Among the 41 most heavily indebted poor countries of the world, deforestation between 1990 and 1995 greatly exceeded the world's average rate of forest loss. During this time, 75 percent of these countries were under a loan agreement with the IMF.

The IMF's Formula for Global Deforestation

IMF policies cause deforestation through four different mechanisms.



Mahogany logging in Africa

1. Pressuring countries to reduce government spending on environmental programs:

The IMF uses SAPs to force loan recipient nations to substantially reduce government spending. It is often the case that countries such as Brazil, Cameroon, Russia and Indonesia are forced to make deep cuts in environmental programs to meet these austerity requirements. IMF-induced budget cuts have hampered the promotion of responsible forestry and sustainable development, impeded enforcement

capabilities, weakened protections for imperiled forests, thwarted efforts to prevent illegal logging of "protected" areas, instigated poaching of endangered species, bred corruption in regulatory agencies and curtailed the demarcation of indigenous lands.

2. Promoting export-led growth:

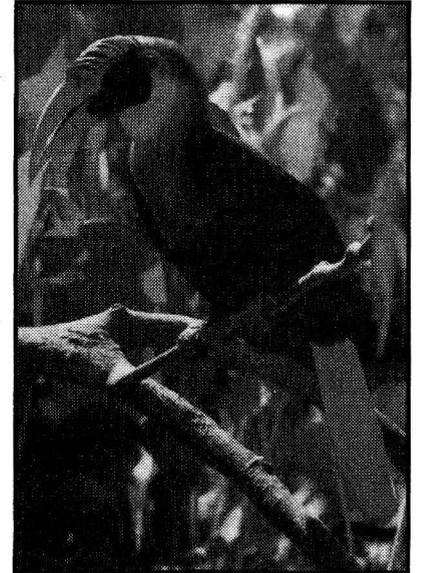
The IMF encourages countries to prioritize export-oriented industries over those producing goods for domestic consumption. Boosting exports enables countries to raise the capital needed to pay back loans from the IMF and other financial lenders. However, the promotion of exports in the areas of mining, agriculture and forest products, in the absence of real improvements in countries' environmental safeguards, has been a recipe for accelerated deforestation.

3. Increasing foreign investment:

As part of its adjustment programs, the IMF pressures countries to open their economies to foreign investment, including the foreign ownership of land, businesses, currency and other resources. Attracting foreign investors, aimed at stimulating growth and providing hard currency to developing countries, is prioritized above other important social and environmental objectives. Mining, oil and gas development and logging activities made possible due to investment liberalization have had a devastating impact on forests, wildlife and forest-dependent communities.

4. Worsening the conditions of poverty:

IMF policies have destroyed forests and wildlife indirectly through the heightening of poverty conditions. Many of the impacts of SAPs have been shouldered by subsistence farmers and landless rural dwellers. Entire villages have been displaced by transnational corporations that have been granted extensive concessions of land for



Blythe's hornbill is a lowland rainforest bird from Papua New Guinea.

mining and logging. As a result, communities are pushed deeper into forested areas, which then become degraded by human settlement.

Poverty has grown in many countries where SAPs have boosted unemployment rates. Devaluation of currencies, elimination of social services and other IMF-driven pressures on the living standards of the poor have caused increased incursion into forests for the extraction of resources for survival, including wood for fuel and homes.

Case Studies of IMF Deforestation

Cameroon

The IMF has conditioned its loans to Cameroon upon the reduction of administrative expenditures. Almost 1,000 government jobs were cut in the forestry, agriculture and fishing sectors, including the Ministry of Environment and Forests which has had to contend with reduced personnel, salary cuts of 40 percent, poor working conditions and an absence of communication and transportation equipment. The shortfalls have triggered corruption and weakened the government's ability to pursue sustainable forestry and to enforce current forestry laws.

Ghana

Beginning in 1983, Ghana has implemented IMF SAPs focused on export-led growth resulting in severe detrimental consequences for the rainforests and forest-dwelling people. Upon the advice of the IMF, Ghana relaxed mining regulations and nurtured investment with the mining industry through generous incentives and tariff reductions during the 1980s and 1990s. As a result, more than 250 mining companies have been granted concessions, totaling 58,167 square kilometers. Sixty percent of rainforests in Ghana's Wassu West District have already been destroyed by mining operations, which have also polluted surface and groundwater with cyanide and other chemicals. Overall, Ghana's forest cover has dropped to 25 percent of its original size, owing to a rate of deforestation that has increased by 50 percent in 10 years.

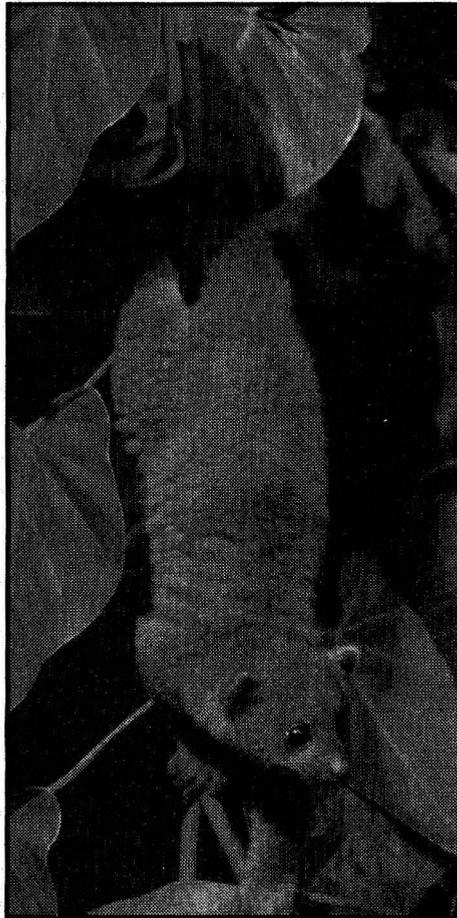
Cote d'Ivoire

For more than a decade, Cote d'Ivoire has been under the influence of IMF SAPs, of which intensification of agricultural exports has been a significant factor. As a result, cocoa production exploded by 44 percent from 1994 to 1996 making Cote d'Ivoire the world's leading producer of cocoa. The growth of their agricultural sector, however, brought about substantial changes in land use which has been a major factor in the decrease of their forest cover by 67 percent since 1960. Forests now total about six million

acres, where they once covered 70 million acres. The lucrative cocoa market has spurred farmers to illegally expand their plots into Cote d'Ivoire's protected forests, threatening about one-third of these areas with slash and burn cultivation methods.

Papua New Guinea

One of the planet's largest remaining rainforests is found in Papua New Guinea, providing habitat for 200 species of mammals, 20,000 plant species, 1,500 species of trees and 750 species of birds, half of which are endemic to the island. Papua New Guinea has taken several steps to foster the timber industry over the last few years, including reducing its tax on log exports and broadly reducing tariffs. The difficulties created for local residents of the Manus Province exemplify the social and environmental problems associated with IMF-sponsored logging. Due to logging on the island from 1997 through 2000, the residents' food sources have become scarce as fisheries have been silted in by erosion and game animals have disappeared with the loss of forest habitat. Water quality has been damaged with diesel run-off from machinery, harming aquatic species and drinking water supplies.



The kinkajou lives in threatened rainforests in Central America.

Honduras

While under the influence of IMF adjustments in the early 1990s, Honduras lost almost 12 percent of its forest cover in just five years due to measures implemented to increase logging and export-oriented agriculture. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America, leaving a path of devastation. The deforestation in Honduras exacerbated mudslides and floods, contributing to the scale of the disaster, and as many as 11,000 Hondurans were killed while millions were left homeless.

Conclusion

Despite rhetoric by its advocates to the contrary, "free" trade is not an irreversible and inevitable force of nature. The IMF policies responsible for global deforestation can be altered, even uprooted. We can—and if we are to preserve what remains of the world's imperiled ecosystems, we must—adopt a new model of economic integration, one that balances long-term economic prosperity with the ecological sustainability upon which it rests.

This article is excerpted from the American Lands Alliance report, The IMF—Funding Deforestation: How International Monetary Fund Loans and Policies are Responsible for Global Forest Loss. For more information, visit americanlands.org/imf_report.htm.

Jason Tockman is the Director of International Trade and Forests for the American Lands Alliance.

PEAT ALERT!

Scotts Company is Devouring UK's Peatbogs

The plastic wrapped Miracle-Gro "multipurpose" compost, sold in do-it-yourself home improvement stores and garden centers, is almost all that is left of unique primeval peatbogs in Europe. UK Earth Firsters have sent out a call for solidarity actions in the US to defend what remains of Thorne and Hatfield Moors in Yorkshire, England. Thorne and Hatfield Moors are being mined for peat by the Scotts Company, a US transnational corporation with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. These two areas of land support more than 5,500 species between them, comprising two of the most diverse ecosystems in England. Before the destruction started, they were the largest lowland-raised peatbog ecosystems in Europe, a habitat that has been reduced to less than six percent of its original size.

Raised bogs are formed in water-logged lowland areas by the remains of plants like sphagnum moss. The lack of oxygen means that a plant does not decay when it dies, and dead plant matter builds up layer by layer. Some bogs have grown to more than 12 meters in height since the last glaciation. Sphagnum moss is an incredibly absorbent material, and the domes of peat which are formed act like enormous sponges, about two percent solid matter and 98 percent water. In the 19th century, Thorne Moor was reported to rise by eight feet in the winter, due to water absorption.

Locked up inside the peatbogs is an irreplaceable archive of past climate conditions, vegetation and human activity dating back thousands of years. Ancient boats, human bodies, trees and pollen have been found preserved in peat. Peatbogs have a vital role in affecting carbon dioxide levels, and thus climate change. Acting as carbon sinks, the bogs remove carbon from the atmosphere, earning them the title "global coolers." The Prince of Wales has compared the UK's remaining peatbogs to tropical rainforests because of their high conservation importance. Of course, disturbing the peat allows oxygen to start the decay process and carbon is released back into the atmosphere.

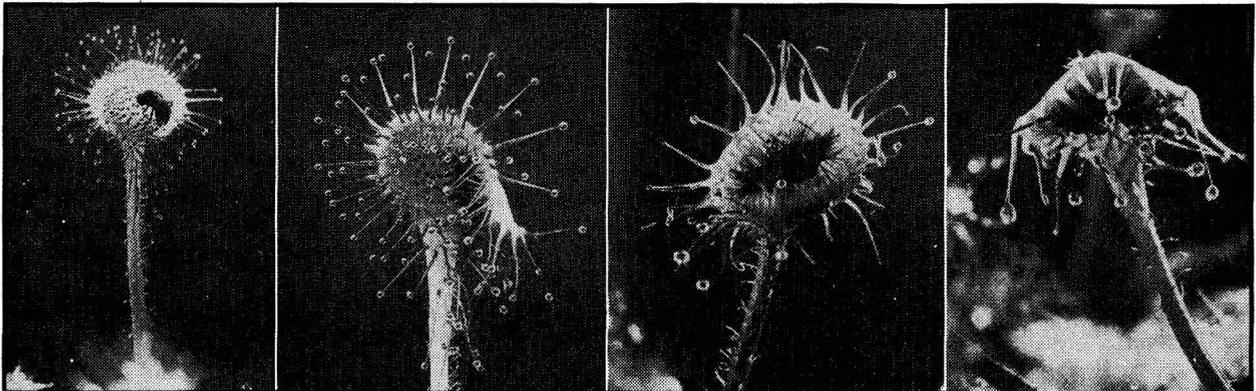
Once considered to be wastelands, raised bogs are now seen as one of the most important wildlife habitats in



UK Earth Firsters occupy a digger at a peatbog.

Europe. Peatbogs are home to a unique range of wildlife, including populations of birds such as nightjars, woodlarks, curlews, merlins, peregrines, hen and marsh harriers and long-eared owls. They also contain a wealth of unusual plants like bog rosemary and the carnivorous round-leaved sundew and bladderwort, as well as thousands of species of rare insects including the bog hog, the hairy canary fly and the unique Thorne Moors beetle.

Peat has been used as a fuel for centuries and was traditionally cut by hand, a slow method, which allowed the vegetation to regenerate over time. However, since the 1960s, major commercial companies have been converting peat into horticulture and landscaping products. They have introduced intensive methods of extraction that include deep trench cutting and surface milling, which



The round-leaved sundew, found in English peatbogs, catches an insect on its sticky mucilage-tipped glands and then folds over it.

generally requires the digging of deep drainage ditches and turning the bog surface into a bare desert.

In reality, the use of peat in horticulture is unnecessary and can be easily substituted by alternatives. A number of peat-free alternatives are readily available on the market and are already being used by local governments and businesses. They include mixes of cocoa shells, coir (from coconut husks), bark products, manure, leaf mold and garden compost. A switch to alternatives would not only reduce peat use, but it would also help to reduce the volume of waste going to landfills.

The Low-Down on Scotts

Until now, rather than using its position as the world's largest garden products company—with a turnover of nearly two billion dollars a year—to assist in the transition to peat-free gardening, Scotts has been fighting it. Last year, Scotts ran a nearly three million dollar advertising campaign to boost its sales of peat products. Scotts also relaunched its peat products under the highly successful Miracle-Gro brand name, using packaging which does not mention the peat content. Using stalling tactics similar to the ones used in the UK, Scotts has been engaged in a 10-year legal battle to circumvent environmental protection status for one of its peat mines in New Jersey. Other dodgy activities include developing genetically modified grass seed for golf courses and signing an agreement with Monsanto to be the sole international marketer of Roundup Weed and Grass Killer. In addition to Scotts' world headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, the company has research facilities in Oregon, Florida, Texas and offices in more than 20 locations throughout the US.

UK peatbogs are already seriously damaged, and there is evidence that another season of peat extraction will be devastating for the land and threatened wildlife. Hatfield Moor is in particular danger since further cutting could breach its base peat layer and destroy the hydrological integrity of the bog and any chances of recovery. However, if cutting is stopped now, peatbog ecosystems should be able to eventually regenerate on these sites. This past year, UK Earth First!ers have been involved in a direct action campaign around these sites using a wide range of tactics, including invasions and occupations of the site and factory, public mass trespasses and night-time sabotage. On February 18, seven facilities belonging to Scotts were occupied and disrupted. Earth First!ers are now planning a major four-day action just before Easter to blockade the Scotts factory which distributes the peat.

Earth First!ers, Friends of the Earth and local activists have promised that this year will see a stepping up of all types of action. UK Earth First!ers are asking Earth First!ers in the US to join in the fight to protect the bogs, to take action against Scotts' facilities and to get the message across to consumers not to buy peat. They are interested to hear reports back from any actions taken and in hearing from people who have dug up any dirt on the company's past or present issues.

To send donations or for information, including how to contact Scotts Company, contact Leeds Earth First!/Peat Alert, c/o CRC, 16 Sholebroke Ave., Leeds, LS7 3HB, England; (44) 113-262-9365; info@peatalert.org.uk;

www.peatalert.org.uk. Information for this article was obtained from Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/corporates/case_studies/scotts.

The forthcoming Summer 2002 issue of the UK eco-anarcho journal *Do or Die* will be covering this campaign in full. For a copy, send \$15 (well-hidden cash only, please) to *Do or Die*, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Pl., Brighton, BN2 2GY, England; doordtp@yahoo.co.uk.

PEAT ALERT UPDATE

A deal was announced on February 27 between Scotts Company and English Nature (the government's advisory body on nature and conservation) to restore major peatbogs as ecological sites. The deal is undoubtedly very good news, but it is certainly not the end of the story:

- Thorne Moor, South Yorkshire, and Wedholme Flow, Cumbria, are to be restored to raised bog habitats. This will be started immediately; no more peat will be extracted from these sites.

- Half of Hatfield Moor, South Yorkshire, will continue to be mined for peat for two more years. The other half will also now be restored.

- For this, English Nature will pay Scotts more than \$24 million in compensation. Scotts will take on much of the responsibility for carrying out the restoration.

Some of the problems that remain are:

- Carrying on extracting peat for another two years could prevent a raised bog habitat from re-evolving on Hatfield Moor. The depth of the peat is getting startlingly low on many parts of the site. Below a certain depth, the ecological value of the system that will regenerate will be significantly reduced.

- In many places the bottom sand layer of the peat has been breached. This introduces excessive nutrients into the water table, which means the peat may not support many important plants. Continued digging will almost certainly exacerbate this.

- Scotts bears much of the responsibility for carrying out the ecological restoration work. However, given its track record of destroying ecological systems, what are the assurances that it will not put profitability before doing a good job?

- Scotts will continue to operate its other peatbog sites in the UK. In particular, Carnwath Moss in Scotland is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and it has said that it will continue extraction there for the foreseeable future.

- There are many other peat companies who still mine peat from valuable wildlife sites. In particular, William Sinclair Ltd., who makes J. Arthur Bowers brand compost, continues to mine at Bolton Fell in Cumbria, and it has pledged to legally challenge government plans to designate it a Special Area for Conservation (this status would mean it would have to stop extracting peat). It also mines at Whim bog, an SSSI in Scotland.

- With the closure of UK peat mines, the problem may just be shifted overseas. Imported peat will form a greater proportion of the market, with new bogs being destroyed in Ireland or the Baltic States.

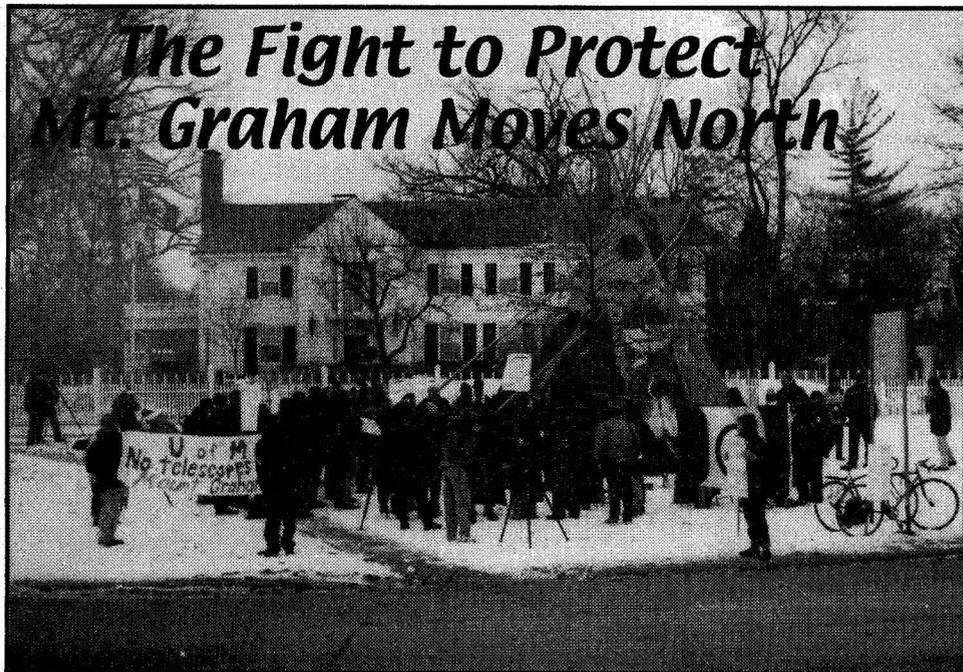


Photo by Ernest Miller

Mt. Graham supporters erect a tipi on the University of Minnesota President's front lawn.

BY DWIGHT

A series of actions by traditional Apache and their supporters in both Arizona and Minnesota are challenging the University of Arizona's (UA) policy of cultural genocide and desecration of *Dzil Nchaa Si An*: Mount Graham. Continued pressure will hopefully result in the first earnest dialogue between the UA and traditional Apache, who have expressed united public opposition to the construction of telescopes on Mt. Graham since 1989. At stake for the University of Arizona is the withdrawal of potential new partners in the large telescope under construction, future plans to desecrate more peaks for more telescopes and the exposé of the university's program of suppression and deceit in developing this sacred site.

On February 19, seven Apache elders and medicine people traveled to Tucson to deliver a message to UA President Peter Likins in order "to make clear our demand that the UA and its partners... respect our culture, heritage and way of life and hear our voice as we tell the UA that we are opposed to the Mt. Graham observatory upon *Dzil Nchaa Si An*." The Apache also asked the UA to cease misrepresenting the official tribal position of the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Supported by community members and Earth First! activists, the Apache elders led a procession to the UA administration building where they were locked out of the seventh floor and forced to meet with the president outside on the front steps. Likins addressed the elders for about 10 minutes, saying that he respected the Apache culture, but stopping the telescope project was not an option. After several years in office, Likins' first interaction with the Apache elders offered more lip service from the UA, whose campaign to fight the Apache and control their sacred mountain exemplifies institutionalized environmental racism. While Likins speaks of respecting the traditional Apache, his public relations machine is actively suppress-

ing the Apache struggle for religious freedom and misleading potential telescope investors about the issues.

The UA is currently trying to lure two new universities into partnerships in the Large Binocular Telescope Project. The University of Minnesota (UM) and University of Virginia are each considering a five million dollar investment into the project.

In Minnesota, Native American students, faculty, community members and tribal leaders are standing up against the University of Minnesota. Traditional San Carlos Apache have appealed to the UM to not add to the desecration of *Dzil Nchaa Si An*. The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (representing 11 tribes in Minnesota), UM American Indian Studies De-

partment and the community-based UM President's Indian Advisory Council are calling on the UM to stay off of Mt. Graham. The American Indian Movement (AIM) has put out a call to action in defense of the sacred mountain. On January 23, activists mobilized to erect a tipi on UM President Mark Yudof's front lawn. The occupation, which included ceremonies, the Thunder Nation drum and a 24-hour vigil in mid-teen temperatures was organized by AIM activist Clyde Bellecourt and Jim Anderson of the Mendota Dakota community, in coalition with local Native American religious and environmental activists.

As a result of strong opposition in Minnesota, UM will come to Arizona to speak with traditional Apache in addition to "elected tribal leaders" who may be asked to compromise their support of the traditional Apache religion and make a deal. Vigilance and more actions are sure to come in this important effort to accommodate the religious claims of the Apache people.

As support grows for the Apache traditional people and for protection of the mountain, the foundation of the UA's colonialist agenda will erode. For that reason the UA is also fighting the listing of Mt. Graham as a Traditional Cultural Property in the National Register of Historic Places, as recommended by the US Forest Service, and it is organizing rural communities to unite against the protective status.

All this is necessary for the UA to continue development of Mt. Graham. Plagued by lawsuits, as well as legal and illegal actions for more than a decade, the original telescope plan is being built only by an unprecedented exemption of all environmental and cultural protection laws which govern public lands. In order to make this project financially viable, the UA says it needs at least four more telescopes, something that is obviously unsupportable ecologically or by the Apache people, for whom the mountain is central to the practice of their religion.

For more information, visit www.mountgraham.org.
Dwight has been an active Mt. Graham supporter since 1989.

In the Spirit of Earth First!

BY TIM REAM

Thanks for the trees, our relatives whose bodies carry these words forward. Thanks for the air, water and food that sustain our lives to read and write for the benefit of life. Honor to the land and memory of the Miwok from where these words are written. Thanks to the beautiful Earth and Sun that give all life right now.

It feels good to start with gratitude for what sustains us, some confession of the genocide on this continent, recognition and respect for where one is. Such acts have their own kind of power to help put the Earth first. In the last decade, however, such acts within our movement seem fewer and farther between. In these desperate days, we might do well to open our work to include spiritual power along with our other efforts.

In many EF! circles today there seems to be little inclination and sometimes much antipathy to what is disparagingly referred to as "woo." Reactions to various spiritual attempts frequently include rolled eyes, accusations of cultural appropriation or cries of "No Gods, No Masters." We remain an "every tool in the toolbox" movement, however, and the tool of spiritual practice as a group that is dedicated to defending life seems too powerful to ignore.

It seems that just about every indigenous tribe of the past and present has participated in spiritual practice, generally relating to the land and its gifts. As these are the cultures that have generally demonstrated sustainable lifestyles, it seems important to explore possible connections. Conversely, perhaps the most secular or profane cultures probably include late Western capitalism and Soviet-style socialism: two cultures unparalleled in their destruction of the Earth. History is replete with thousands of years of these types of cultures seeking to destroy indigenous spiritual practice. It appears that the economically powerful elite view such practice as an obstacle to their profit from the Earth. Our opponents may better understand the power of our spiritual practice than many of us do.

We should look at some of the benefits that accrue when a group engages in spiritual practice and what the term itself might mean. The over-riding feature of such practice is the recognition of something beyond the material. Such practice is generally focused on recognizing and strengthening connections between humans and between humans and other beings. Spiritual practice often explores fundamental human concerns like sorrow, gratitude or love. It often leads to deeper insights around personal or shared human conditions.

So what does this have to do with Earth defense? Spiritual practice often builds community. It does this by increasing the extent of common ground shared and thereby strengthens connections between individuals and the group. Of course, stronger communities find it easier to recruit and retain new people and grow in their effectiveness. Stronger communities are also better

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The truly wise person
kneels at the feet of
all creatures and
is not afraid to
endure the mockery
of others.

Mechthild of Magdeburg
13th century female mystic



BARE BONES

Victims of Capitalism

After a long legal battle in India's courts, victims of a 1984 poisonous gas leak at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal hope to get justice in a US federal court.

Union Carbide paid the Indian government \$470 million in an out-of-court settlement in 1989—the amount only allows the survivors a sum of \$250 a year and is far smaller than the estimated three-billion-dollar cost of the disaster. The leak killed thousands and contaminated water and soil within a one-mile radius of the plant. So far, 600,000 people have filed compensation claims.

The class action lawsuit was revived because Dow Chemicals recently purchased Union Carbide and can now be held responsible for damages. Representatives of the victims met with Dow officials and demanded the company provide safe water, disability pensions and a medical unit to deal with effects of the gas. They gave Dow a 30-day deadline to act or face strong reprisals.

Victory for Oregon Forests

On February 13, a federal district court judge ruled in favor of a lawsuit brought by the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, Northwest Environmental Defense Center and Cascadia Wildlands Project. The ruling stopped the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) "Timber Basin" timber sale in Central Oregon's John Day River area. Though most of a burned portion of the timber sale was cut during the trial, the green portion was saved by an injunction that stopped all cutting. The judge ruled that the BLM illegally bypassed the public appeals process and did not address the effects of post-fire salvage logging.

A similar lawsuit before the same judge stopped the Hash Rock and Bandit timber sales in the Ochoco National Forest in Central Oregon, adjacent to the Mill Creek Wilderness. These victories protect habitat for lynx, wolverine, bald eagle and steelhead salmon.

In the Spirit of Earth First! continued

continued from previous page

able to resolve the many disputes inherent in our kind of work. Strong communities last.

Spiritual practice can also lead to a maturing and growth of individuals, a stronger self-understanding and awareness. Greater energy and less burnout are common. Such practices help us recognize our current work in a much broader context. Ultimate goals come into stronger focus; deeper motivations are evoked. Stronger realization of Earth connections leads us to call out for help and receive it from surprising sources.

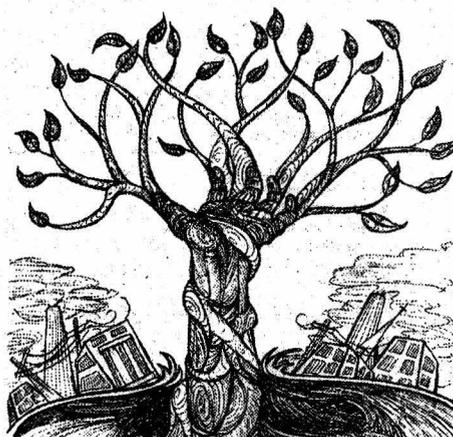
The Earth is a living being. Our communication is not limited to other humans or to spoken language. The world often responds to our most sincere intentions in truly amazing ways, if we call upon it and give it the chance. In this communion with another, our sense of self loses some rigidity. The picture becomes not just clearer but bigger. Some fears and helplessness may drop away. Greater possibilities for change appear.

No doubt, many reading this have had such experiences, especially in wild places. Many people think these experiences are random. Perhaps instead they are just as much a part of cause and effect as the overtly physical world. Perhaps they result from the application of appropriate effort. Maybe we can learn to relate to the world in this way as a regular aspect of our life and in our work together. The hard-boiled scientists among you are not yet swayed. Hear this: respected medical journals have recently reported double-blind studies where people who had strangers pray for their recovery from remote locations healed significantly faster from illness. There is more to the world than appears, eh?

So this might sound good in theory, but what about in practice? Many of us have been in circles where someone's attempt just comes up seeming like, well, bad woo. Do you want to hang someone out to dry for trying, or support your comrade's attempt? The term is spiritual "practice" and attempting does not imply a claim to have the right answer to ultimate anything. We are all growing.

