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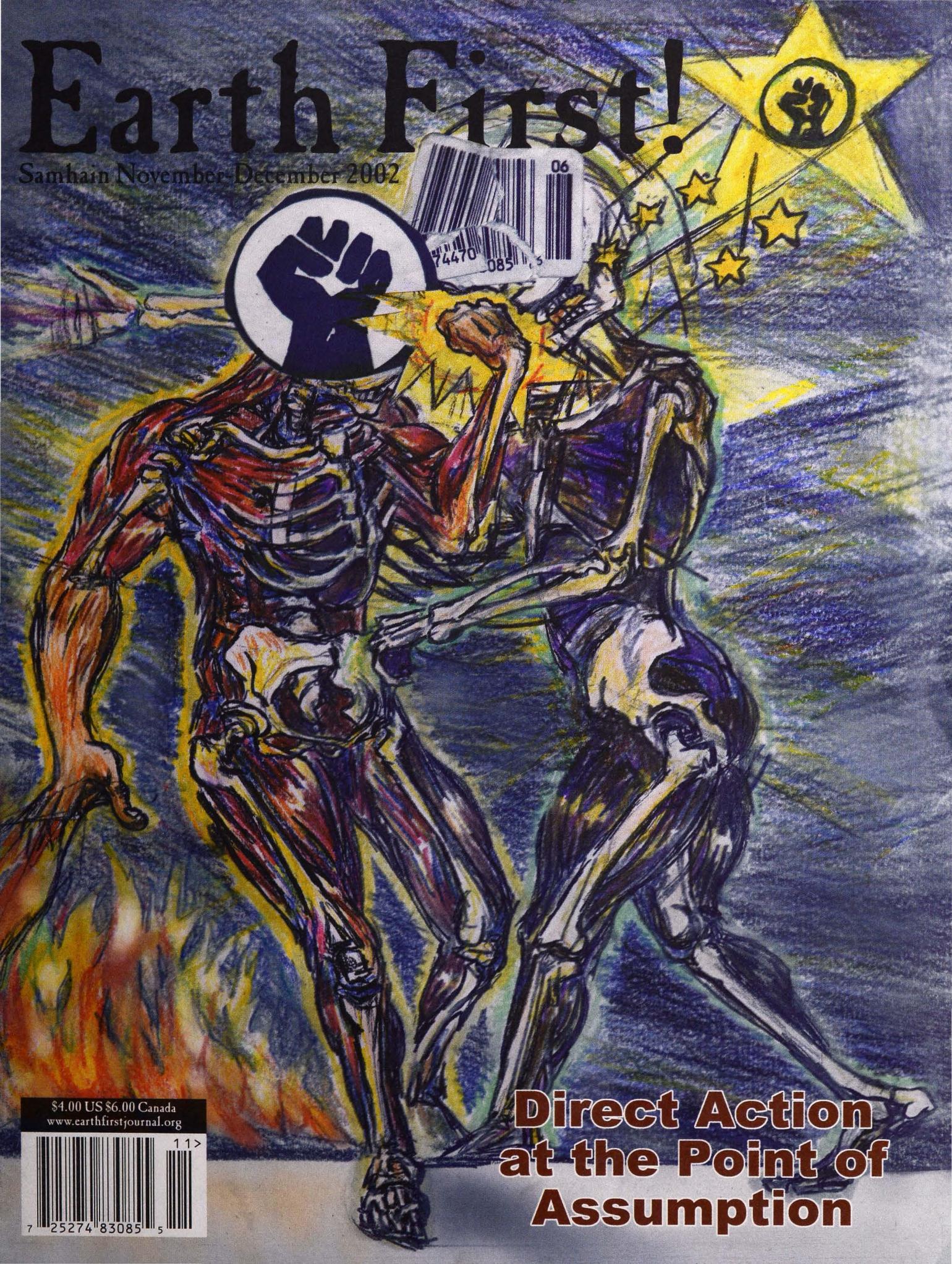
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Earth First!

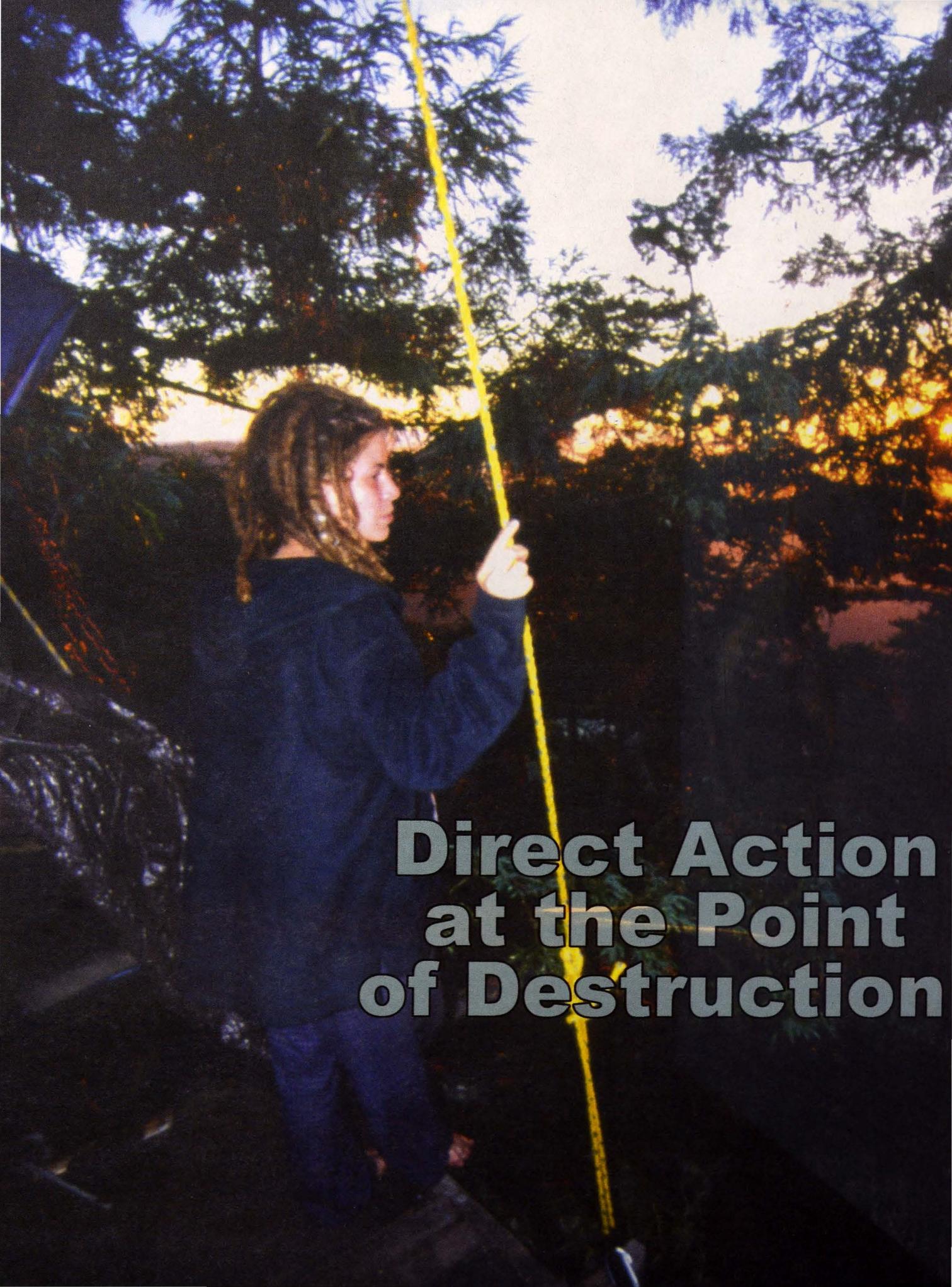
Samhain November-December 2002



**Direct Action
at the Point of
Assumption**

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www.earthfirstjournal.org





**Direct Action
at the Point
of Destruction**

Earth First!

Samhain November-December 2002



The *Radical* Environmental Journal



photo by David Hanks/Global Exchange

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Happy 10th Anniversary Critical Mass!

While cars were motionless at dozens of intersections, thousands of people rode through the streets of San Francisco celebrating the 10th anniversary of critical mass during rush hour on September 27.

Critical mass is decentralized to the point that bicyclists spontaneously organize themselves into groups and ride off throughout the city. During critical mass, people ride their bicycles not just to protest the lack of safety on city streets, not just to stop cars in their tracks, but also to get together for one big, bike-friendly street party.

"I'm here to celebrate community coming together in civil disobedience and to mess things up a little bit!," said Robin Honan of San Francisco, who wore a pink birthday cake on her head.

Critical mass takes place the last Friday of every month and is now celebrated in more than 300 cities worldwide.

Time for a Change!

The crisp coolness of these October evenings tells us that Fall has finally come to the Sonoran desert. It seems appropriate that we have chosen this time to make some changes in the publication of the *Earth First! Journal*.

Presently, the *Journal* is published eight times a year on the equinoxes, solstices and cross-quarter days. At the February Organizers' Conference and in the Beltane issue, we announced our interest in switching to a bimonthly format and requested comments on our proposal. After careful consideration of the feedback we received, the *Journal* collective decided to go forward with the schedule change beginning next issue. The next submission deadline is November 1.

The new publication dates for the *Journal* will be the first day of the odd-numbered months. The cost for a one-year subscription will be \$25—see the subscription form on page 37 for details. Next issue, our cover price on the newsstand will increase to \$4.50. If you are reading a store-bought copy of the *Journal*, we hope you will seriously consider directly supporting the *Journal* with a subscription. Our current subscribers will still receive eight issues.

We are excited about this change to a bimonthly schedule, and we believe it will allow us the opportunity to

publish a more substantial *Journal*. We plan to work on developing more in-depth feature articles, to solicit new and diverse writers and to attend more closely to the administrative side of the *Journal's* production. The current schedule is imbalanced, sometimes allowing six weeks to produce an issue and sometimes only two. The new schedule will give us time to do more outreach and subscription boosting. One of our more potent aspirations is that all of this will be a solid step

toward a healthy, sustainable *Journal* collective. (Which, by the way, we're still looking for a new long-term editor. Could it be you?)

Given that we have already begun work on the next issue, you'll find this issue is a little thinner than normal. Still, it's full of all the information that makes the *Journal* so unique. Our feature article is the first in a series discussing the philosophy and strategy of

movement building. You'll also read about the inspiring victory animal rights activists won when they forced the Coulston Foundation to close its doors in September. And in an interest to remember our EF! history, there is the debut of our "Rekindling the Campfire" column.

Unlike any of the other environmental magazines out there, the *Journal* is accountable to the Earth First! movement—that means you. This is your magazine. So let us know how we are doing, fill out the survey form in the back of last issue or send a letter to the collective.

Thanks for your support and keep up the good fight!

—EF! JOURNAL COLLECTIVE

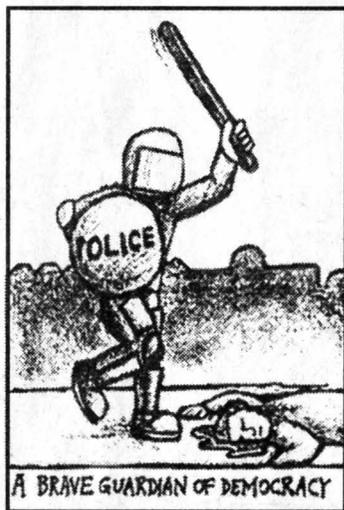


PHOTO CREDITS Front Cover: "Semiotic Jujitsu" by Steve King Inside Cover: Freshwater treesit in Northern California. Photo by Bennett Barthelemy. Back Inside Cover: Wild Rockies EF! lockdown. Photo courtesy of WREF!

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

We welcome submissions of articles, letters, poetry and art that put the Earth first, aid in healthy debate shaping the growth of the movement and advance the creation of a world free of speciesism, racism, sexism, violence, exploitation and oppression.

Article submissions should be typed or clearly printed. Art or photographs are desirable to illustrate articles and essays. We encourage submissions on Macintosh disks or via email. Send a SASE if you would like submissions returned. If you want confirmation of receipt of a submission, please request it.

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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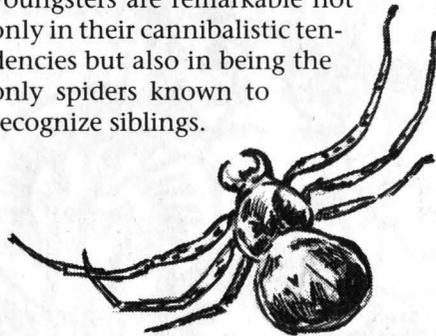


Fauna Cabala ©

BY FAITH WALKER

Female Australian social crab spiders, *Diaea ergandros*, render their ova into baby food. One of only 20 social spider species, it is a sit-and-wait predator rather than a web-builder, swirling silk solely to sculpt nests of eucalyptus leaves. Within a nest a female lays the only clutch of her life, comprising about 45 eggs. She proceeds to coddle her progeny, scrambling to rebuff predators and poaching prey to feed the hatchlings. She meanwhile has food stored away in her ovarian pantry in the form of unlaidd eggs. As the spiderlings mature, these eggs are converted into haemolymph, and her darlings sip this bloody brew from her leg joints. After a few weeks, mother becomes an invalid and is devoured *in toto*. This process can curtail cannibalism among kin, which is common in spider communities. Mothers who store more food engender prolonged nursing, resulting in fewer siblings eating each other.

When they do cannibalize, spiderlings have shifting strategies. Because many females nest on the same tree, spiderlings often join families not their own. Newcomers are allowed because they help to maintain the nest and because they are an emergency food source. When starving, spider outsiders, not siblings, are preferred. Later, however, maturing female spiderlings will opt to eat sisters (who will soon be competitors) and brothers over male strangers, perhaps as a means of outbreeding. Thus, this species' vampirine, mammal-like, matrophagous youngsters are remarkable not only in their cannibalistic tendencies but also in being the only spiders known to recognize siblings.



Forest Defender Dies in Action

On October 8, Ramsey Gulch treesitter Naya, aka Robin B., fell 100 feet from the Esperanza treesit. Esperanza is one of two treesits defending ancient redwoods on private land near Santa Cruz, California. Redwood Empire Company loggers and the property owner found Naya lying at the base of the tree around seven p.m. Initially, he was able to communicate that he didn't know how he had fallen; it was his first day in the treesit.

Naya's heart stopped while he was being airlifted to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. He died that night; just two days before his 22nd birthday. He had recently arrived at Ramsey Gulch after contributing to the Mattole campaign in northern California.

Santa Cruz Earth First! (SCEF!) needs help in locating Naya's relatives. Naya was traveling, and the only thing people know is that he was from Salt Lake City, Utah. If you have any information, contact SCEF! (831) 425-3205.

Dear SFB: Letters to the Editors



Dear SFB,

Over the past several months, it has come to our attention that people are unclear about whether the Earth Liberation Front Press Office

(ELFPO) is still being attended to and what support the ELFPO is continuing to give in the absence of having an identifiable spokesperson.

Although there is no single person who communicates for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF), there are still people working behind the scenes distributing press releases, communiqués and other information to further the stated goals of ELF activists.

We remain steadfastly committed to disseminating information as it becomes available and updating the ELF website (www.earthliberationfront.com). We recognize that over the past few months, communications and website updates have been inconsistent,

and this will be corrected in the upcoming weeks as we receive communications about actions.