As for cultural appropriation, we would all do well to listen carefully to tribal people who hand down spiritual practices as the survivors of genocide. If they request cultural propriety, we should fully honor it. In no sense should imitation for personal gain be tolerated. Many Native people, however, willingly share spiritual practices with those sincerely interested. Earth First! is honored among many Native people. Non-natives among us have been asked to share practices and teachings as a way of honoring these cultures and protecting indigenous lands. There are practices of a people and other practices for all people.

As for "No Gods, No Masters," this is obviously a valid response to a domi-



nant, allegedly "Christian," capitalist system. Let's not pray to the bearded white man in heaven that only lets men be priests and throws many into eternal hell. But there are broader ways to conceive gods and goddesses. These need not even be thought of as outside yourself to deserve honor and even prayer. While "master" can imply slave, it can also imply apprentice and create an opportunity to learn from an elder of great accomplishment without any threat of being bound.

If you are still not convinced, then perhaps this: The total time and effort the movement may put into group spiritual practice will probably never amount to more than a tiny percentage of overall effort. Humor the rest of us with

willing tolerance and without ridicule. It takes a lot more effort for a group to work together than to pull people apart with disparagement.

Here are some suggestions to open more discussion. Let's give thanks together to the Earth and Sun for food and water when eating. Let's intentionally honor the opening and closing of circles. Let's give thanks to the Earth when we make and break camp in a particular place. Let's ask for help from all directions on actions. Let's take time at gatherings to recognize the fallen and imprisoned from our movement.

At rendezvous and action camps, perhaps organizers can define a space for prayer and meditation with an altar for offerings from any. Will those with such experience to share offer more workshops and discussion circles?

Perhaps we can gather in greater numbers to mark full moons, equinoxes and solstices. Maybe at these or other times, groups can find ways to create the space to say, "I'm sorry, I thank you and I love you" as they feel called to share. Let's welcome the teaching of heart songs from our kin. Learn them and teach others. Let's redefine or rediscover the material manifestations of our higher intents in both prayer and everyday life.

Of course none of these practices are new to EF!. We can clearly do more and more often. Consistency and unity need not imply any coercion or conformity. Finally, let's recognize that the substance of our actions is not apart from the spirit of our actions. Prayer is not a substitute for action but ultimately effects flow from intention. May all beings find peace and wildness.

As spirit transcends material so the effects of spiritual practice may be difficult to fully understand. Nonetheless, a group that has such a basis will feel its strength beyond doubt and outcomes may manifest beyond explanation. Earth first, last and only, for our life, as our life, without compromising anything.

Tim Ream practices forest defense and Soto Zen in and around Cascadia.

I Wood

BY REV. CHRIS KORDA

Make yourself as comfortable as possible.

Okay, now close your eyes, relax and try to imagine yourself dying. It could be suddenly or gradually, by chance or by design, far in the future or tomorrow, but imagine yourself passing into the twilight world between life and death. Your body is letting go, growing heavy, the life force is passing out of it and finally your body is completely, irrevocably dead.

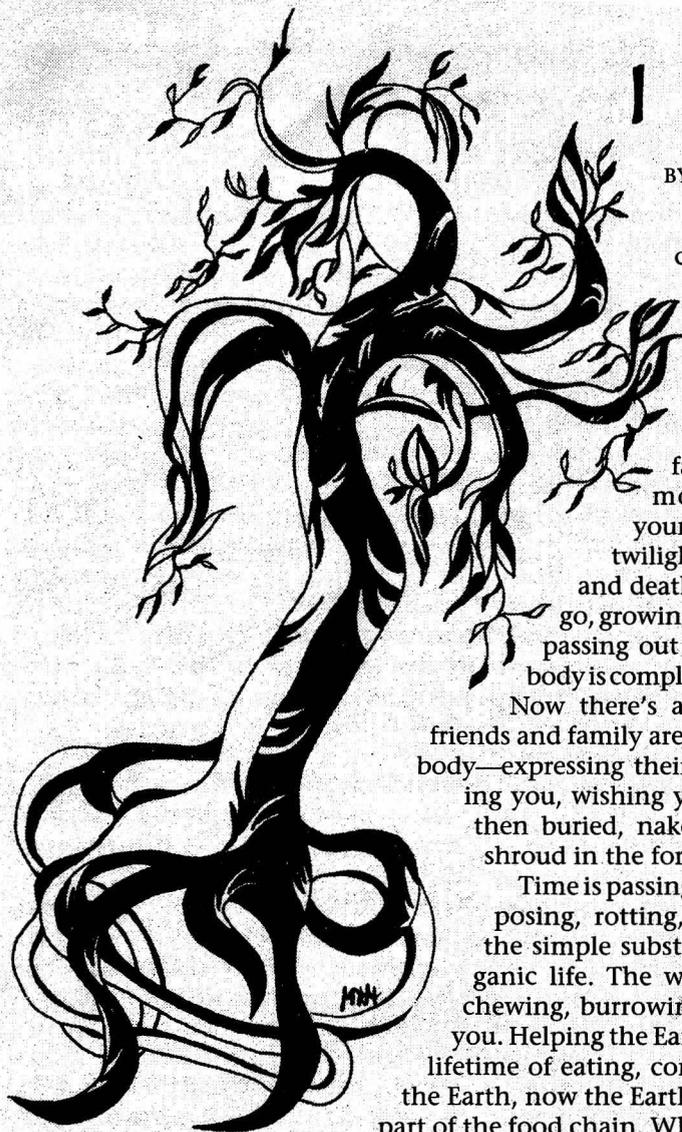
Now there's a ceremony and your friends and family are gathered around your body—expressing their love for you, honoring you, wishing you well. Your body is then buried, naked, without casket or shroud in the forest.

Time is passing. Your body is decomposing, rotting, breaking down into the simple substances that sustain organic life. The worms and beetles are chewing, burrowing into you, digesting you. Helping the Earth recycle you. After a lifetime of eating, consuming the riches of the Earth, now the Earth is eating you. You're part of the food chain. While your body's nutrients are slowly dissolving into the soil, they're being absorbed by the roots of a tree.

Now try to imagine that nameless part of yourself that survives every stage of death. Beyond your ego, beyond your consciousness. Try to imagine that while your body is composting, feeding the tree's roots, you are passing into the tree. And slowly, very slowly, you begin to have sensations again. New, unfamiliar sensations. Where your feet used to be, you have roots that sink deep into the warm moist Earth. Where your poor, aching spine used to be, you have a thick trunk, flexible but incredibly strong and covered with bark instead of skin. Instead of arms and a head, you have a profusion of branches, ending in thousands of delicate twigs instead of fingers. And your twigs are thrust out in every direction, toward the heavens, toward the sun and instead of hair they are covered with tender, green leaves.

Feel the warm sun heating your leaves. Breathe with your leaves. Your leaves are a million tiny lungs. Feel how they ripple in the breeze. Your branches are gently swaying back and forth and the sap is running up and down your trunk, carrying nutrients from the soil up to the branches and leaves. Birds are resting on you. Insects scurry around on your bark, but they move so fast you barely notice them.

Time has slowed down for you. You're not going anywhere. Day becomes twilight and then night. The stars come out and the moon rises. Feel the other trees all around you. You're one tree, among many other trees, in the forest. Hear the sound of the forest. Animals, birds, insects, singing the song of the Earth. You're singing too with a deep, low sound. Mists creep along the ground and the stars fade as dawn approaches. The song is louder now and your leaves are wet with dew. The sun creeps over the horizon and into the sky.



BARE BONES

Hawaiian Oceans Targeted as Greenhouse Gas Dump

Completely unwilling to reduce US output of carbon dioxide—a principal greenhouse gas—the Department of Energy (DOE) has approved an experiment that would dump liquid carbon dioxide into the ocean off the coast of Hawaii.

In the initial phase of the plan about 50 metric tons would be pumped 2,600 feet underwater to the ocean floor. If the DOE declares the experiment a success, a pilot project would be implemented in conjunction with island power plants.

The initial area targeted was less than two miles offshore near Keahole Kona, Hawaii. Strong public opposition has forced the DOE to propose alternative sites further out to sea. The DOE, has not made a finding of impact. Interest in the project is widespread with private sector and government partners from Japan, Canada, Norway, Australia and Switzerland.

Hyped Phoenix Arsonist Sentenced to 18 Years

Mark Sands, the Phoenix, Arizona, public relations consultant accused of setting eight fires in seven luxury homes adjacent to mountain preserves, was sentenced February 12. He received 18 years in prison and was ordered to pay nearly three million dollars in restitution.

Using the name Coalition to Save the Preserves, Sands set the first fire on April 9, 2000, at a large house under construction near an entrance to the Phoenix Mountains Preserve. He was arrested in April 2001 after defacing a sign at a construction site under surveillance. Police also found his DNA in the saliva on envelopes he sent to the press which linked Sands to the arsons.

On a Spring 2001 trip to the Grand Canyon with a close friend who was wired by the FBI, Sands confessed. He conceded that he was driven by dark inner demons, not any political or social cause. At his sentencing, he expressed remorse for the fire victims but mostly for his family's pain.

■ This Ain't No Love Fest

Congress Looks for a Few Good Saboteurs

When Craig Rosebraugh assumed his tenure in 1997* as the spokesperson for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), he probably did not envision it leading him to the halls of Congress.

On February 12, the Congressional Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a special oversight hearing in Washington, DC, on "Eco-terrorism and Lawlessness on the National For-

ings were meant to strategize on how to boost law enforcement's efforts to nab "eco-terrorists."

In a statement made in November, McInnis warned Rosebraugh that if he should fail to appear before the subcommittee, he would face contempt of Congress charges. "I think he would be well-advised to appear if a subpoena tells him to appear," said McInnis. "I want to pin him to the wall. This isn't a love fest I'm inviting him to."

The Stage is Set

"I was forced to come to Washington, DC. I'm not going to answer that question," said Rosebraugh when asked to respond to the criticism that "eco-terrorism" hurts the environmental cause more than supports it. Rosebraugh was asked to voluntarily take part in the hearing; when he refused, he was subpoenaed to testify.

More than 50 times throughout the hearing, Rosebraugh stated, "I'll take the Fifth Amendment." Questions ranged

tions. The decision was made that questions would be submitted to Rosebraugh in writing. If he continues to refuse to answer, the subcommittee warned, he could very well be held in contempt of Congress.

A witness subpoenaed to testify in front of a Congressional committee is vulnerable to many of the same risks as someone called before a grand jury. In a perversion of checks and balances, if the witness refuses to answer any question, no matter how objectionable, she or he can potentially be held in jail for an indefinite length of time—at the discretion of the Congressional members themselves rather than a judge.

The Other Actors

Also scheduled to testify at the hearings were members of Congress whose districts have been impacted by "eco-terrorism," including Representatives Darlene Hooley (Oregon), George Nethercutt (Washington) and Greg Walden (Oregon). Besides stressing the losses incurred by their constituents, the three Representatives used this opportunity to garner further support for new legislation to stiffen federal penalties for "eco-terrorist" acts.

"For the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health to hold this hearing without having an equal contingency of environmental advocates is deplorable. The cards are clearly stacked in favor of industry," said Elaine Close.

ests." Rosebraugh was the sole environmental advocate that was either asked—or forced—to testify at the hearing.

Spearheading the hearings was Colorado Representative Scott McInnis—whose district includes the Vail ski resort, site of the 1998 arson that caused \$12 million in damages. The arson was claimed by the ELF in defense of the endangered Canada lynx. McInnis called the hearings to discuss efforts to stop the threats to industry posed by activists that are committed to protecting the natural environment. In addition, the meet-

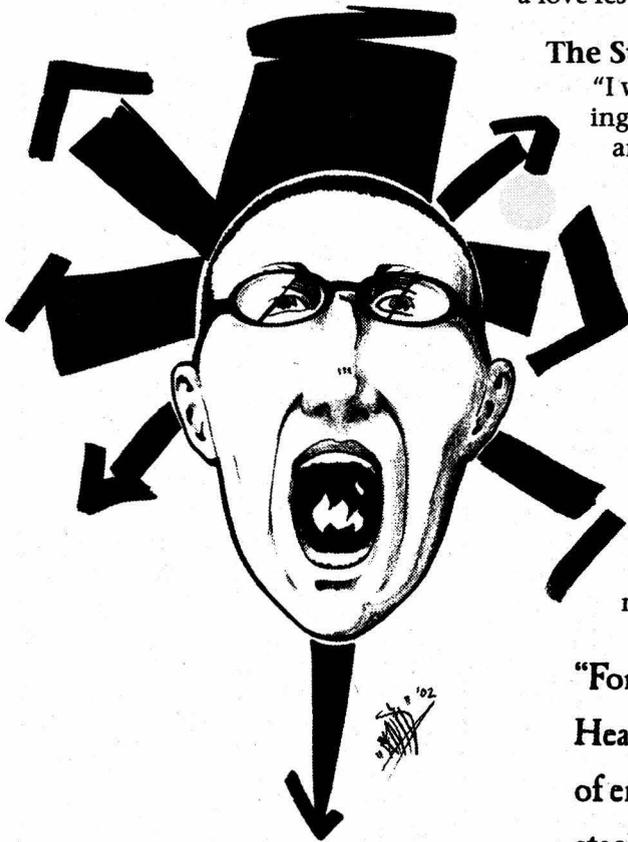
ings were meant to strategize on how to boost law enforcement's efforts to nab "eco-terrorists." In a statement made in November, McInnis warned Rosebraugh that if he should fail to appear before the subcommittee, he would face contempt of Congress charges. "I think he would be well-advised to appear if a subpoena tells him to appear," said McInnis. "I want to pin him to the wall. This isn't a love fest I'm inviting him to."

It should have been no surprise that Rosebraugh didn't say much. He has been subpoenaed seven times to appear before grand juries and has never talked.

Eventually, the subcommittee came to the realization that it was a waste of time to ask Rosebraugh any more ques-

Though the ELF has not injured or killed anyone, members of the subcommittee said that they are intent on using legislation to crack down on organizations before someone is hurt. During the past year, a number of statewide "eco-terrorism" bills were proposed and enacted, as well as legislation at the federal level.

On February 12, Hooley, Nethercutt and Walden tried to recruit cosponsors for bills they introduced: Hooley's Environmental Terrorism Reduction Act, HR 2583 and Nethercutt's



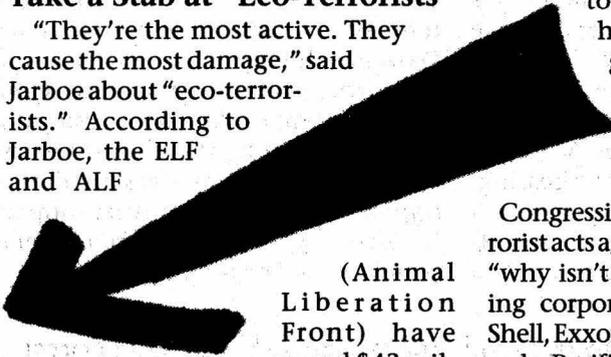
Agroterrorism Prevention Act, HR 2795, which would mandate the death penalty for certain "eco-terrorism" crimes. Other proposals include allowing the FBI to investigate crimes under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). The RICO statutes would allow prosecutors to charge someone like Rosebraugh with conspiracy for his repeated receipt of communications from those on the frontlines. Representatives hope that the stiff penalties that go hand in hand with RICO would cause the would-be participant in an ELF action to think twice.

Additional testimony was provided by the senior vice president of public affairs for Vail Resorts, Inc., a manager for Boise Cascade Corporation and the executive director of the Center for Consumer Freedom.

Law enforcement officials and the Domestic Terrorism Section Chief of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, James F. Jarboe, rounded out the roster.

Take a Stab at "Eco-Terrorists"

"They're the most active. They cause the most damage," said Jarboe about "eco-terrorists." According to Jarboe, the ELF and ALF



(Animal Liberation Front) have caused \$43 million in damage since 1996 in more than 600 actions. In the eyes of the FBI, "eco-terrorists" are close to the top of the radar screen, yet do not quite compare to white supremacist groups—who are still considered more dangerous because their attacks are often aimed at people.

In his testimony, Jarboe stated, "The FBI defines eco-terrorism as the use or threatened use of violence of a criminal nature against innocent victims or property by an environmentally oriented, subnational group for environmental-political reasons, or aimed at an audience beyond the target, often of a symbolic nature."

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Long before September 11, corporate spin doctors were making efforts to demonize environmentalists by trying to connect them with terrorism.

The concept of environmental terrorism has been around for more than a decade. *PR Watch* recalls a leaked memo in 1991 from the Ketchum public relations firm which outlined contingency plans to protect the image of Clorox. Plans included launching an ad campaign with the slogan, "Stop Environmental Terrorism."

Wise Use front man Ron Arnold and the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise define "eco-terrorism" as "any crime committed in the name of saving nature." This open-ended definition includes such actions as sit-ins and other forms of peaceful protest.

The Real Villains

Elaine Close, a spokesperson for the Mobilization for the Protection of Civil Liberties, criticized the hearings, "For the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health to hold this hearing without having an equal contingency of environmental advocates is deplorable. The cards are clearly stacked in favor of industry."

"If the alleged goal of this Congressional inquiry is to probe terrorist acts against ecology," stated Close, "why isn't the government investigating corporations such as Monsanto, Shell, Exxon, General Electric, Boise Cascade, Pacific Lumber, Lockheed Martin, Dow Chemical and the many others who engage in murderous business practices on a daily basis? Why isn't the government investigating the many acts of violence and terrorism taken against environmental advocates?"

Rosebraugh's Principled Stand

In his written testimony to Congress, Rosebraugh could not be pressured to step away from his beliefs. "I fully praise those individuals who take direct action, by any means necessary, to stop the destruction of the natural world and threats to all life," wrote Rosebraugh. "Long live all of the sparks attempting to ignite the revolution!"

**Note: Rosebraugh stepped down as the spokesperson for the ELF in September. He is currently pursuing his master's degree and is writing his thesis: "Rethinking Nonviolence: Arguing for the Legitimacy of Armed Struggle."*

BARE BONES

Colorado Proposes Larger Fines for Sabotage

A bill proposed by Colorado State Senator Mark Hillman will allow judges to impose triple damages on top of any criminal penalty for the destruction of animal or agricultural research.

Senate Bill 69 sailed through the state Senate and is currently being considered for passage by the House. Hillman hopes the bill will force people to "think twice" before attacking experimental agricultural or animal facilities.

Colorado is the site of two major eco-arsons, the more than two million dollar fire in Niwot on November 27, 2000, and the \$12 million sabotage of the Vail ski area in 1998.

Italy Says "No GMOs"

Just in time for the Spring crop sowing, the government of Italy announced a zero tolerance policy toward any imports of seeds contaminated by genetically modified (GM) genes. The government expects to spend some 50 million euros on customs and other control methods to insure that seeds are free of GM material.

Italian farmers plan to sow more than one million hectares of maize and soybeans this Spring.

IES Incinerators Closed

In an enormous victory for community health and environmental justice, the controversial Integrated Environmental Systems' (IES) twin medical waste incinerators in Oakland, California, closed December 10.

Faced with escalating protests and blockades of trucks carrying medical waste, as well as massive fines and lawsuits, IES was sold to its competitor Stericycle. The new owner will be tearing down the incinerators. The community has demanded that Stericycle use only non-incineration technologies and will oppose any attempt to send waste out of state for incineration.

IES was located in a low-income, community of color and activists charge that government agencies participated in environmental racism by ignoring toxic emissions and ongoing violations for years.

Outlawed Ways of the Last Wizards

BY JAMES BELL

Magic is the craft of the magi or magician. There are countless shamans, healers, wiccans, alchemists and others who recount the arts of magic in their histories. An "old magic" of potions, charms and odd words is romanticized by the public. Meanwhile, modern magicians have perfected certain aspects of its true art and science.

Ioan Couliano, a recognized historian of religion, reveals much about magic's lineage and modern uses in his book *Eros and Magic in the Renaissance*. He writes, "Insofar as science and the manipulation of phantasms are concerned, magic is primarily directed at the human imagination, in which it attempts to create lasting impressions. The magician of the Renaissance was both psychoanalyst and prophet as well as the precursor of modern professions such as director of public relations, propagandist, spy, politician, censor, director of mass communication media and publicity agent."

Couliano struck a cord when he proposed that state power could be maintained through either a police state or a "magician state." The magician state, he explains, is the full surround of commercial images and propaganda, manipulating the masses through the movement of images within the soul. Control can be maintained by the rigid police state with its enforcement of laws, or the more flexible magician state with its enforcement of desires.

Couliano's insights help to dispel the enchantments of modern capitalism and state power by providing the knowledge of how such power has "bound" the masses under it.

A key way of thinking of these magic "binds" can be understood by looking at old folk spells. The components of the old spells all had meanings within the cultures and times that they were written. Many of those meanings have changed or been lost with the passing of years, thus weakening the relevance and power of the old spell.

For example, a healing spell calling for magnesium would be understood differently today than it would

have been centuries ago. In the culture of the time, magnesium was conceived of as a substance to strengthen the heart, relieve cramps and soothe the nerves. The spell might call for stones rich in magnesium to be placed on the body.

Today's remedies may be better at masking symptoms, but it appears much of the effectiveness still rests on the patient's belief in their power to "heal." A contemporary healing spell would be rewritten as the commercial medical wisdom of "take two and call me in the morning," or "plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is."

The lore concerning the meanings and uses of stones and herbs has been replaced with the lore of medical product brands. Magic is still at work in both cases. Magic

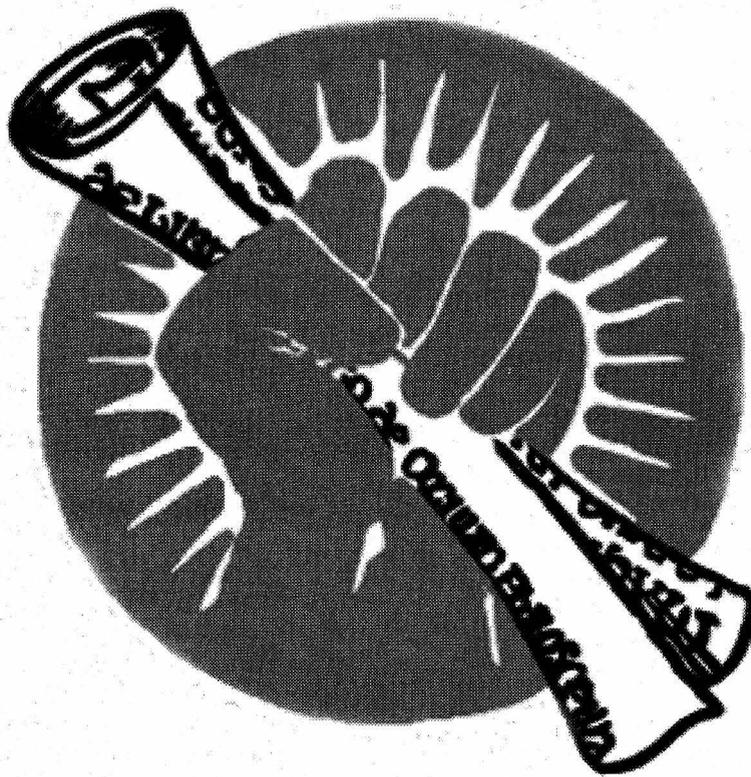
"binds" the images and lore of healing with the names of the physical substances in each case. The big difference is that today this semiotic binding occurs between images and product brands, as opposed to images and the true names of actual substances found in nature. In order to use magic to change society, it must be based in the reality of that world—on the desires of people. While your heart may exist in the wild places of the Earth you must also understand the stories and myths of the global popular culture. Roy Williams, the advertising guru known as the "Wizard" teaches that, "People will only go where they have first been in their minds."

I would add that people will never leave a place that they can feel in their hearts, for they will carry it with them always. Once you establish a nexus between the culture of the present world, and the world you're trying to create, change can occur. The only way to find this nexus is to understand what people are doing, watching, eating, reading and discussing. When you locate that which will resonate in people's hearts you can build a bridge, or "bind," between their world and your dream.

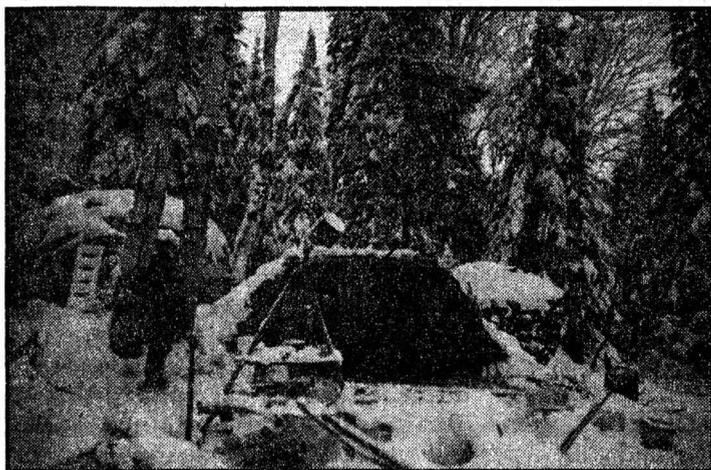
The Last Wizards

A wizard is etymologically a "wise" person. Originally the word was used for philosopher or sage, without any suggestion of magical practices.

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A Return to the Wild Life: from Civilized to More Primitive Living



At home in a Wisconsin Winter

BY RED WOLF RETURNS

I have been involved in the "primitive skills movement" for about three years now. For me, this involvement just seemed to flow naturally from my encounters with radical environmentalism, indigenous rights activism and primitivism. I wanted more than just a distant revolutionary objective. I wanted a real-world, in-the-dirt experience of what these lines of thought were aiming at. I wanted to learn what it might mean to become one with the land—not as a concept or ideal, but as a living experience.

To that end, I spent a good amount of time studying skills and philosophy with various individuals and attending gatherings until I ended up in a year-long primitive immersion course at the Teaching Drum Outdoor School in Wisconsin's North Woods. The program works toward healing the wounds of civilization and attempting to reclaim a life-way consistent with the ancient ecological wisdom of hunter-gatherer peoples. We don't try to mimic Native American cultural forms here, but rather we strive to re-connect with the core of what it means to escape our domesticated conditioning and live on the level of our wild relations again. Daily life involves living in community while learning and practicing such skills as building Earth lodges for shelter, tanning deer hides for clothing, making fire without matches, basketweaving and other crafts, tracking wild animals and wild-

crafting edible and medicinal plants. A very simple, staple diet of salvaged road-kill venison, vegetables, fruit and nuts is provided for us, supplemented by whatever foods we are able to gather, hunt and fish as we progressively learn to do so in a respectful manner. We are slowly integrating into the skills and awareness necessary to become independent of the cash-economy and more intimately interdependent on both our face-to-face community and the nurturing care of our bioregion.

Sometime around the first month or so is when one begins to face some of the psychological conditioning we've all been given as products of colonial culture and realize the level of personal and relational healing that needs to take place before one can feel at home in the natural world. This first became obvious to me when I started feeling strong overwhelming compulsions to bike into town, binge on junk food and "buy stuff" I thought I needed. I also started smoking again, even though I had quit more than a year before. My dreams became troubled—I was fighting against myself. I began to see just how much the outer violence and greed I had been struggling with as an urban activist had obscured my vision from the inner violence and greed that I carried with me wherever I went. I was, in fact, an intimate part of the problem, and I carried within me the hollow and controlling heart of a First World consumer.

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BARE BONES

Fridge Mountain in the UK

Residents say ugly trash dumps of old refrigerators have erupted across rural England since European environmental regulations took effect this year. The regulations make it illegal to dump the ozone-depleting foam insulation from refrigerators and freezers. "From January 1, nobody can throw a fridge away. A fridge is a dangerous substance," said Phillip Evans, owner of a waste disposal company.

Throughout Europe, refrigerators must now be crushed in "fridge eaters" that extract the chlorofluorocarbons so they can be safely destroyed. The problem is that no one in England actually owns one of these machines, and none are expected to be operating for several months. Consequently, retailers will no longer cart old refrigerators away when a customer buys a new one, and scrap merchants refuse to pick them up.

This leaves farmers like Bob Partridge, who found 50 refrigerators on his land in southwest England, in a tough spot.

The Devil's Implant

Applied Digital Solutions' (ADS) new "Verichip" is yet another sign that science fiction could be evolving into fact. Poised to ask the Food and Drug Administration for permission to market the first-ever computer ID chip designed to be embedded beneath a person's skin, the company promises they will limit marketing to strictly voluntary uses.

The chip is the size of a grain of rice, can be inserted with a large needle and would be difficult to remove or mimic. An add-on device could be used to satellite track an individual's every move or to store data such as medical records.

Eight Latin American countries have contacted the company to urge further development of the tracking device aspect of the chip.

The chip has drawn attention from several religious groups who worry it may be the "mark of the beast." According to the Bible, all people will be forced to wear an identifying mark just before the end times.

The Landscape of Desire

WANDERING ALONG UTAH'S MUDDY CREEK

BY GREG GORDON

To the west of Green River, Utah, juts the San Rafael Reef, a shark-tooth ridge of upended sandstone. Not an actual marine reef, but so christened by the early pioneers because this 2,000-foot-high pleat proved a significant impediment to east-west travel. Most of the desert beyond remained inaccessible until the construction of Interstate 70. Begun in 1970, this stretch of Interstate took 20 years to complete. The highway slices right through the San Rafael Reef, revealing successive layers of geologic history. Deposited horizontally, the layers are now tilted on end, so that one drives through the entire Jurassic period in a few minutes.

A dirt road leads to Muddy Creek, the only reliable source of water in the southern half of the vast and seldom visited San Rafael Desert. It looks more like an irrigation ditch loaded with

cow manure than a creek.

Composed of grey Mancos shale, the Coal Cliffs loom above us. A cold wind whips the cumulus clouds across the sky like a time-release film. Through the low clouds we can see snow in the highlands of the Fishlake Plateau.

I pull out the maps and show my students we are headed clear through the San Rafael Desert, from I-70 to the tiny town of Hanksville. A person could easily hike through this county in less than half the time, but our purpose isn't to pass through an area as quickly as possible, but rather to come to know a place, to linger and saunter as Thoreau would have us do. "For every walk is a sort of crusade," he wrote. "We should go forth on the shortest walk, perchance, in the spirit of adventure, never to return, prepared to send back our embalmed hearts only as relics to our desolate kingdoms."

We shoulder our heavy packs and navigate through failed attempts at alfalfa fields. We aim toward the interstate, sighting our course along Muddy Creek. We trudge slowly in a perpendicular line, unwavering as a missile, so as to intercept the four-lane interstate. We wonder if anyone notices a line of backpackers threading their way through a maze of barbed wire, old tires and car parts to the highway, passing beneath it and heading south into a landscape as desolate as the moon.

We could have parked on the other side of I-70 and begun our hike farther downstream, but I wanted us to walk

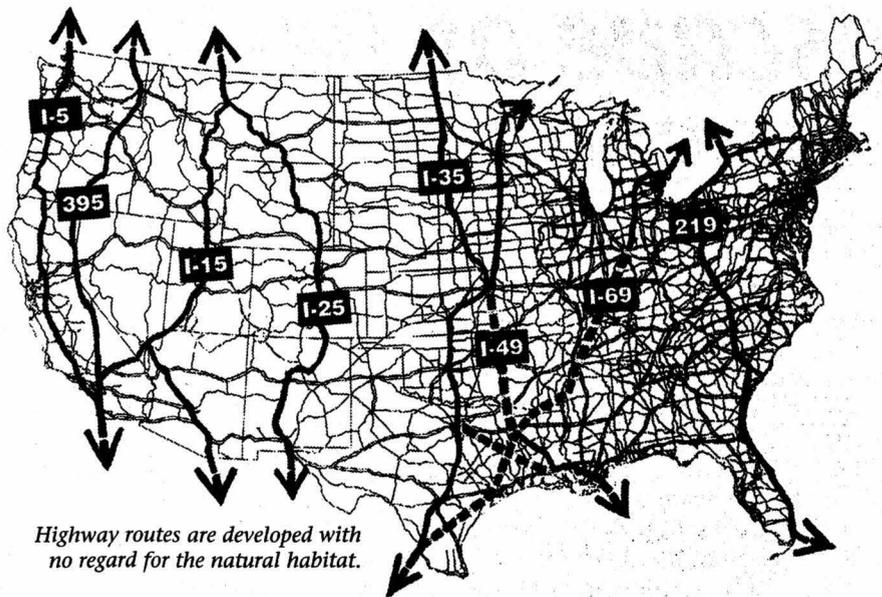
under the highway, having spent so much of our lives traveling over it. This ribbon of asphalt superimposed over the landscape defines our movement telling us which places are important and which are not. It gets us from here to there with little concern as to what lies between. We build our highways with near total disregard toward the land and its inhabitants.

I also wanted to experience how animals move through the landscape. Driving along I-70 from Grand Junction, Colorado, to Moab, Utah, I was overwhelmed by the hundreds of ground squirrel carcasses littering the pavement. Are we simply oblivious to the lives of animals in our rush across the desert?

The Humane Society estimates that more than one million animals are killed every day on US highways. This includes not only large and small mammals such as deer, bear, raccoons, hares and rodents, but also reptiles, amphibians, birds and an untold number of invertebrates. More than half a million deer alone are killed every year by traffic. Roadkill is the leading cause of mortality for most large mammals and several endangered species, such as desert tortoise, Houston toad, brown pelican and American crocodile. Highways also act as wildlife mortality sinks. For example, snakes are attracted to the road to sunbathe and are flattened as a result; ravens, jays and other scavengers come to feed off the carcasses and are in turn killed themselves.

From salamanders to grizzly bears, highways prove to be impermeable barriers to some wildlife movements, preventing amphibians from reaching their breeding grounds and bears from finding mates. Roads can also dissect habitat. I-70, for example, severs the San Rafael bighorn sheep population in half. As traffic flow increases in speed and volume, the highway becomes a solid wall of speeding metal, resulting in decreased gene flow between isolated populations.





Highway routes are developed with no regard for the natural habitat.

Furthermore, a decreased ability to recolonize results in a drop in overall ecological resilience.

Many animals avoid highways altogether. Elk spurn areas up to half a mile from a road. Small mammals find many roads too wide to cross. A study of a four-lane highway in the Mojave Desert discovered that rodents hardly ever crossed the road. This is particularly portentous to the Colorado Plateau, which is home to more than 30 species of rodents. Thus highways are a double jeopardy for wildlife, for not only do they fragment the available habitat into smaller islands, they simultaneously kill off the remaining populations.

Muddy Creek flows unhindered beneath the highway. If an animal sensed this passageway, it could safely move from one side to the other. Riparian corridors like this serve as valuable wildlife habitat; indeed 80 percent of deer kill zones are associated with major drainages. If properly designed, the creek could serve as a wildlife underpass, an idea now being incorporated into highways from Florida (which has installed underpasses for crocodiles and panthers) to Canada (which has installed overpasses for larger mammals such as elk). The Texas Highway Department is considering a plan that installs tunnels under the highway for the endangered Houston toad. Near Park City, Utah, fenced right-of-ways funnel deer to painted cross walks that have reduced mortality by 40 percent. However, these mitigation measures

are expensive and the results mixed. In Florida, deer and raccoons frequently use the underpasses but black bears do not. In Canada, elk, deer and coyotes use the overpasses, but grizzlies and wolves may not.

As we hike, I think about Simon Ortiz' poem. For our brothers: blue jay, gold finch, flicker, squirrel—who perished lately in this most unnecessary war, saw them lying off the side of a state road in southwest Colorado.

They all love life.

*And suddenly,
it just stopped for them. Abruptly,
the sudden sound of a speeding machine,
and that was it.*

I don't have to ask who killed you.

*I know, and I am angry and sorry
and wonder what I shall do.*

*This, for now, is as much as I can do,
knowing your name, telling about you.*

Squirrel. Flicker. Gold Finch. Blue Jay.

Our brothers.

This particular highway also defines some sort of boundary in my own mind. Although much of the Colorado Plateau lies north of I-70, for me the area between I-70 and the Arizona line embodies Utah's redrock wilderness. I-70 represents civilization, and I had always looked to the south—Canyonlands, Zion, Escalante—as the real wilderness. By starting north of the interstate and walking beneath it, I wanted to defy the validity of that line. I also hoped that this would somehow frame the students' concept of wilderness on an experiential level.

continued on page 48

BARE BONES

E-slaves and Chinese Replace Toxic Dumps

US prison inmates will soon be joining Chinese and Pakistanis in recycling the toxic waste generated by American appetites for the latest computers. Currently, 50 to 80 percent of electronics discarded in the US are shipped to Asia where handling is unregulated.

Beginning in March, the US prison industry will "think locally," requiring prisoners in Atwater, California, to recycle e-waste for undisclosed "wages" under the pretense of "job-training."

The US is the only developed country that has not signed the Basel Treaty of 1989, intended to limit the export of hazardous waste. As a result of this policy, some regions of China suffer from groundwater pollution by e-waste toxins 190 times the level considered safe by the World Health Organization.

"The US is the main global laggard on this whole issue. Since we have refused to embrace producer responsibility, we're relying on prison labor instead," says Ted Smith, director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. "It's an involuntary servitude type of approach to dealing with e-waste, and I think that's pretty scandalous."

The National Safety Council estimates that 315 million computers have or will become obsolete from 1997 to 2004.

Car-Free Movement Grows in Colombia

Last month in Bogota, Colombia, millions of city-dwellers walked, biked and skated to work during a "day without cars." Cars were blocked from the normally congested streets to make room for human-powered transportation.

This is the third year that Bogota, a city of seven million, has banned cars for a day. This year, two other Colombian cities joined the celebration.

Municipal authorities from other South American cities came to see the event to learn how to incorporate it in their towns. Enrique Riera, the mayor of Asuncion, Paraguay, said, "These people are generating a revolutionary change, and this is crossing borders."

A Diary of Forest Destruction in Belize

BY JENNIFER RHEA

Logging trucks loaded with severed pines zip by as I wind up the road. It's a cruel thing to witness, considering that ahead is a forest that has been decimated by logging activities.

The guard at the gate to the reserve requests the name of the driver, notes the license plate number of the vehicle and permits passage to Blancaneaux, Francis Ford Coppola's resort lodge in the 129,000-acre Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve. I could have just as easily been destined for 1,000 foot falls, the Rio on Pools or the Rio Frio Caves.

On past the resort, evidence of logging is everywhere, with the expanse of dead trees stretching to the horizon in all directions. Logging equipment has injured tree roots and compacted the soil, weakening the trees which loggers left behind. This particular group of trees and others throughout the country were weakened by a beetle invasion. That invasion has killed most of the pines.

This works out well for the logging industry operating in Belize because now it really gets to mine the forest for lumber. Loggers now profit off the same trees they helped to kill in the first place. In exchange for a cut of the money, the government of Belize has granted them access to the forest.

Throughout the forest, men work in groups of three to five, using chainsaws to cut trees. Near the remains of an old sawmill, tracks indicate the recent passing of a tapir. Up near a tangle of rusty mill blades, fairly fresh tracks of a young jaguar are evident. Just beyond and through the brush, an enormous pile of sawdust rots above a creek.

This is a critical watershed for the entire Belize Rim drainage. Home to waterfalls, creeks and pools, the reserve nourishes the mighty Macal River, which flows below. With eleva-

tion that rolls in dramatic hills from 394 feet at Black Rock to 3,336 feet at Baldy Beacon, 60 percent of Mountain Pine Ridge Forest Reserve is covered with tall Caribbean pines.

There has been steady logging of the forest since the 1940s, and soon thereafter the beetle infestations began. These had been contained to relatively small areas of the forest. However, the most recent outbreak, first noted in 1998, has been extraordinarily tenacious. Generally the conditions that permit extensive tree deaths are overcrowding, drought or logging. Logging was the primary factor here in the Mountain Pine Ridge.

And so, the trucks roll. Every few minutes another rushes down the road; each truck leaves the reserve loaded to the gills with trees. Bulldozers cut new roads to facilitate the process of picking the Mountain Pine Ridge clean so that the trucks can continue to roll from dawn to dark.

The government claims to be allowing logging out of concern for the fire risk the dead trees represent. A fire would likely be devastating to the new growth coming in and to the surviving trees because the fuel load is extremely high. A large fire would also harm the watershed by increasing sedimentation from the Macal River all the way out to the sea. Any fire threatens to become a large one, there are so many dead trees.

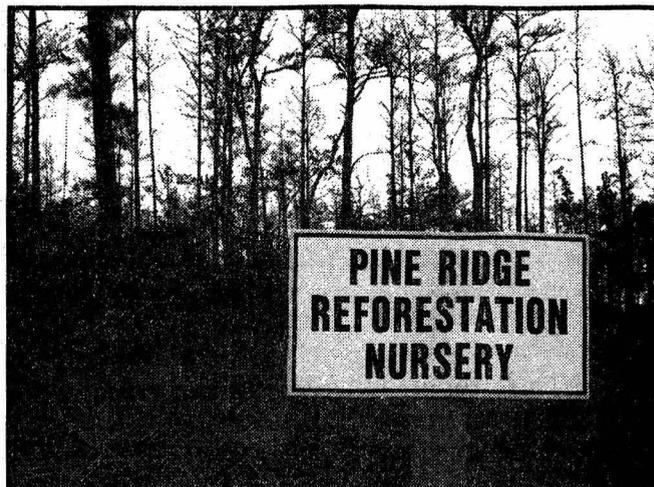
However, it is also true that accelerated logging efforts only injure the forest further. The scramble to salvage lumber disturbs

the surviving trees and it damages new trees before they are truly established. The other vegetation, which is left untouched by the beetle—the broadleaf forest, grasses and wetlands below the pines—are all being destroyed as loggers trample them in their lumber quest.

The government has recently brought in a team of experts who have the monumental task of reforesting 70,000 acres. The nursery area is under construction in a wide expanse of forest cleared off by bulldozers. Workers lay irrigation lines and build the frames that seedlings will be started in. The team hopes to plant 28 million trees during the next four years, using seeds selected for extra hardiness.

There is a labor shortage for the tree planting, and the government is cutting back on funding for all departments at this time—so there isn't much chance more workers will be hired. A request for volunteers to plant trees has been issued.

If you wish to travel to Belize and help plant trees, contact the Forest Conservation Division at psindustry@btl.net. It is also possible to just show up at the nursery site and pitch in.



FBI COMPUTER RAID: JAILED, FREE, CONFUSED?

BY JEREMY PARKIN AND CHANTEL G.

Sherman Austin founded and administered the alternative media website raisethefist.com. A diversity of subjects including anarchism, activism and radical commentary on current events ignored by the mainstream media is covered in an open publishing format available to the public.

[LOS ANGELES, JANUARY 23] Armed officers with the FBI, Secret Service and Los Angeles Police Department surrounded Sherman's house. He had been asleep when he was woken up by a relative who said that the FBI, police and undercover agents were on the street with their eyes focused on the premises.

Raisethefist website, raided by the feds for its radical content, covers a diversity of subjects including anarchism, activism and current events not reported by mainstream media.

When Sherman approached the door, two FBI agents demanded that he step outside. Within seconds, a swarm of agents raided the house with automatic weapons and shotguns.

Raisethefist.com had been administered from the house over a computer network. The house was thoroughly ransacked, and all equipment was boxed up, loaded into a truck and seized.

Since 1999, raisethefist.com has been under intensive government monitoring. At times, it received more than 100 hits from the US Department of Defense in a single day. The FBI, police department and National Security Agency monitored the site on a daily basis. Even governments from the UK, Canada, Latvia, Belgium, Egypt, Finland and Australia monitored the site. The FBI also intercepted all packets going through the DSL line hosting the site and seized additional accounts being used by the site.

[NEW YORK CITY, FEBRUARY 2] The New York Police Department, fearing an attack on the Plaza Hotel during the World Economic Forum protests, apprehended 27 individuals including Sherman Austin. He was released to Secret Service and

FBI agents who were waiting for him at the jail. While being taken into custody, he was finally charged with distribution of information relating to explosives, destructive devices and weapons of mass destruction with the intent that such information will be used in the furtherance of a federal crime of violence.

At a detention hearing on February 7, a judge ordered that Sherman be moved to California with a US Marshal escort, as the judge felt "the government has also shown by clear and convincing evidence that there is a very serious risk of danger to the community."

[FEBRUARY 15] Sherman awaited final extradition to California at a "hub" for

prisoners in Oklahoma. Thomas Mrozek, with the US attorney's office in Los Angeles said, "We have opted not to seek an indictment at this time. We are continuing to investigate the matter, but as of right now, he's off the hook." After being in custody for 13 days, Sherman had all charges dropped.

Apparently, the government's excuse for shutting down raisethefist.com was the "militancy" portrayed on the site. This same "militancy" that the government was so concerned about is portrayed on at least 1,000 other websites, and those sites haven't been touched. [Raisethefist.com](http://raisethefist.com) was progressive. Kids started creating clubs in their schools called "RaisetheFist." The government knew that the website inspired people, that it was turning into something more than just a website.

Contributions are needed for Sherman's legal fees. Please send contributions for Sherman's legal fund to Jennifer Martin, 13351-D Riverside Dr. #271, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423.

A month after raisethefist.com was shut down, despite the loss of data and computer equipment, the website is back in service online.

BARE BONES

Harmful Levels of Pesticides

Federally approved pesticides, used in recommended ways, are harming threatened and endangered salmon runs, according to a report by the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP).

NCAP is one of several organizations currently suing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for violations of the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit alleges that the EPA has approved pesticides without considering their effects on listed species. EPA documents show that the agency expects 36 common pesticides to get into waterways at detrimental levels, even when used according to EPA restrictions.

Pesticides in water can kill fish directly, but the chemicals also harm fish in subtle ways by altering the behavioral adaptations that facilitate evasion of predators or abundant spawning.

NCAP looked at five major river systems of the Northwest and found at least 35 pesticides present in each of the waterways—16 at levels the EPA says will harm aquatic life.

North Dakota Supreme Court to Decide Native Property Rights Dispute

A property rights dispute with national implications is currently under consideration by the North Dakota Supreme Court.

A small patch of land sold by a farmer to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa is needed by the Cass County water board in order to go ahead with plans for a dam project. But lawyers for the tribes argue that the sovereign immunity held by tribal governments protects them from efforts to seize the land.

The land in question includes Chippewa burial grounds, upon which tribal ancestors "roamed, took sustenance, died and will remain for eternity."

Development proponents fear that if the tribe prevails, it is possible that opponents of any dam, road or development could stop construction by asking an Indian tribe to buy land needed for the project.

When Corporations Own the Weather

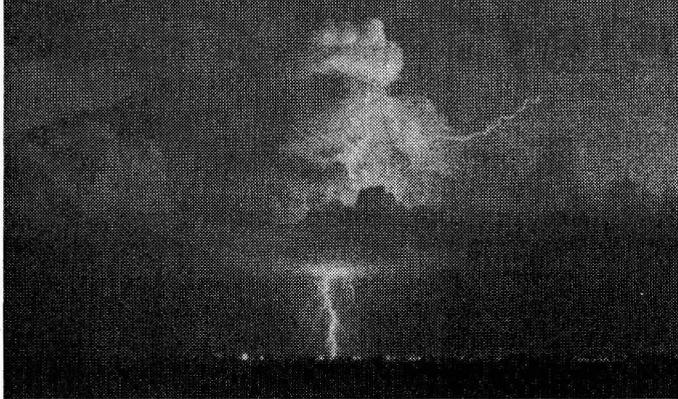


photo courtesy NOAA

Can lightning be used as a weapon? The Pentagon wants to know.

Introduced in the 1940s, the tactic of cloud seeding has made huge leaps in the last decade due to a new method known as hydrosopic seeding. In the early '90s, South African researchers began using flares shot from planes to inject water-attracting salts into clouds. In these and other tests, hydrosopic seeding has shown evidence of increasing not only the amount of rainfall, but also the duration and vertical concentration of individual storms. Planes are spraying barium salt, polymer fibers, aluminum oxide and other chemicals into the atmosphere to modify the weather in states like Oklahoma, Texas and North Dakota. An extensive hydrosopic test was conducted in Mexico by scientists from the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. The results: 99 seeding missions increased rainfall by as much as 40 percent.

The second-hottest year on record was 2001. Scientists see potential for modifying weather patterns to control drought and flooding. There should be little doubt that this would be a priority for the government—or for corporate military contractors. *Weather is a Force Multiplier: Owning the Weather in 2025* is a 1996 government report that can be found on a Pentagon-sponsored website. The paper's abstract reads: "In 2025, US aerospace forces can 'own the weather' by capitalizing on emerging technologies and focusing development of those technologies toward fighting applications. Such a capability offers the war fighters tools to shape the battle space in ways never before possible. In the US, weather modification will likely become a part of national security policy with both domestic and international applications." *Wired* magazine extensively quoted physicist Bernard Eastlund in its January 2000, article, "Activate Cloud Shield! Zap a Twister!" The article detailed the military's plan for "made-to-order thunderstorms" and "lightning strikes on demand."

Eastlund managed programs on Controlled Thermal Nuclear Research for the US Atomic Energy Commission from 1966 to 1974; he was also a key researcher in the

1980s Strategic Space Initiative (aka Star Wars). Since 1996, Eastlund has served as CEO and president of Eastlund Scientific Enterprises Corporation. The company boasts that it specializes in "weather modification" and "tornado modification" among other high-tech services. At the 2000 Conference and Exposition on Engineering, Construction, Operations and Business in Space, Eastlund outlined his plan for zapping tornadoes with an electromagnetic radiation beam from the proposed Thunderstorm Solar Powered Satellite he's developing with the help of the European Space Agency and Jenkins Enterprises.

Another promoter of this brand of technology is Edward Teller. Teller is the father of the hydrogen bomb and one of his bright ideas from the '50s was to create harbors by nuking our own coastline. The April 24, 2001, *New York Times* reported that Teller "has promoted the idea of manipulating the Earth's atmosphere to counteract global warming." Teller's Lawrence Livermore Weapons Laboratory has produced computer simulations on the use of aluminum oxide to counter global warming.

While corporations and the military talk of weather enhancement, some of the most important developments are coming in the field of weather suppression. One factor pushing those developments is the ever-increasing density of the Earth's population. Not only does it amplify the need to move water to drought-afflicted

areas, it also intensifies the amount of damage natural disasters wreak. Weather-related catastrophes caused \$92 billion in damages worldwide during 1998 and displaced more than 300 million people from their homes, according to the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, DC.

Hurricanes are the top priority for weather-suppression scientists. Since hurricanes are fueled by the evaporation of warm ocean water, one way to kill a storm would be to

cool the ocean. Pushing a hurricane toward land would also kill the storm by eliminating its energy source—but would also threaten people and property. That's not an option, of course. But can scientists make a hurricane think it's over land? A team at Massachusetts Institute of Technology believes so. Led by professor Kerry Emanuel, these scientists hope that by applying a chemical coat one molecule thick to the ocean's surface, they can retard the natural heat-transfer process that occurs during evaporation, thereby slowing the storm and stopping it before it reaches land.

This effort to control the weather is one of the last frontiers in the patriarchal quest to control Mother Nature. Fortunately, as humans create more chaos for ourselves, nature will always have the upper hand. We forget that when you mess with Mother Nature, she bites back.

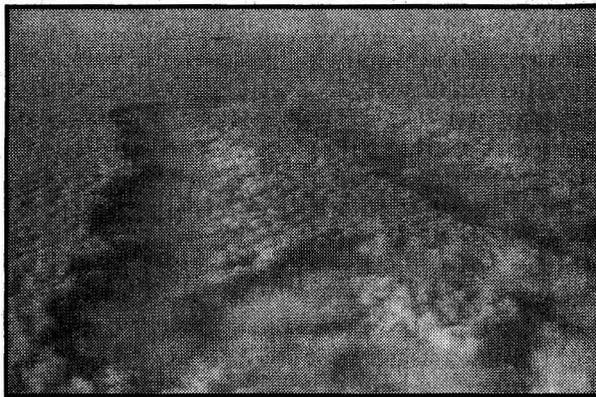
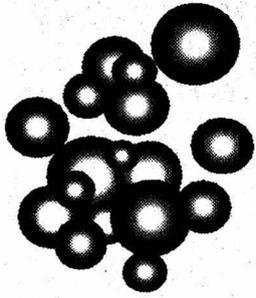


photo courtesy GE R&D

A "trough" left in the clouds by the first successful cloud-seeding experiment, November 13, 1946



Attack of the Artificial Womb

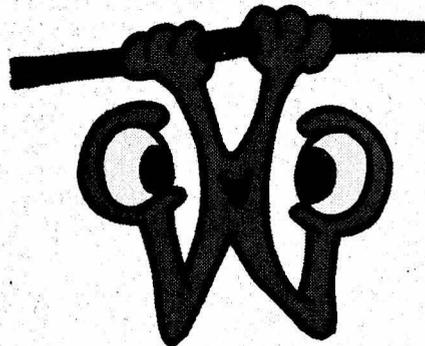
Like the plot of a bad science fiction novel, scientists are developing artificial wombs in which embryos can grow outside a woman's body. Some say the works of science fiction writers are merely blueprints for the future. Imagine any of the futurist movies or books you've encountered with their twisted technological fates coming true. Jules Verne, in the classic sci-fi novel *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, imagined the submarine in 1870. Inspired by the novel, it was invented in 1898. A study on George Orwell's book *1984*, found that a majority of the technologies and political reckonings he had imagined had taken place by 2000, though it was written in 1949. In the 1976 Marge Piercy novel, *Woman on the Edge of Time*, artificial wombs were imagined. Now they are becoming reality. It all ties into some humans' quest to control every aspect of nature.

It is not implausible that womb factories could be created for farming fetuses.

The immediate aim of this work is to help women whose damaged wombs prevent them from conceiving. An artificial womb would be made from a woman's own endometrium cells, and an embryo would be placed inside it and allowed to settle and grow before the whole package is placed back in her body. Because the new womb would be made of the women's own cells, there would be no danger of organ rejection. However, research is currently limited by *in vitro* fertilization legislation. The next stage will involve experiments with mice or dogs. "We hope to create complete artificial wombs using these techniques in a few years," said Dr. Hung-Ching Liu of Cornell University's Center for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility. "Women with damaged uteruses will be able to have babies for the first time."

The pace of progress in the field has startled experts. Artificial wombs could end many women's childbirth problems—but they also raise major ethical headaches. Although the declared intention is to place the wombs inside a woman's body, they are also presently a viable possibility outside the body. It is not implausible that womb factories could be created for farming fetuses. For a start, there is the issue of abortion. If a woman wanted or needed to terminate her pregnancy, the government could say she had to have the fetus removed and placed in an external artificial womb. Artificial wombs could also have unexpected consequences for working women. Employers could require women to place their child in the more "efficient" artificial womb instead of providing maternity leave prior to the birth. It may also turn out that artificial wombs provide safer environments than natural wombs which can be effected by drugs and alcohol from a mother's body. Health insurance companies could actually insist that women opt for the artificial way.

To truly foresee the potential of this technology, one can imagine sperm and ova banks being used to create workers without parents, raised by the state to fulfill its worker quotas. Cloning was once a science fiction writers creation; now it's a reality. Using history as an indicator, one can only imagine how the application of the artificial womb could threaten the sanctity of conscientious motherhood and the planet.



BARE BONES

Huntingdon Quits LSE

The British government asserted that no more companies would be "hounded" overseas as animal rights activists celebrated the news that Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) had quit the London Stock Exchange.

On January 24, HLS moved its listing to the US where stricter laws hide stockholder identity.

After coming to notoriety in 1997 when a TV documentary exposed cruel practices toward animals in its laboratories, HLS has been the target of a determined campaign to undermine its funding sources.

Last year, HLS was driven to the brink of bankruptcy when the Royal Bank of Scotland declined to extend a loan. The firm's latest backer, Stephens, Inc., recently said it planned to sell its stake to an unnamed investor.

Joseph Dawson, an activist with the group Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty, said, "We will not stop until we have driven this disgusting firm out of business. We'll find out who the new backers are, and we'll drive them away as well."

Mass-Produced Clones

A chip under development by a California biotech company could automatically create hundreds of cloned embryos at a time, making cloning cheap and easy enough for companies to mass-produce identical cloned animals for farmers. The chip automates the laborious process of nuclear transfer, the key step in cloning. The device, created by Aegen Biosciences, could handle hundreds—perhaps thousands—of eggs at once.

While the process has only been tested with sea urchin eggs, the company plans to try cow eggs next. If the chip proves successful in bovines, it is likely to be attempted with human eggs by companies such as Advanced Cell Technologies (ACT), which has expressed interest in the chip. ACT announced last year that it had cloned human embryos.



EARTH FIRST!

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THE RADICAL ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNAL

TWO DOLLARS

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Both articles originally appeared in the March-April 1985 issue of the Earth First! Journal.