We will only conduct interviews via email at the current time as those who are working on the ELFPO wish to remain anonymous to the media and the general public. Please forward requests for media interviews to elfpress@tao.ca.

Further, the North American ELFPO wishes to restate its commitment to supporting actions that fall within the guidelines as stated in ELF materials and on the website, which are:

- To inflict economic damage on those profiting from the destruction and exploitation of the natural environment.

- To reveal and educate the public on the atrocities committed against the Earth and all species that populate it.

- To take all necessary precautions against harming any animal, human or non-human.

The ELFPO is a legal, above-ground news service dedicated to exposing the political and social motives behind the covert direct actions of the underground ELF. The ELFPO receives anonymous communiqués from the underground ELF and distributes the message to the media and public nationwide.

—EARTH LIBERATION FRONT
PRESS OFFICE

continued on page 28

Direct Action

at the Points of Assumption

BY JAMES JOHN BELL, J. COOKSON, ILYSE HOGUE AND PATRICK REINSBOROUGH

Meme: a unit of cultural transmission that self-replicates.

SmartMeme: a designer meme that simultaneously destroys and replaces meaning.

At the 2002 Round River Rendezvous in Washington, we, as an organizer trainer collective, participated in an experiment with many other EarthFirst!ers—the multi-day track schedule on movement building. We spent six sessions throughout the course of three days exploring different components of and reasons to build movements. From grassroots organizing, coalition building and media work to analysis, information warfare and the future of the ecology movement—the trainings expanded into a vibrant and participatory dialogue.

As organizers within a transformative subculture, we cannot accept the terms of struggle that have defined protest movements in the past. We must escape the self-marginalization of our protests and strive for some synthesis of possibility beyond the current limited options. Let's pay attention; let's communicate, and while we strive to save the wild places we have left, let's act on a number of different planes—with the consistent goal of shifting the assumptions of global society itself.

Step 1: Devoke the Apocalypse

Current consumer culture is seeding the ground for a familiarity of an impending ecological apocalypse. We see this mass event played out on television, in print and at the movies. No longer do people even question the inevitability of the apocalypse in their mind; rather they seem to be sifting through the possible characters that they might play: "Will I be the hero who escapes death or the whiny person who gets it in the end?" So embedded in our minds are the scenarios, so many times have they been played out on screen for us,

that it takes more than rational thought to reprogram these "future memories." It takes what we have come to call the "psychic break."

The psychic break is the answer to the common activist campfire question: "How did you get radicalized?" It is what happens when the reality we are spoon-fed no longer feels good. It has been likened to blinders being lifted. At different times, mass segments of society can experience a psychic break simultaneously.

When this happens, a "tipping point" has been

reached. Originating in epidemiology, the tipping point describes the exact moment when a disease becomes an epidemic. A broader definition explains that small changes will have little or no effect on a system until a critical mass is reached. Then, one more small change will "tip" the system and a large effect is observed.

The tipping point is a term that has been popularized through a best-selling book of the same name by *New York Times* science writer Malcolm Gladwell. In his book, Gladwell explores the dynamic nature of cultural fads and value systems by applying the epidemiological lens. We must organize toward the tipping point of the psychic break with the status quo. For at the moment when this happens, potential exists for a fundamental reordering to take place—of economies, communities and our cultural

stories that people's values are based upon. In order to be able to facilitate these opportunities, we must have a comprehensive and incisive analysis of where we should be directing our energies into action.

Step 2: Interconnect Multiple Direct Action Strategies and Tactics

Direct action—action that either symbolically or directly shifts power relations—is an essential transformative tool. Direct action can be both a tactic within a broader strategy or a political ethic calling to fundamentally change power relations at the deepest level. As we



endeavor to link systemic change with tangible short-term goals, we must seek out the points of intervention in the system. These are the places that when we apply our power—usually through revoking our obedience—we are able to leverage change.

Traditionally, strategies of direct action have been conceived and enacted within the confines of a specific campaign. Thus we tend to engage in actions tree by tree, mill by mill, store by store, global meeting by global meeting—a series of strong threads but not woven together across campaigns or across borders.

The power of direct action exists in its ability to seize a culture's predominant influence—to challenge its hegemony. This word, from the Greek *hegemonia* meaning "leadership," is defined as the ruling influence of an empire, state, region or group. Direct action, if only for a moment, seizes leadership and thus injects into the public sphere a competing discourse—a strand of a new reality that has the ability to ripple outward.

The illusion of "global progress"—corporate globalization and consumer capitalism—now penetrates all arenas of life. It has in the truest sense taken on a life of its own by invading the thought space of the individuals that make up US consumer culture. These stories of global progress permeate our daily existence and tell us that nature is a commodity, consumption is expression and monoculture is normal. This discourse of unlimited global progress is not being directed from a centralized seat of power. Rather, it is living in and being reflected from business, politics and culture. In practical terms, this means that it becomes increasingly difficult to accomplish the type of sweeping changes necessary to face the ecological crisis by targeting an individual person, government or corporate entity.

These cultural stories also make it so that no amount of data, no matter how true, can change a person's values. As activists we need to spend less time compiling reams of data and more time rewriting our cultural stories—the very mythology that society gets its values from—and do it quick.

Part of the cultural reinforcement of the current system lies in mass communications. State propaganda, the corporate media, consumer advertising and other narratives don't control *how* people think. They control what people think *about*. The challenge of future direct action is thus not to change people's minds but rather the conditions that make thinking possible. French critic and philosopher Michel Foucault puts it thus, "The problem is not changing people's

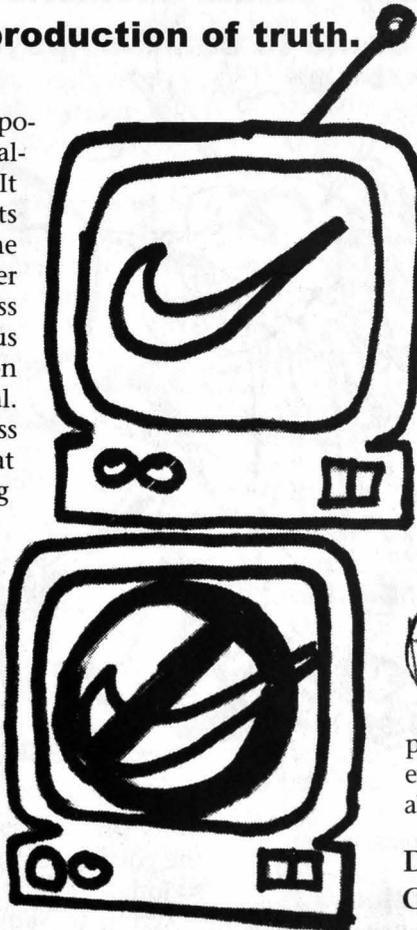
consciousness but the political, economic, institutional regime of the production of truth."

Since there is no single controlling center within modern capitalist societies, the strategic goal of direct action becomes one of locating the points of influence within the system that can re-pattern reality. We discuss five such points in this essay: destruction, consumption, decision, assumption and potential.

Intervention at all these points through direct action will inject into societal discourse the threads of a new reality and weave a new pattern of thought. The poet-philosopher Goethe compares the coalescence of our mental conceptions to many

threads subtly woven together into patterns that gradually display themselves. Direct action, when contextualized within this framework, succeeds in uniting the myriad of strands in our movement into the thought pattern of a new cultural, economic and political reality.

The illusion of "global progress"—corporate globalization and consumer capitalism—now penetrates all arenas of life. The problem is not changing people's consciousness but the political, economic, institutional regime of the production of truth.



Direct Action at the Point of Destruction

Some of our most successful actions have brought attention to the system's most blatant and gross injustices—the "points of destruction/production." We become the frontline resistance by placing our bodies in the way of the harm that is happening—like trees that stop clearcutting. This polarizes the debate in an effort to attract the spotlight of public attention to a clear injustice.

Direct action at the point of destruction is critical to confront the world's grave injustices and immediately alleviate desperate suffering. It has also served to organize and mobilize many communities by providing a point of common interest—survival. However, this form is inherently limited in its ability to tackle systemic issues.

Direct Action at the Point of Consumption

"Point of consumption" campaigns have provided inspirational opportunities to stand in solidarity with communities fighting at the point of destruction and to reframe one's own individual identity away from the "consumer" culture prevalent in the global North. These campaigns have included consumer boycotts, attacks on corporate brand names and targeting the retail sector as a way to shut down the markets for destructive products. Activists

continued on next page

Direct Action

continued from previous page

have forced universities to cancel clothing contracts from sweatshop retailers. Likewise, forest activists have forced major outlets to stop selling old-growth forest products by engaging in direct actions aimed at tarnishing companies' media profiles and market shares. Attacking the point of consumption expands the arena of struggle to mobilize individuals by showing them that their consumer choices and actions do matter.

Direct Action at the Point of Decision

The "point of decision" has always been a common and strategic venue for direct action. Whether it's taking over a slumlord's office, a corporate boardroom or the state capital, many successful campaigns have used direct action to put pressure on the key decisionmakers in destructive projects. In the past few years, mass actions have been organized at the "points of decision" such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Bank meetings, G8 summits and free trade negotiating sessions. These demonstrations have re-defined popular perceptions of globalization and free trade by showing that institutions like the WTO are ruled by corporations that have usurped decision-making power from people.

Direct Action at the Point of Assumption

All successful direct actions ultimately challenge assumptions. Targeting assumptions themselves is the act of taking on the framework of myths, lies, loyalties and flawed logic that normalize injustice. Successful direct actions at this point identify, isolate and confront the big lies that maintain the status quo. A worthy goal for these types of actions is to encourage the most important act that a concerned individual can take in an era defined by systematic propaganda—to question!

No longer do people even question the inevitability of the apocalypse in their mind. So many times have they been played out on screen for us, that it takes more than rational thought to reprogram these "future memories." It takes what we have come to call the "psychic break."



We must become skilled at using this tactic to decolonize people's revolutionary imaginations by linking analysis and action in ways that re-frame issues and create new political space. One example was the 1981 Earth First! action at Glen Canyon Dam. At a time when most wilderness preservation groups were limiting their actions to fighting new dam construction, Earth First! symbolically "cracked" the dam by unfurling a 300-foot-

long plastic banner from the top of the structure, creating an image of a fissure down the concrete face. This simple symbol sent a powerful message that advocates could and should be calling

for the removal of big dams and the re-wilding of those rivers. Until

then, the corporate paradigm of dominating nature had rendered the question of removing a mega-dam unthinkable—it was

beyond the realm of imagination. The "cracking" action challenged that assumption and created a new political space to forward that agenda.

Direct action at the point of assumption has taken many forms—creating new symbols, embodying alternatives or sounding the alarm. In 1994, when the Zapatista ski mask gained international notoriety, Subcomandante Marcos wrote of the

irony that this symbol of anonymity had made visible to the government the indigenous people it had ignored for so long.

Acting to subvert basic belief systems provides new opportunities to expand the traditional arenas of political discourse because it allows us to choose the terms and locations of engagement. Effective point of assumption actions can transform the mundane into a radical conversation starter. For instance, putting a piece of duct tape across a prominent logo on your clothing can invite a conversation about corporate commodification. Such actions can be easily incorporated into everyday life.

Direct Action at the Point of Potential

Every time we successfully change assumptions, we open up the potential for the replacement of society's destructive institutions. By playfully constructing "futures in the present," we nurture visions that refuse conventional notions of politics. These stories portray images of the future, as well as pathways that could lead us from where we are now to that future world.

A classic example of direct action at the point of potential took place during Cascadia Forest Defenders' defense of Warner Creek in Oregon's Willamette National Forest. Earth First!ers fought this fire salvage sale behind blockades and also by constructing an alternative future when they wrote a recovery plan

titled "Alternative EF: Ecology of Fire." In their future scenario, activists proposed permanent protection of Warner Creek as a Fire Ecology Research Natural Area.

This visionary "educational-agitational" tool won the endorsement of the local community, scientists and national environmental groups. This vision remains, even now, to help establish permanent protection of Warner Creek.

We need to constantly create possible scenarios within our movements for future social and environmental transformation. These actions function as "memories of the future," rehearsing tomorrow in people's minds and reclaiming our ability to shape the future. The best scenarios aren't necessarily those that come true; they are the ones that subvert expectations, providing deep insights into the changes happening all around us. The better the scenarios are, the more they penetrate to the deepest understanding of the present.

Step 3: Strategically Frame Your Targets

"Image events" are actions, visuals or stories that simultaneously destroy and construct new meaning—they are raids on human consciousness. Image events either replace existing sets of symbols or re-define their meanings through humor or shock. Applications of this concept can be seen in what *Adbusters* founder, Kalle Lasn, has dubbed "culture jamming"—methods of subverting corporate propaganda by juxtaposing new images or co-opting slogans. For instance, when we re-write Chevron's advertising slogan to say "Do people kill for oil?" we use the power of corporate images against the corporations themselves.

Tragically, culture jamming often remains in the limited media realm of consumer messages. Our next task is to expand guerrilla meme tactics into other areas of culture and to connect them with long-term strategies to build grassroots power.

We must not let go of the fact that there are many powerful industries that do not depend on consumer approval. Perhaps more importantly, going after the corporations one at a time limits the scope of possible change. Our movements need to contest the corporate monopoly on meaning and jam the controlling mythologies of consumer culture, the corporate empire and pathological capitalism. The corporate take over has gotten so blatant that we need to openly attack the symbols used to perpetrate anti-life values, greed and consumer capitalism.

Step 4: Weave a Tapestry—Build a Movement

All of these points of intervention in the system are critical; the best strategies unite efforts across them. Potential targets to consider: the idea of corporate rule, notions forming our "separation" from nature, the concepts of unlimited growth, technological progress and consumer identities. This is uncertain work. Remember, these are fluid distinctions. One activist's point of destruction is another person's point of potential.

There is no way to know what will cause the psychic break. Tipping points are hardly a science. Rather than being disempowering, this uncertainty should appeal to the activist's innate sense of adventure and creativity. This is truly uncharted territory of social action—the realm of the collective imagination.

When asked what he would do if he knew the world would end tomorrow, Martin Luther said, "I would plant a tree." This action represents the height of potential! At the same time, though, it inherently subverts the assumption that the world is going to end. It functions at a multiplicity of points. If Luther planted his tree in a clearcut, it would be at the point of destruction as well. It is these crystallizations of

actions at multiple points that allows us to challenge assumptions.

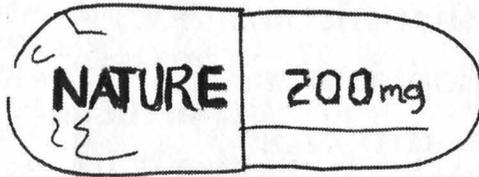
Living at such a critical time compels us to search for those convergence points and exploit them.

With this effort, we hope to expand the current debates and push our movements to

explore new frontiers of struggle. We hope to provoke further and deeper action, as well as to challenge all of us to weave these actions together and provide a tapestry of reality more vibrant and compelling than the one that is currently unraveling.

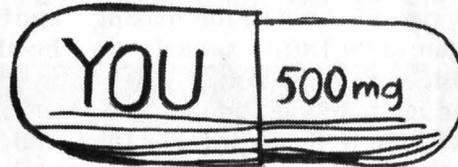
This essay represents the collective evolution of thinking and writing by James John Bell, J. Cookson, Ilyse Hogue and Patrick Reinsborough—the SmartMeme Project. To participate in strategizing and discussing these ideas, contact patrickr@riseup.net; www.smartmeme.com. Future issues of the Earth First! Journal will feature new essays, and look for this workshop to be expanded upon at the upcoming 2003 Organizers' Conference.

HAD ENOUGH TIME



OUTSIDE TODAY? *skizze*

FEEL YOURSELF



EVERY DAY. *skizze*

At the Point of Potential...

Dam Pushers Cork

BY STEVES

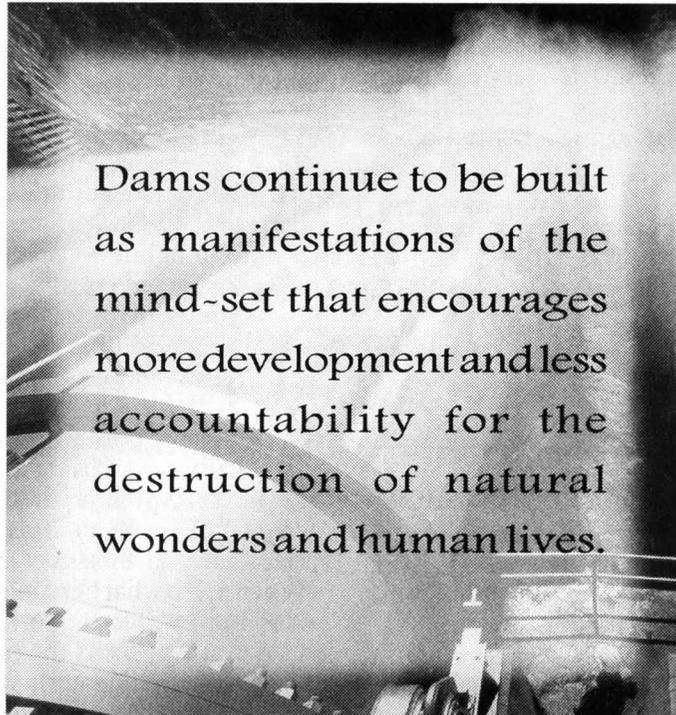
Large dams seem to have more of a purpose in symbolizing power than in actually producing it. Dams continue to be built as manifestations of the mind-set that encourages more development and less accountability for the destruction of natural wonders and human lives. Often, large dams are expressions of an industrial epoch of imperialism, serving the imagination of an individual or nation's ego, along with corporate profit and power.

Worldwide, 45,000 large dams have flooded traditional indigenous lands and critical wildlife habitat. Close to 80 million people have been displaced by dams during the last century of intensive dam building. Relocation efforts have focused on the physical removal of people from their lands but not the restoration of their livelihoods. Not surprisingly, the people who lose their homes are rarely a serious part of the decision-making process. Obviously, the welfare of the Earth's natural state is not an overwhelming consideration. The iron triangle of governments, industries and international funding institutions like the World Bank seldomly, if ever, includes the people's interests nor heeds the recommendations of non-governmental organizations. Neither is it affected by the outcry of human rights and environmental groups.

The World Commission on Dams (WCD) is a respected organization spearheaded by Nelson Mandela to monitor the reasoning behind and physical construction of dams. WCD research has proven that large dams have consistently failed to produce as much electricity or control as much flood water as their backers and builders propose. The WCD has also found that the social and environmental impacts of dams, including the possibility of a dam burst, have been inaccurately assessed and accounted for.

Itoiz: Basque Country

The Itoiz dam, in the Basque region near northern Spain, has been the subject of sustained protests for several years. Construction on the dam began in 1994. When filled, it will flood a 22-mile-long valley. Not only is this valley an environmentally sensitive area, it also contains nine villages that will disappear.



Dams continue to be built as manifestations of the mind-set that encourages more development and less accountability for the destruction of natural wonders and human lives.

Local activists have been organizing to stop the Itoiz dam since 1985. In 1996, activists cut eight cables that were essential to the construction of the dam's foundation and walls. This bold step was carried out by just eight people, one of whom, Iñaki Garcia Koch, was arrested and is now serving a five-year prison sentence (see page 32). The action delayed the project by nine months. Later, in September 1998, two women sabotaged 54 road-building machines used to support dam construction.

In the last five years, the organization Soliderias con Itoiz has moved the struggle to an international level with solidarity demonstrations throughout Europe, some of

which have drawn crowds of more than 15,000 people. On June 20, 2000, the group constructed a brick wall at the entrance to the Spanish embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands, attempting to symbolize what it is like to wake up and find yourself with an unwanted dam in your neighborhood. They have also climbed to the tops of famous public monuments, including the Millennium Wheel in London, the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin and St. Peter's Dome at the Vatican to call attention to the issue.

The Rupert River: Quebec

The Rupert River is a remote and pristine river in northern Quebec, Canada. The energy giant Hydro-Quebec has been trying for decades to get approval for a project to divert the Rupert, one of the few unimpeded rivers left in North America. Earlier this year, it won the signatures of the Quebec government and the Grand Council of the Cree.

The Cree will receive nearly three billion dollars for the Rupert River, and Hydro-Quebec will build four dams and 51 dikes in order to re-route the river and provide more water to a pre-existing dam. Hydro-Quebec will begin construction after an environmental assessment is carried out by its own employees during the next two years.

The deal was a surprising development since the Cree people have been fighting Hydro-Quebec to keep their sacred land from drowning ever since the first representatives of Hydro-Quebec came knocking decades ago. Adding to the controversy, in some Cree towns, more than half the people abstained from voting in the referendum.

Cultures Worldwide

Dissident Cree, French Canadian locals and a group of eco-tourist companies have formed an alliance, the Rupert Reverence. The group is working with the locals to instill the value of preservation in the area, as well as with uninformed urban populations in southern Quebec.

The chundering power and visual magnificence of the Rupert is a source of pride for traditional Cree. It has come to represent the very beauty of their history as a people. On the other hand, Hydro-Quebec's many dam projects have been a source of national pride for economically-pressured, French-speaking Quebecois. Unless this dam project is stopped, it will be hard for anyone to look at the land in a few years and be proud of what has been done.

Narmada: India

The highly controversial Narmada Valley Development Plan in central India has already begun to displace people who live in this culturally and biologically diverse area. Soon the valley will be completely flooded, and 400,000 people will lose their homes and livelihoods.

The controversy surrounding the placement of large dams on the River Narmada has come to symbolize the struggle for a just and equitable society in India. Author Arundhati Roy has called it the heart of politics and the story of modern India.

In brief, the Indian government has started construction on its plan to build 30 large, 135 medium and 3,000 small dams to harness the waters of the Narmada and its tributaries. The proponents of the dams claim that this plan would provide large amounts of water and electricity, which are needed for farming and development. Opponents of the dams have established that the plans were drawn up using unfounded assumptions of hydrology and seismicity in the area. The cost-benefit analysis is grossly inflated in favor of building the dams.

The construction is causing large-scale abuse of human rights and the displacement of many poor communities. Opponents and neutral scientists alike believe that water and energy can be provided to the people of the Narmada Valley, Gujarat and other regions through alternative

technologies, along with planning processes that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.

As the waters rise around their homes, the families have three choices: move to the slums in the cities, accept a place in a resettlement site or stay at home and drown. Hunger strikes, rallies and a six-year Supreme Court case are culminating now with families choosing to stand in protest in the rising waters rather than leave their homes.

The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) is the main group leading the fight for justice and the right to life for the inhabitants of the Narmada Valley. They have suffered unjust persecution for speaking up in defense of the human victims of the project, as well as the valley itself. On September 5, Earth First!ers occupied the Indian embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands, in an effort to express their solidarity with the NBA.

Gujarat's minister of Narmada irrigation encourages people by saying, "If you have to sacrifice a little bit of your own to help the society, do it gladly, willingly, smilingly." Will the families choosing to drown do it smilingly?

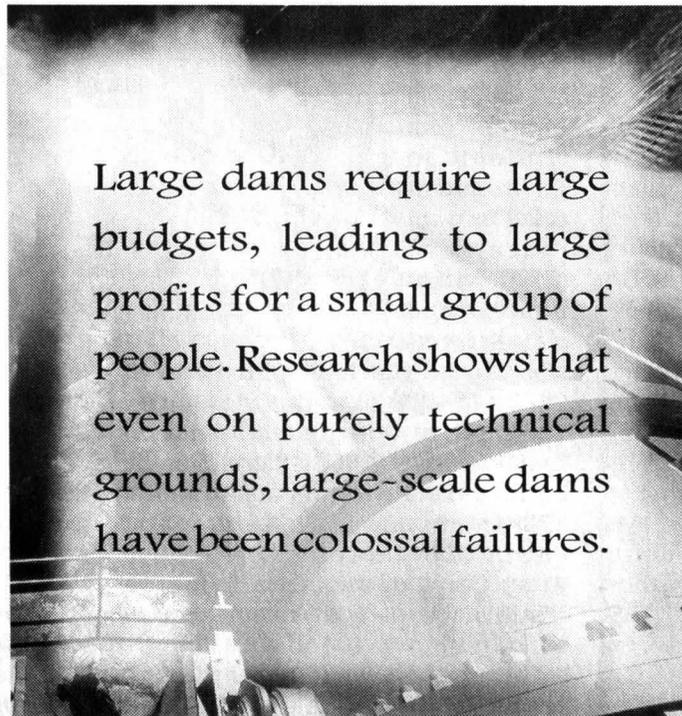
Living Downstream

At a more abstract level, the questions that arise in anti-dam struggles challenge the dominant model of development. This model holds out the chimerical promise of material wealth through modernization while perpetuating an unequal distribution of resources and wreaking social and environmental havoc.

Large dams require large budgets, leading to large profits for a small group of people. Research shows that even on purely technical grounds, large-scale dams have been colossal failures. These dams have had extremely devastating effects on riverine ecosystems and have displaced large numbers of people whose entire ways of living are centered around the rivers. There is no just compensation for damming a river.

For more information on these dams and the resistance movements, visit www.oneworld.org; www.infose.com/rupert/savetherupert.html; www.narmada.org.

The Steves hail from Prescott and Flagstaff, Arizona. They would rather be paddling unimpeded rivers.



Large dams require large budgets, leading to large profits for a small group of people. Research shows that even on purely technical grounds, large-scale dams have been colossal failures.

Slick Dealing in Ohio's Backwoods

BY NATE EBERT

As the leaves begin to change, and the tourists begin to flood the Hocking Hills, some Ohio residents are in an uproar. What's all the hoopla about? How about a 14-inch refined fuels pipeline that impacts more public land than the drummer from Def Leppard could shake a stick at.

Marathon Ashland Petroleum (a company known for its history of oil spills) and its subsidiary, Ohio River Pipeline, have begun construction on a 149-mile-long, 75-foot-wide right of way to install the pipeline. Beginning at a refinery in Kenova, West Virginia, the pipeline would pass through eight Ohio counties and end in Columbus. The Hocking State Forest, Crane



Hollow State Nature Preserve, Clear Creek Metro Park and State Nature Preserve, Richland Furnace State Forest and the Mackey Ford State Wildlife Area are all slated to have the Marathon Ashland pipeline pass directly through them. The pipeline would also skirt within 1,500 feet of the Hocking Hills State Park, Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve, Sheick Hollow State Nature Preserve and the Wayne National Forest. Six of these areas are part of the greater area known as the Hocking Hills, which is some of the most beautiful, rugged terrain in Ohio.

Estimates show that Ohio's current pipelines are capable of delivering an excess of 12,000 barrels a day over what the Columbus market can utilize until the end of the decade. Marathon Ashland's own projections state that this new pipeline will deliver an excess of 60,000 barrels a day until the year 2009.

So what is Marathon Ashland doing? It is controlling the market, destroying some of Ohio's remaining wild areas and threatening the safety of thousands of beings. In addition, the pipeline will pass through private property using eminent domain claims in some of the poorest, most remote areas of

Ohio. It's no wonder that Ohio folks are upset.

Let's take a look at the facts. There has been a four-year legal battle between Marathon Ashland and

Sandstone, which is extremely porous. Any leak in the sandstone area would instantly be absorbed into the water table and poison the drinking water. Red bed clays, which are a highly unstable soil, are found beneath more than 12 miles of the pipeline's path. These areas are susceptible to landslides that could induce some pipeline movement, also resulting in leakage. Other routes which use existing highway and railroad corridors have been suggested to Marathon Ashland, but without an EIS, the company isn't even required to consider alternate routes.

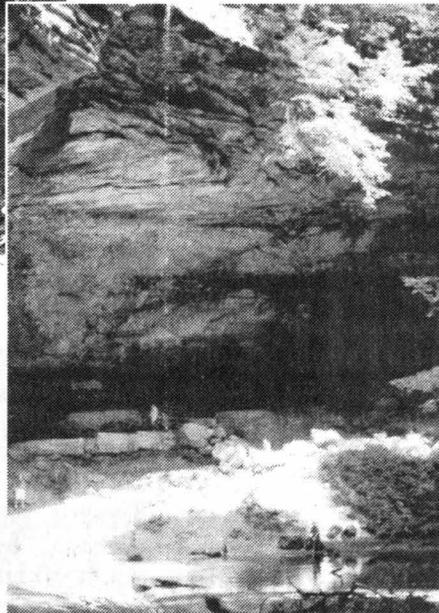
On August 2, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) simultaneously approved construction of the pipeline by issuing the required water

pollution permits. No consideration was given to the public comments, the majority of which opposed the pipeline. A poll showed that 72 percent of the people working for the Ohio EPA believe that the agency was "overly-influenced by political considerations." Well, at least they're honest with themselves. It's just a shame that they can't offer the public the same consideration.

Protecting Ohio's Public Land, Air and Rivers (POPLAR) is committed to stopping this pipeline, and

is looking for dedicated folks that want to work on this issue. For further information and ways that you can get involved, contact POPLAR, POB 571, Athens, OH 45701; poplar@ecologyfund.net; www.gasp.athens.oh.us/poplar.

Nate Ebert is a forest activist based out of Athens, Ohio, who can't get enough of Michael Jackson's "Thriller." He also enjoys extended tromps in the woods and night-time romps through the trash.



Activists are fighting a pipeline that will threaten these Ohio wildlands.

photos by Turtle

its opponents, which has somehow resulted in the approval of the project without an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Marathon Ashland was responsible for 86 pipeline spills between 1971 and 1999, as well as the January 2000 spill in Winchester, Kentucky, that released 500,000 gallons of crude oil into the environment. Although 370 streams and 55 wetlands would be crossed by the current project, the Army Corps of Engineers found no significant impacts that would require an EIS.

This pipeline would travel through 18 miles of vertical Black Hand

Summit + Plunder Plummet

BY A SEED EUROPE

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg is over. Yet, will it really change the future of the world? The systemic problems that lie at the heart of human oppression and ecological destruction were hardly touched upon.