The Biocentrism of Western Civilization

BY GREGORY McNAMEE

From the earliest days of the modern environmentalist movement, many adherents have consciously rejected the old values of Europe, of industrial and postindustrial capitalism and their allied social systems. For some, this rejection has meant turning to the Orient, to Zen Buddhism, Taoism and mysticism for guidance; for others, it has meant adopting little-understood Native American traditions, usually to the chagrin of Native Americans; for still others, it has meant piecing together an eclectic "deep ecology," drawing on many traditions, a cosmopolitan synthesis just now coming into its own. And then there are those who have simply become latter-day Luddites. In all cases, the European past is minimized.

The exclusion is unwarranted. For one thing, it has to be assumed, in this country at least, that most environmental activists are the products, in one way or another, of Euro-American society. As anthropologists will tell you, the problems posed by a culture must be solved in that culture's terms: We are our parents, as they are their parents before them, and to disavow our past is to disavow ourselves, the good with the bad. For another thing, there is little sound evidence to suggest, as some would argue, that the classical civilizations of Asia, Africa and the New World intrinsically were any more ecologically sensible than our own. Witness the overpopulation of the western Pacific Rim and the resultant exhaustion of resources there, for example—a condition that has persisted for millennia. And witness the Amerind habit of hunting or fishing an area out and then moving on to fresh killing grounds—a seemingly luxurious practice made possible only by deliberate population control, sound ecological adaptation being above all else a function of demographics. People, it appears, are people everywhere, with much the same shortcomings and likely to make mistakes whenever and wherever conditions permit. To cast away one's past in favor of another that is quite as apt to be riddled with errors is simply cultural transvestism, which can be no solution to our many troubles.

Frontlines

Biotech Takes a Hit in Minnesota

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) has taken credit for setting incendiary devices at a construction site on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. The target of the January 29 fire was the university's new Microbial and Plant Genomics Research Center. According to an anonymous communiqué, incendiary devices left in the main construction trailer and in two pieces of heavy machinery caused extensive damage. The fire also spread to an adjacent crop research facility. The statement went on to say that the facility was targeted for action because "the construction of this research building is being funded by biotech giant Cargill Corporation who develops, patents, and markets genetically modified crops, making people dependent on GE foods. We are fed up with capitalists like Cargill and major universities... who have long sought to develop and refine technologies which seek to exploit and control nature to the fullest extent under the guise of progress."

UK: Bayer Headquarters Blockaded

Anti-genetic modification (GM) protesters blockaded the UK headquarters of the German chemical and pharmaceu-

tical giant Bayer on the day the company came on the New York Stock Exchange. Bayer was targeted for its takeover of Aventis CropScience, the company behind most of the UK's controversial GM crop trials. The activists accuse the crop science company (Aventis) of ignoring public concern about GM crops and using its size and power to manipulate governments and farmers.

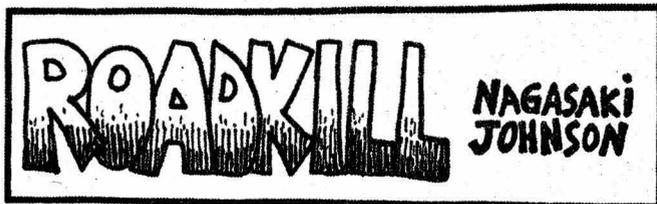
Sixty protesters blocked entrances to the parking lot at Bayer's Newbury headquarters using a tripod and a human chain made of people padlocked together. Activists also hung banners outside the building to highlight Bayer's newly acquired status as Europe's largest GM research company. After six hours, the activists left peacefully without arrest having made their point.

The help from Wall Street is important for Bayer, as the company is attempting to raise capital to fund the Aventis CropScience takeover and internal restructuring. The involvement of Wall Street had to be delayed last year after Bayer's share price plummeted following revelations that one of its core products, the anti-cholesterol drug Baycol, was linked to nearly 100 deaths.

Demonstrations Target Citigroup

On February 20, activists in 50 different cities demonstrated at Citibank branches across the US to protest the financial giant's involvement in the controversial Camisea gas project in the Peruvian Amazon. The action was part of

Granted that Euro-americans have done more than their share in despoiling the Earth and granted that Euro-american culture has produced the monstrous economic systems that race to destroy the world and its peoples: We know all that. But it is useless dogma to suggest that things cannot change, and one way we can assure a rational adjustment of our society is to determine just where we went wrong, to isolate the origins of our present ecological crisis. And those origins, we learn, are comparatively modern; for the Indo-European mind, which continues vestigially to guide us, through language, was aware of its natural environment and the limits of nature, knew to act both as ward and guardian of the Earth, knew the implications of ecological responsibility and irresponsibility.



By the time you receive this issue of the *EF! Journal*, we will have just passed the five year milepost as an organization. It's a good time for a little self-indulgent reflection on why we are here. This may be a one person mission symposium, I suppose, but there are a few items I would like to address, since they seem to keep popping up as issues, and since the questions raised are in a way central to our mission as a movement.

First, a little about symbols. Since I sketched out the original mock-up for the Earth First! logo with Dave and Howie five years ago, I would like to offer my views on its

meaning and purpose. The words "Earth First!" should be self-explanatory and that is why they were chosen. The circle represents Earth, the cycle of life and the coffee stain on an Environmental Impact Statement. The green fist in the center of the logo symbolizes militancy, which according to my Random House Dictionary means "vigorously active, aggressive or combative." The clinched fist also represents unity and is used in many struggles by oppressed peoples. The color green stands for all life, since we all (except for tube worms) depend on photosynthesis. Before you get too up-in-arms about the word "combative," bear in mind that even Gandhi referred to himself as a nonviolent warrior and Martin Luther King, Jr. was certainly an aggressive person in his battle for civil rights.

For the rest of each story, you can order back issues of the EF! Journal for \$5 each or \$500 for our 21-year set.

Frontlines

an ongoing campaign to pressure the world's largest bank to ban funding for environmentally destructive projects.

Citibank is the financial advisor of the drilling and pipeline construction project that threatens Peru's Lower Urubamba Region in the Amazon, a biologically diverse area that is home to several indigenous tribes. According to a study by the Smithsonian Institute, the project will affect one of the world's most biologically diverse regions.

The campaign has included hundreds of demonstrations, a boycott of Citibank credit cards and nonviolent direct actions. As part of the campaign, Rainforest Action Network and PowerShift are calling on Citibank to lead the corporate financial sector in ending destructive investments in fossil fuels and deforestation.

Maine Biotech Park Sabotaged

The Earth and Animal Liberation Fronts took joint responsibility for sabotaging the construction of a biotech park being built in Fairfield, Maine. On January 29, sand and quickcrete mix were placed in the engines, gas tanks and hydraulics of an excavator and a roller.

The biotech park is being pushed by Paul Tessler, a representative of Fairfield, who is in cohorts with Jackson

Labs—the largest breeder of mice in the US. Activists believe that the park would be an incubator to bring more biotechnology research to Maine.

Fire Destroys Research Lab in Santa Cruz

A late night fire broke out on January 11, on the fourth floor of Sinsheimer Labs at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) campus. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined. Because of the controversial nature of work that takes place at the lab, as well as the hour at which it occurred, some on the scene speculated that it may have been an act of sabotage.

The Sinsheimer building houses UCSC's Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology department. The fourth floor houses the office of UCSC's Center for Molecular Biology. Two controversial areas of study also take place on the fourth floor: Human Genome Project research and plant genomics.

The UCSC Center for Genomic Science was recently awarded a nearly six million dollar grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute. Manuel Ares and Alan Zahler, two of the four scientists listed as principal investigators in the center's work, had offices on the fourth floor of the Sinsheimer Labs. Jane Silverthorne, program director of the National Science Foundation's Plant Genome Research Program, also had an office on the fourth floor.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation and the economic impact of the fire is still to be assessed.

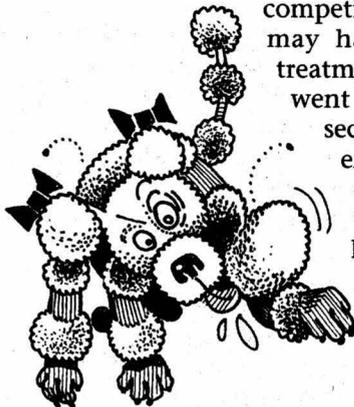
A wolf who won't go down without a fight to the elderly womyn and tree climbers who joined forces in an attempt to save a majestic, 150-year-old white swamp oak in the heart of the Bronx neighborhood of Riverdale. The tree was situated on a lot bought by a real estate developer in early February: just the place for an eight-story condominium. The chainsaws came on February 19. Thirty elderly Jewish womyn from the neighborhood gathered around the tree and risked arrest in order to halt the workers. The day's work was over.

A young tree climber named Seth managed to stop the inevitable for a few more hours the next morning. A half-dozen TV cameras and a stunned, yet supportive, state representative watched Seth shimmy up the tree. When a police officer told him he was free to protest on the sidewalk, he went higher chanting, "More gardens! More trees! New York City has got to breathe!" Neighborhood children congregated and watched with amazement. By day's end, Seth would be in jail and the tree would be a stump. However, seeds of resistance were planted amidst the destruction.

A wolf disguised as a cow who has no masters to the renegade seven-year-old bovine in Cincinnati, Ohio, for escaping from a slaughterhouse. She escaped by jumping a six-foot fence at Ken Meyer Meats in Camp Washington on February 15. The 1,200-pound cow has become a local hero and was still on the run at press time. The authorities are frustrated that their repeated attempts to lure the light-colored Charolais out of Mount Storm Park's thick underbrush have failed.

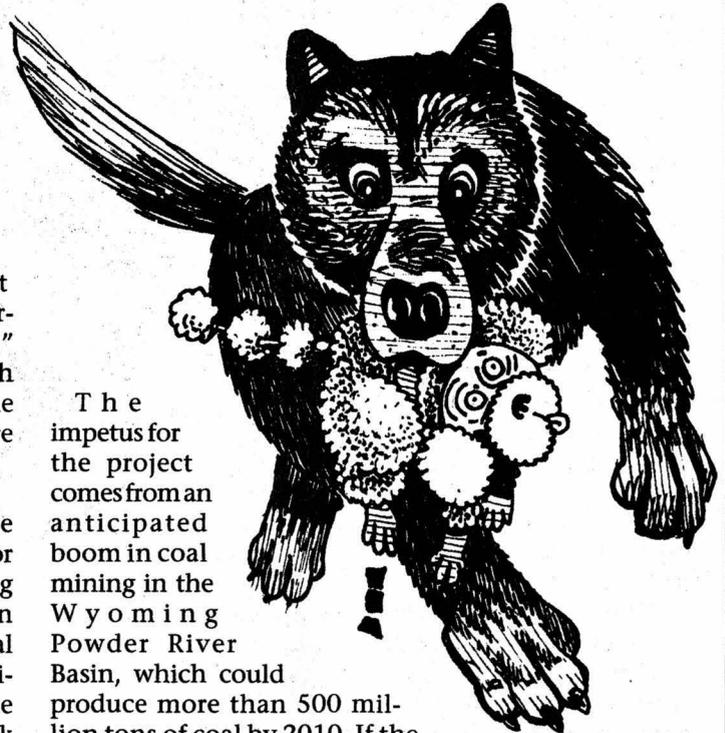
A wolf playing in the sun to the residents of San Francisco, California, who voted to turn 'Frisco into the largest solar city. They just passed two ballot initiatives that will result in the city buying 60 megawatts of solar panels.

A poodle biting its own paw to the Environmental Profit, oops, Protection Agency who has awarded more than two billion dollars in grants to questionable non-profit organizations. Many grants were awarded without competitive bids, and some groups may have received preferential treatment. Some of the awards went to organizations that subsequently sued the agency. For example, the National Association of Homebuilders, which received two million dollars in research grants, sued the agency to eliminate a rule barring developers from excavating in swamps, bogs and marshes without approval.



A poodle who's fed nothing but coal kibble to federal regulators who approved the largest railroad construction project in recent history. The project, a one-and-a-half billion dollar, 900-mile line linking Wyoming coal fields to the Mississippi River.

Wolves and Poodles



The impetus for the project comes from an anticipated boom in coal mining in the Wyoming Powder River Basin, which could produce more than 500 million tons of coal by 2010. If the project is completed, dozens of trains per day, each comprising at least 100 cars, would travel through Wyoming's Thunder Basin National Grassland and South Dakota's Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

A poodle running to fetch a stick of dynamite to the US National Park Service who gave the initial green light to a proposal by the Collier Resources Company to search for more oil in Florida's Big Cypress National Preserve. The proposal would allow the detonation of dynamite in 14,700 holes and drilling of an 11,800-foot exploratory well. The preserve is a watershed for the Everglades and is home to the endangered Florida panther and other protected species. The proposal is awaiting approval from the regional park service director, Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Florida. Environmentalists expect oil exploration will harm wildlife in the preserve and alter water flows into the Everglades. The Collier Resources Company already extracts 2,200 barrels of crude oil per day from two wells in the preserve, a quantity that the company predicts could increase to 10,000 barrels per day if its request is approved and oil is discovered.

Many folks have spoken on a phone they assumed to be tapped. That is standard security practice for EF! activists. But how likely is it? How hard is it to tap phones? Could you do it to someone else?

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994 essentially requires that the entire US telecommunications system be tailored to the demands of the police state, at an expense largely shouldered by ratepayers. But while AT&T is busy installing location tracking capability for your cell phone, a local wise-use goon could be creeping up to your pedestal box (those metal boxes located at street level, holding up to 1,800 phone lines) or even your backyard to install an amateur tapping device he bought at Radio Shack. There's even a website run by a high school student which details how he used a walkman, alligator clips and an old phone to tap the home of his school principal.

Phones are easy to tap, but most taps are difficult or impossible to locate. The scope of this article is not broad enough to cover the volumes of information available, but it's a starting point for understanding some basics.

Wiretaps can be broken into four primary categories: hardwire, soft, record and transmit.

When physical access is gained to a section of wire that the telephone signal travels through, the tap is called "hardwired." A second set of wires is attached, and the signal is then bridged back to a secure location. This method is like plugging a second appliance into an extension cord—same circuit, just creating another access point. This type of wiretap is popular with local police.

A soft wiretap is a modification done to the software used to run the phone system. This is done at the phone company and is the preferred method with large law enforcement agencies, intelligence agencies and hackers.

A record wiretap is just a voice-activated tape recorder wired into the phone line. It's a type of hardwired tap, but the tapes must be changed at the tap location. This type is favored by amateur spies and private investigators, but it is dangerous to use because it is easy to find with detection devices and requires servicing to replace the tapes.

A transmit wiretap, also known as a "bug," is the solution to the above tape servicing dilemma. A bug is a device that receives audio information while wired into the phone line and broadcasts it. The spy sets up a nearby receiver that picks up this signal and sends it to a speaker or records it. A bug with its own microphone doesn't even need to be wired into the phone; it can pick up and transmit any sound in a room.

It used to be that eavesdroppers were limited in the number of wiretaps they could conduct, simply because of the labor intensive nature of having a human listen to and transcribe conversations.

Now new inventions are automating wiretaps, allowing them to evolve in quantity and quality. Computerized voice recognition and programs that search for and isolate key words eliminate the need for a person to listen to every tape. Computer management of data allows agents to easily search for revealing call patterns using information from pen registers, devices that record the numbers dialed on a individual phone line.

The constraints of geography are also being eliminated by advancing technology. Agents monitoring wiretaps no longer have to sit in a non-descript delivery van outside the target's house. Intercepted communications can be transmitted hundreds or thousands of miles to a monitoring facility.

The Drug Enforcement Agency takes this concept one step further. The agency forwards intercepts from many different investigations to a central facility in Utah, where they are monitored and transcribed by military personnel.

Cordless and cellular phones are especially easy to intercept, as they broadcast over airwaves and usually can be picked up by a scanner. In the US, the cellular phone industry adopted a weakened scrambling standard under pressure from the National Security Agency. Cell phones and pagers also transmit the approximate location of the user.

"Secure" phones using cryptographic scrambling are commercially available but may not provide adequate protection.

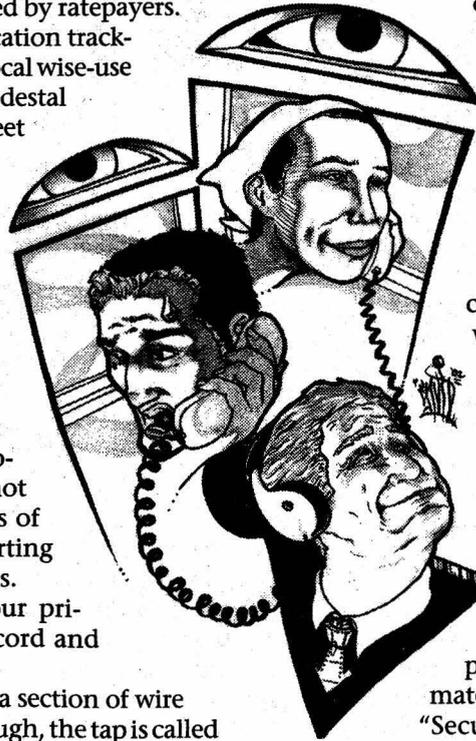
A telephone attachment sold by AT&T scrambles conversations with the use of a "Clipper Chip," but

the key that unsrambles those conversations is possessed by the US government.

Another option is computer-based scrambling which allows two computer owners to speak through modems. Free programs are available but may require a powerful computer and DSL line to create understandable speech in real time.

While it's somewhat interesting to delve into the various legal workings necessary for an agency like the FBI to obtain a court-ordered wiretap, it bears absolutely no relevance to whether or not they've tapped your line. They'll do as they please, as we well know.

What is relevant is that new laws like the USA PATRIOT Act greatly expand the circumstances under which the cops can obtain legal taps, therefore greatly expanding what can be presented in court. So before you say something over the phone, reflect a second on how it would sound played back to a jury.



Wiretapping 101

For more information, visit:

www.howstuffworks.com;

www.tscm.com (interesting photos);

www.totse.com (look under phreak);

www.civilliberty.about.com/cs/wiretapping/index.



NIGHT WORK

Along the road that leads home,
the black limbed fingers of maples and elms
stretch ein-like into the dark stillness.

Silence folds me, as I follow myself to the
point of separation from one world
as a rush of wind from my winged arms
sweeps the dome of feathery summery sky.

I am hushed as limestone—pale and solid
moving in a line through the trees following
the shadowy stream course.

Passing snags and trails of vines.
Turning the sodden thermals in upon themselves
beyond the peril of chokers.

I don't know the ultimate purpose of the flight
as I sing stepping into the air—
undeterred by anything.

Filling myself with red and digestible Joy
time and time again sickled from the
stunning white frost of the field.

At daybreak the fields swell
and my feathered cloak fades with
the shadow stained earth.

Zoe Bellows

OUTHOUSE TRANSMISSION

...Coldfoot, Alaska

Trying to shit fast to escape
the bugs chewing my ass,
I look up for breath,
and into the brown saucer eyes
of a bull moose.

His eyes are pulled tight
as he too shits,
and bugs chew his ass
under the same midnight sun
shining above us both.

At this moment in time,
time no longer exists,
the moose no longer exists,
I no longer exist.

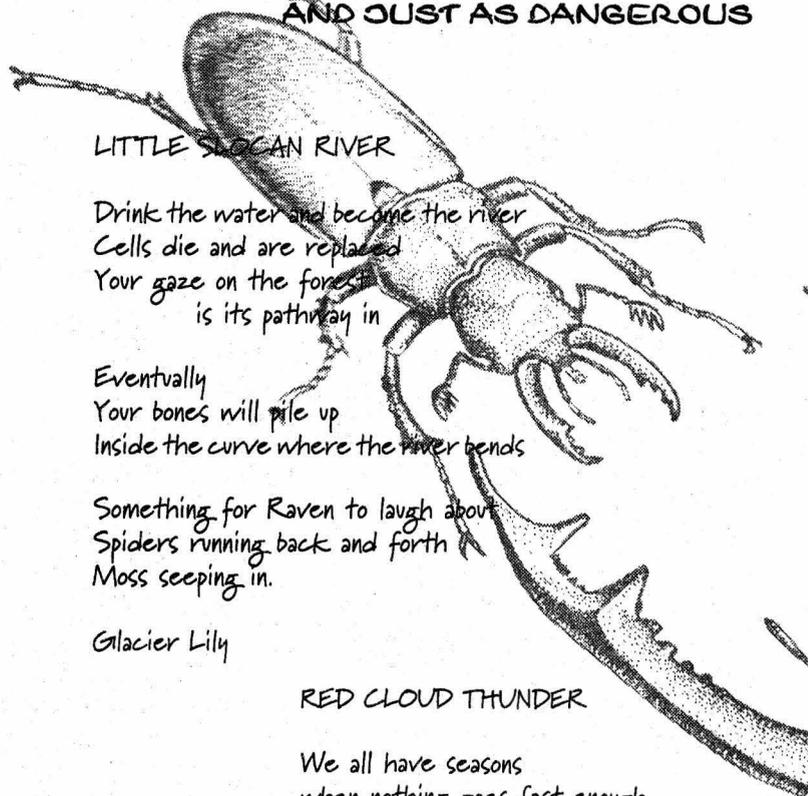
It is just two assholes
out in the woods,
hunted by the same parasites,
and trying to let go
of the same shit.

Mac Lojovsky

ARMED WITH VISIONS

CLEAR AS CUT GLASS

AND JUST AS DANGEROUS



LITTLE SLOCAN RIVER

Drink the water and become the river
Cells die and are replaced
Your gaze on the forest
is its pathway in

Eventually
Your bones will pile up
Inside the curve where the river bends

Something for Raven to laugh about
Spiders running back and forth
Moss seeping in.

Glacier Lily

RED CLOUD THUNDER

We all have seasons
when nothing goes fast enough
except the things that go too fast.

Something works in the depths
of reality to create crisis
Make a big splash
& ride the resulting wave
Be relentless like the ocean
& you'll never run out of waves

Be relentless like the sun at midnight
like the secret rings of trees in winter
Every tree is another form of awareness
There's something wild
in the way they keep growing.

If the only dinosaurs left are birds
what does that say about the future?
You'd think that evolution of life itself
would be enough to capture any imagination

Be the lightning that exposes
the darkness of a stormy night
Be also the thunder
that tells the story

Steve Toth

Send poems to: Warrior Poets Society
PO Box 1450 Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

TRANSFORMATION

His body grew heavy.
Hair covered him, nights lengthened.
His tongue thickened; speech
was difficult.

He shunned company,
took long walks in narrow canyons
where a lowering sun never reached.

Feet swelled to calloused pads
and one day, he left his shoes among stones.
A trail of blood followed.

He no longer understood the words
of those who called him back,
no longer knew
what words were.

His companions walk on all fours,
wear thick coats of blue, black, and brown.
They are solitary and content
in their solitude.

Sometimes in snow he glimpses
the two-footed tracks
of those still upright, stands
on hind legs,
drawn to them.

Then remembers—
the close warm den
berries, fish, crystal streams.

They've stopped calling.
His teeth are strong, he eats
the inner bark of pines
and raspberries.
his coat is full and soft.

Michael Adams

DAM HAIKU

As for building dams
For most it would be best to
Leave it to beavers

Kirk Lumpkin

GRIZZLY

Before day in the forest dark
The beast wakes to stalk his prey
He lumbers from his den
Shaking the cold night
From his great body.
The sun is hours away.

Beast moves higher
Mountain lifts him up
The hawk cries a warning.
The air is filled with fear.
The beast lifts his gun
And sights in the bear.

Thad Goetz

MUD FROM HEADWATERS

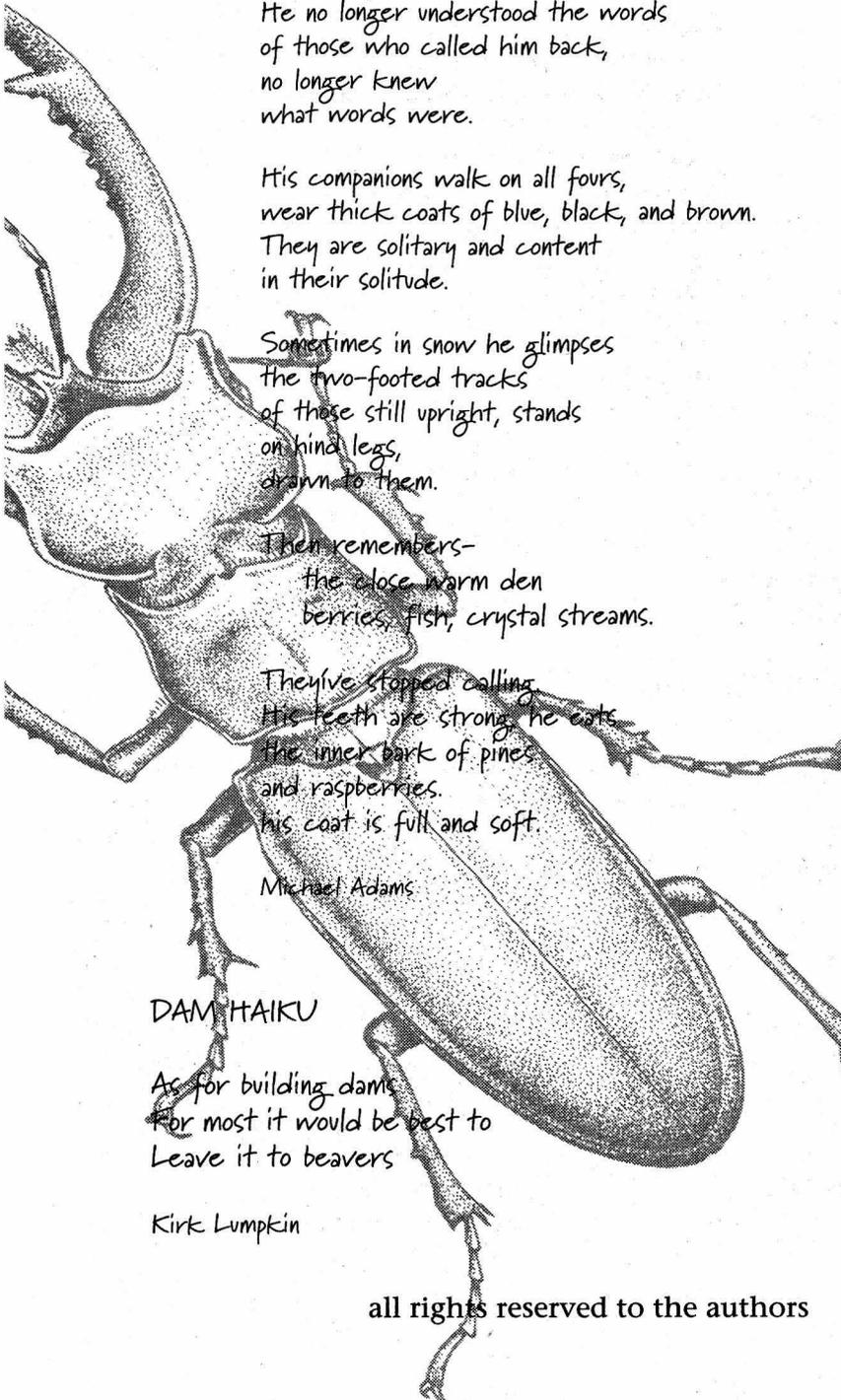
Grey mud from Headwaters
Frosts my shoelace
What's it doing there?
It should be
Deep under the redwood's roots
Holding the water in
Holding the moisture I saw
Dabbed in nestled clouds on the valleys
Nestled like snuggled blankets
Wrapping what's left of the gentle forests.

Mud from Headwaters
Clings to the pattern in my shoes.
What's it doing there?
The old logging road
Silty green like the Yukon River
Was not so muddy as I imagined.
They need the rain winter hasn't brought.

For two hours we hiked
Through devastation, huge and ancient stumps
Ringed by teasel, pampas,
A host of Eurasian invasion scourge
That roads bring
To deplete.

Mud from Headwaters splattered on my jeans
Did not come from the forest
But from the road that cut it.
Exposed, I carry it home to show
How deep the damage runs.

Jenny McBride



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Dear SFB: Letters to the Editors

Dear caca crania,

It's vital to get our facts straight, or we'll be dissed as mere p a s s i o n a t e i g n o r a m u s e s .

So, I gotta tell you: There is no evidence that depleted uranium (DU) is part of Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Almond's article in *Brigid* 2002 (page 17) follows countless other misled writers on the subject, by stating, "Tomahawk cruise missiles contain significant amounts of DU—just for ballast!"

This errant conclusion comes from some of the initial, critical work published about depleted uranium that cited Navy documents exclusively related to *test flights* of Tomahawk cruise missiles. When the nuclear-capable Tomahawk was flight tested, it was weighted down with a mock warhead containing depleted uranium to simulate the mass and density of the intended nuclear weapon.

That the conventional combat-version contains no DU has since been confirmed and acknowledged by both the Navy (see below) and independent DU researchers such as Gulf War conscientious objector Dan Fahey (see www.du.publica.cz/papers/Fahey.htm).

Responding to a 1999 Freedom of Information Act request from the Military Toxics Project, the Executive Secretary of the US Navy's Radiation Safety Committee stated, "Regarding the Tomahawk missile system, there is no depleted uranium used in or

on the deployed version of this weapons system.

An unspecified quantity of depleted uranium is used as mass for test and evaluation purposes..."

Why believe the

Navy, I asked myself?

Because there is no contradictory evidence. I have long asked those active in DU opposition who claim DU is present in Tomahawks to show evidence of DU at Tomahawk impact sites. Neither the Yugoslavian nor Iraqi government has made such a claim that I am aware of, nor have any UN or independent researchers looking into the matter such as the international Depleted Uranium Study Team or Britain's Low Level Radiation Campaign (www.llrc.org).

I have also asked those who insist the conventionally armed Tomahawk includes DU to explain why the Pentagon would be so eager to acknowledge and praise it in the A-10 ammo, but need to lie about it in Tomahawks? I haven't gotten a sensible reply to that question, either.

From documents I and others I trust have reviewed, there is still a question about whether some of the Boeing-made, air-launched [B-52 platform] cruise missiles (AGM-86B/C) used in the 1999 war against

Yugoslavia may have used a prototype or limited production British-made warhead known by the acronym BROACH that may contain a DU penetrator. The evidence is like that collected by amateur British peace researcher Dai Williams, hinting that some of the Earth-penetrating warheads used recently in Afghanistan *may* contain DU as part of the penetration technology. Available documents on the weapons do not specify the materials used but refer to dense or heavy metals and alloys. As in the case of the Tomahawk, evidence on the ground from technically competent and properly equipped survey teams at the points of impact would be most useful, but is so far in short supply.

Those A-10s flying over the *EF!* *Journal's* office every day from their principle training venue, Tucson's Davis-Monthan AFB, remain the most-used and most efficient instrument for the widespread dispersal of US radioactive waste in everybody else's backyard.

Here's to truthful resistance,
—JACK COHEN-JOPPA

Dear shit for brains,

For the *Journal's* Yule issue, I co-wrote an article about a group action taken against a rapist in our community.

The article was completed in haste, and since its publication, several concerns have been raised.

First of all, neither Opal nor I made it clear who we meant when we used the word "we" to describe actions or emotions. (We meant ourselves.) This may have led people to believe that all participants in the action saw the action in a certain way. This is not true and disempowers the other participants, the same way that I felt disempowered when, during the action, one woman screamed "We are all enraged!" when I personally was grieved,

sickened, sorry that I saw no better way to get through to this man, and heartened by the way my companions put their faith in the woman that they cared for who had been wronged. (But not enraged!)

Also, it has been mentioned that I should have made it clearer that, in a real-life situation of such complexity and depth, this article is only a flattened representation of the whole truth. If anyone thought otherwise, think again! Symbols placed on a page do not tell the whole story, from anyone's point of view, anywhere, any time. When in doubt, ask questions.

Thank you,

—PANGAEA

Dear SFB,

Unity among one another is a giant issue facing the growing radical environmental struggle, and all too many times I have seen a group with incredible potential for Earth defense divided by rumors and accusations that very few individuals actually have any first-hand knowledge of. These rumors spread like wildfire and therefore people tend to choose sides, only dividing us further when few people truly know the circumstances of the first incident.

An article in the December/January '02 *Journal* really upset me and worries me about the negative effects that can ripple through a community when such strong accusations are made. The article bashes the shit out of an activist, labeling him as a rapist and an extreme danger to society. It surprised me to see an article come from *EF!* based on what is conveyed as such little evidence. Only "Huckleberry" and the woman involved know what went on that night and yet many people in the activist community that read *EF!* will for years to come point a finger at an individual based on an incident they have no

knowledge of. I don't want to upset those who have been victims or who feel passionately about rape and abuse who may think I am approaching the action of rape as "no big deal," because my view is quite the opposite. I just think we need to be careful about making and spreading such powerful accusations, as I think we have all been victims of untrue nasty rumors at one time or another.

Unify the activist community, especially those who are fighting in this struggle to keep the Earth alive and breathing.

Sincerely,

—OREGON FOREST ELF

Dear Shit fer Brains,

Since September 11, the US has grown paranoid about terrorism and the current witch hunt for terrorists will likely extend to the ALF and ELF. Therefore, it would be wise for these saboteurs to not advertise their exploits. The general public hates and fears arsonists. They also hate any groups associated with arson and that includes the animal rights movement. Every "crime," especially arson, that is advertised by the ALF badly wounds the image of the entire animal rights movement, which *must* become mainstream to succeed. ALF members should not scrawl "Animal Liberation" around vandalized offices. Nor should they contact the media or police. Let the media and police wonder who did these acts—they will never support the ALF or ELF anyway. Years after Vail Resort was torched, Colorado newspapers are still blasting the ELF. Recently, a sheepskin processing plant was torched by suspected ALF members and this incident generated 10 times more news coverage than a group of activists who were protesting Denver's stupid stockshow. Do not let conservatives, the NRA, our government and media stigmatize the animal rights

movement by making it seem violent. If the ALF continues to announce their activities, it will undermine the entire animal rights movement.

—CONCERNED ACTIVIST

Dear SFB,

Just read the Brigid issue. Excellent issue. I enjoyed the many thought-provoking articles/essays. Jakubal's "Fighting to Win" analysis of disempowerment by means of well-intentioned efforts to avoid the abuses of "arbitrary authority" is especially worthy. It seems to me that most "alternative" movements by definition are made up of people who have parental/societal authority problems. How we can get beyond that and quit having each successive generation (demand to) make the same mistakes is, perhaps, our greatest challenge.

I appreciate the erudite tone of Bill McCormick's anti-Cockburn letter. Alex, himself, enjoys such *ad hominem* smack. However, I believe that Cockburn's consistent dissecting of "outlandish statements" uttered by enviros does us a great service. He was the first to note that the outlandish pro-Clinton Forest Plan statements and actions of many "greens" led to the loss of the Ancient Forest Campaign while, at the same time, the public

was led to believe (and still does believe) that Clinton "saved the ancient forests." Someone has to watchdog this stuff and an

intelligent, funny Cockburn post mortem is always welcome. And just who is the McCarthyite here judging Cockburn because of his mutually respectful opposition association with Arnold. An association most would certainly forego, but not one that has any impact on Cockburn's beliefs that I can see. Cockburn is useful and entertaining.

I even enjoyed reading the self-deluded Paul Sunblad's amazing whine. I find it unbelievable that a factotum of the Democratic Party has the audacity to claim that *our* efforts make *his* "struggle more difficult." Guess it was us all along who forced Clinton/Gore to resume ancient forest logging when the Democrats controlled the White House and *both* the House and Senate and sundry other Clinton-era eco-perversions. That must be the time Sunblad refers to when he claims to "alone have done more positive tangible things for the planet than all of Earth First!."

Mitch Friedman would be better served arguing his point if he didn't resort to easy (and dangerous given the tenor of the times) cheap shots comparing his opponent to "Osama bin Laden, mujahadeen, wise use, militia neo-nazi and anti-abortion crusader." And, I

then claims that "others thought the focus should have been to honor forest protesters rather than forests, and tensions ran high."

Any "tension" in the air in Portland at that time just might have had something to do with the fact that ancient forest activists had no democratic vote on who was to represent "us" at the Clinton (yes) Timber Summit. The drastic result was/is that since some environmentalists chose to embrace the resulting Option 9, the public came to (and still) believes that all is well and Clinton "saved the ancient forests." But, Friedman is correct when he states that Mary Hanford's charge that he "threatened to turn in the activists" at the Summit is mistaken.

John Johnson's piece was superb. I only hope people see it as a call to reinhabit the land in collective, sustainable villages and don't see it as a call to subdivide the land. There are already a lot of "hipoiese" subdivisions out there—failed attempts at community due to mindless recreation of the alienating suburban settlement pattern many folks grew up in and rightly hated.

It was an outstanding issue.

—MICHAEL DONNELLY

Dear Shit Fer Brains,

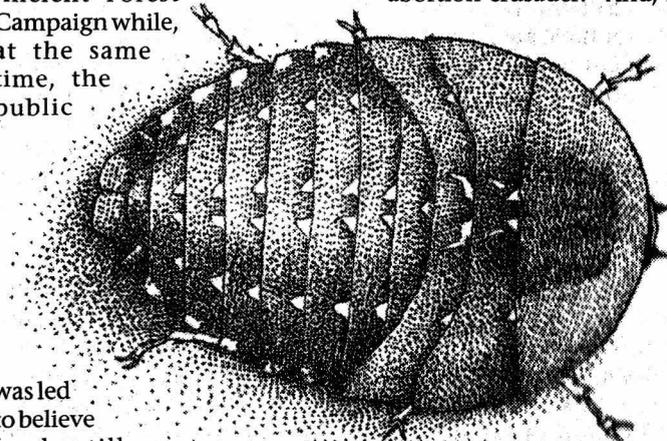
Someone needs to put a gag on Mitch Friedman. Or maybe the

EFF! just needs to stop giving him a forum for his useless

drivel. Let him go rant to his enviro-compromiser buddies.

So he hung a banner back in the early '90s. Big deal! Does that give him the authority to denounce other tactics being used to halt the

continued on next page



cannot fathom what he means when he calls the 1993 Portland Forest Celebration "our brightest hour,"

Kept to 300 words or less, please

Dear SFB: Letters to the Editors

continued from previous page
destructive biotech/GE industry? Especially given his current tactics include sitting at a desk sucking up to his corporate funders.

No one cares what you did in the '80s and '90s, Mitch, if you've gone completely soft in 2000.

Mitch even goes so far to say he'd like to see the individuals involved in burning Bradshaw's genetics lab put in jail. (But he conveniently "doesn't recall" another incident of threatening to turn in activists protesting the Timber Summit.) This is repulsive behavior.

Stand up for the new breed of eco-warriors! They are fighting for the Earth and all its beings, and they deserve nothing but our complete support and respect.

Sincerely,

—MAY TWENTYONE

Dear shit for brains,

Mitch Friedman should stay with what he does best—raising lots of money to buy up land for preservation.

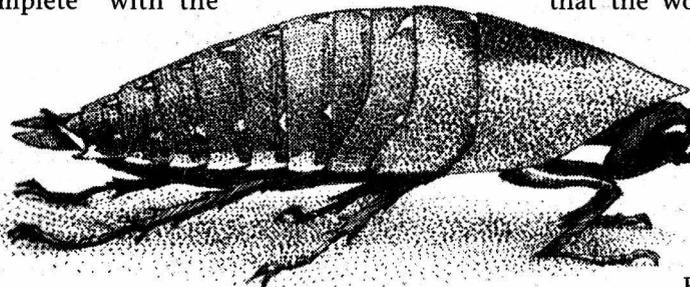
That puts him in line with other milquetoast groups. Was one of his big donors in Seattle upset with the burning? He sure isn't an EF!er anymore, and he shouldn't be given the pages to write such bullshit in the *Journal*. We certainly don't need environmental voices defending genetic engineering and hoping that brave activists be put behind bars.

—BURNING MAD

Dear SFB,

Couldn't help but feel rather angry with the self-indulgent, self-congratulatory letter written by Paul Sundblad—"worker" for the Montana Democratic Party. The only reason strides have been made in "government" is *not* because of your working quietly behind the scenes making ev-

everything all right. Rather, it's because of scared, me-and-my interests, comfort, security-first thinking that we are in this very mess right now. I've journeyed the world as a traveling journalist for the last 10 years and seen thousands of people like you. Don't try to hang a guilt trip on those who choose to take an often dangerous stand against the capitalist current. Yes, your so-called "environmental victories" won through politics may seem true, however, do not for a second think that you "won" anything, the Elite Brotherhoods of Europe that run your sinking country and crumbling empire simply found it in their interests to let you think that you gained something. You may disagree with the



methods employed by committed environmental groups—yet outside of your insulated American ignorance—their efforts are noticed and appreciated by struggling millions around the globe; from the Nuba of the Sudan to the Wapishana of Guyana, the !Khoisan of Botswana to the Mbuti pygmies of the Ituri—and yes, they do get to hear of these things in those places. Montana is renowned for its groups and compounds of supremacists, neo-nazis and conspiracy theorists, not to mention your ranching and farming communities that continue to overgraze the range, use growth hormones in cattle and grow huge circles of GMO crops—perhaps it's time that you actually look around yourself and

see the reality that "soft" environmentalists make little real headway in the "fight" against the destruction of our home. It's easy to claim to be "green" and winning environmental victories while dining on a steak dinner in the comfort of your energy-hungry home while a world away people are being tortured and killed for opposing IMF, World Bank and the monolithic corporations operating out of the US in places like Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, the border regions of Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela—places not on the "in" list of the mass-media which seems to be your only source of outside information. When will you understand that the words

y o u
wrote to
E a r t h
First! are

simply a reflection on your whole society's "woe is me" syndrome—get up, get ready to actually fight against the forces that would rob us all of the conditions that make life worth living on this beautiful planet.

—WINDWALKER

Dear SFB,

Maybe I'm a little late with my response, but I still wanted to write regarding a Dear SFB letter that appeared in the November/December 2001 edition of the *Journal*. The letter referred to an article originally published in the August/September 2001 issue entitled "Give Up Activism." The letter-writer apparently hated the article, calling it, "The lamest thing I've ever read in the *Journal*... a huge pile of bullshit

wrapped up in over-intellectualized pretentious jargon." Hmm... While I think that the writer of this letter may have some cause for complaint, I also think they may have missed the point of the article. The article wasn't intended as a rant against real struggle toward individual or collective goals, it was simply a heads-up, calling into question the elitist, classist and conditioned attitudes that are sometimes found within activism—the idea that some big fucking royal we is going to save the world single-handedly.

I do agree that the version of "Give Up Activism" that appears in the *Journal* ends up sounding way too academic and uptight at points. But part of the reason for this could be the editing. The original article appeared in a pamphlet that came out after the June 18 global day of action that took place in London in 1999. Unfortunately, in the interest of space, all of the text directly relating to this event, text that gave the article needed context and focus, was edited out. Without many of these passages, the author can indeed come across as preachy, condescending or just plain irrelevant. Read in its entirety, however, the article contains concrete, worthwhile analysis of a specific situation—analysis that *could* be generalized to a broader critique, but that was never intended as an absolutist rant about "what's wrong with all activism today." For anyone who's interested, a full-length version of the article was recently reprinted in Issue #9 of *Do or Die*.

Lastly, the writer of the SFB letter seemed to make quite a personal attack on the author, calling them cynical, morose, old, overly intellectual and lame. Seeing as how the author is one of my best friends,

I took this sorta personally. Especially since these slams aren't true *at all*. The author is actually excited, inspired, energetic, intelligent and fun. And on top of all that, they are one of the most "active," inspiring and dedicated people I know. So "Joe Mama," think again before you assume you know someone oh-so-well by a few words on paper. Critique an article, critique an opinion, but don't critique an amazing person you've never even met.

Sincerely,

—FLORIDA GIRL

Dear SFB,

For anyone listening:

1. Is there a single speech, book or article that realistically or thoroughly addresses the future that we face?

2. Is there one good thing about Western civilization?

3. Is there a single technological development (machine, chemical or hardware—not general knowledge or wisdom) produced in the last 200 years that has enhanced long-term sustainability of humans and the Earth?

4. The transition period dilemma or is there anything new and creative being done?

—ZINNIA

VANGUARDRADIO@ZIPLIP.COM

Hi EF!

Maybe you can help me out with this "irony." If it even falls into this category.

When the confection industry and candy manufacturers use furfural (an artificial ant oil) in the synthetic process of flavoring: candy, butterscotch, caramel, coffee, brandy, rum, spirits, molasses, beverages, ice cream, gelatin, desserts

and syrups (biggest user: 30 ppm), and they run out of their chemical, do they call up the solvent industry, the automotive brake lining and

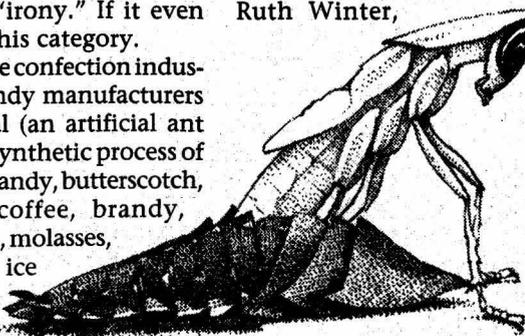
lubricant industry to reorder? (Because they use the same substance.)

Does the merchant-dies entrepreneur call up the chemical industry and ask "Hey, what industrial wastes do you have left over? We need some fill for our products."

Amazing how industry can round up its stock market wastes, wrap them up in colorful packaging and loud advertising and get the public to buy discarded chemical wastes of the allied chemical and manufacturing industry.

Is this the century's recycling program? Is this industry's idea of recycling? Is this what food chemists are hired to do for a living?

Furfural causes irritation to mucous membranes and acts upon the central nervous system—ingestion of .06 grams can cause persistent headaches. Use over long periods of time leads to nervous disturbances, eye disorders, photo sensitivity and may interact with DNA. It is used as a solvent in shoe dyes, brake linings, lubricants, weed killers and fungicides. It is poisonous when inhaled or absorbed by skin. Check it out yourself in *A Consumer's Dictionary of Food Additives: Descriptions in Plain English of More Than 8,000 Ingredients Both Harmful and Desirable Found in Foods*, by Ruth Winter,



fifth Edition.

Is it time to take the iron out of irony or time to put the iron back into irony?

—PETER SKOWRONSKI

Dear SFB,

I subscribed to Earth First! back in the mid-'80s... don't know if I was different then. The tenor of some of your articles has changed. I can do without someone waxing rhapsodic about nature as if it were some Garden of Eden where all the little creatures live in happy, symbiotic bliss.

Fact is, nature is pretty brutal and life for most animals is probably pretty scary a good deal of the time. I think what needs to be emphasized that, whatever the pitfalls of the natural life, it's the *only* viable life... the only one worth living. Civilization is a failure, plain and simple. I think sticking to this line would be advantageous. My two cents worth, adjusted for inflation.

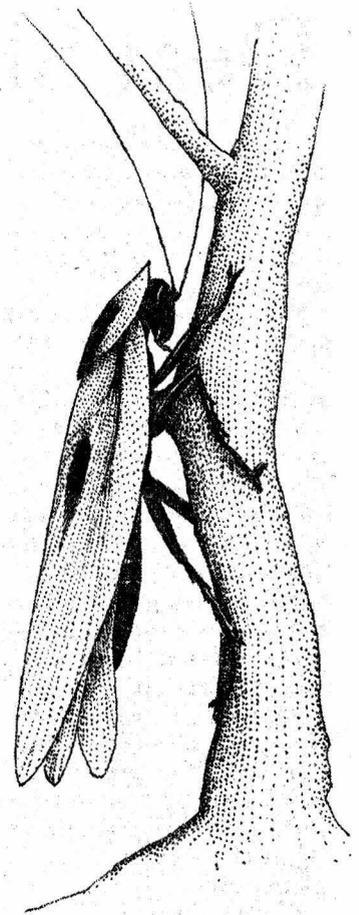
—RMIG17

Dear Comrades,

Greetings from hell... I ran across this article in a diving mag that is extremely disturbing, and I'm seeking some advice on what I can do. Apparently, our glorious US Navy has outdone themselves in their new sonar whale-harassing equipment.

They've developed something called active sonar that kills marine mammals with its ear-breaking sound, and its expanded use is about to be permitted in US waters.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is supposed to be responsible for the protection of marine mammals, but they want to let this go on even after last year's test beached 16 whales... seven of which died from auditory trauma. It's not limited to US waters either; a signal sent from Cali can be heard all the way in Japan. How the fuck do we have the right to torture ocean life with ear splitting sound? I'd like to follow these jokers around with an airhorn.



The Navy itself estimates that if they start using this then we will lose 10 percent of beaked whales in the Mediterranean, 12 percent of elephant seals in the Eastern North Pacific and 16 percent of blue whales in the Eastern North Atlantic. How is that right? Do they actually think they can do this?

I am currently behind bars in the Oregon prison system and don't really know what I can do from in here... and this magazine is already a month old (*Skin Diver*, December 2001, page 22). I don't know what these fucks think they're doing... September 11 was bad for the revo scene, but that doesn't mean no one's paying attention. Do you folks have any guidance on how to put a stop to this?

Love and respect to you,

—BRAD DAVIS, #12379402

777 STANTON BLVD.

ONTARIO, OR 97914

Kept to 300 words or less, please

And Just What is a Hippie, Anyway?

BY THE RADIKAL WEATHERMAN

This is meant as a follow-up to Anamaria Flores' article "Attention Earth Firsters: Raise Your Fists in the Air and Step Away from the Hippie!" (see *EF!* February-March 2002). She brings up some issues that we as a movement have needed to negotiate forever—and she isn't the first to do so.

The word "hippie" has some interesting origins. Many who were around at the time say it was coined by the media in the mid-1960s to describe the primarily white, middle-class, counter-cultural movement that was emerging on the West Coast as well as in other pockets throughout North America and Western Europe. Such counter-cultural efforts on the part of post-war baby-boom generations are nothing new. Flores is none too correct either when she states that these movements comprise people who are largely privileged enough to engage in such activities in the first place; and in the mid-1960s, we were looking at the emergence of the largest, most privileged, most educated generation in human history. That is, at least for the white, middle-class component of the baby-boom generation.

The term "hippie" had its earlier origins in the words "hip" or "hipster"—descriptives used by black folks referring to progressive young white people in the 1940s and '50s who frequented the black jazz and blues scenes. During the 1960s, many "hippies" rejected the white capitalist patriarchy in favor of lifestyles based on cooperation (instead of competition), community (instead of hierarchy), simplicity (instead of luxury), enlightenment (instead of provincialism), diversity (instead of homogeneity) and in working harmoniously for the good of all people regardless of race, gender or class. Political activism was a crucial component of this counter-cultural lifestyle—as was education, self-awareness, exploration and an evolving spirituality. And they called it—among other things—revolution.

Contrary to popular belief, people of this "hippie" mindset were nothing new or original in 1965. In the 1950s, they were called "beatniks" and "greasers," in the '30s and '40s, they were called "tramps" and "hobos." During the 1920s and '30s, such people were called anarchists. In every case it took a certain degree of privilege to initiate or engage in such efforts. During the 1960s, this white, middle-class, counter-cultural movement took on racial discrimination,

military-industrial war-mongering, capitalist expansion and environmental "civilization." But there were serious problems at the forefront.

You see, revolution is and always will be a lot of work. This is no secret to the Black Panthers, the Puerto Rican Liberation Front, the American Indian Movement, the Chicano Movement, feminists, gay rights proponents and others. These people were, for the most part, anything but privileged (although many of them were educated). These were the components of that rebellion that popular culture today glosses over or ignores completely.

Many of the young men and womyn that comprised the white, middle-class component of the last rebellion were damn serious. Many of them died or went to prison for their work and their beliefs. They were the ones who worked adamantly to build alliances with the nonwhite, underprivileged movements that were paralleling their own. Remember John Sinclair and the White Panthers (later to become the Rainbow People's Party) in Detroit? The Radical Weather Underground or the ultra-feminist group WITCH (Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell)? These people were willing to turn from their privilege, or at the very least, wield it to effect meaningful change anywhere and anyway they could. They networked extensively worldwide, and they faced down the forces of the establishment in the streets with a bold conviction and a grim tenacity. These people also engaged in eco-sabotage; in 1967 and '68 carloads of hippies would drive up to the redwood forests to spike trees slated for cutting and sabotage logging machinery. To many people at the time "hippies" were wild-eyed radicals chomping at the bit for change and never afraid of a confrontation (very different from today). And the hedonism they engaged in was viewed as an avenue for radical, confrontational self-expression with distinctly sociopolitical overtones.

The big problem came when the vast majority of the "hippies" in the 1960s never quite got over that nagging sense of entitlement they grew up with. It was that sense of entitlement that continually put off the people that many of them wanted to include in their movement: workers, people of color, Natives, the poor and disenfranchised. When it became apparent that revolution really did mean hard work and personal sacrifice, most of them "dropped out" all over again, leaving the American Indian Movement, Black Panthers and others to literally be murdered in the streets by the shadow establishment.

You can still see a lot of them today. In response to Bush's "war on terror" they are coming out of the woodwork all of a sudden, to poetry readings and peace rallies, making concerted efforts to redirect the focus to "the way we were." They don't like to hear about *EF!*, *ELF*, *ALF* or *Food Not Bombs*. It is a testament to their arrogance that they would believe they were the first counter-cultural movement to hit the streets—much less the last.

Were these "hippies"? Or were the real "hippies" the people who took it all seriously and lived it through; the ones who died, went to prison or are still to this day living those revolutionary ideals? The only true revolutionaries



Emma Goldman—
original hippie?

from that era are either dead, in prison or still active. There are EF! veterans still around today who are as dedicated as they were in the 1960s and have never given up.

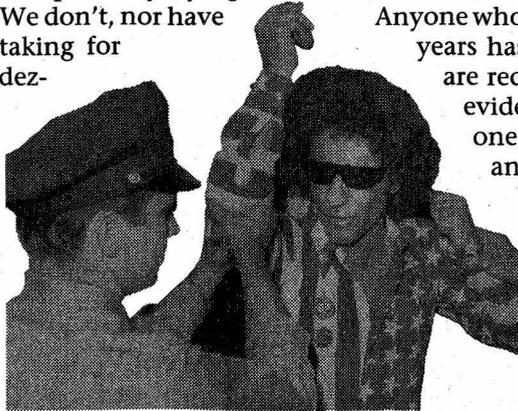
Are we "hippies"? That would depend upon which of us you pose the question. One thing, however, is for certain: We as EF!ers have a frightening degree of work to do amongst ourselves on these very same issues. Flores is not the first to point this out to us. Recall Ward Churchill's interview with the *EF! Journal* (see *EF!J* June-July 2000). He talked about the need to get over our sense of entitlement: a major obstacle to the success of revolutionary ecology as a movement. Ever since the 1950s active people outside our white, middle-class circles have been patiently trying to help us work through these issues. We don't, nor have we ever, made that an easy undertaking for them. One just has to attend a Rendezvous, Organizers' Conference or visit an EF! resistance camp and watch how we treat each other. Just as during the 1960s and at Rainbow Gatherings today, far too many of us spend a lot of our time and energy building up personality cults around ourselves. We are very fond of abjectly mistreating anyone we see as a threat to our self-aggrandizing aspirations—regardless of how solid an activist the person we find threatening may be or how enthusiastic they are about being involved in the movement. We utilize every tactic of social fascism in the book to disempower others. When all is said and done we still have the audacity to call ourselves "anarchists," "feminists," "radicals," "revolutionaries" or "hippies."

Because of these faults born of privilege, we are all terribly vulnerable to attack from both within and without. The ones most likely to sustain such attacks are those who do the most work—particularly within the realm of cross-cultural alliance building. How many times have Natives come to our gatherings and offered a prayer at the morning circle to heal us from our anger and disrespect

toward each other? After their blessing, more often than not, they leave. As Flores points out, how many African, Latino, Native and working people do we consistently see in our circles? Do you think they don't notice our white-ass, honkie nonsense? Using these racial pejoratives to describe our dysfunctionality is not meant as an exercise in—or advocacy for—self-hatred. However, we have to have the backbone to be able to stand up and call a cracker a cracker—so to speak. Until we deal with these issues we will never grow, never evolve and never succeed. We will instead remain merely the latest in a generational series of marginalized, disaffected, hierarchical cliques of bourgeois, white wannabes play-acting at revolution.

Anyone who has been reading the *Journal* in recent years has noticed the increased attention we are receiving from black prison inmates (as evidenced by their letters to our editors). If one of them were to be released someday and decide to come to a Rendezvous, I shudder at the thought of what might happen. Are we ready for that? How much time do we have to be ready? For all the complaining that goes on in our circles about Rainbow Gatherings and "Drainbows," there is much about EF! circles that is too similar to those stereotypes for our own good.

We need to get the hell over ourselves. Nobody owes us nothing. The burden of proof is upon us to show that revolutionary ecology is a viable solution for all. And that will take commitment, dedication, hard work, mutual respect and humility. Watch what you say and watch what you do. To say that peace and harmony is a solution is to be an anarchist. The key to being a good anarchist is to know when to lead, when to follow and when to get out of the way. With anarchy comes freedom and with freedom comes tremendous responsibility. We need to learn to wield our privilege for the good of the entire biotic community and to do that effectively, we need to dispense with the narcissism.