From the start, the WSSD was not about sustainability but about govern-

ment officials and corporate leaders fighting for institutional self interest. Free trade dominated the talks, and there was no consensus on whether the United Nations Multilateral Environmental Agreement should take precedence over the World Trade

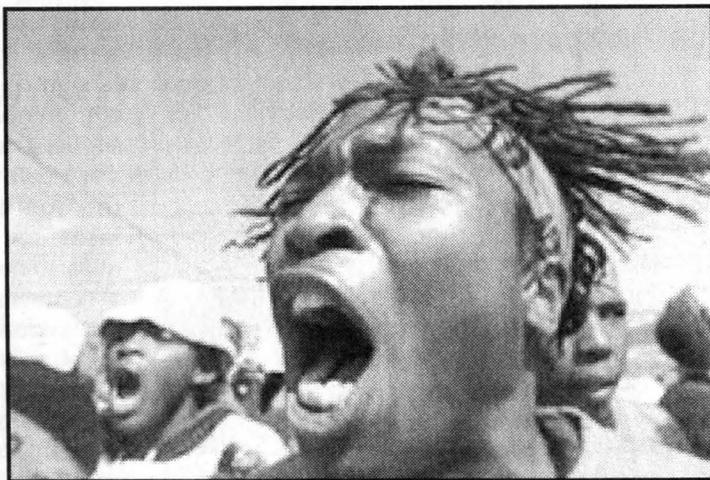
Organization agreement. No decision was made to lower debt for developing countries or to ask governments to fulfill their original Agenda 21 commitments from the Rio Earth Summit to achieve the target of 0.7 percent in Overseas Development Aid.

There are no new binding rules for corporate accountability. The language dealing with subsidies to farmers in developed nations is ambiguous. Even though the Kyoto Protocol was "reaffirmed," all target dates for renewable energy development and implementation have been dropped due to opposition from Japan, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Canada and the US. Instead, the WSSD agreement calls to increase subsidies for "cleaner" fossil fuels and large hydroelectric dams for developing countries.

Biodiversity was devalued during the meetings by governments aiming to reduce the rate of loss rather than end it altogether. The 10-year action program to address over-consumption and damaging production patterns was also dumped.

The only targets agreed on were to cut the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation in half by 2015 and to establish protected marine networks by 2012. One of the few positive outcomes of the conference was when most of the world turned against the US to make sure that genetic engineering was kept out of the text of the final agreement.

The vague and controversial concept of public-private partnerships was a major outcome of the WSSD. These partnerships—governments



Voicing dissent at the WSSD in South Africa

working with local communities, non-governmental organizations and businesses in solving the planet's ills—involve no UN oversight. Partnership proposals revealed that only a few community groups in the global South are considered partners, and less than a dozen partnerships are directed at changing consumption patterns in rich countries. Moreover, the US pushed privatization partnerships in the areas of water, energy, agriculture and forests.

The Congo Basin Initiative is a key example of the Bush Administration's public-private partnership proposal. While supposedly benefiting forest protection and management in the highly diverse Congo basin, the initiative will actually put more money into flawed programs that have not reduced

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BARE BONES

Bush's Fire Plan Passes

Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives have collaborated in drafting HR 5319, legislation that would turn President Bush's "Healthy Forests Initiative" into law (see *EF!* September-October 2002).

While not as drastic as Bush's original proposal, HR 5319 would severely weaken the National Environmental Policy Act by requiring evaluation of only one option, rather than a range of alternatives to find the most environmentally sound choice. HR 5319 also has an overly broad definition of "Wildland/Urban Interface," thus creating the possibility of logging in watersheds and other areas far from the nearest town. Lastly, it would drastically shorten the time period the public has to appeal logging deals and give feedback.

On October 8, the bill passed the House Resources Committee. HR 5319 is expected to pass a full House vote, but it may get held up in the Senate.

Oil Reigns Supreme

In September, an international consortium of oil companies, including BP and Unocal, signed a Host Government Agreement (HGA) with Turkey that permits the construction of a 1,094-mile corridor and oil pipeline.

The HGA exempts the consortium from obligations under any current or future Turkish law that may threaten the project's profits, including human rights and environmental legislation. Other provisions include unfettered access to water and exemption from liability in the event of an oil spill.

The route chosen for the pipeline is one of the most expensive. According to BP Chairman John Browne, the project's profitability will depend on "free public money" provided by funding sources such as the World Bank.

photo courtesy southafrica.indymedia.org

Earth Summit Plummet *continued*

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illegal logging, empowered local communities or enabled sustainable forest management. The US has also dismissed concerns of local environmental groups about corruption in these countries and the close collusion between government officials and timber barons. This is a contradiction to the US government's insistence upon good governance as a prerequisite to a country's eligibility to receive aid.

Even when thousands outside the conference were demonstrating against privatization, big business smugly walked out of the WSSD congratulating the UN on implementing the partnership agreements.

Greenpiss

Greenpeace did its utmost to further marginalize itself when Greenpeace International Political Director Remi Parmentier appeared with Bjorn Stigson, the president of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. This disgusting action clearly shows how hierarchical organizations have a habit of being non-democratic, exclusive and full

of the same power structures that are the basis of repression and exploitation of our planet. Calling on governments to face up to climate change while at the same time standing next to a man who represents most of our planet's oil companies is hypocritical.

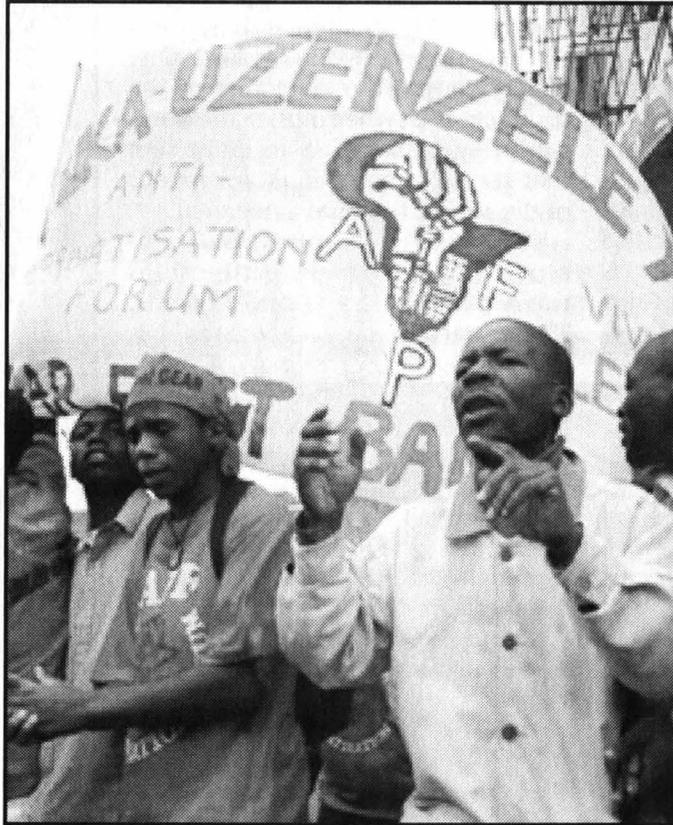
Actions and the Social Movement

The South African social movement waited for the WSSD to show the world what neoliberalism and the corporate mindset are doing to the poor and the environment. Local activists were joined by some international activists and a small Black Bloc. From the beginning, protesters were antagonized by the massive police and army presence reminiscent of apartheid times.

While the largest demonstrations went relatively peacefully, several other protests were met with teargas, water cannons, rubber bullets and beatings. In the conference center, even the slightest actions were forcibly dealt with. Apparently, the South African government and the UN need to relearn the basic principles of democracy, especially ones not synonymous with selling out our future to the greed of big business.

This article originally appeared in the September-October 2002 issue of Roots, the journal of Action for Solidarity,

Equality, Environment and Development (A SEED) Europe. For more information, visit www.aseed.net.



Protesters from the Landless Peoples Movement and the Anti-Privitization Forum, Johannesburg, South Africa, August 27

photo courtesy southafrica.indymedia.org

Rio+20: The United Nations Survival Conference for Rescuing Earth, Water and People

In 2012, Thimphu, Bhutan, will host the Survival Conference for Rescuing Earth, Water and People (SCREWAP)—20 years after the United Nations (UN) Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Bhutan has been chosen due to its location above sea level and to ensure that Southern countries have good representation.

Governments, non-governmental organizations and corporations will discuss issues such as how to prevent the remaining 30 species on the planet from becoming one single species. Moreover, it will be decided whether the UN-World Trade Organization Agreement on the Deregulation of Investment on the Moon and Mars is subordinate to its other agreement regarding the Final Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

Participation costs: A special discount for greenwashed corporate lobby groups and Greenpeace business consultants. Social and environmental activists have to register five years in advance and will not be allowed to participate if they have done any form of anti-social activities, such as waving banners in front of corporations or government institutions. The voices of the poorest will be spoken for, so there is no need for their inclusion. All participants will have to fundraise for their own carbon credits, which go into the Intergalactic Carbon Trading Sludge Fund that has been set up to make sure that we will tackle the problems of climate change in space—when we get there.

For more information, visit www.aseed.net in 10 years.

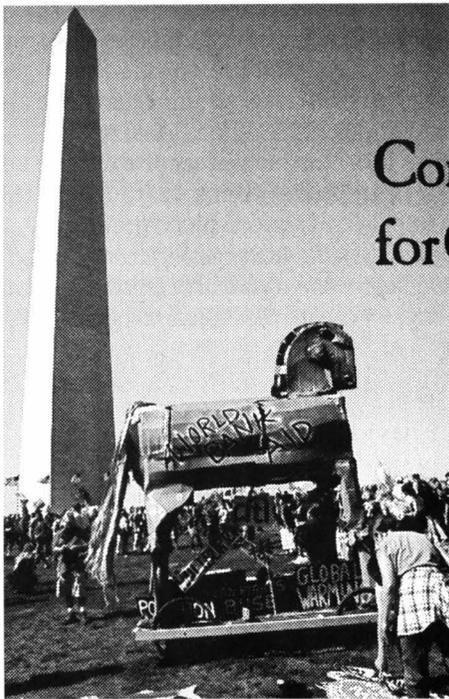


photo by Langesell/ACERCA-ASEJ

Eco-Bloc

Converges on Washington for Global Justice Actions

The Eco-Bloc symbolizes our collective future, prioritizing the voices of those most impacted by ecological destruction. A contingent of people from the global South led the Eco-Bloc, including indigenous people from throughout the Americas. Oscar Olivera, the Bolivian activist who helped to stop the privatization of water, marched, as did activists from Uganda, Indonesia and East Timor. They were present and spoke of the ecological and social impacts being experienced by their communities due to World Bank and IMF policies.

A huge, flowing, blue "living river" courtesy of the Pagan Cluster accented the sea of green that was the Eco-Bloc. There were biodiversity banners, Earth-centered messages, the biohazard-suit-clad Biotech Marching "Banned." The Eco-Bloc also included a giant Trojan horse representing World Bank and IMF pro-oil development policies, and a giant redwood stump from California provided a striking rallying point for Eco-Bloc spokescouncils throughout the day.

The Eco-Bloc was organized around several main themes representing some of the most serious ecological disasters:

- **Biotechnology and the patenting and privatizing of life.** The World Bank is heavily enmeshed in this issue, and there are frequent exchanges in staff between the World Bank and biotechnology industries.
- **Deforestation.** Currently, the World Bank is rewriting its forestry guidelines to allow it to directly fund the logging of virgin tropical rainforests.
- **Fossil Fuels and Global Warming.** The World Bank continues to focus heavily on the development and extraction of fossil fuels, even as the world faces the impending social and ecological fall-out from unmitigated global climate change.
- **Water Privatization.** Fresh water is increasingly being considered the next "oil." World Bank policies that encourage countries to privatize their fresh water are exacerbating the struggle for clean

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BY ANNE PETERMANN, PATRICK REINSBOROUGH AND DOYLE CANNING

Nearly 1,000 eco-activists from around the US came together to form a massive Eco-Bloc at the September 28 direct action to quarantine the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC. The concept for the Eco-Bloc emerged from the reality that we can no longer afford to look at the symptoms of ecological collapse in isolation from their roots in the corporate takeover of the planet.

The Eco-Bloc gave visibility to the fact that economic globalization and corporate rule are incompatible with ecological values. It became a political space that moved beyond single issue environmentalism to bring a strong Earth-centered message to challenge the World Bank and IMF.

In August, activists representing an array of organizations met at the Action for Social and Ecological Justice (ASEJ) office in Burlington, Vermont. There was a sense that the environmental perspective that had been so prominent at the Seattle World Trade Organization meetings in 1999 was missing from subsequent mass actions. Possible ways to reinfuse the global justice movement with an ecological message and how to clearly articulate this message to the public and the media were discussed. As a result, a call went out to ecological activists from coast to coast to come to Washington, DC, in September to form a unified Eco-Bloc.

BARE BONES

Water Wars in California

On September 4, the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians filed a lawsuit in federal court in Los Angeles stating that the government has failed to protect California's Salton Sea.

The Salton Sea, located 120 miles northeast of San Diego, is a 380-square-mile, land-locked lake. Ninety percent of California's coastal wetlands have been filled in, thus making the Salton Sea critical habitat for thousands of migratory birds. However, lacking an outlet to the ocean, the sea has become over-salinized and could become uninhabitable.

The Bureau of Reclamation was required to develop a plan to restore the sea by 2000. The recent lawsuit states that the feasibility studies and Environmental Impact Statement are two years too late.

There is additional controversy surrounding the water that is needed to restore the Salton Sea. Under pressure from other western states, California has proposed a water transfer deal that would cut off the water supply going to the Salton Sea.

The Department of the Interior has threatened to cut back California's Colorado River water allotment as soon as December 31, if the water transfer deal is not finalized by then.

Norway Nixes Dumping

In August, Norway denied permission for a controversial project to dump more than five tons of liquid carbon dioxide into the Norwegian Sea.

Funded by research institutions, scientists theorize that dumping carbon dioxide in liquid form deep into the sea would help to slow global warming.

Environmentalists contend, however, that the project violates international conventions on dumping industrial wastes at sea.

Eco-Bloc continued



photo by Larellle/ACERCA-ASEJ

From inside the "Living River" Pagan Cluster of the Eco-Bloc

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water by peoples in the global South. The United Nations is also complicit by categorizing fresh water as a human "need" rather than a human "right."

The Eco-Bloc was a huge success, bringing together activists from around the world under the banner of "Global Ecology, Global Democracy Now!" The consensus on the street was for a continuation of the Eco-Bloc concept and for future Eco-Blocs to occur at other anti-economic globalization mass actions and protests.

Beyond the Eco-Bloc lies the possibility for "blocs" around a myriad of distinct issues in a rainbow of colors. As we learned, marching together in organized blocs is tremendously empowering. It helps to visually demonstrate our message of unity to the public and the media by showing that economic globalization is the common thread to many different issues.

As we witnessed in Washington, DC, the power of our vision for an ecological and democratic future is a unifying force. By being a massive and organized presence within the larger march, the Eco-Bloc proved itself to be an important anchor both to the direct action and to the call for global justice.

To connect with other Eco-Bloc organizers or to report an Eco-Bloc action in your community, contact Patrick at (415) 722-1846; ASEJ at (802) 863-0571; or eco-bloc@riseup.net.

Anne Petermann is an activist with Action for Social and Ecological Justice, Patrick Reinsborough works with Mobilization for Global Justice and Doyle Canning works with the Biotechnology Project.

World Bank Protesters Faced Mass Arrests

During the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings in Washington, DC, the global justice movement's cacophony of voices was successful in bringing its message to the world, despite facing disruption by the police and mass arrests.

On September 27, 40 members of the Pagan Cluster were arrested while marching peacefully from Dupont Circle. A critical mass-style bike ride to Freedom Plaza was disrupted when police cordoned off some 300 bikers at Pershing Park. Other activists were simply arrested for marching without a permit.