Abbie Hoffman, 1968, being arrested for wearing a flag shirt.

Step Away from the Hippie

Ms. Flores, author of "Step Away from the Hippie" (see *EF!J* February-March 2002) could use a few more history lessons before she condemns hippies. Flores admits that her concept of hippies is based on a History Channel program about the "Summer of Love" and a tour with the Grateful Dead. Unfortunately she neglects some critical issues that were part of the original hippie movement, like the war in Vietnam. Hippies, referred to by Flores as "apolitical hedonists," generated mass demonstrations including the protest of the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago where many got their skulls beaten in by club-wielding cops. This televised event radicalized the nation against a war that was recognized by hippies as a racist, capitalist fiasco. It wasn't just happening in Chicago. Hippies demonstrated all around

the country. Hippies organized a mass mobilization bringing about a moratorium against the war and in the Spring of 1970 shut down every university in the county. Hippies stopped the war in Vietnam. Earth First!ers should be so hip.

Hippies were the first people living within the belly of the beast to question and reject corporate culture and look for ways to live in closer harmony with nature. Hippies created co-operatives and sought new, more socially responsible ways to work and live. Earth First!ers would do well to learn their history. If you can't find it on the History Channel, just ask, there are plenty of us old hippies still around. Learn your history. Respect your elders. Get hip. And quit bumming out my groove with this uninformed hippie bashing.

—PEGGY SUR

GETTIN' FIXED AND STAYIN' HEALTHY

ADEQUATE HEALING TIME IS ESSENTIAL AFTER A VASECTOMY

BY SNIPPED AND STERILE

It is wonderful that more folks, as well as the *Journal*, are singing the praises of vasectomies. It is not only an effective means of birth control, but compared to the options available for womyn, vasectomies are safer, less invasive and have a shorter recovery time. However, we feel that the "Snip 'n' Tie" article (See *EFJ* December-January 2002) did not go into enough depth about the complications that can arise from surgery. It also dangerously glossed over the seriousness of an invasive medical procedure. Your friendly, infertile authors have had problems resulting from our operations, and though we don't regret our decisions, we felt that others could learn from our mistakes.

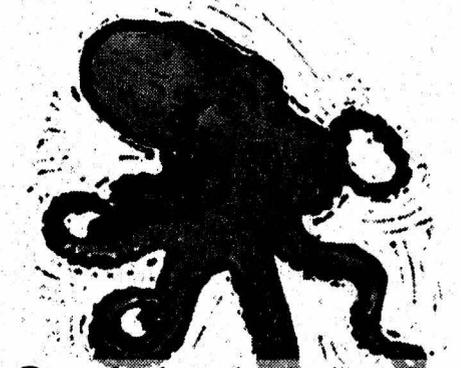
When all goes well with a vasectomy, you'll be in some pain for a few days. This is a good time to relax, ice yer sack, eat good food (or fast), take herbs (like Oregon grape root, grapefruit seed extract

or echinacea) and *not ejaculate*. Once the pain subsides, keep up with a healthy diet, herbs and resist the temptation to make sure everything still works any earlier than your doctor recommends.

EFers and other rascals are good at disobeying orders, but when it comes to following directions after a surgical procedure, no matter how simple, folks should take heed. We didn't follow the doctor's instructions. What does Western science know, anyway? We didn't take it easy or get enough rest afterward. If some guy went to a hard-core show, then we should be able to go out wheat-pasting and get chased by the cops cuz we're tougher than "someguy." We didn't eat healthy, nor did we take immune boosting or antibiotic herbs to replace the prescriptions that we never filled. And we didn't wait long enough before we had sex. One of us lasted only three days before ejaculating, only to look down and find his scrotum expanding and contracting, expanding and contracting, like some angry, red octopus hyperventilating between his sweaty thighs.

Consequently, we've both still got nut problems that come and go as we approach the first anniversary of our sterility. All this could have been avoided if only we had resisted our macho invincibility illusions and took the proper time and care to heal.

We want to stress that taking care of ourselves also translates into having safe sex. When vasectomies happen, some people seem to forget about using condoms since pregnancy is no longer a concern. Our scene is a sexually transmitted disease time bomb waiting to explode unless we all do our best to "sleep" with one eye open. If you can't be certain that you can handle using protection when you meet that cute forest defender who offers to zip yer sleeping bags together, then maybe you



One of us lasted only three days before ejaculating, only to look down and find his scrotum expanding and contracting... like some angry, red octopus hyperventilating between his sweaty thighs.

should look into castration instead. It's hardcore, dude—and we hear the chicks dig it.

Though our bad choices have given us nothing but a nut ache, neither of us regrets getting fixed. If this was a world full of balance, we'd probably end up having cubs or kittens. While we are lovers of life, we couldn't reconcile bringing another person into existence only to live (at best) confused, oppressed and ill. We're taking personal responsibility to not add another North American consumer to an already overstressed planet or to our own overstressed lives and long-shot dreams. We also wanted to take responsibility for birth control and not put a womyn in the position of having to deal with the issues surrounding pregnancy.

We have feral fantasies. Entering the sterile, white linoleum, fluorescent-lit facilities of that other world and literally putting our testes in their hands was not our first choice of how to spend a morning. However, when taking into consideration all the factors involved in reproduction, we are psyched about our choice; we just encourage others to learn from our mistakes and take the time to heal.



2002 ORGANIZERS' CONFERENCE REPORT

Is Earth First! Dead? Conference Attendees Say "No!"

BY GEMINI WOMYN

The mid-Winter migration of Earth First! brought revolutionaries to the 2002 EF! Organizers' Conference held at Eden Hot Springs in the Sonoran Desert.

The conference began with some EF! herstory, bringing perspective to veteran EF!ers and introduction to new recruits. EF! began as an alternative to the compromise from "big green" environmental organizations. EF! demanded nature for nature's sake and offered a vehicle for hunters, hippies and others who would put it all on the line for the wild.

Our herstory brought us to EF!'s current focus and baggage, where EF! stands and what holds us back. That baggage includes a failure to educate others on the definition of deep ecology and the challenge to maintain an anti-authoritarian movement with no central command structure, while at the same time training organizers who can embrace the responsibility of networking within the movement. The EF! vision many of us have in our imaginations must be created for all to discover, contemplate and embrace. At the conference, folks expressed the desire to build a movement on what we are for and to leave behind the reactionary slogans that only highlight what we are against. EF! is not dead—this self-defeating question has been asked

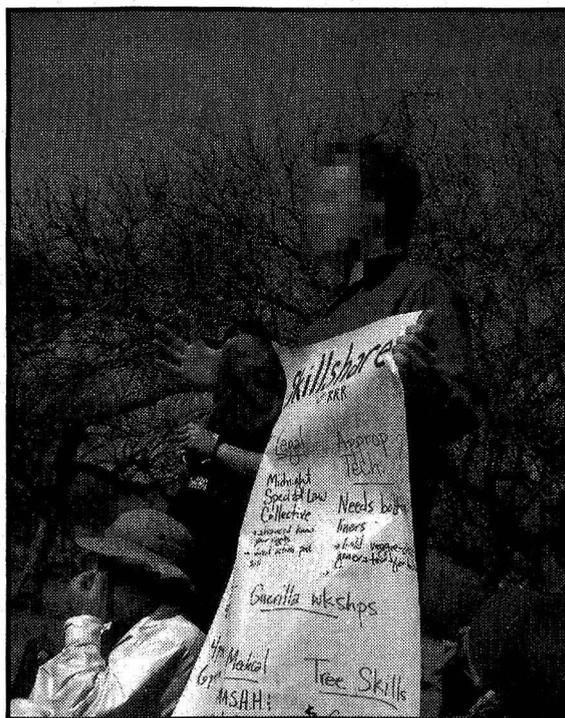
for 10 years, and folks agree that the EF! spirit is alive in every environmental direct action. "EF! supports or engages in direct action" was found to be an accurate description of our common values. A question to answer in the future: Does EF! limit movement growth by not expanding our issues or by not closely defining our issues?

Our Strengths and Weaknesses

Five hundred years of resistance to colonialism has brought us to the end of single-issue politics and has pulled together the struggles of traditional indigenous peoples and other activist groups around the world. The time to

link together and support each other is upon us and emerging global campaigns have bioregional support roles waiting to be filled.

EF!'s strength comes from our established name, decentralized structure and biocentric, no compromise vision of the future. The spiritual connection tied into the political motivation gives our best actions creativity and energy. EF! offers the current anti-globalization movement a biocentric alternative to the exploitative economic race.



Meetings, meetings and more meetings...

memory. Weaknesses are also relative to the society we strive to detach from. Much of EF! comes from a white, middle-class background and is unaware of the arrogance that comes from privilege.

Assessing Our Tactics

A tactic is a device for accomplishing an end. So, treesits and rallies are not tactics, but rather tools. An example of a tactic is a publicity boycott of Citigroup staging a mass credit card cutting on national TV, which in turn forces Citigroup out of a dam project it financed. Strategy is the art and science of employing the political, economic, psychological and militant forces of EF! to afford the maximum support of adopted policies in peace or war. The credit card cutting combined with a postcard campaign to major Citigroup investors would be using multiple tactics as a strategy, for example.

Each large-scale, mass action is unique and takes an equal amount of preparation. It is important to remember that what worked in the past might not work again. Revolutionary-scale actions like the WTO protests in Seattle took more than a year of discussion and planning. The decision to shut it down was not an easy one. The agents of repression are learning from our

victories and mistakes faster than we are. Employ tactical evolution! Folks at the conference felt it is essential to stick around after the action and educate the masses who's attention you've sparked! Corporate power links bioregions together and local communities can fight corporate rule outside of the large-scale actions. Bringing solidarity actions against corporate control into local communities brings the environmental justice campaigns that affect people of color closer to the EF! movement. More organizing, more guerrilla-type tactics, more coalition solidarity and

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more national and global days of outrage are needed!

The Movement Magazine

The EF! Journalistas introduced themselves and offered the circle an opportunity to give feedback on the *Journal* since the move to Tucson. The *Journal* collective then proposed that the publication schedule drop from eight issues a year to six as a possible solution to a number of problems that impede quality and timely distribution of the *Journal*. After a go-around discussion on the proposal, the circle agreed to respect an autonomous decision made by the *Journal* collective regarding publication frequency after soliciting discussion from within EF! for one month.

In addition, the *Journal* collective is looking for an affinity group to take on the merchandise department. If no group steps forward to take it on, the department may be scaled back. Some other questions from the *Journal* collective included how to answer general EF! questions by establishing a clearinghouse and how to create concrete accountability in EF!.

Building Alliances

We discussed as a group the challenge and success of alliance building. Examples included:

- Watch Mountain, where a Washington timber community aligned with treesitters to save 5,000 acres of old-growth forest.
- Militia members built lockboxes for environmental actions in Tennessee.
- A solidarity march for Mount Graham with Apache elders and EF!ers on the University of Arizona campus.

Some expressed that alliance building works best when the radical politics are not overshadowed by radical hairstyles or fashion statements. Dress for success, if toning down your appearance results in a successful alliance and successful campaign, it is worth it! Support each other through this masking, don't lose who you are underneath that pop culture clothing. When building alliances

with people of low income, working class and indigent background, respect the perimeters and vision for resistance they have already established. We can build on what is already there and identify the needs EF! can fill. Also, it is key to build alliances within the green movement, so when "Big Green" threatens to sell out, grassroots greens can get together and prevent it.

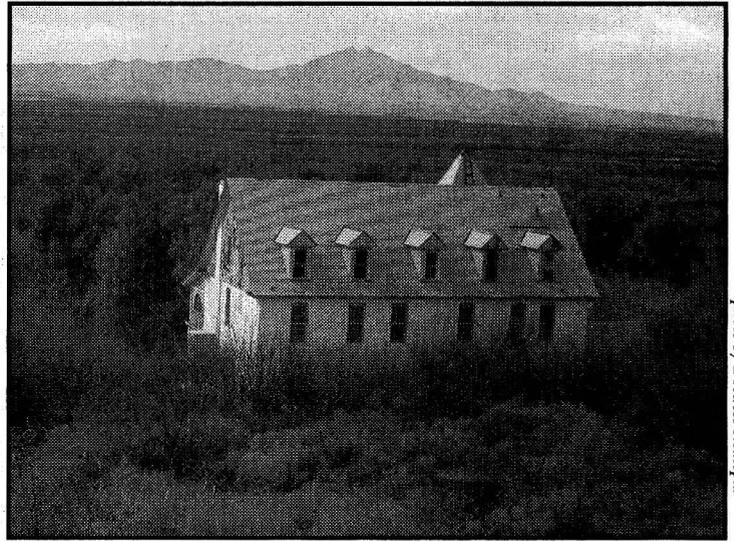
Networking, Communication, Power and Burnout

In a discussion on structure, networking and communication, improvements were suggested. These included: a monthly online newsletter,

of environmental lawyers and activist legal defense groups like Midnight Special, Portland People's Law Collective and others is also needed. A progressive law school in Los Angeles is offering law degree education at working class rates, which EF! could take advantage of. Lawyers already helping the movement need a direct action legal fund. We are looking for answers for all of this at the RRR.

Further, it's time for some national and international days of action to publicize EF! campaigns and coalitions. Days of action need to be coordinated and the best lessons from previous days of action need to be used. Upcoming events include May Day, the June G8 meeting in Calgary, Canada and the December release of *Lord of the Rings* part two, featuring the walking, talking Treebeard and his army of vengeful trees.

An important discussion on conflict resolution and matters of gender power in interpersonal relationships was not a place for accusations or attacks, only examples of what helps solve conflicts and what frustrates us most in our communities. The sooner a victim shares an incident with trusted friends and the accused is confronted, the sooner the victim starts healing. Perpetrators of violence have histories of destructive behavior, need professional help and must be kept from hurting others. Solutions can come from autonomous groups, offering a space for all sides involved to



A turn-of-the-century, haunted hotel looms ominously over tranquil hot springs.

photo by Doctress Neutopia



The hot spring-fed, Olympic-sized pool offers a great break from meetings.

photo by Doctress Neutopia

a moderated listserv for emergencies and coordination only, an emergency response phone tree and a biocentric caucus to add analysis to the anti-global corporatization movement. Contact information is requested for your bioregional emergency contact and can be brought to the Summer Round River Rendezvous (RRR). If you would like to contribute to an EF! global corporatization caucus, contact Patrick at organize@ran.org. A listing

tell their side of the story with both the victim and the accused viewed innocent until proven guilty. Violence is a community problem and takes a community solution, no one should suffer alone.

Everyone living in this sick society carries the germs of patriarchy, we must help each other heal. Conference attendees suggested that both men and women should take time to circle up in gender groups to discuss problems and solutions to inequality. Justice for victims, including safely confronting the abuser, is hard to regulate and a safe space must be created for everyone involved to share the experience. An affinity group was formed to create a model for EF! to resolve conflicts. The first draft of this model will be presented at the RRR.

The burnout discussion witnessed individuals' personal burnout survival tactics; any group can compile a similar list. Please don't burnout because we need you healthy, happy and strong, and your burnout drains the energy of people around you.

The conference wrapped up with workshops on dismantling patriarchy, a male gender caucus with an open gender fishbowl, as well as construction and use of symbols for the movement.

After the conference, the Winter Rendezvous began, we all took a long soak in the hot springs and had a blast at the "Night to Howl" listening to our favorite EF! musicians and poets. We enjoyed some tasty meals, conversed with old friends and made some new ones. Then we took some more long soaks in the hot springs, cleaned up the site and headed home inspired, rejuvenated and serious about the growing and evolving EF! movement. An extra-loud howl out to Wally and Katrina for the awesome kitchen equipment and for all of their help. A full report of the conference is available from the

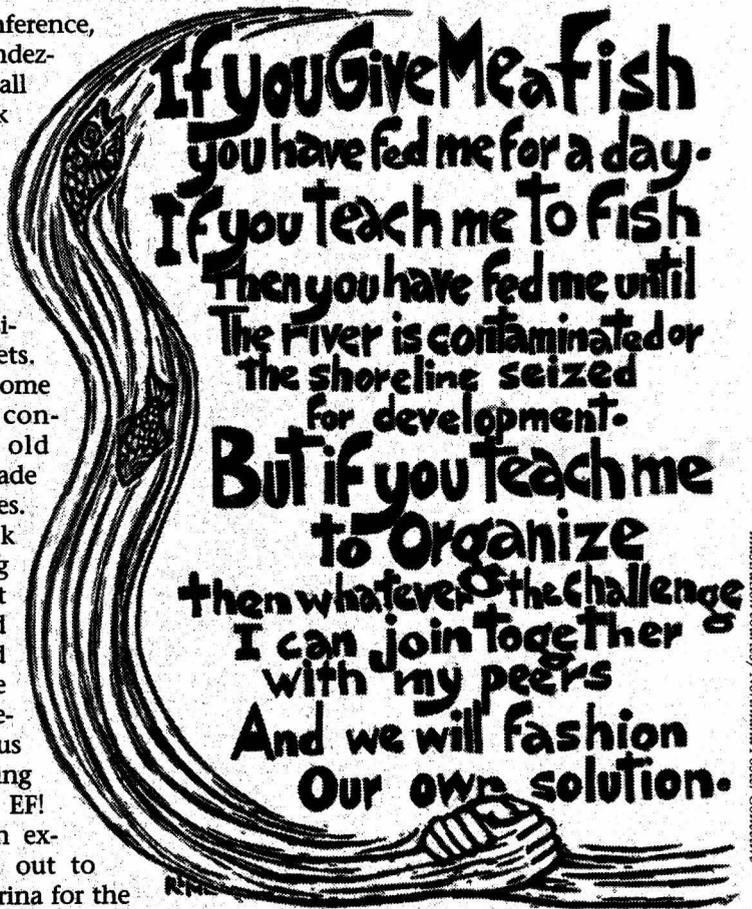


Illustration courtesy Northland Poster Collective

Katúah EF!/Tennessee Valley Faction, johnjef@bledsoe.net.

DEFEAT DISGUISED

continued from page 2

It's also less painful to cynically root for a Bush presidency than to be fully engaged with the suffering and atrocity it is causing. Easier to wait for a human-caused ecological collapse to initiate change than to figure out what the hell to do now. Ironically, in living a strategy of defeat, you rarely have to take the risk of trying and failing.

Two other defeatist strategies are used by people who understand the precarious state of the Earth, but who are not taking the committed action that logically extends from that understanding.

One is, "I have to heal myself first, get my own shit together, before I can work for the Earth." The other is, "In the big picture, the Earth will always survive anything we do to it, life will eventually recover."

In the words of Ward Churchill, "We are in the midst of the wounding process." The destruction of the Earth and the dominant culture wound us every

moment. Logically, we have no hope of healing until the source of the wounding is removed. Our healing and the health of the Earth are inextricably intertwined. "It is the deed itself that galvanizes the consciousness to transcend the shit that's been imposed upon you in your life," states Churchill. This perspective brings some clarity to the claim that personal problems must be worked out first. The claim is revealed as an ultimately self-defeating strategy, concealing the fear of committing to the difficult, dangerous and painful work of protecting the Earth—consequently obstructing your own healing.

As for looking at the big picture, it does seem likely that the Earth will survive anything we can inflict. However, that implies nothing about our choice to take decisive action today. If you look at the holocaust in Nazi Germany, Stalin's purges or the genocide of Native Americans, no one would argue that they were acceptable because some of the people targeted for extermination managed to survive. The

only moral decision in those historical moments would have been to take action against the oppressive murderers. Likewise, whether or not you believe that the Earth will ultimately survive, taking action now to relieve suffering is the only defensible choice. Claiming that all the damage being inflicted now doesn't matter is only another defeatist behavior. It is held onto because it enables detachment from feeling the pain of the Earth's destruction, and justifies inaction.

The good news is, the mere fact of observing defeatist strategies begins to neutralize the behavior. It is when defeatism is unconscious that it holds power over you. Becoming aware of feelings of fear and helplessness and the impact they make on your decisions creates the space to drop defeatism. In this space you don't know what is going to happen and committing to defending the Earth is not foolish—even though it often hurts, it also brings profound joy.

—EMMA

A Return to the Wild Life

continued



Earthbound students at Teaching Drum school

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I learned that struggles like these are often to be expected when one attempts to break free from long-term, entrenched conditioning. This is because psychological and emotional comfort is largely based on maintaining familiar circumstances and old habits. Also, the clear mirror of the natural world will reflect on the self in ways that most of us are simply not used to when living among the near constant alienation of technological existence. Because of this, facing one's self honestly can be a frightening experience—as we carry and pass on the trauma acquired throughout our lives inside the cages of institutional society.

Around three months into the year, I began to realize the importance of interpersonal and interpolitical relationship skills as crucial survival skills within the primitive life-way. Humans evolved to be communal beings much like wolves, and a lone individual living off the land will have a very difficult time compared to a tightly knit group that can flow well together to get things done. Traditional hunter-gatherer indigenous peoples devote a great deal of their cultural energy to this process—much more than to their material culture—with considerable success.

For our community out at the primitive camp, this means dealing with individual and group conflicts immediately and directly as they come up. It also means not having anyone with enforcement authority to appeal to when conflicts arise. Finally, it means operating by consensus—not just in a few areas but in nearly every area of decision-making and daily living. When one lives with the same people, sharing nearly all aspects of life together and depending on one-another for the long-term, conflicts will obviously arise. If those conflicts are not faced honestly and resolved in a consensual way for all those involved, then the festering resentment that follows will

undermine the group's flow and simply make life harder for everyone. When it comes to the material matters of the primitive life-way, I've been shown that intimacy and respect are the key lessons to be learned, while the various technical aspects are more peripheral and flow from these two ingredients.

Certainly hunting can be a pretty controversial issue, but I'd like to touch on it, as it best illustrates certain differences between primitive approaches and modern ones. Hunting successfully in a primitive manner is mostly a matter of awareness and attunement in relation to the wild communities of one's bioregion, and it becomes extremely difficult without a long-term and deep level of built-in intimacy.

At the primitive camp, we take a considerable amount of time to prepare for our first hunt, since it is a powerful and sacred act. This preparation entails getting to know our fellow animal peoples nearly as intimately as we know our human relations. This is because, as hunter-gatherers, our needs and well-being are intertwined with theirs—they are not "pests" who eat our crops or just "pretty animals" that we like to view—they are us, and we are them.

With this level of intimacy, we might know that, for instance, the old buck that we have seen mature and become an elder these past years has recently injured his leg and will be unlikely to survive the coming winter. Or possibly that a neighboring doe gave birth to a second fawn that is too weak to mature into adulthood. With this level of attunement, the equipment needed for hunting that crippled buck or weak fawn might be as simple as a rawhide snare and a knife. Also, one can then be sure that s/he is taking what is being offered by her/his relations rather than disrespecting their gifts and weakening their populations (as when high-tech sport-hunters kill trophy bucks and deplete the deer-peoples of

their best and strongest young warriors each year).

Gathering wild plants is a similar issue. Very few greens are edible or available year long, so success and ease often comes from knowing a large number of plant communities very intimately. One must know what parts are edible at what times of the year and in what quantity they can be gathered without damaging the integrity of the community. (Also, it makes gathering much easier and energy efficient if you know particular plant communities that provide nourishment you need at specific times of the year).

Basically, what this boils down to is that life without the "benefits" of modern technology is easy and pleasurable if one is attuned to their environment. One can only learn so much of this through books and classes, most of it must be learned through personal experience. That is why it is called wisdom rather than just knowledge, and that is why traditional indigenous peoples respect their elders and their oral traditions more than gadgets or books.

I am learning that this way of being in touch with the Earth is the key to making primitive living work. One needs to be in touch at all levels of his/her existence—with one's own self, with one's human circle and with one's non-human relations. This being in touch is what indigenous people primarily mean when they talk about "living in balance" with "all our relations." When it comes right down to it, this isn't just some rhetorical flourish or new-agey bull—it is a base-line and a completely practical survival skill that makes the difference between whether one views the Earth as a nurturing and caring Mother or one views life in the "wilderness" as being "nasty, brutish and short." It seems to me, at least, that learning to be in touch in such a manner may very well be essential if we are to understand what is required of us to live in perpetual balance with the Earth.

Anyone interested in this life-way can contact me at redwolfreturns@hotmail.com

Red Wolf Returns is a student at Teaching Drum Outdoor School.

The Last Wizards *continued*

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In Plato's time *mageia*—later wizards and sorcerers—were women and men who became "outlaw priests of nature" and rabble rousers opposed to the hegemony of the empire. Wizards were "men on the fringe of society, ridiculed by some, secretly feared by others," writes Fritz Graf in *Magic in the Ancient World*. "The reason is clear: The sorcerer constitutes a danger, just like the man who does not believe in the gods; like the latter, the sorcerer threatens the just relationship that normally unites humans and the gods." It was feared that the teachings and practices of such wizards would cause "the return of humankind to the savage state, prior to any civilization."

These spell casters, if opposed to people in power, were seen as a grave threat to public opinion. Even their songs were outlawed. Roman laws of the time are a testament to this fear, "*Si quis occantavisset sive carmen condidisset, quod infamiam faceret flagitiumve alteri.*" This translates as, "If any person had sung or composed a song such as was causing slander or insult to another..." The songs and ballads of the wizards were capable of compromising an individual's social position and even of ruining it. The wizard was a master craftsman of public sentiment and played key roles behind the scenes in toppling and building kingdoms throughout the ages.

The popular lore of the lone, powerful wizard stems from the early history of magic in antiquity. The "wanderers of the night" (*magi*), "the perceivers" (*seers*), and "the frenzied ones" (*maenads* and *bacchantes*), all have given life to the image of the nomadic wizard living on the outskirts of society.

Today's last wizards, the ones who fall into the more ancient meanings of the word "mage," are on the rise. They can be found in many walks of life, and their impact is being felt around the globe.

Today it is the various manifestations of the "ecowarrior" spirit that have given birth to the world's last wizards. The late "arch druid," David Brower or the

"Socrates of San Francisco," Howard Gossage are some good examples, but there are others, from the shamans of the indigenous tribes to the women and men on the frontlines of the global democracy and environmental movements. Among the last wizards there is a deep ecological awareness coupled with the understanding of the police/magician state and how symbolic acts of resistance can trigger a chain reaction in popular consciousness.

The Book of Green Shadows

The Book of Green Shadows is a 48-page collection of essays on the tools, techniques and forces that shift and alter perceptions in our world. It is a primer on magic, postmodernism and mass manipulation, while also offering a look at the legacies and prophecies of world war, globalization and technology. Some of these articles have been previously published in the *Earth First! Journal*, others were taken from lectures given to activists developing communications strategies for environmental campaigns. It is available through the website www.LastWizards.com or by sending \$10 to James Bell, 3400 W. 111th St. #154, Chicago, IL 60655.

James Bell manages communication campaigns for Sustain's grassroots partners and just launched the website www.LastWizards.com to foster discussion about using creative strategies for eco-defense.



THE LANDSCAPE OF DESIRE CONTINUED

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Does anything significant change when we pass under the Highway? We are hardly in the land of Oz, but nothing civilized lies between us and the tiny town of Hanksville, 85 river miles downstream: no pavement, no houses, nothing but a couple of dirt roads, a muddy creek to follow and more than a half million acres of wilderness. At Hanksville, Muddy Creek joins the Fremont River and creates the Dirty Devil River. After a short resupply, we would follow the Dirty Devil its entire length, another 85 river miles to where it converges with the Colorado River beneath the surface of Lake Powell.

Interstate 70 to Lake Powell. Icons of the modernization of the West?

The Highway serves as a transportation corridor, emblematic of speed, efficiency, globalization, carrying lettuce from California to the Midwest, orange juice from Florida to San Francisco and no doubt cocaine from Los Angeles to Denver. Lake Powell was created by a massive dam across the Colorado River, 120 miles long; the "lake" flooded what was once the very heart of the Colorado Plateau—Glen Canyon.

But what lies between I-70 and Lake Powell? Twenty years before the damming of the Colorado, Harold Ickes, Franklin D. Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior, proposed the world's largest preserve, a four- and-a-half-million acre national monument that would reach from Lee's Ferry in Arizona, west to Kanab, Utah, north to Green River and east to Moab. Only one dirt road crossed this region. However, Roosevelt's Federal Reserve Chairman, Marriner Eccles, was from Utah and was vehemently opposed to the monument. The idea was shelved as the bombing of Pearl Harbor shifted attention elsewhere. Even earlier, Bob Marshall, co-founder of the Wilderness Society, identified two million acres of roadless land in the San Rafael in 1935. While I-70 now sliced that land in half, I wondered how much remained. Although highways and dams have shredded and fragmented one of our last

remaining wilderness areas, could we still thread together a patchwork traveling by foot across this remote region? Is it still possible to set off into the unknown for weeks, simply following a creek? Would we find the soul of the Colorado Plateau here, damaged but still intact? Would we find our own?