On September 28, 649 activists were arrested preemptively during the People's Strike organized by the Anti-Capitalist Convergence. Arrestees reported that it took some six hours to be processed and moved into a gym before being released.

As a result of these actions, the regular evening news/war pep rally was constantly interrupted with images of people willing to be arrested to fight corporate globalization and Bush's war agenda.

Frontlines

13 Women, 13 Trees

Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) is violating an August 29 court order to stop logging operations on 210,000 acres in Humboldt County, California. In response, 13 women ascended into treesits in the Freshwater, Van Duzen and Mattole watersheds to defend the forests.

Three new treesits are up in the Freshwater treevillage and eight women have joined Remedy and Raven in the logging area. On September 23, 150 people rallied in celebration of Remedy's sixth month in the trees. On the fourth anniversary of the death of David "Gypsy" Chain, 20 activists successfully halted logging for the day. Fifteen forest defenders were cited and released.

On September 9, a treesit was raised in the Mattole to protect a stand of four old-growth Douglas fir trees. Shortly after the treesit began, a lone treesitter was evicted after a standoff with PL's contract henchman Climber Eric. The treesitter locked down to a branch above her head and stood her ground until everything around her was cut away. She was belayed to the ground, and the timber sale was cut.

Climbing High in the Sierras

Forest defenders in the Yuba River watershed of the Sierra Nevada set up a treesit on August 29 to protect 2,880 acres of forest. After the logging started on September 11, a second treesit was built to tie into the first one. Sierra Pacific Industries' helicopters logged every tree within 40 feet of the treesits. The treesitters are continuing their standoff in the longest Sierra treesit to date.

Locked Out and Locked Down

Roseburg Forest Products on September 23 began logging the Peak Timber Sale where Mazama Forest Defenders have been occupying the trees since July. A full closure of the 700-acre area was enforced, blocking the public from witnessing the clearcutting of ancient trees near the two treesits. On September 24, a protester locked down to a back hoe stopping work for the day.

On September 28, 30 local residents rallied at the closure boundary. Law enforcement officers arrested

World Bank Blockaded

BY KAREN PICKETT

The following excerpt was taken from an article that originally appeared in the November-December 1987 Earth First! Journal.

In late September, as international bankers converged on Washington, DC, Earth First!ers rallying in defense of the rainforests also gathered in that concrete jungle. On October 1, about 100 people held a raucous protest in front of the international headquarters of the World Bank. The protest, organized by Earth First!, coincided with the annual meeting of World Bank finance ministers.

Earth First! has played a major role in the rainforest campaign for the past few years, and the World Bank, being the principal funder of rainforest destruction, has been one of our major targets.

The action marked our first attempt to stage a large demonstration and civil disobedience action in an area with few active EF!ers and with no resemblance to the green environment that is our usual stage. It was important for us to do something no other environmental group involved in the rainforest campaign would do—stage

a rowdy protest. Many mainstream environmental organizations and representatives from foreign non-governmental organizations had been invited to parts of the meeting this year as "visitors." Although this is a step in the right direction, we felt that it could create a false picture of the World Bank sitting at the table with environmentalists and solving problems of rainforest destruction. In fact, visitor status does not give the visitor much voice and problems are far from being solved. So we felt it was important that, while some environmentalists were *inside*, others be *outside* protesting, showing the world that we will remain at war with the World Bank as long as they wage war on the environment.

On the closing day of the World Bank meeting, we displayed signs and chanted: "Damn the World Bank, Not the

Amazon!" As the energy peaked, 13 of us linked arms, paraded across the street and sat with our banner, blocking the main doorway to the bank. DC metro police and swarms of bankers watched nervously. During our sit-in, we enjoyed a wonderful echo chamber effect created by the overhanging roof that amplified our chants, carrying them, hopefully, to the inner offices of this tightly guarded building.

The short time we spent in the DC jail was a small price to pay for expressing to the world our opposition to rainforest destruction.

Back issues of the Earth First! Journal are available for five dollars each. Please

inquire for bulk discount prices. Or order our near-complete 22-year set for \$500.



During the World Bank meeting on September 30, 1987, confounded police and tourists looked on as two EF!ers scrambled up the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. They unfurled a banner—"Equal Rights for All Species. Save the Rainforest. Earth First!"—in protest of the World Bank's rainforest-destroying policies.

Frontlines

one activist who broke the closure line and two freelance reporters who swam across the Rogue River to witness the arrest. All three were charged with second-degree criminal trespass and have been released on bail.

Pacific ELF Hits Forest Research Station

The Pacific Earth Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the August 11 arson targeting the US Forest Service Northeast Research Station in Irvine, Pennsylvania. The fire caused \$700,000 in damages and destroyed tree-farming research. According to the communiqué, "This lesson in 'prescribed fire' was a natural, necessary response to the threats posed to life in the Allegheny National Forest by proposed timber sales, oil drilling and greed."

Powerline Target Practice

Since May, insulators on several Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission lines near Oakridge, Oregon, have been shot out, causing an estimated \$40,000 in damages. Investigators believe these shootings were

planned to cause power outages only after the shooter left the area. The first incident, 25 miles east of Eugene, targeted 80 insulators on the Cougar-Thurston line. In nearby Westfir, a shot-out powerline started a fire that halted generation at a powerhouse and caused several power outages.

Protecting the Sacred

On September 16, the Sage Council, a grassroots environmental group in Albuquerque, New Mexico, conducted a press conference at the Petroglyph National Monument to draw attention to a secretly approved road being built there.

The road, which would impact sacred petroglyphs carved by the Anasazi people more than 3,000 years ago, was authorized by the mayor without any public input. During the press conference, 18 trucks carrying asphalt lined up to begin constructing the road for a private land developer along the monument's boundaries. Seven people from the group blocked the construction and were immediately arrested.

victory!

Controversial Primate Lab Shut Down

The Animal Liberation Front (ALF) aims to not only liberate animals from places of abuse but also to inflict economic damage on those who profit from the misery and exploitation of animals.

It was with this latter goal in its sights that the ALF claimed responsibility for a fire at the Coulston Foundation, near Alamogordo, New Mexico, in the early morning hours of September 20, 2001. The fire resulted in one million dollars in damages.

The Coulston Foundation is a biomedical research laboratory, which infects captive chimpanzees with human diseases and breeds them for medical experiments. Founder Fred Coulston began working with chimpanzees in the 1960s after experiments he was conducting on human prisoners were halted. In 1993, the Coulston Foundation was formed when he merged his primate care projects to create the largest colony of captive chimpanzees in the world. At its peak, the foundation had a staff of 120 employees and more than 600 chimpanzees.

According to the ALF communiqué, "We wanted to liberate all these animals, but because of difficulty in moving and sheltering them, we decided the best way to help them was to cause as much economic damage to the Coulston Foundation as possible. We intend for this act of nonviolent economic sabotage to bring an end to this truly evil institution."

At the time of the arson, the foundation was teetering on the brink of financial collapse. Violations of the Animal Welfare Act had been going on for years and had hurt the foundation's ability to attract private clients. The US Department of Agriculture had brought more charges against the foundation than any other research lab. The Coulston Foundation found itself in such a decrepit state that the National Institutes of Health pulled its funding in June 2001. Coulston himself had to provide more than seven million dollars of his own funds to keep the foundation afloat. Baby chimpanzees were sold to cover the employee payroll.

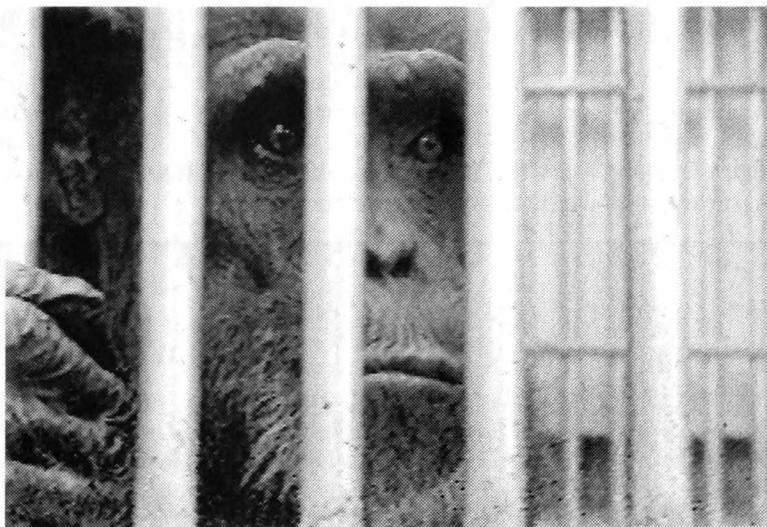
On September 16, the Coulston Foundation announced that it was shutting its doors and that the chimpanzees were to "retire." Following years of pressure from activists, Coulston was throwing in the towel on account of poor finances.

Coulston had tried and failed to locate a buyer for his lab. Then in the Spring, he began negotiating with the Florida-based Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care. The center stepped in and bought the property on the condition that the foundation would release all of its 266 chimpanzees and 61 monkeys to the center's sanctuary.

With the deal now complete, Dr. Carole Noon, founder and director of the center, remarked, "We are thrilled to offer these long-suffering chimpanzees and monkeys the best possible outcome in the nearly decade-long controversy over this laboratory. Now we can begin the process of rehabilitation and restitution for the terrible wrongs inflicted on these individuals in the name of science."

This could very well be the first time that animal rights activists have forced an animal research laboratory out of business. The Coulston Foundation's financial ruin was a

direct result of an unrelenting eight-year campaign—led by In Defense of Animals (IDA) and Animal Protection of New Mexico—that prompted unprecedented regulatory action by the Food and Drug Administration, the US Department of Agriculture and other agencies. Activists utilized diverse tactics ranging from developing a network of employees to serve as whistleblowers from inside the foundation to grassroots pressure applied in the form of protest.



The Coulston Foundation had the largest colony of captive chimpanzees.

photo courtesy In Defense of Animals

Today, Coulston may recall a comment he made in a 1997 *New York Times* article where he stated, "How many chimps do you want? You can raise them like you do cattle. In 10 years, you could have half a million." While his personal dream of cornering the market on chimpanzees has been trampled, and even though these particular chimpanzees will no longer live in isolated prisons of concrete floors and metal walls, the work is far from over.

"Even though the Coulston Foundation is dead, its perverted view of chimpanzees as 'hairy test tubes' lives on," warned IDA President Dr. Elliot Katz. "We will not rest until all research on chimpanzees ends and each one of the 1,400 still imprisoned in labs is forever freed from the horrors of experimentation."

For more information on the Coulston Foundation campaign, visit www.vivisectioninfo.org/Coulston/totalvictory.

NEWS FROM NOWHERE

PO BOX 10384, Eugene OR 97440; thenewsfromnowhere@yahoo.com



Another Newspaper?

We decided that a free paper that covers the many different aspects of creating and living in a non-hierarchical and ecologically just society was really needed. In our quest for a society based on mutual aid and voluntary cooperation without the coercion of a ruling elite we have noticed a solid dogmatism that, quite frankly, we are sick of.

We can not afford to waste our energy on internal struggles and debates about who is more revolutionary than whom. This saps at the very root of our fight for a better world.

We hope to publish various stories whether they are violent or non violent, happy or sad, passive or aggressive, theoretical or practical; for it's from different ideas and dreams that we can create a free world.

Our ultimate goal is a world without wars, poverty, ecological destruction and oppression, where all things, human or not are valued and free to live. We do not wish to continue the hollow lifestyle sold to us by corporate masters. We hope for a world of play and happiness beyond the dull monoculture of this one, where true wildness and the human world coexist equally. It is our intention to publish stories that will help create and maintain these goals.

We most oppose all forms of coercion including the state. We oppose national borders. Ideas of ethnic or cultural superiority recreate the world we hope to escape. Private property and money create social division and injustice.

We live in a complex world, but hope to remind people not to forget to have fun and retain a sense of humor by printing humor, as well as, philosophy, practical ideas and action information. Unless it much easier to just publish Wildcat comics.

It is our belief that in the supermarket of ideas we must learn to steal from everyone for even a idiot sometimes speaks the truth.

So, certainly, you should get writing idiot!

CAPITALIST SOCIETY SUCKS

Governments have nothing to give us except what they have first taken away. No one can give us freedom. Groups that promise freedom and peace lie and give us war and injustice instead, perpetrating the crime of hierarchy in the name of liberty. The colonialism so deeply ingrained in our minds has created the monotone McCulture of the western world that is being sold to the globe in the flashing images on TV and on the silverscreens of Hollywood.

Contrary to the view of globalization supporters industrial production doesn't automatically provide poor Third World workers with the keys to wealth and happiness. In the apparel industry the pay raises don't even come close to the inflation in the country, even with increased in exports to the United States. Economists point to the fact that 20 years ago 25% of the world lived on a dollar a week. While today it is down to 20% living on a dollar a week conveniently leaving out that now the fact is that a dollar 20 years ago could buy you a lot more than it does now. As the old quote goes there are three kinds of lies; lies, damn lies, and statistics that prove your point.

Capitalism forces people to sell themselves into wage slavery where everything thing is for sale; your time, your energy, your life. Where you know the price of everything but the value of nothing. We can no longer sit on the fence. It is not a matter of free trade or fair trade or a friendlier form of our oppression. Ourselves and our world are not for sell.

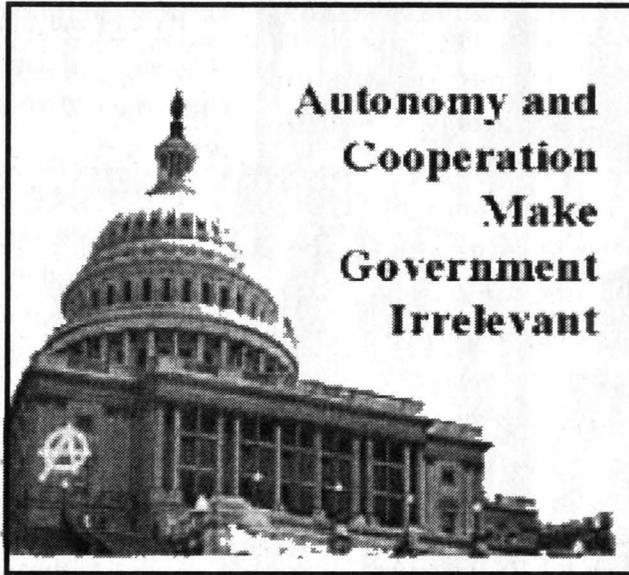
Industrial production with its time clocks, specialization, and production for profit for its own sake is a further division of labor that create classism and hierarchy. Social class did not fall from the moon. It was created using the division of labor. In hunter and gatherer societies men hunted and women gathered. As time went by the hunters turn to warriors and then to Kings. This was the embryo of the modern patriarchal world.

Social classes produce a psychology of domination, and

when people lose control of their destinies they in turn try to control someone or thing else. This alienation is the creator of class war, sexism, racism, homophobia and ecological destruction. Whenever someone else is in control humanity, everything else on the planet is endangered.

Because of the disenchantment created by the consumer world, we fill our lives with stuff to help us feel whole. As we get bored with one thing the capitalist system feeds us a different lifestyle in order to create a new and demanding market. Whether it is guru, craftsman or rock star, all are new images needing new stuff to maintain that nifty

new lifestyle. The market can also feed us new values of universal love, nature and openness, new views for consolation, like pacifism, paganism and astrology are all things from the past repackaged and sold to you for consumption. This helps us not to notice how stuck we are in the vicious circle of production, consumption



and waste and forces us to work to pay for things we don't really need as well as working to make more unnecessary stuff. It's an insane paper chase and completely unnecessary, except to keep consumer capitalism grinding on. Perhaps only 5% of the work done today feeds, heats and lights our lives, the rest is pretty much unnecessary.

A move away from work would obviously benefit the more down trodden people in society.

Reality today is full of unfulfilled people travelling in streets full of banks, shops, traffic and neon lights. Streets full of cops and adverts for things you don't even need. We live rushing to work, punching the clock when we should be punching our boss. These capitalist, reality-selling lifestyles are a very poor imitation of having a real life.

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

The boredom of society today can't be reformed it must be replaced. We seek to replace the dominant culture of death with the ecology of everyday life, where we reconnect with ourselves and the planet around us. A concrete world breed's apathy but even the cities were built on fertile soil and fresh water we just need to break through the surface.

If we are to reconnect ourselves to the world around us we need to work together. Mutual aid and cooperation in affinity groups in a community is the antidote to the alienation of mass society. This will, if we are success overcome the cultural baggage that has created racism. If a cat and a crow can work together surely people can.

All too often people who wish to see the end of oppression just mirror the structure of the oppressor and replace it. Identity pimps sell us ideas of a class, gender, or ethnic group being the true suppliers of freedom when they are really repackaging the old world rather than creating an equal and progressive society. Often times this deifying of other cultures does nothing but create further class and race division based on different skin color or heritage of cultural upbringing. The worshipping of a group of people merely maintains the hierarchy of modern society.

There is a continuing appeal of nationalism in ever so called radical centers. For as long as there is social division and separation their can never be equality. In fact

powerful elites rely on social division to stay in control of us. They need to divide to stay in power over us and use fear to continue the status quo. We can't use the master's tools, like nationalism or alienation, to destroy the masters house. You only have to look at Israel to see that even those who have lived through a holocaust repeat the pattern of other states. Cultural, political and ethnic isolation perpetuates this racists system and is a retreat towards death. We can't rank whose oppression is the worst or dictate whose struggle should be primary. There is no privileged points of rupture, no person or subject which is absolutely radical and irrecuperable by the dominant order, and which constitutes an absolutely guaranteed point of departure for total transformation.

Racism isn't a biological instinct in the brain. It comes from our origins in tribal societies and can easily be overcome by working together for our own mutual benefit. We have to create a human community of empowered individuals who can work together. Our liberation can not be imposed. You can not liberate me and I can not liberate you but together we can achieve our liberation.

An old native America prophecy talks of people of all creeds, colors and religions joining to save the planet and in turn liberating us too.



LAND AND LIBERTY

Malcolm X once pointed out that all revolutionary struggles are centered on the question of land. Land is the basis of freedom, justice and equality. The agriculture/food industry is the second most profitable industry in the capitalist world after the pharmaceutical industry, so if we can learn to take care of ourselves through free schools, work communally to feed ourselves and have health care for those around us, then we are taking direct action. We are undermining the systems hold over the world and us. Whether it be a primitive camp in the woods, an insurgent communal farm in the Appalachian Mountains or a guerilla garden in the city, all are working towards a better world. There is no one way. Diversity is our strength. These autonomous zones give a glance into a different way of life, giving us a refreshing look at how the world could be.

Globalism needs resources from across the planet to survive. The mega machine exploits those who work the land; people who have nothing to gain from cooperating with capital and so take back the land. Groups in Central America and South America like the MST reoccupy land just the same as urban guerilla gardeners do in cities around the US.

These ideas are nothing new. During the Middle Ages people like the Taborites, the free Spirits, and the Diggers fought the land lords to return the land to the people. Even in Modern times the Maknovists in the Ukraine burnt

their leases and returned the land to the peasants. The rally cry of "Land and Liberty" rang out from those like the Magon brothers and their supporters and again during the agricultural collective uprisings in Spain when 800,000 people where organized into 2,000 collectives.

When people talk of over population—the famines and the destruction it creates—they are missing the point. It's industrialism that forces people to move away from the land and into cities in search of food and profit, creating an atmosphere of overcrowding and poverty. Often times when peoples go hungry it is not for lack of food but lack of justice. It's more profitable to feed grain and soy grown in the third world to animals at industrial farms in the west than feed it to the poor. During the famine in Ethiopia in the 80's for every bag of grain given to the refugees displaced during the civil war Ethiopia exported 4 bags to pay back its debt so it could continue fighting the war.

By 2028 there is going to be an estimated 8 billion people on the planet. We can't simply sit back and let the agricultural industry push its lies of biotech and chemicals as the solution to the growing population. Land redistributes and the destruction of capitalism is the only hope for wilderness and humans. The poor don't need to be growing chemical hungry monoculture cash crops like coffee or tea or drugs to survive. They need land and sustainable permaculture so as not to destroy the planet that all life depend on.



Revolution; the only solution.

Those people who talk about class struggle and revolution without the reference to everyday life, without understanding what's subversive with love and what is positive in the refusal of constraints, these people have corpses in their mouths.

Anything can happen, who 15 years ago would of have predicted the end of the Cold War and the changes and Nelson Mandela becoming head of South Africa. Look at the rise of the anti-globalization movement. G7/IMF/WTO had meetings for years then all of a sudden people showed up on the streets. It is time to demand the impossible or we may well be faced with the unthinkable.

It seems that as long as our struggle is not on our own terms but in the terrain of capital, there will be no creation of a better world. What is the point of occupying the factories when its production that should be stopped? Why should we wish to take over the system that imprisons us? So we can self manage our own imprisonment? Why keep the corporations domestic when it goes on to ruin the local environment? Surely we are fighting a losing battle if we are fighting for industry. It's a system so diabolical that poisons the food that we eat, water we drink and air we breath why would we want to take it over?

It will take a social revolution to bring permaculture to the cities: a revolution that tears up most of the streets and turns them into food, forests, and gardens. Reclaim the rooftops for solar panels, we need no more power plants choking our air. Rain caught in tanks rather than dams so rivers and fish can run free again. Under the pavement a garden!

It's bad enough having to deal with the arrogant elite's

survivalists and white supremacists will capitalize on the opportunity to promote their own goals. They often live in rural areas, know how to live off the land and have may have undergone guerrilla training, have weapons and know how to use them. From out of the chaos a new order will emerge, and it won't be the one we envision. Out of the ashes other bully boys will arise to flex their muscles.

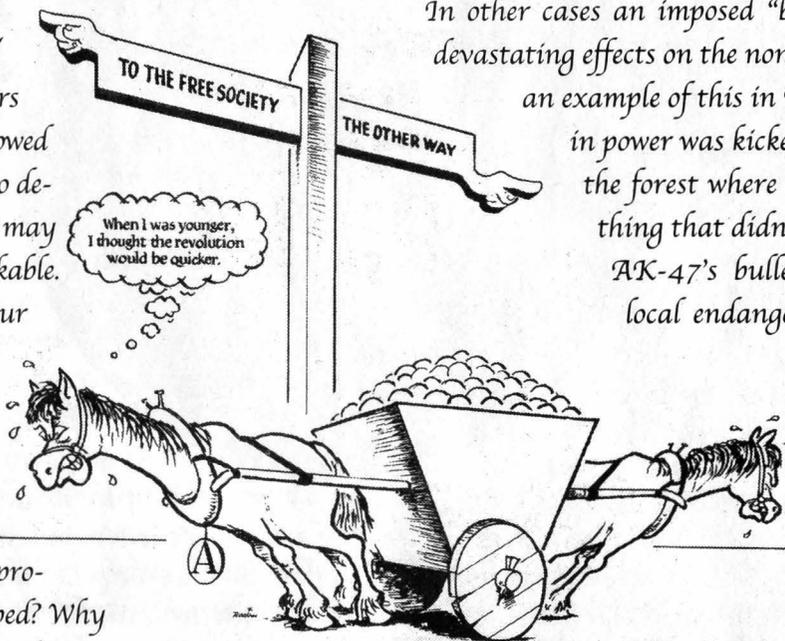
In other cases an imposed "better world" may have devastating effects on the non human world. There is an example of this in Rwanda where the tribe in power was kicked out and ran way into the forest where they slaughtering anything that didn't more quicker than an AK-47's bullet. They destroyed the local endangered mountain gorillas.

Unless the social relationship is changed by a popular revolution then the old tyrants will continue their destructive ways.

Just as we need mutual aid to overcome the alienation of humanity we also need to have ecology of everyday life. We need to reconnect with the world around us and fight the psychology of domination not just of people but also of the environment. People have to become part of the ecosystem.

People in the third world are resisting the monopolizing of seed production and the patenting of biotech seeds. They are not buying the ideas of economic growth, predicated on the work of women and the third world. We must support their struggle by creating our own here.

Modern capitalist relationships have pushed many people to the periphery of society leaving nothing to gain from the world we live in today. A little jolt could disrupt their way of thinking and turn them against the system. So let's act up.



For a better world we all.

We have no desire to merely turn the world upside down, but wish to create a human and nonhuman community of equals with no ruling elite. Be it a tribe, workers council, city rule or elected council we can't delegate our lives into someone else's hands. We want autonomy not democracy with affinity groups deciding their own destinies. We need to learn from each other with mutual respect to create a multi cultural world at peace with itself and the earth and to have life without dead time.

We do believe in direct-action, action that will bring power into our hands and not that of authority. For us direct action is a practice based on peoples struggles to overcome their own subordination. Typically those with relative dominance attempt to define their subordinates, telling them what they "really want" or really need." Therefore disempowered people often have difficulty in defining and naming themselves and their lives — and even more in acting on the sense of self. Direct action is a way for people to get in touch with their own power and capacities, to take back the power of naming themselves and their lives.

Revolutionary knowledge can't be taught, and it can't be force-fed, it does not precede experience, it flows from it.

When people have to depend on the state for protection from others they strengthen the states hold on society. In a true community we don't need a police force. The very presence of a law enforcement system in a community is an indication that something is not working. And the presence of the police is supposed to make it work? Such a force is repressive. A community is a place where there is consensus; not where there is a crooked looking on-looker with a gun, creating an atmosphere of unrest.

We must beware of groups that promise a better deal. During the beginning of the industrial revolution in Britain a group rose up against the centralization and shoddy work industrialism offered. They believed all should be free to determine their own goals and destinies rather than the need to work determining those things. To try and stop them more British troops were sent to their towns than Napoleon had to face in Europe at the same time.



THERE IS A REAL WORLD OUTSIDE OF THIS CAPITALIST CRAP.
 Earth First! Journal BLANK WALL-SPECIAL INSERT WWW.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

Despite fierce repression the Luddites still posed quite a threat, so the government legalized trade unions. They, in turn, convinced people to work in the factories by offering better pay and hours. The same tactic has historically been used by those in power from the Catholic Church to governments giving women/people of color/working class the vote so they can pick their own repressors. Often times people are called into talks and are offered a seat at the table like during the Spanish Revolution when CNT leaders joined the government or they are simply gunned down like in Russia (1917-21) or Mexico (1910). Governments will never give us our freedom we must take it from them.

Learning to live free from exploitation by boycotting the institutions like banks, corporations and the governments that are destroying our world is an important first step. We can build a new life with each other and reclaim our destinies from those who want to control our lives. Humans are not intrinsically evil; rather the society we are raised in creates unnatural cutthroat attitudes and beliefs. If right from the outset certain people are denied all possibilities of humanity, how can they subsequently be expected to emerge as real people? When conflict comes, those who defend capital should be reduce to the level of bestial or mechanical adversities. We need to reveal and demystify and demonstrate its contradictions and rise doubt in their minds. We can't make the mistake that we can somehow enforce our will over others or we too will become what we despise.

Racketeers preach the merits of chaos and collapse, but that will not bring about a better world for all its inhabitants. Empires have come and gone but the social relationship, the class structure, and the domination of nature continues. Without a proactive ap-

proach there is no hope. We should learn from the past and carry those lessons onto a free and just society for all. Believing that a huge collapse will return us to eden is unrealistic, for knowlege and history are passed on.

People can learn to cooperate and humanity can learn to coexist with the world around it. Do not be fooled by those who talk about total destruction rather than a world where the true beauty of a mutually cooperative society exists. Not from the flight of ideas, but only in action is freedom.

Spare us some (social) change?

So there you have it, our ideas and dreams. So what do you think?

So this seemed a little rushed but the computer ate our entire first blankwall and we had to rewrite it in a night, oh the evils of the computer age.

We are looking for ideas, articles, and art, so if you likewhat the paper has to say or hate us and want to rant about it, than send us an article, don't wait, do it right now!! Or write and tell us what you would like to see more of in the paper and we'll do our best to bring it to you.

If you want to help out but don't want to write you can distro the papr, just write and tell us how many you want and where to send them and send some money for postage.

The paper is free but the printing and postage aren't, and at the moment it's coming out of our pockets so if you can spare some change we really could do with some money. We are poor bastards and will not be able to out-of-pocket this forever.

Any ideas or offers can be sent to us at,
NFN POBOX 10384, Eugene OR 97440 or
thenewsfromnowhere@yahoo.com.



AS IT'S BEEN SAID UNDER THE PAVEMENT A BEACH.

NFN POBOX 10384, Eugene OR 97440

All prices include postage in North America please send cash or money orders with the payee blank.

Pamphlet

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"As an enviro poet activist who hooked up with Earth First! after reading about their Gila exploits in Gordon Solberg's *Dry Country News*, I was delighted the inner circle was open to radical poetry as part of their nascent newsletter, which quickly evolved into the *Journal*. I submitted a poem and was offered a job as poetry editor. So for 10 years, 1981 to 1991, I supplied a camera-ready page of poems I laid out and called *Armed with Visions*. Our motto: clear as cut glass & just as dangerous. Poets from around the country responded. I'm proud of the variety, the power and the wisdom of the poems during those 10 years. May Earth First! remain armed with visions."

—ART GOODTIMES



Rekindling the Campfire: Dialogues with Our Elders

BY GNOME WOLF SPIRALS

I was encouraged (read drafted) at the 2002 EF! Organizers' Conference to do a regular column for the *Journal*. The *Journal* staff and I liked the thought of a series of dialogues with the elders from within the EF! movement. Yes, even in this late year of 2002, EF! has been blessed with the presence of many elders—those who have been around for 10, 15, even 20 years and who have helped shape EF!'s activism, culture and philosophies. In this inaugural attempt, I interviewed Dennis Fritzing, warrior poet extraordinaire and editor of the *Armed with Visions* page since 1991. He's also the only man in Earth First! history to begin a statement with the words: "Pardon me."

EF!J: What moved you to EF! poetry?

DF: I was doing EF! poetry before EF! came along—I'd been taking college classes, reading Edward Abbey and had an epiphany. I guess hearing Henry Wadsworth Longfellow read to me when I was young made a lasting impression. It wasn't until college that I decided I wanted to be a poet, though I had written a few things in high school.

EF!J: Who were our original EF! poet-pioneers? How has our poetry evolved?

DF: The original EF! poet-pioneers were Art Goodtimes and Gary Snyder. I wasn't around back then, but Goodtimes convinced Dave Foreman of the need for poetry in the movement, and Snyder was an early supporter and reader at EF! events. I would say that our poetry has become more connected to the oral tradition through performance, sort of paralleling Slam and Stand-Up poetry.