We pass an abandoned mine and a road bed scarred into the desert crust. This is a place where you damn the land, hope to get rich quick and get the hell out—an area so desolate that it has never seen a permanent settlement. Scour the Earth for uranium (or magnesium as in the case of this mine, or coal, oil and gas), or fill it with cows, scrape every available source off and then fill in

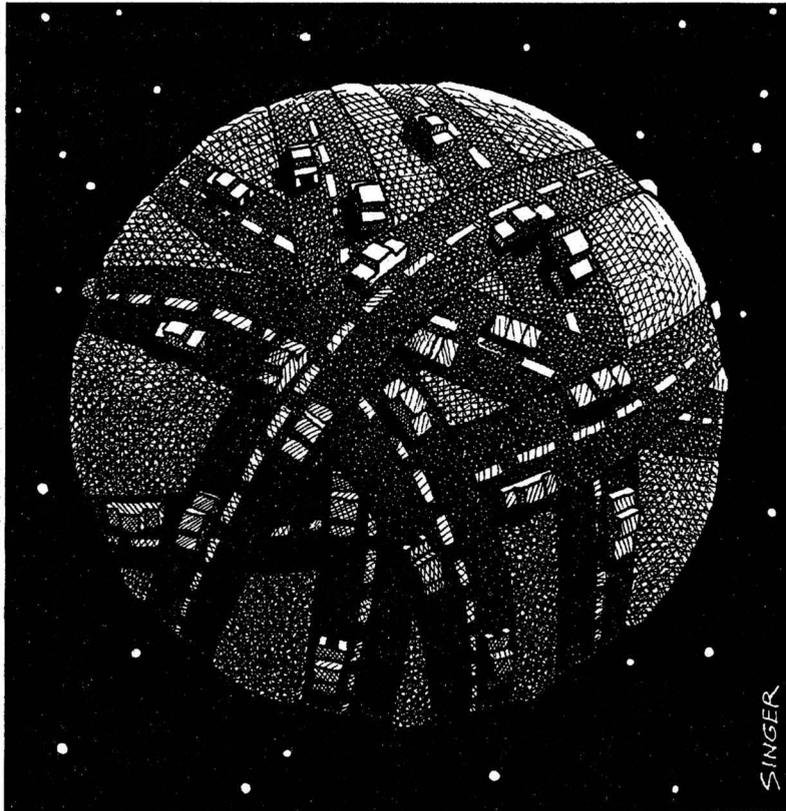
the gaps with toxic waste. This unlovely land has been consigned to satisfy the motorized recreation needs of all-terrain vehicles. We take everything it has to offer and leave feeling not quite satiated.

This is a grey-streaked country, always too cold and windy or searingly hot. This is a land of salt bush flats and little to no water. What water exists is foul, laced with heavy metals, salt and giardia. These barren bentonite hills, mysterious enough on their own, seem inhabited by ghosts of a different kind—the specters of greed and desire.

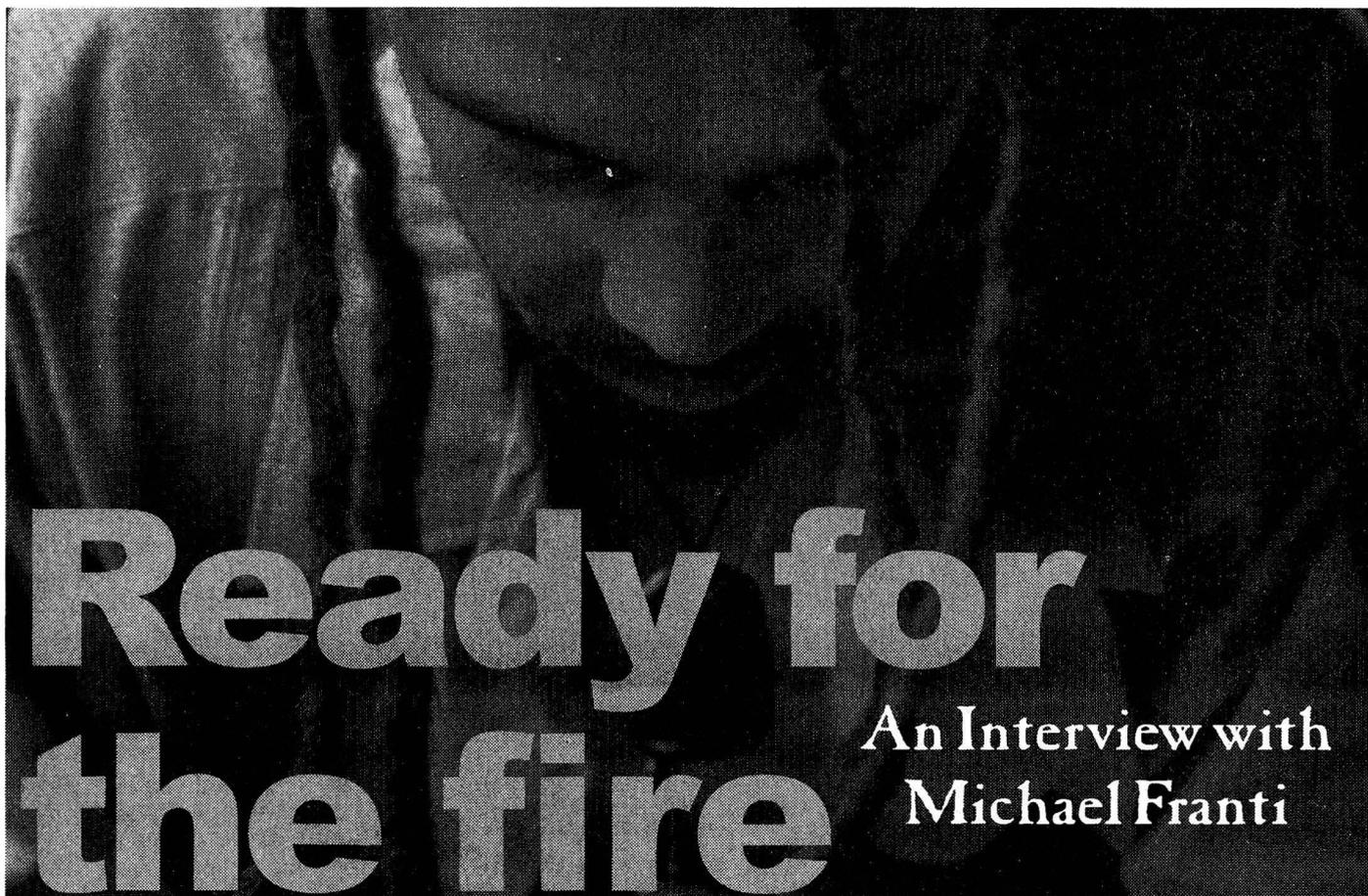
The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as an "untrammelled" area. Most misinterpret this as "untrampled."

Untrammelled refers to a trammel line, which is what fishermen use to surround a school of fish with nets. Thus untrammelled would pertain to an area whose boundaries are flexible and porous, not surrounded by civilization. I wondered to what degree I-70 and Lake Powell act as ecological trammel lines for the San Rafael/Dirty Devil region. Could they also act as psychological trammels reining in our own wildness?

This essay is taken from the forthcoming book about the Colorado Plateau, *The Landscape of Desire*, by Greg Gordon. Reprinted with permission from *The Road-RIPorter*, Vol. 7, number 0; www.wildlandscpr.org.



THE ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED.



The harder they hit us, the louder we become

BY TURTLE AND MISS WALDRON

Michael Franti has been speaking truth to power through his music for the last 15 years. His evolution as an artist—from the little-known Beatnigs, to the politically razor-sharp Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy and most recently, to the rich hip-hop, reggae and funk-infused sounds of Spearhead—has mirrored his growth as a committed activist. A visible, six-foot-six presence during both the Seattle World Trade Organization protests and those during the Los Angeles Democratic National Convention, Franti is one of a disturbingly small circle of conscious musicians willing to speak out for what they believe in. During Spearhead's most recent tour, we had the opportunity to sit down and chat with him about rage and compassion, inspiration and fear, music and activism.

EF!J: As a veteran of anti-globalization protests and a long-time activist, as well as someone who travels around the country quite a bit, what effects have you seen since September on environmental and social justice movements?

MF: Well, it is just funny when you list off all those things, it sounds like charges pressed against me: anti-terrorist, fundamentalist, you know. I think that it is a big change that's happened.

It's like someone was telling me today, they were reading the FBI's most wanted terrorist list... and at the top of it are "eco-terrorists." It said that these two groups [the Earth and Animal Liberation Fronts] were responsible for \$40

million worth of damage, but that's like one day in the forest for Monsanto or one day of treecutting, you know. It is like this whole notion—of who is the terrorist and who the good people are—is totally about whoever is making money off of what they are doing versus people who are conscious about protecting the natural interests of the world and the human interests of the world. So I think that is a big difference, I think it really calls into question what we are doing as activists.

I see activism as communication. That's what we are really trying to do, is to communicate. If our message is a message of peace, love, compassion and of preservation for the Earth, then our delivery has to be that way. As a musician, I think about how it is not just the words that I say but the way that I say them that either draws people to it or pushes people away.

EF!J: A friend of mine told me that since September, in the song "Oh My God," you changed the lines from "makes me so mad I want to bomb an institution" to "makes me so mad I want to start a peaceful revolution."

MF: The reason I did that is because I felt that what I was saying in the song was not that I literally want to go bomb something, but that I *feel* like I want to go bomb something. Because I'm so angry. And yet, I felt that people were misconstruing what I was saying. So I decided to change that lyric because I didn't have time to stop in the middle of the song to explain exactly what I was saying.

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EF!J: The fine nuances between property destruction and...

MF: The feeling of that type of rage where you just want to destroy the system, you just want to tear it down by whatever means you can.

EF!J: Do you consider yourself committed to nonviolence?

MF: Well, it is something that I have been thinking about a lot. I'm not really in a situation where I feel like I need to take up arms to protect what I have, but I can't answer for the people who are in that situation. I can't tell the Zapatistas in Mexico, "Don't shoot back!," when people are coming into their villages at night and shooting their families.

At the same time, I think that if we are to choose the path of nonviolence and to choose the path of pacifism, that we understand that it is p-a-c-i-f-i-s-m. To be peaceful. And not p-a-s-s-i-v-i-s-m. To be a pacifist is to be active and to be civil disobedient, but it doesn't mean that we have to destroy anything.

Property damage is something that I have also been thinking about a lot, because there has definitely been a time in my life where I felt like, "Yeah, let's go out and break the windows at McDonald's" and let's do all these things that are kind of symbolic acts.

But at the end of the day, it just gets taken as some crazy people. Our message is lost in the TV footage because they just show the footage, and then

EF!J: Could you summarize what you hope to achieve with your music?

MF: If there was one single message in my music, it would be compassion.

I also want to show people—by example—that it is okay to be yourself. Sometimes, people say, "If you change your music this way, you could reach more kids in the hip-hop audience. If you change it this way, you could reach more people over here. If you did this different, you could get more on the radio or on MTV." And I say, "Yeah, but then I'm losing the message." Which is that I am me. You can choose to enjoy what I do or not. You know, it may resonate with



Photo by Wonder Knack

they run their headline underneath it. It is like reading a *Far Side* cartoon at that point.

So, I think that we need to be mindful. You know, when I listen to other liberation leaders from the past, their message is always to be very clear about your intentions, your goals and then to think of ways that will help you achieve them. There is a sequence of things that you do when you are trying to reach a goal. I think that a lot of times when we get angry, we're so frustrated, we say let's just go do anything, rather than thinking about our end vision that we are trying to achieve.

you, it may not. But hopefully, you'll understand that I'm being me and that it's okay for you to be you.

And then also there are other themes to the music, like acceptance of diversity: cultural diversity, gender diversity, religious diversity, sexual diversity. Also the diversity that exists within each and every person.

EF!J: Can you comment on the social consciousness among artists, and specifically among musicians, in this time of crisis?

MF: Well, you know, people have asked me that question a lot. They say, "It seems like there are not a lot of artists out there who are talking about

Bomb the World

Please tell me the reason behind the colors that you fly.
Please tell me the reason you want us to unify.

You say you're sorry said there is no other choice.
How can you feel sorry, when you kill people with no voice?

We can chase down all our enemies, bring them to their knees.

We can bomb the world to pieces, but we can't bomb it into peace.

Oh, we may even find a solution to hunger and disease.
We can bomb the world to pieces, but we can't bomb it into peace.

The earthquake of anger simply brings more of the same.
Military madness, the smell of flesh and burning pain.

what is going on." You know, I'm not sitting around holding my breath waiting for Britney Spears to hold a press conference about what is happening with Bush's foreign policy.

I think that in order for artists to be able to speak out during a time of crisis, they have to have done it their whole life, because in a time of crisis it is really hard to speak out. I feel a lot of fear when I say the things that I do. It takes some courage, and it takes some understanding of the issues that have led up to what is going on to really be able to say something that will resonate with folks.

Just like globalization has affected developing nations economically and environmentally, globalization has infected the music industry. We now have five major corporations who own all of the record labels. These record labels aren't beholden to music, they are beholden to the shareholders at the end of the quarter. They frown

tant story. There's a tree that has lived for a thousand years, and a little caterpillar on it that lives its entire life in 10 days. A bird comes, sits down and talks to the caterpillar and says, "Is this tree alive or dead?" And the little caterpillar says, "You know, I've been living on this tree the entire 10 days of my life, and I never saw this tree move, so this tree must be dead." Then, the life span of the Earth is like five billion years or something. You go to talk to a man on the top of a mountain, who lives his whole life in 80 years, and he says, "You know, I've been here 80 years and never saw this mountain move once. So the Earth must be dead."

It is about perspective, and time. As activists, we often want to change the world, and we're so enraged at what's happening. We think: "God, the world is not changing because we didn't see it change after the WTO rallies. We didn't see it change that much after

The other day, a friend told me that he was talking to a friend who said that he had relationship problems. And my friend said, "No, you don't have relationship problems, you're just having some difficult relationship experiences." So it is all how you look at it. If you think of things as being problems, then you get overwhelmed.

But if you think of things as this is just an experience, that is harder than some of my other experiences. So I'm always encouraging myself to find what is the opportunity in every difficult situation that I come across and not just say, "Oh, I've got problems." That I'm going through some difficult experiences, but I'm going to make it through.

Further, there's nothing that is more virtuous in life than understanding that we have a responsibility to the seven generations of people that came before us and to the seven generations of people to come to make this a better place. If we think of it in those terms—

If our message is a message of peace, love, compassion and of preservation for the Earth, then our delivery has to be that way. As a musician, I think about how it is not just the words that I say but the way that I say them that either draws people to it or pushes people away.

upon big-selling artists doing anything that may put their profits in jeopardy.

EF!J: Do you have any words of inspiration to share with all the Earth First!ers out there?

MF: Today, I was telling a story I had heard. I think it is a really impor-

Julia Butterfly came down from the tree. We didn't see much change after this happened or that happened." But, the thing is that over time, it grows. The movement grows. The movement gains more energy. The movement is in constant interchange.

that we are a part of this lineage—and it is our responsibility today to be caretakers of the Earth so that we can pass it on to other people, to our children and their children. I think that's a really high virtue to be working toward. There's no shame in that.

So, I sing out to the masses,
stand up if you're still sane.
To all of us gone crazy,
I sing this one refrain.

We can chase down all our enemies,
bring them to their knees.
We can bomb the world to pieces,
but we can't bomb it into peace.

Oh, we may even find a solution
to hunger and disease.
We can bomb the world to pieces,
but we can't bomb it into peace.

I say, power to the people, and
I say, love to the people, y'all.
I sing, power to the people, and
I sing, love to the people, y'all.

We may even find a solution
to hunger and disease.
We can bomb the world to pieces,
but we can't bomb it into peace.

So we can chase down all our enemies,
we can even bring them to their knees.
Yes, we can bomb the world into pieces,
but we can't bomb it into peace.

Confronting the Tyrannies of the 21st Century

BY TIM REAM

Global Uprising: Confronting the Tyrannies of the 21st Century; Stories from a New Generation of Activists, edited by Neva Welton and Linda Wolf, New Society Publishers, 2001.

In November 1999, a new world was created in Seattle. No, I am not simply restating for the umpteenth time that the massive street protests that shut down the World Trade Organization (WTO) changed the world. I mean that a worldwide community took shape at that time. People from inside the Empire finally stepped up to become participants in the global uprising against the system for planetary corporate control, headquartered here in the US.

Earth First!ers were central among the anti-WTO organizers and were heavily represented on the blockades and in the streets. Our affinity-style organizing and blockading tactics were the foundation in Seattle, and the Northwest is one of our strongest fronts. EF!ers have continued to play key roles in street protests around the world since 1999. It would be no surprise, therefore, to recognize a lot of names, faces and words in Welton and Wolf's new collection of essays on the diverse movement against corporate globalization.

In a remarkably accessible style, 60 short viewpoints paint a mural of a movement. Half the voices are women's and nearly half are from people of color from five continents. Authors include academics, radical journalists, street warriors and non-governmental organization operatives, with a strong emphasis on youth. Essays range in politics from liberal to anarchist. You can find hard-core vegans and radical lesbians alongside puppetistas and union organizers.

As you would imagine in any collection with so many voices, you are going to find a lot you like and some you do not really care for. For movement analysis, I liked Warcry's manifesto on militancy and anarchism, "My Family Wears Black." Critical Resistance did a great job of laying out "The Prison Industrial Complex" in seven pages. Luis Sanchez combines his belief that "educational justice is the key issue at the center of everything" with his personal experience growing up as an East Los Angeles Latino. "There hasn't been a college built in California since 1983, but 21 prisons have been built."

Much of the strongest writing is in the form of personal stories that are not often heard in US mainstream culture. Malachi Larabee-Garza takes us on her journey from missionary to coming out queer to organizer. Koutha and Marwa Al-Rawi's story of fighting the sanctions against

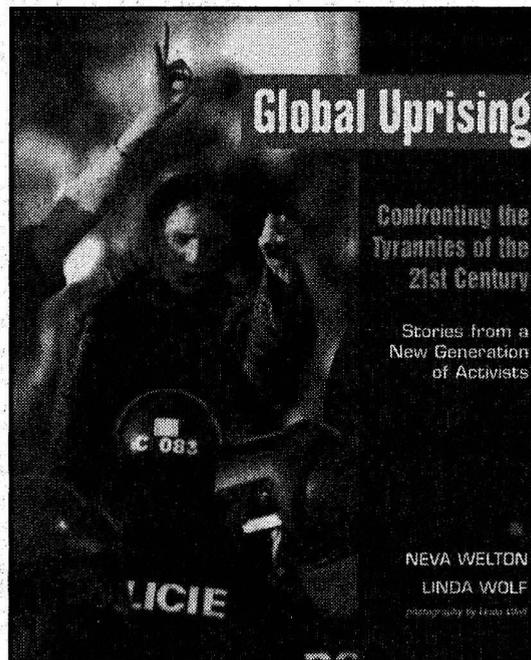
Iraq would be inspiring even without the knowledge that this campaign is being led by eighth and ninth graders. "This work is our life. We now sneak in soccer and a few acting classes here and there for fun, but we know its going to be a long, continuous struggle to get the sanctions lifted." You will also find incredible tales of landmine survivors, a young woman who organized the only union in El Salvador's 229 garment factories and harrowing stories of repression from Bhutan, Burma and Nigeria.

The forward to *Global Uprising* was written on September 10, 2001. So clearly, this book will soon fall victim to its place in a rapidly evolving history. Even so, a couple areas of discussion seem lacking from that vantage point. Nowhere in the collection can we learn of the rise and role of corporate capital in so-called "development" around the world in the last couple decades. Apart from the quasi-governmental financial institutions (WTO, IMF, etc.), we

hear little of the role of finance. You may also tire of hearing that non-violence is the only effective or legitimate means of struggle.

For a little self-criticism, this book brings home how ineffective our movement has been at placing biocentrism near the top of the broader globalization movement's agenda. While "the environment" is frequently mentioned, it is far too often in human-centered terms. A critique of the role of technology in ecological destruction and oppression, not surprisingly, is completely absent.

The book ends with a fabulous collection of activist websites and phone numbers. Where else could you possibly imagine the *Earth First! Journal* and the Earth Liberation Front listed on the same pages as the Worldwatch Institute and



the AFL-CIO?

It is best to keep in mind that full-time radical activists are probably not the target audience for *Global Uprising*. If you have been following the anti-corporate movement, you probably will not deepen your analysis much by reading this collection. You are probably surrounded by friends and family members who would though. The book is edited in a way that lets a beginner ease in without effort. If you like being a single-issue activist who wants to forget all "that crap about humans" and just save wilderness, you might also do well to take a look at who your potential allies are if you ever intend to have any.

In any case, this is not a juicy insider's tale pulling back the curtain. It is more like the many-handed goddess of compassion reaching out and offering a myriad of tools to help the many others not yet in the struggle. Join her by handing this book to someone you know who is still standing on the curb watching the action in the street.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle or Else

Jill Rowland is guilty.

Her crime? Throwing recyclable baby formula cans in the trash.

Rowland and four other Newton, Kansas, residents were summoned to court and fined \$25 per incident for violating the city's mandatory recycling law. The Newton residents are the first Kansans taken to court for failure to recycle, and they were warned they would face stiffer fines—or possibly jail time—if they were caught with recyclables in their trash in the next six months.

The ordinance saves taxpayers money, officials said. The more residents recycle, the less the city has to pay to get rid of trash. Since recycling became law in Newton two years ago, the city has reduced garbage by 20 percent with 95 percent of residents recycling. City engineer Suzanne Loomis said those taken to court had repeatedly failed to recycle. "It comes to a point of how else do you get through to people?" she asked.

Marines Develop High-Tech Banana Peel for Crowd Control

A January 24 news article published online at www.policemag.com reported that the US Marine Corps has developed a new crowd-control weapon that "promises to make riots much more slippery affairs."

Invented at Southwest Research Institute in Texas, the Marines' new Mobility Denial System (MDS) is allegedly a non-hazardous chemical spray weapon that disperses a

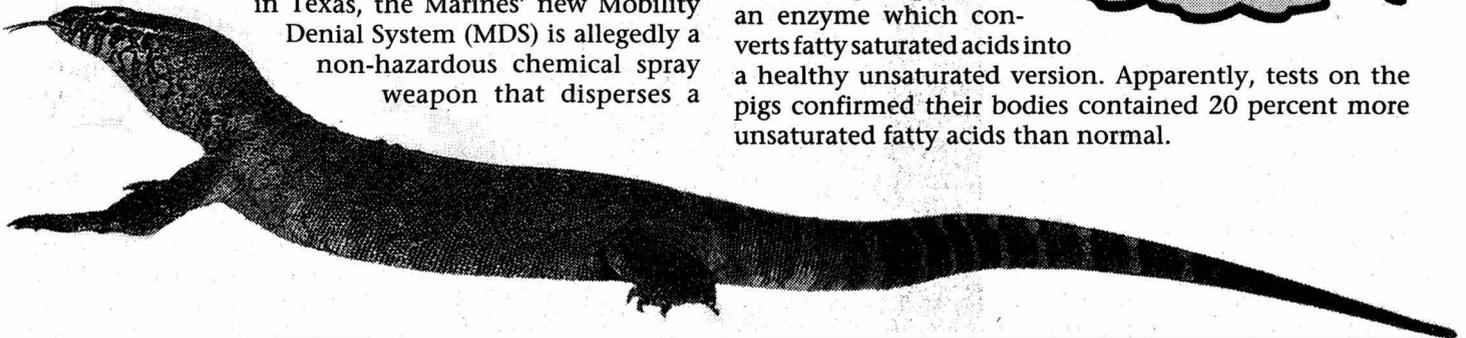
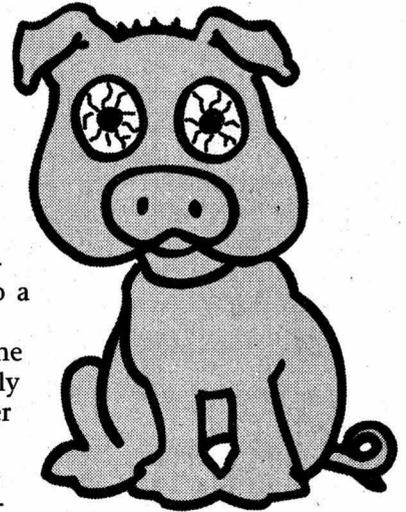
thick, slippery gel onto asphalt, concrete, wood and grass. "The result is a lot of pratt falls for the rioters and spinning wheels for enemy vehicles."

The Marine Corps claims it needs tools like MDS for overseas missions to rescue US personnel from "anarchic urban environments." Police agencies are excited about the potential of using the new MDS technology to control anarchic environments in the US.

Scientists Invent Spignach

Researchers at Japan's Kinki University School of Biology-Oriented Science and Technology and the National Institute for Basic Biology announced in January that they had inserted a spinach gene into pigs—the first known successful transfer of a plant gene into a large animal.

The scientists claim the meat from the genetically modified pigs is healthier than traditional pork because the gene produces an enzyme which converts fatty saturated acids into a healthy unsaturated version. Apparently, tests on the pigs confirmed their bodies contained 20 percent more unsaturated fatty acids than normal.



NATURE BITES BACK

Flesh-Eating Lizards Devour Owner

Police entered the apartment of Ronald Huff at the request of worried relatives on January 16. The officers found the body of the 42-year-old Delaware man on the floor, where his pet Nile monitor lizards were feeding off him. "They did a considerable amount of damage to this gentleman's face," said John E. Caldwell, executive director of the Delaware Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). Authorities do not believe the lizards attacked and killed Huff, but his autopsy failed to determine any other cause of death.

Huff's lizards, which he kept despite a county ban on them, ranged in length from two to six feet and from two to 25 pounds. Two of the lizards were in handmade,

wooden, crate-like cages and five were running loose. Aquariums and cushions for the smaller lizards to lounge upon were scattered around the apartment. Small shelves had been cut into his bathroom closet, providing a place for the reptiles to snooze, and lizard-size holes had been cut in the doors to allow them to roam free throughout the apartment.

Along with the lizards, police also found a cat and several containers of hissing Madagascar roaches. All seemed to be in good health. The SPCA located a home for the cat and placed the lizards at the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo in Maryland. They had less compassion for the roaches which they reportedly "disposed of." Reptile breeders say there has been a rush to buy the flesh-eating lizards since the event.

WHY WE SUPPORT MATT AND PETER: SANTA CRUZ 2 SENTENCED

We are an autonomous group of former prisoners from the Earth and animal liberation movements and people who engage in prisoner support as a revolutionary practice. We prepared this statement to express our full support for the Santa Cruz 2: Matt Whyte and Peter Schnell.

On January 28, Matt and Peter were sentenced to 14 and 24 months respectively for the charge of "possession of an unregistered firearm." Last Summer, Matt and Peter were arrested in a Capitola, California park while assembling incendiary devices. They later admitted that they were going to use those devices to target dairy industry trucks at an undisclosed location. In court, Matt and Peter expressed regret for this and showed remorse for their action. We realize that people facing years in prison are often put in extremely difficult positions and thus may sometimes have to express feelings of remorse to judges and other state representatives.

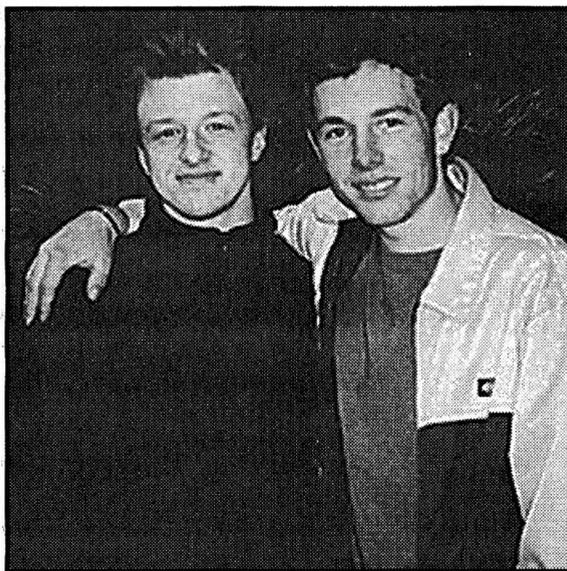
We want to be very clear that we support Matt and Peter regardless of any difference of opinion in relation to legal strategy that we may have. Our support is rooted in solidarity and a desire to take care of our warriors who get caught by the state. Although we do not impose our legal strategy on our allies, we also do not condone "snitching." Case in point is Justin Samuel, an individual convicted for ALF actions who informed on his co-defendant and thus does not receive support from most people in this movement. That being said, we support the choices made by Matt, Peter, their lawyers and support team.