EF!J: How did the Warrior Poets Society come about?

DF: I plead guilty to this one. I was in a panic because the staff that took over the *Journal* when the old staff (Nancy Zierenberg, John Davis, et. al.) quit, had dropped the

poetry page. I started thinking that the only way to get it back was for Earth First! poets to organize. Then I heard Dana Lyons tell the story of Milton Born-with-a-Tooth and the Lonefighter's Society, and I came up with the name "Warrior Poets Society."

EF!J: You've been my mentor and inspiration since my first EF! poem. Who were your mentors and inspirations when you began?

DF: How far back do you want to go? After Longfellow, when I was in high school in New England, I encountered the poetry of Robert Frost. So I guess Frost was a mentor. I also read the English Romantic poets, whose own inspiration was largely nature-derived.

EF!J: How can poetry be used to maintain EF!'s biocentric center?

DF: Any biocentric poem creates a ripple—like a stone thrown in water. I think *Armed with Visions* needs to retain its biocentric focus aggressively—I've tried to do that, although I notice Goodtimes (its previous editor) didn't always. I like to think of us as a compass needle—pointing in the direction we need to go.

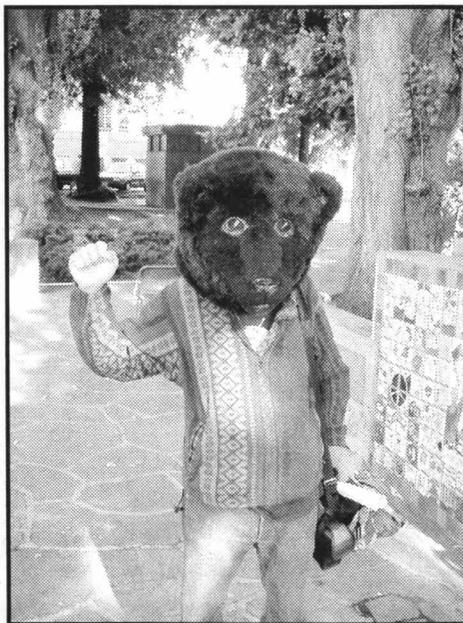
EF!J: What poets outside the EF! tradition do you recommend for biocentric inspiration (Snyder, Robinson Jeffers, etc.)?

DF: Well, I think Snyder and Jeffers are in the EF! tradition. They're at least honorary members of the Warrior Poets Society. I'm sure there are many poets I don't know, but I'd recommend Simon Ortiz, Peter Blue Cloud, Joy Harjo and Linda Hogan for starters. Also Mary Oliver, W.S. Merwin and Nanao Sakaki.

EF!J: Anything else, your call?

DF: For most Americans, poetry is this weird "other language," like French or Chinese. I would like to make it as familiar as croissants or Chinese take-out. Or pizza. Even better, I would like it to be a way we explore our deepest concerns about the planet we live on—how we can become better citizens of a teeming, species-rich globe.

Gnome Wolf Spirals is a poet, deep ecologist and misanthrope of leprechaun descent. He lives seven street crossings from the nearest lesbian coffee shop.



Dennis Fritzing: Support your right to arm bears

photo by Mark Balbridge

ARMED WITH

TREE-SIT TV

America at the end of August, under God,
cooking in the filth of its abundance,
sits down to one of its morning routines,
coffee and a doughnut and the Today Show.

At 9:08, in the midst of the usual trivia,
something strange and new appears:
a woman named Remedy, living in a redwood,
five months long and fifty yards high,
pleading with all her heart and soul
for the last few ancient trees.
A true voice in the wilderness, for one minute.

The rest of the show proceeds as follows:
two minutes of lumber lackey lies,
a stifled attempt by our hero for equal time,
ads for candy bars, Kleenex, antidepressants
and Penny's super colossal Labor Day sale,
a five-minute interview with a Scrabble champion,
more ads for insurance, drugs, toilet cleaners,
underwear, more drugs—ads ads ads ad nauseum.
Then the greenhouse weather report,
drought withering the western states,
followed by, you guessed it, more ads.
And scattered out there across the land
are some young women and young men
who just happen to be there at 9:08,
and their real education begins,
here in the last week of summer,
as their hearts and minds are blown open
by those moments on the Today Show.
They are the Remedys and Wrens and Baris
and Haydukes and Butterflies to come,
and the Mother of us all is caring for them.
Take heart, Remedy, they're on their way.

—Craig Oare

GREEN WITH ENVY

Envy these ravens in their playful flight
Who dive and tumble high above our heads,
Play airborne tag and shout their wild delight
While activists enumerate the dreads

That threaten wilderness under their wings.
Enron et. al. divvy up watersheds
Like bandits with elected hirelings.
It's an inside job with complicit Feds.

Enjoy innocence before it's too late
To land, because the land's been torn to shreds.
Beware lies politicians legislate,
The squirming scheming of flightless bipeds.

The toxic, lead-base mix of their green paint
Makes laws look like exactly what they ain't.

—José Knighton

SEND POEMS TO
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ALL RIGHTS RESERVED TO
THE AUTHORS

VISIONS:

Clear as cut
glass & just as
dangerous

FREEDOM PRAYER

Freedom is hours on a sandy beach
gazing out to sea
watching the sun sink into a surreal horizon

Freedom is the rushing warm breath of Spring
blowing redemption through the lush grove of your soul
as the ice melts away beneath your feet

Freedom is a country mile to go
down a dusty road
cursing the gravel as it stabs your soles

Freedom is an emotion
that needs to be rediscovered

Freedom is hard-working men
coming home to bra-burning women
while the kids raise hell in the backyard

Freedom is the blues in your heart
and bliss in your attitude
and a comprehensive kiss now and then from an admirer

Freedom is five guitars in harmony
laughing and singing songs of love and creation
around the fireside, by the lake, at dusk

Freedom is a verb
that needs to be experienced more often

Freedom is when you don't have to sneak to be unique
don't have to conform to customs
or shroud your feelings in some false propriety
when it's ok to not be one of the majority
because no one is trying to bind or control you
harm or condition you

Freedom, like honor, is its own reward
which many fail to perceive
They see nothing to be gained by Freedom
no ladders leading to power
no systems of exaltation
of what value they ask is it in trade
for a TV, or tickets to the Macy's Day Parade?

Oh God, keep their pitiful disease from infecting me
and my community
Keep their encroaching technology
from cybernizing my subjectivity
Keep their demented sense of conquest
from cruelly transforming my home
Keep their poisons from draining into the streams I drink
from befouling the air I breathe
Keep their stockyards and prisons
from springing up in the swamps and grasslands
Keep their parking lots from paving Paradise

And keep their war machines
from spoiling the Earth so green
from spilling blood in the Garden
and keep their commercial activities
from making a frivolous fool out of me

Oh God, keep their consuming minds and politics
from disturbing all the wilderness
Keep their slash and burn provision
from making that fatal incision
into the body of my Gaian Mother

—Scott Sandlin



Dear Shit For Brains

continued from page 3

Editors' note: The Journal collective received a letter from an author expressing concern that colonialism and racism had occurred in our editorial process last issue. We feel this needs to be openly addressed and have decided to use the space normally reserved for SFBs to print a sampling of the dialogue that occurred between the authors and the collective. The original text of the "Black Hills are Still Sacred" can be found at www.earthfirstjournal.org.

Dear Earth First! Journal,

When you asked me to write an article about the situation on the Black Hills, I decided to ask a friend to also write an article (see *EF!J* September-October 2002). My friend is of the Oglala Lakota Band of the Great Sioux Nation and is a person that truly voices indigenous feelings over the Black Hills. She has experienced firsthand the effects of colonization, both of the land and of her people. She is a brave and courageous advocate for indigenous rights in a land of

rampant racism and European ignorance and arrogance. I asked her to write an article about the Black Hills because I, as a white person, cannot even begin to express or explain the impacts European colonization have had on the Black Hills as a natural ecosystem and as a sacred land to the Great Sioux Nation and countless other indigenous tribes. I asked her to write an article because I felt that she could express the real trouble facing the Black Hills, that of colonization perpetuated not only by the forces that seek to destroy the Black Hills ecosystem for profit, but also by our movement, which oftentimes forgets (or more often denies) the connection between indigenous suffering and ecological suffering.

Yet, as important as her voice is to today's efforts to decolonize the land as well as ourselves, and to ultimately end, once and for all, the European-spawned ecocide, you chose to sideline and censor her voice. As I

sent you her article ("The Black Hills are Sacred") mine phetic

("The Black Hills are Sacred") ("Prophetic Fire on the Black Hills"), you gave me the impression

her voice was valued in its entirety and that every

one of her words would be printed alongside mine. Instead, you cut many pieces out of her article and positioned it in

such a way that only downplayed its significance. Rather than being placed in the position of importance and relevance that it deserved, her article was printed as a block inside of mine and given barely enough space to be noticed. Most disturbing though, is that you did not even contact me or my friend to see if the edits to her article were appropriate or acceptable, yet you contacted me several times to go over edits to my article.

While I want to believe an honest mistake was made, it is difficult to believe that an indigenous person's voice was mistakenly sidelined and edited while a white person's voice was not restricted in the least. I truly believe these actions are entirely indicative of a colonial blindness that many of us continue to be inflicted by and that only perpetuates genocide. This oversight is a perfect example of how far our movement has to go in overcoming our colonial past and in deconstructing our own white privilege, which leads us to ignore the relationship between indigenous suffering and ecological destruction. If we do not value the voices of indigenous peoples enough to recognize the importance and relevancy of their words to our struggles, then we cannot even begin to talk about ending 510 years of genocide and the ecocide we now face today.

Please do not take this as an insult or as an affront to the incredible work y'all do. I really value the opportunity to read the *Journal*, and I am greatly appreciative of the fact that you contacted me to provide an article. I also appreciate the fact that you sent me a copy.

Our colonial ignorance or oversight is something many of us are struggling with, including myself, and I feel that it must be addressed, deconstructed and banished forever.

—JEREMY NICHOLS

Dear Jeremy,

Please note that I am writing on behalf of the Journal collective and where it says "we" it's a collective viewpoint and anything else is my opinion or the opinion of the name attached to the sentence.

Thanks for your feedback. The *Journal* collective has spent the last few days discussing your comments which are of serious concern to us.

I volunteered to write this letter because I did the layout and the last minute cuts to Charmaine's article. Turtle, Samantha, Puck and I did the original editing of the article which included the majority of the cuts that Charmaine had approved.

I apologize for not making an effort to contact Charmaine during layout to get her approval of the last minute changes. This was an error in judgment. At the time, I felt Charmaine's article still read very strongly and that her main points on European oppression of the Oglalas and the Black Hills were still there. As your letter shows, she doesn't agree and felt her voice was totally lost.

This letter has gone through many versions. Up until last night, I was missing one very important part of the critique. My understanding of how this wasn't just a simple case of oversight is growing.

I think Turtle, Samantha and I all are aware of and regret our European-American ancestry of oppression and genocide. At first, I didn't think that needed to be said, that it was just a given. The *EF! Journal* and the environmental movement have a racist history that this collective and others are trying to address and change. This all womyn collective (a first for the *Journal*) in particular intends to include environmental justice issues, whereas some of our readers feel that is inappropriate for the *Journal*. We see most issues of oppression as intricately linked. We have a lot of work



to do and much to learn. We are actively reaching out to writers of color. I think where we are lacking the most though is how to reach out to those communities in a way that doesn't tokenize or co-opt their struggles, as well as being a supportive forum for their voices.

I now understand how Charmaine's openness toward writing for the *Journal* was an offering that was precious and should have been nurtured. I treated her article like any other article when instead, I should have made extra effort to not only get back to her with the last minute cuts but to take it further. From the beginning, we all felt it was important to print Charmaine's article, so it makes me even sadder to have had it come out this way.

I can see how it could come across in the layout and the last minute edits that it was just colonial journalism and that we weren't really serious about building alliances. I can honestly say that wasn't my intention, but I can also see now how viewing her article as a sidebar to yours was detrimental. When we came to that conclusion it would have been the perfect opportunity to ask her if she was comfortable with that. Or, we could have made hers the main piece and asked to excerpt from yours as a sidebar to address the other aspects of concern in the Black Hills. Such considerations will certainly be in our minds as we work on future issues.

The *Journal* collective hopes you both will continue to write for the *Journal* in the future and sees this discussion as a move toward clearer communication.

Sincerely,

—SPRIG

Dear Sprig,

Thank you for your apology. I really appreciate it. By this apology then you are starting to become aware of

more things about your own thinking.

I have had this kind of thing happen to me so often that, when I received your first edits, I knew that this was going to happen. I would not have said anything to you. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Jeremy, who will receive this, because his sense of justice opened this sad situation up so it could be healed. As this has happened to me so much, as a Native American let alone as a person of color (and I am brown), and as a writer trying to share our knowledge and our perspective with the dominant society (14 years), I usually don't say anything about edits because I know it is futile from my past experiences. No one listens to Native American people unless we say what they want us to say. Consequently, a lot of wisdom is lost. So I'm glad this time someone, Jeremy, opened this up.

You said something in your email and I quote it here:

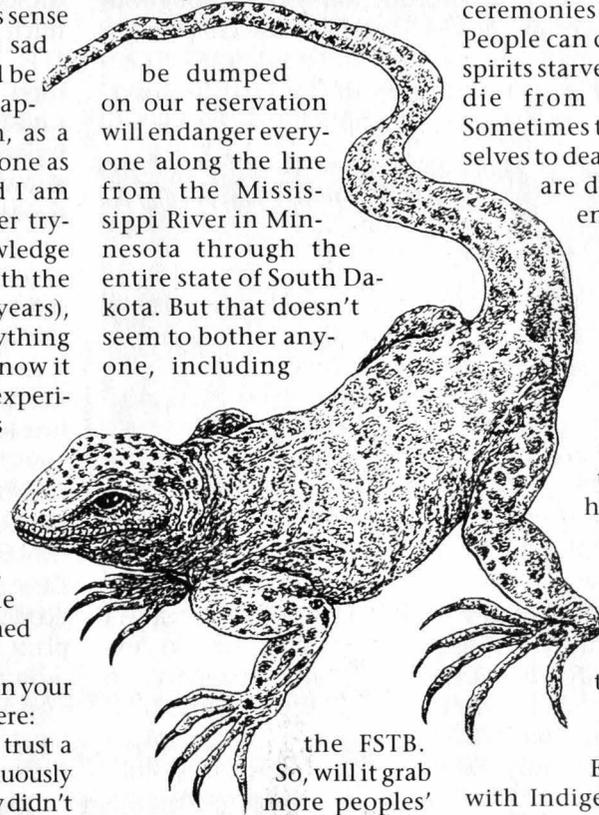
"I know it is hard to trust a people that has continuously made promises that they didn't ever intend to keep and then murdered, starved and enslaved those they made the promises to. I would like to forget this part of my ancestry, but I know its a burden I must bear if I am going to be any different."

The sad part is that this is still being carried on today. It is not just your ancestors. It is happening today. It is easy to say "ancestors" because then time seems to make it farther away, but that is not the case. We are still being oppressed, murdered, starved and enslaved today by the same US government that started this. The means or methods are different than in the 1800s, but the ends are the same.