We also do not desire the creation of martyrs for our growing movement. The imprisonment of our warriors for prolonged periods of time is not something we want to encourage. Martyrdom is for those who truly no longer control their fate. It is the tragic consequence of state repression, and the Earth and animal liberation movements in the US should not be eager to see our already too few warriors added to the list.

Let's not forget that another brother in this struggle, Free, is serving 22 years for offenses similar to those of Matt and Peter. Individuals need to know that they will be supported if they get caught whether or not they plead innocent, whether or not they stand up in court and speak about animal liberation and whether or not we agree with what they feel they must do to get a lighter sentence. We desire our warriors out of prison and back in the struggle, not serving absurdly long sentences just because they made an aggressive statement to the court.

We want to commend Matt and Peter for the principled

and intelligent manner with which they have conducted themselves during the last year while awaiting trial and sentencing. Unlike other cases in the past, information was disbursed to supporters in a timely manner and there were not random people speaking on their behalf. The real proof though is the sentence: Matt, expecting a minimum of 33 months, got 14 months (and three years supervised probation). Peter, expecting a minimum of 42 months, got 24 (and the same probation). That any accused animal liberation member could receive such a lenient sentence in post September 11 anti-terrorist hysteria reveals success in their choice of legal defense strategy.



Matt and Peter

It does nothing for Earth and animal liberationists or the cause of Earth and animal liberation to criticize or pass judgment on our friends who sit in jail, especially when that judgement and criticism comes from someone outside of jail. If there are some who still disagree, then express your dissatisfaction with actions of your own. It is impossible to understand for those not under criminal indictment

that attacking warriors facing repression is simply hitting our warriors when they are already down. Supporting Earth and animal liberation prisoners means just that: supporting them always, not just when they do what you think they should do.

Free all Earth and animal liberation prisoners! Support the Santa Cruz 2!

Send letters of support to Matthew Whyte, #99477-111, Taft Correctional Institution, POB 7001, Taft, CA 93268 and Peter Schnell, c/o Santa Cruz 2 Defense Fund, POB 583, Eugene, OR 97440.

- NORTH AMERICAN EARTH LIBERATION PRISONER SUPPORT NETWORK
- NORTH AMERICAN ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT SUPPORT GROUP
- UK EARTH LIBERATION PRISONERS SUPPORT NETWORK
- ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT (ALF) INFORMATION SERVICE
- ROD CORONADO-FORMER ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT PRISONER
- JEREMIAH BOWEN-FORMER EARTH LIBERATION PRISONER
- DAVID BARBARASH-ALF PRESS OFFICER AND FORMER ALF PRISONER
- NOEL MOLLAND-FORMER GANDALF PRISONER (UK)
- SAXON WOOD-FORMER GANDALF PRISONER (UK)
- STEVEN BOOTH-FORMER GANDALF PRISONER (UK)
- ADAM MARSHALL-FORMER HILLGROVE FARMS PRISONER (UK)
- MARK EDEN-CONVICTED ALF ACTIVIST (NEW ZEALAND)
- GINA LYNN AND DAVID HAYDEN-NO COMPROMISE MAGAZINE
- MEGAN ADAMS

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

Ecodefense

•Dr. Yurl Bandazhevsky, U1. Kalvarijskaya 36, POB 35K, Minsk 220600, Belarus. Serving eight years for telling the world that the nuclear radiation around Chernobyl is worse than the government has admitted.

•Marco Camenish, Viale dei Tigli, 14 13900, Biella, Italy. Serving 12 years imprisonment for prison escape shoot-out and for eco-sabotage. Marco can read and write some English.

•Iñaki Garcia Koch, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque, Apdo. 250, 31080—Iruñez—Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Serving just under five years for sabotaging the Itoiz dam construction site.

•Jeffrey "Free" Luers, #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310, USA. Serving 22 years and eight months for arson of a car dealership. He was also framed for the attempted arson of an oil station.

•Craig "Critter" Marshall, #13797662, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914, USA. Serving five-and-a-half years for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices to torch some SUVs.

•Silvano Pellissero, Com. Mastrolierto, Via Ferrerolini, Sanponso, 10080 Torino, Italy. Serving six years and eight months for sabotage of a high-speed rail line construction site in the Northern Italian Alps. Silvana can read Spanish, Italian and French.

•Grigory Pasko (address unknown). Russian eco-journalist serving four years for exposing the Russian Navy's dumping of nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean.

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell, POB 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving 27 years for the disarmament of a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters to officials with .38 caliber bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money.

Animal Liberation

•Jon Batchelor, c/o Mutual Aid Legal Fund, POB 95616, Seattle, WA 98145-2616, USA. Charged with assaulting a police officer during a demonstration.

•Neil Bartlett, FW7083, HMP Lewes,

East Sussex, BN7 1EA, England. Awaiting sentencing for making six bomb-hoax telephone calls to various animal and Earth abusers.

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Birmingham, B18 4AS, England. Serving three years for attacking the managing director of Huntingdon Life Sciences. Also serving 18 months for rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab supplier.

•Mel Broughton, DJ8216, HMP The Mount, Bovington, HP3 ONZ, England. Serving four years for conspiracy to cause explosions.

•Rae Newlands, GN6613, HMP Holloway, London, N7 0NU, England. On remand for various charges including bomb hoaxes, arson, criminal damage, harassment and conspiracy.

•Geert Waegemans, Begijnestraat 42 2000, Antwerp, Belgium. Serving four years for an attempted arson. Awaiting sentencing for four more arsons.

Anti-Globalization

•Rob Middaugh, #6859467, POB 5000, Delano, CA 93216-5000, USA.



Sentenced to three years for his involvement in the Mayday 2001 *Reclaim the Streets* celebrations in Long Beach, California.

•Robert Thaxton, #12112716, OSP, 2605 State St., Salem, OR 97310, USA. Serving a seven-year mandatory minimum sentence for throwing a rock at a cop at the Eugene, OR June 18, 1999, *Reclaim the Streets*.

MOVE

MOVE, an eco-revolutionary group, was persecuted by the Philadelphia police during the '70s, culminating in the police bombing their commune in 1985. The "MOVE 9" were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 100 years each. You must write each MOVE member separately.

•Debbie Simms Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308 and Janine Phillips Africa, #006309, SCI Cambridge Springs, 451 Fullerton Ave., Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238, USA.

•Michael Davis Africa, #AM4973 and Charles Simms Africa, #AM4975, SCI Grateford, POB 244, Grateford, PA 19426-0244, USA.

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Camp Hill, PA 17011-0200, USA.

•William Philips Africa, #AM4984 and Delbert Orr Africa, #AM4985, SCI Dallas, Drawer K, Dallas, PA 18612, USA.

•Mumia Abu-Jamal, #AM8335, SCI Greene, 175 Progress Dr., Waynesburg PA 15370, USA. Mumia, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981.

Indigenous

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. An American Indian Movement activist, serving life in prison after being framed for the murder of two FBI agents at the Pine Ridge siege in the 1970s.

•Eric Wildcat Hall, #BL-5355, Unit I/A 10745 Rt. 18, Albion, PA 16475-0002, USA. Serving 35-75 years for helping ship arms to Central American indigenous activists.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Prison Activist Resource Center (PARC), POB 339, Berkeley, CA 94701; www.prisonactivist.org

•North American Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, POB 50082, Eugene, OR 97405, USA;

naelpsn@tao.ca; www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

announce

April Action for Peace

April 13-14 · Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Come to the last full-scale operating nuclear weapons production plant in the US, the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Say no to US global domination and nuclear weapons. President Bush has declared 2002 to be a "war year." We join together to make a stand for peace. While patriotic fervor continues to be stoked, the nuclear weapons budget has gone up again. The Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge has started a 10-year, four billion dollar modernization of Y-12—plans call for complete replacement of the weapons manufacturing facilities.

There will be marching, dancing, music, nonviolence training, food, excellent speakers and a chance to network. This third annual April Action for Peace in Oak Ridge will also provide an opportunity for those who wish to express their conscience through civil resistance and direct action to do so. For more information, contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, POB 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831; (865) 483-8202; paloma@stopthebombs.org; www.stopthebombs.org.



Reclaiming the Concept of Forest Restoration

April 18-20 · University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado

Federal land management agencies have reached a crossroads. Will they design and implement restoration programs that are guided by ecological principles or commodity-driven projects under the guise of restoration? During this conference, the nation's leading conservationists, scientists and practitioners will help redefine the core concepts underlying restoration. Discussion will address current restoration needs and priorities, innovative solutions and current policies that are helping or hindering efforts to protect and restore our public lands.

For more information, contact Jeanette Russell, National Forest Protection Alliance, (406) 542-7565; nfp@forestadvocate.org; www.forestadvocate.org.

12th Annual Heartwood Forest Council

May 24-27 · Camp Rivervale, White River, southern Indiana

Join us for a National Forest Council: a national gathering for forests, democracy and justice. There has never been a more compelling need for real defenders of our homeland to share our knowledge and to combine our forest protection efforts with the larger movements for peace, justice and ecological wisdom. Only through this spirit of unity can we craft the strongest strategies, messages and successes.

It is time. Time for personal and cultural transformation; time to work together for peace and freedom; for mutual respect and cooperation; and for survival—for all of our relations—birds, bears, bees; rocks, rivers, trees.

For more information, contact Heartwood, POB 1424, Bloomington, IN 47402; (812) 337-8898; www.heartwood.org.

Eastern Forest Defense Direct Action Camp

May 28-June 3 · Indiana

The great forests of Eastern Turtle Island can and will recover if given a chance. However, an impressive array of greedheads stand in the way of Eastern forest recovery. In fact, these entities are actively destroying the struggling remnants of the great Eastern forests.

The US Forest Service, the pulp and paper industry, developers, strip miners, genetic manipulators and other greedy industrialists are daily engaged in wanton acts of destruction against our beautiful and biologically diverse Eastern forests.

All activists, forest dwellers and concerned citizens ready and willing to act on behalf of our forests are invited to attend. We want to focus on evolving nonviolent direct action tactics. We would like to share the latest skills in treesitting and road blockades... and come up with new ideas unique to our ecosystems.

You can also support this Direct Action Camp by donating money, action gear or time as a volunteer trainer or skilled facilitator.

For more information, contact the National Forest Protection Alliance, POB 1891, Charlottesville, VA 22903; (434) 971-5990; scurry@firstva.com; www.forestadvocate.org.

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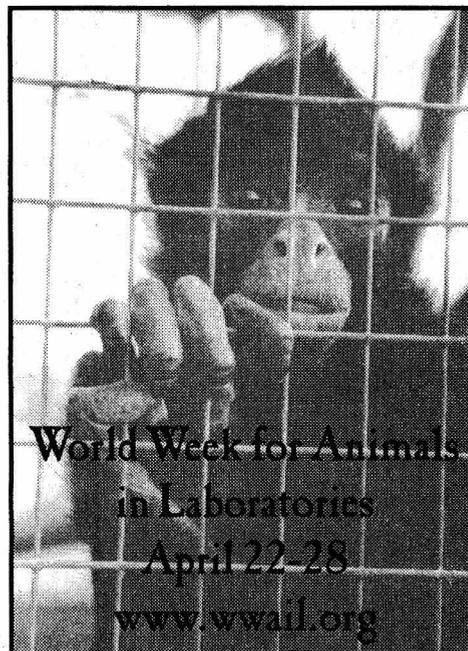
We Want You!

The *Earth First! Journal*, located in sunny Tucson, Arizona, has an opening for a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you.

Being a part of the *Journal* is full of rewards—working on a consensus basis with a tight six-person collective among a supportive community to publish a magazine essential to the radical environmental movement.

Our new long-term editor ideally will have publishing experience, be personally compatible with existing staff, have pounds of patience, be computer literate, have excellent editing skills and a sense of humor. As a collective, all of the work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required!

To apply, send your resumé and a letter of interest to the *Earth First! Journal*, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702. Please forward a writing sample, activist history and the names of some EF! activists who can vouch for you.



World Week for Animals
in Laboratories
April 22-28
www.wwal.org



PEACE JOURNALISM IN COSTA RICA

Radio for Peace International (RFPI) and the International Center for Human Rights in Media present a 10-week study course covering social justice, human rights, ethics in journalism, history of racism and xenophobia in media, researching and documenting intolerance in media and radio and news production. Session start dates for 2002: March 24, June 9 and September 1. For more information, contact RFPI, SBO 66, POB 025292, Miami, FL 33102; (506) 205-9092; www.rfpi.org/ipc.html.

Festival del Pueblo

May 1-5 · Boston, Massachusetts

This festival is an attempt to build links between the “protest movement” and more community-oriented initiatives, without compromising the militant flavor of the large mobilizations. It is a recognition of the need to reconcile the emerging anti-capitalist and anti-war movements with the day-to-day struggles of our communities. It is also a recognition that the myriad of struggles and issues, ranging from environmental to labor, can all be attributed to one root cause: capitalism.

During the five-day festival, there will be a wide variety of events, including a homebrew festival, book fair, free school, speakers, music, training, theater, marches and a revolutionary soccer tournament.

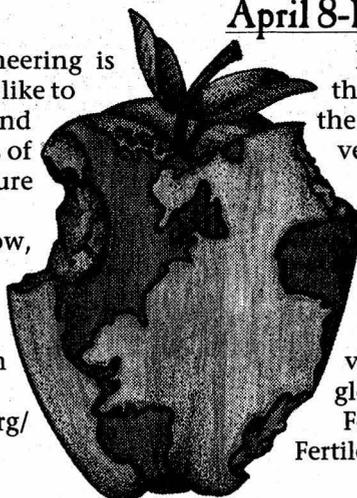
For more information, contact *Festival del Pueblo*, c/o *Barricada*, POB 73, Boston, MA 02133; festivaldelpueblo@hotmail.com.

Midwest Anti-GE Roadshow April 2002

Road Resistance Against Genetic Engineering is touring the midwest this Spring. We would like to bring our colorful, dramatic, humorous and well-informed presentations on the threats of genetically engineered foods and agriculture to your community.

Through radical cheerleading, a slideshow, skits, short talks and puppets, our multimedia show entertains, informs and works to build the base of resistance to genetically engineered foods and agriculture in the midwest.

For more information, visit www.stlimc.org/roadrage.html.



Beyond the UN Biodiversity Summit April 8-19 · The Hague, The Netherlands

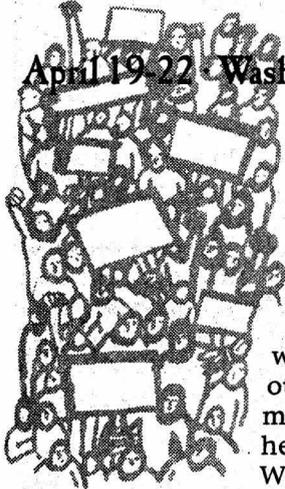
In April, the UN circus will be contemplating the state of the world's biodiversity resources at the COP6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). After years of negotiations, the CBD will soon have two legally binding international protocols, the Biosafety Protocol and “The Law of the Seed.” Neither has the power to stop the spread of genetically modified organisms.

Actions, workshops and festivities on biodiversity, food and agriculture in this era of globalizing capitalism are scheduled.

For more information, contact Resistance is Fertile, rif@gn.apc.org; www.resistanceisfertile.org.

April Break the Bank Protests

April 19-22 Washington, DC



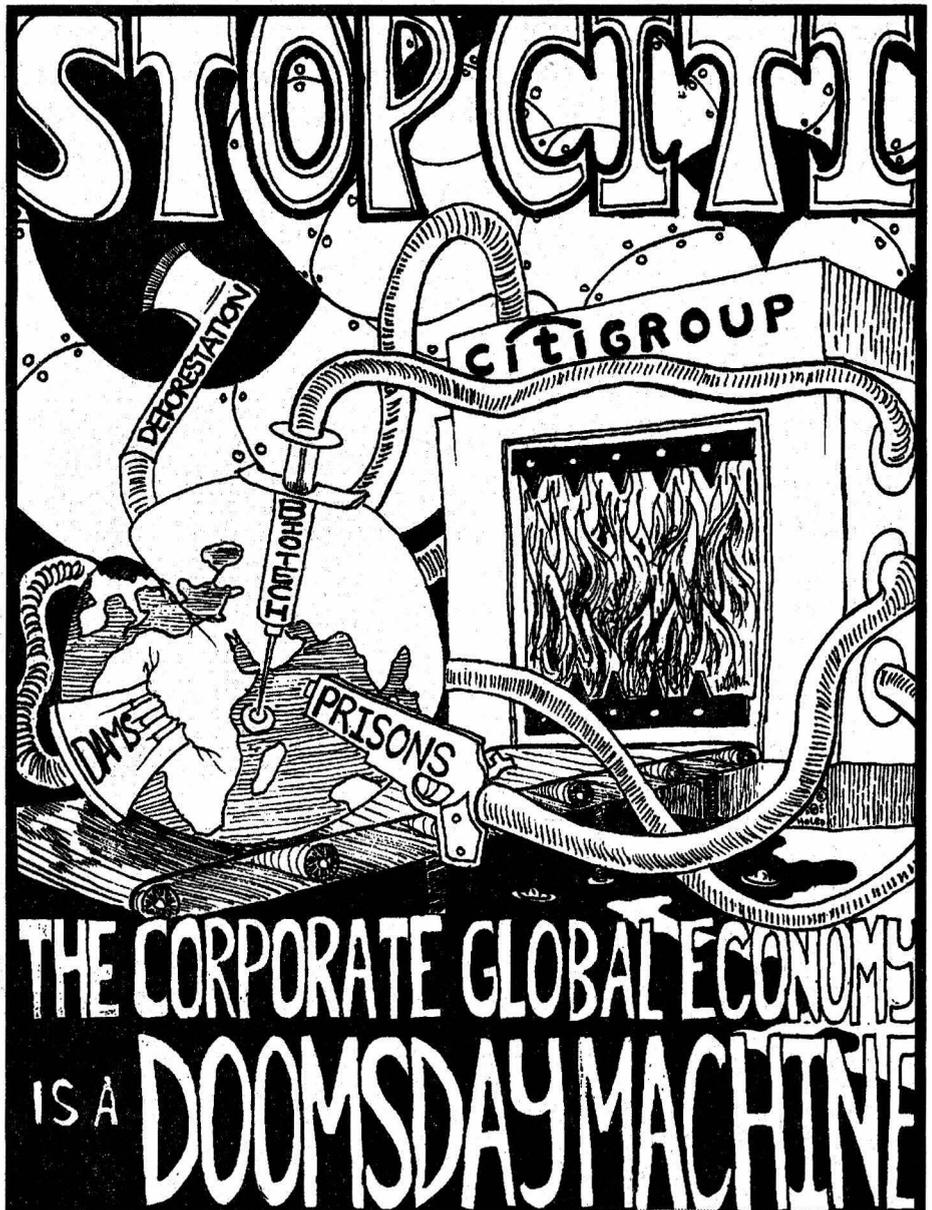
On April 20-21, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) will hold another round of meetings at their headquarters in Washington, DC.

These meetings come in the wake of the economic crisis in Argentina, where the free-market policies pushed around the world by the World Bank and IMF unraveled, destroying the livelihoods of much of the population. They also come after the collapse of the multinational giant Enron. This served as a magnifying glass for the extent of corporate power and crookedness in the US—the country which serves as both model and sponsor for the agenda of corporate globalization.

The Mobilization for Global Justice calls on activists to assemble in Washington, DC, on the weekend of April 19-22 for a protest against the World Bank and IMF. Now is the time to show there is an alternative to a world of poverty and instability.

That same weekend, several protests against different forms of US militarism will also take place against Plan Colombia, School of the Americas and the War on Terrorism. The Mobilization for Global Justice would like to endorse the idea that these are all part of the same movement. The military arms of US domination abroad work hand in hand with economic institutions like the World Bank and IMF. The Mobilization for Global Justice encourages all those who come out to protest the World Bank and IMF to also attend these events.

For more information, visit www.abolishthebank.org; www.globalizethis.org.



Stop Citi

The corporate global economy is a doomsday machine.

Earth week actions against Citigroup, the world's most destructive bank.

Unite to drive a stake into the heart of the vampire economy.

For more information, contact Rainforest Action Network, (415) 398-4404; organize@ran.org; www.ran.org.

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April 22-26

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Summer Session 2002 offers 30 courses to prepare students to shape future environmental policy. Open to both law and non-law students for auditing, law and graduate school credit.

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COYOTES AND TOWN DOGS

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Contact: Beth Porterfield, 807 G Street Ste 100,
Anchorage, AK 99501; (907) 274-3650; beth@akcenter.org



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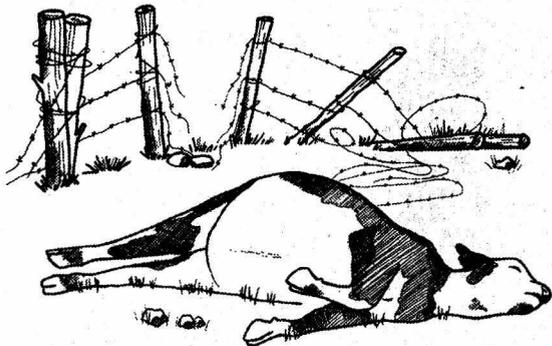
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Earth First!

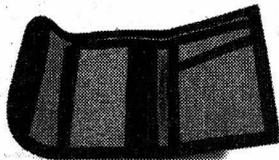
Waste of the West—Public Lands Ranching, by Lynn Jacobs. Encyclopedic overview of grazing. Contains contact list, graphics, charts and maps. It's time to get cows off public lands for good! Nonfiction, large format, illustrated, 602 pages, **\$20**



Enough Rope "Professional Dreamers" CD—**\$10**

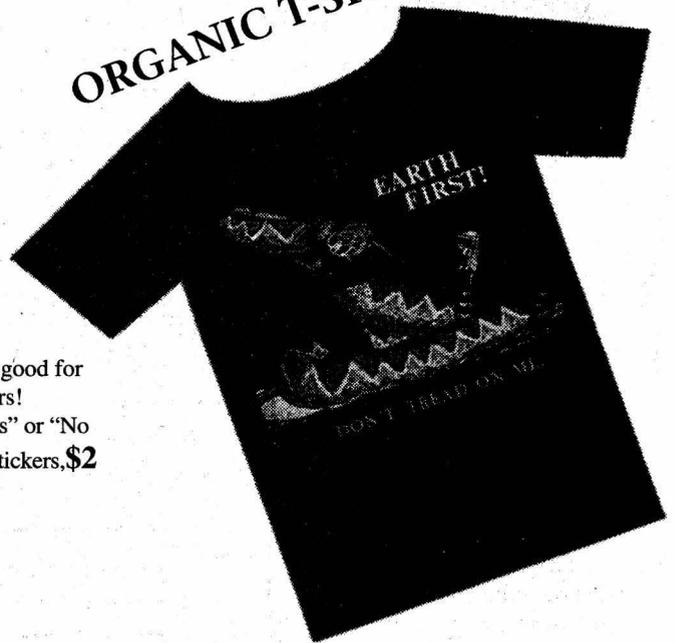


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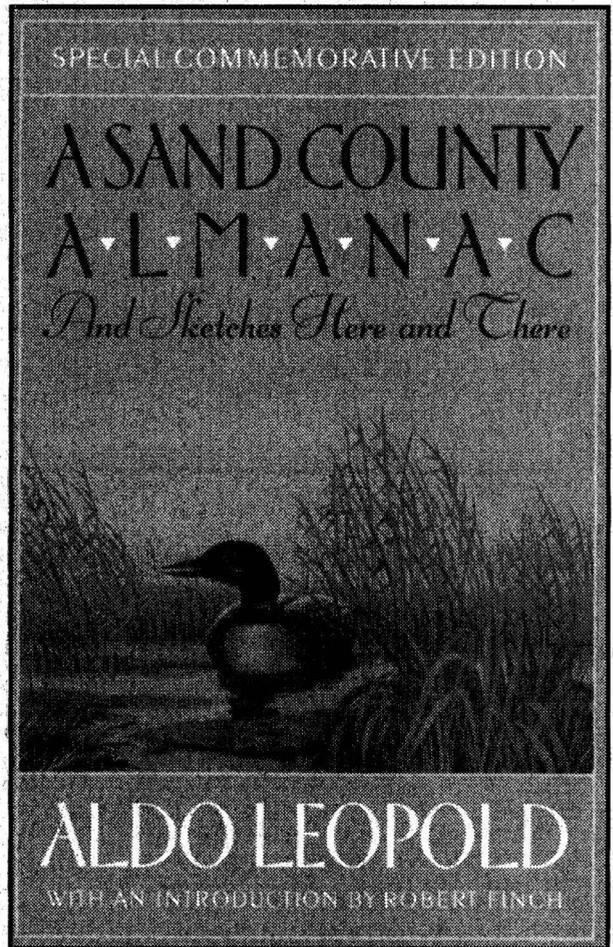
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A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold.
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ALABAMA

University of Alabama EF!
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POB 5564, Phoenix, AZ 85010-5564
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Flagstaff Activist Network

POB 911, Flagstaff, AZ 86002
(928) 213-9507; flagact@infomagic.net

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(510) 848-8724

Environmentally Sound Promotions

POB 2254, Redway, CA 95560
(707) 923-4949; ensopro@asis.com

Fairfax Action Team

POB 393, Lagunitas, CA 94938

Peninsular Ranges EF!

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Gainesville/Ichetucknee EF!

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Gainesville, FL 32601

(352) 373-0010

Alachua EF!

POB 1638, Alachua, FL 32616
(904) 462-3374

Stone Soup Collective

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Oceandream Media Foundation

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Popular Power

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Cascadia Forest Alliance

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Blue Mtns. Biodiversity Project

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Teewinot EF!
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 krstnpnt@netscape.net

Projects & Campaigns

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 POB 7941, Missoula, MT 59807
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EF! Direct Action Fund
 POB 210, Canyon, CA 94516
 tel/fax (925) 376-7329
End Corporate Dominance
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Warrior Poets Society
 POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712-5501
Earth Liberation Front
 www.earthliberationfront.com
North American ALF Press Office
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There is an international Earth First! web page at: www.snet.co.uk/ef/

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ENGLAND
More than 30 Earth First! and radical ecological direct action groups exist in the "United Kingdom." There are also a number of other anarchist/revolutionary groups and projects. For a list or for general news from the UK, contact:
EF! Action Update
 POB 487 Norwich NR2 3AL, 0160-3219811
 efactionupdate@bigfoot.com
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 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB
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 189 San Antonio Ext. SFD
 1105 Quezon City
EF! Campaign East M. Mla.
 POB 176, Tagig Central PO 1632 Tagig, M. Mla.
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 U. Jasna 17, 43-360 Bystra
 tel/fax 48-33-817-14-68;q
 waplenica@pnrwi.most.org.pl
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Rainbow Keepers (Moscow)
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Rainbow Keepers
 POB 52, Kasimov, 391330
 (0913) 14-5-14; rk@lavrik.ryazan.ru
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 greenkorea@greenkorea.org
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 7 38 (044) 265-7628; 550-6068 (fax)
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 Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX
 01248-355821

Send directory changes to:
Earth First! Journal
POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702

EF! KIDZ: Activity Page

ENDANGERED SPECIES UNSCRAMBLE GAME

There are more than 600 species listed as endangered or threatened in the US today. Endangered species are those plants and animals that are so rare they are in danger of becoming extinct. Threatened species are plants and animals whose numbers are very low or decreasing rapidly. The main reason is that people have changed the habitats upon which these species depend. Endangered and threatened species need our help. Have fun trying to unscramble each name next to the picture.

IniofraiCa ordonc



iurowrnbg n low



reeng nad klbca
rwoa rfgo



ikgn tluveur

erd-nkodbeb
norhblil



dre dpnaa



Answers are on page 59.

**IF you have come
to help me you are
wasting your time
But if you have
come because your
liberation is bound
up with mine, then
let us work together**

**ABORIGINAL
ACTIVIST
SISTER**



**СЛАВА ГЕРОЯМ
ПАРТИЗАНАМ,
РАЗРУШАЮЩИМ
ФАШИСТСКИЙ ТЫЛ**

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