I'll give you an example. The Federal Surface Transportation Board (FSTB) has given permission for the building of a railroad track along the last pristine grassland area in

the US, the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, to haul coal to the East Coast. This will also allow for the hauling of hazardous wastes to our reservation by the empty coal trains on their return trip. We have tried to warn everyone along the line that hauling hazardous wastes to

be dumped on our reservation will endanger everyone along the line from the Mississippi River in Minnesota through the entire state of South Dakota. But that doesn't seem to bother anyone, including



the FSTB. So, will it grab more peoples' attention if we fight instead for all the plants, animals, fish and birds who will be destroyed in the grasslands? Yes. People will fight to have the railroad stopped for the environment, but not because it will hurt Sioux people on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The means are different. But the end is still the same; it's still genocide. This is one of the reasons why I helped Congressman Pallone with a new Grasslands as Wilderness Bill (HR 5489) to save the Grasslands and to try to protect my tribe.

We recently formed a new group called Defenders of the Black Hills. All of us who are Native American who were at the meeting, whether from Canada or Oklahoma, were there because of the sacredness of the Hills. Our people are also dying because we have

no access for our spirits to be nourished by the Hills or to even pick the medicines we need from the Hills. We were denied religious freedom until 1978, just 24 years ago. One of our most sacred places in the Black Hills is a tourist trap run by the national parks. We don't have ceremonies there anymore. People can die because their spirits starve also. People can die from hopelessness. Sometimes they drink themselves to death. So the means are different, but the end is the same.

I don't mean to be preaching, but I think Jeremy understands what I'm trying to say. I think that is why he was distressed by what happened. Again, I am thankful for his opening this up.

Now maybe we can continue together as people trying to help the Earth. We, along with Indigenous people all over the globe, lived *with* our Mother and Grandmother Earth, not in domination of Her. However, European-American religion (Christianity and Judaism) states "in dominion over the Earth," so some of us understand why the dominant culture does not respect the Earth. She is not a person to the dominant society, just as women were not "persons" for a long time.

I think that some environmentalists see part of this but don't understand or know the whole thing. I would like to help broaden that understanding.

Thank you again for your apology. I would like to try to continue to submit articles to you.

Sincerely,

—CHARMAINE WHITE FACE

Russian Ecodefense!

BY VLADIMIR SLIVYAK

During the past 13 years, Ecodefense! has established a network that works on environmental issues throughout Russia and the former Soviet Union—with chapters in Kaliningrad, Moscow, Voronezh and Dresden, East Germany. No compromise in defense of the Earth's ecosystems is the network's leading principle.



Nuclear waste? No, Thanks!

The core of Ecodefense!'s work is to stop the spread of dangerous nuclear technologies favored by the Russian government. The only publication in Russia that reports on anti-nuclear protests and the nuclear industry's activities is "Anti-Atom Press," a national electronic newsletter produced by Ecodefense!. Recently, Ecodefense! also started the anti-nuclear news agency, "Antiatom.ru," which helps the anti-nuclear movement spread its message to the mass media.

Nonviolent direct actions are an important part of Ecodefense!'s anti-nuclear campaign, in addition to educational events and training activists from other groups on how to organize successful actions and campaigns. During the last six years, Ecodefense! has organized annual anti-nuclear camps near nuclear facilities where local activists have needed help.

This Summer, the camp took place in Siberia, near Russia's largest nuclear waste storage facility. One hundred activists from nearly 60 organizations exchanged news and campaign knowledge, conducted trainings and organized a nonviolent protest action in Krasnoyarsk—where nuclear waste has been transported across the country and stored for many years.

In the past four years, Ecodefense! has also been initiating and coordinating dozens of actions against the import and transportation of nuclear waste to Russia. During an inter-regional protest in November 2001, activists in seven cities protested the transportation of nuclear waste by successfully blocking the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

The Russian nuclear industry is weakening. Importing waste is an indispensable source of income, and killing this source would bring the industry to a dead end. Ecodefense! participated in a nationwide referendum aimed at stopping

these nuclear waste imports. In 2001, a large coalition of groups collected more than two million signatures in support of the national vote. However, Russian authorities rejected these signatures and prevented the referendum, allowing the nuclear industry to survive.

The level of opposition to nuclear waste import is very high in Russia, and Ecodefense! works intensively to involve more groups and citizens in the anti-nuclear movement. These actions are effective. Since legislation allowing the import of nuclear waste to Russia was approved, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Power has been unable to sign any new contracts for waste import. Several countries have already indicated that they are unwilling to send nuclear waste to Russia because public opposition is so high.

Another successful example of campaigning exists in Kaliningrad, near the Baltic Sea, where Ecodefense! is also involved in local campaigns to defend forests and rivers. Since 1996, it has prevented large-scale logging in the region and has forced the local parliament to adopt a new strategy for better protection of the nature parks. In 1999, Ecodefense! prevented construction of an oil reprocessing plant in Kaliningrad. Earlier it stopped a proposed nuclear plant. At the same time, Ecodefense! helped to establish Russia's largest wind-powered plant in Kaliningrad. Some activists also intensively work to promote environmental education in schools.

In Voronezh, in the central part of Russia, Ecodefense! has focused on resisting capitalist globalization and genetically modified products, as well as preventing the construction of new nuclear reactors in the region. In the early 1990s, activists successfully stopped construction of a nuclear reactor in the city and are now resisting new attempts to finish it.

Vladimir Slivyak is a founder and organizer of Ecodefense!.

Boycott LUKOIL/Getty

In Kaliningrad, Ecodefense! has launched a new campaign to prevent oil drilling in the Baltic Sea by Russia's largest oil producer: LUKOIL. LUKOIL is a multinational corporation making nearly \$13 billion a year. Oil drilling is proposed to take place 14 miles from "Curonian Spit," a national park that includes a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage site. Even a small oil spill would totally destroy this unique ecosystem.

Ecodefense! is building an international coalition to resist this plan. It is calling for a boycott of LUKOIL products worldwide and is appealing to US activists for help. Russian LUKOIL owns US-based Getty Petroleum Marketing Inc., which has gasoline stations across the US. Please help us by organizing a boycott of Getty.

For more information, contact Ecodefense!, POB 1477, Kaliningrad, 236000; (0112) 44-84-43; ecodefense@online.ru.

Free Grigory Pasko!

Environmental Political Prisoner

BY JESSIE BHANGOO

Journalist and environmental defender, Grigory Pasko, became a political prisoner when he was imprisoned for exposing an environmental crime in eastern Russia.

As a military reporter for *Boyevaya Vakhta* (Battle Watch), the newspaper of the Russian Pacific Fleet, Pasko filmed and reported on the Russian Navy's illegal dumping of nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan. His articles were published in Russian and Japanese newspapers and his film, *Extra-dangerous Zone*, aired in both countries as well. According to Pasko's reports, the toxic material dumped off the coast of Vladivostok endangered the people living in coastal Russia, Japan and other nearby countries. Pasko, a captain in the Russian Navy, also exposed corruption within the Russian Pacific Fleet's higher military command.

In November 1997, Federal Security Service (FSB) agents arrested Pasko at the Vladivostok airport. Pasko was returning from an officially sanctioned trip to Japan. FSB accused Pasko of passing classified information to Japanese "agents" and charged him with espionage, treason and revealing state secrets. Human rights groups felt that these charges violated Pasko's right to freedom of expression guaranteed by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Although officials admitted that all of the information Pasko possessed was already in the public domain, they claimed that publishing the series of articles and broadcasting the television programs during a three-year period posed a threat to national security. Ironically, in Russia it is against the law to withhold information about environmental dangers that may threaten human life. The espionage and treason charges were dropped, but in July 1999, Pasko was convicted of "abuse of office" and sentenced to three years in prison. Under a nationwide amnesty, however, he was immediately released.

But Pasko's case was not over. The FSB and the military prosecutor of the Russian Pacific Fleet appealed the dismissal of the treason charge, and the Russian Supreme Court's Military Collegium agreed to a retrial.

On December 25, 2001, a military court sentenced Pasko to four years of hard labor for the crime of high treason. Almost the entire trial was held in secret, making it difficult to determine the fairness of the proceedings. Pasko was convicted on the basis of a secret military decree, even though the Russian constitution forbids such application to criminal cases. Both parties appealed the decision. Meanwhile, Pasko remained in detention.

In the second appeal, which was also held secretly, most of the charges were dropped. However, the court still

believed that Pasko's reports compromised the effectiveness of the Russian Pacific Fleet. On June 25, the Russian Supreme Court's Military Collegium upheld the previous decision by the military court, despite the fact that some of the prosecution's material may have been obtained by illegal eavesdropping.

On July 4, the European Parliament formally requested that President Vladimir Putin release Pasko immediately. On September 5, the Green Group of the European Parliament nominated Pasko for the Sakharov Prize, which honors those who promote human rights and freedom and who oppose persecution and injustice. Previous winners include South African President Nelson Mandela and exiled Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

These actions did not sway the Russian officials, however. On September 10, Pasko was sent to the labor camp and is scheduled to remain there until April 25, 2004.

On September 24, evidence surfaced that proves the secret military decree the government used to convict Pasko had been canceled in February. Unfortunately, this will not lead to Pasko's freedom. Ivan Pavlov, Pasko's lawyer, fumed: "It's a totally absurd situation. It means you can issue a decree, convict someone on the basis of it, then right after the conviction cancel the decree."

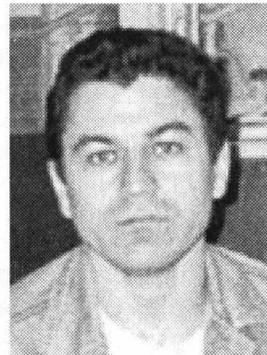
Pasko's defense team has filed a supervisory appeal that would allow them to file another complaint with the Supreme Court chairman. If the chairman accepts the appeal, 15 judges would hear it in court and would vote on Pasko's freedom.

To protest the treatment of Pasko, write to President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, The Kremlin, Moscow, Russian Federation; 7 095 206 8510 (fax); president@kremlin.ru.

To send letters to Grigory Pasko, write to Russian Federation, 690 100 g. Vladivostok, ul. Ivanovskaya 2, kv 24.

For more information, visit web.amnesty.org/web/content.nsf/pages/gbrpasko; www.bellona.no.

Jessie Bhangoo presents audio reports on human rights issues for radio airplay in Tucson, Arizona. Past episodes can be found at www.radio4all.net under the series "Human Rights Radio." This article contains information found in official news releases from Amnesty International, Greenpeace and Environmental Foundation Bellona.



Grigory Pasko

As a military reporter for *Boyevaya Vakhta* (Battle Watch), the newspaper of the Russian Pacific Fleet, Pasko filmed and reported on the Russian Navy's illegal dumping of nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan.

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Summer Nelson was released after serving three months for a School of the Americas demonstration.

•Emma "Pitch" Murphy-Ellis, Namarta "Tortoise" Dosanjh and "Mike D" (Michael McMullin) received "no complaint" status for felony charges following their arrests at a protest opposing the Borg Timber Sale in Oregon. "No complaint" means that their cases are not currently being pursued, but the state has two years to prosecute them.

•Mike D is still being held in Washington County Jail on a probation violation. Michael McMullin, #02-13167, Washington County Jail, 215 SW Adams MS33, Hillsboro, OR 97213, USA. For updates on his case, contact Cascadia Forest Alliance, POB 4946, Portland, OR 97208, USA; (503) 241-4879; cfa@spiritone.com.

•Camilo Viveiros, the Republican National Convention protester who is being charged with assault of a police officer, could be facing 15-60 years in prison. For more information or to make a donation, contact Friends of Camilo, POB 23169, Providence, RI 02903; www.friendsofcamilo.org.

•Sherman Austin, webmaster of www.raisethefist.com, pled guilty to felony charges for distributing information relating to explosives. If he goes to trial and is convicted, he could face 3-4 years in prison. For more information, contact the Long Beach Anarchist Defense Committee, 684 Redondo, Long Beach, CA 90814, USA; (562) 434-6934.

Ecodefense

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

•Marco Camenish, Hornlistrasse 55, 8330 Pfaffikon, Switzerland. Extradited to Switzerland to serve 10 years for destroying nuclear facility powerlines in the 1970s and '80s.

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

•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 SUVs.

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

Animal Liberation

•Neil Bartlett, FW7083, HMP The Verne, Portland, Dorset, DT5 1EQ, England. Serving four years for Earth and animal liberation bomb hoaxes.



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

•Rae Newlands, GN6613, HMP Winchester, Romsey Rd, Winchester, SO22 5DF, England. Serving four-and-a-half years for harassment of Huntingdon Life Sciences' shareholders.

•Peter Schnell, #99476-111, FCI Otisville, POB 1000, Otisville, NY 10963, USA. Serving 14 months for assembling incendiary devices with the intent to later target dairy trucks.

•Geert Waegemans, Gevangenissen Hoogstraten, Gelnelstraat 131, 2320 Hoogstraten, Belgium. Serving four years for attempted arson.

•Matthew Whyte, #99477-111, TCI, POB 7001, Taft, CA 93268, USA.

Serving 24 months for same action as Peter Schnell.

Anti-Globalization

•Rob Middaugh, #6859467, POB 5000, Delano, CA 93216-5000, USA. Serving 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 a 1999 Eugene, Oregon, Reclaim the Streets protest.

Indigenous

•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.

•Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. An American Indian Movement activist, Leonard is serving life in prison after being framed for the murder of two FBI agents during the Pine Ridge siege in 1975.

MOVE

The "MOVE 9," members of an eco-revolutionary group, were framed for the murder of a cop and sentenced to 30 to 100 years each. Although many of the MOVE prisoners are listed together, they must be written to separately.

•Debbie Simms Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308 and Janine Philips 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 Mahanoy, 301 Morea Road, Frackville, PA 17931, 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.

Let's Get Free

"In my lifetime, I have witnessed an onslaught against the inhabitants of this world led by the greed of the industrialized nations. It is my belief that the oppression of people is rooted in the oppression and exploitation of nature.

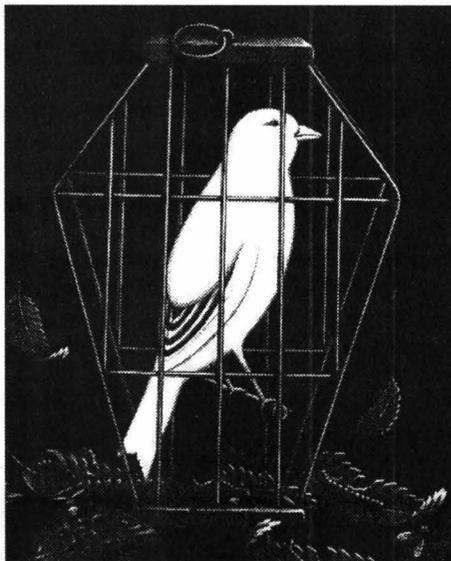
"I believe it is time for a serious re-evaluation of human priorities. No longer can we separate ourselves from wild nature, pretending that technology will keep us safe and intact. We must accept and embrace the fact that we, too, are part of the natural life cycle, not above it.

"I struck back."

—JEFFREY LUERS,
FROM *LET'S GET FREE*

Let's Get Free—
A Zine About Jeff
"Free" Luers: Earth
Defender, Anarchist
and Political Prisoner
is a compilation of articles,
poems, artwork,

interviews and letters that chronicle both Free's case and experiences since he ignited a fire underneath three SUVs at a Eugene, Oregon, car dealership in



"I've been given a forum to help radicalize people, to bring the dire situation our planet and we are in to the attention of those who would normally choose to ignore it."

June 2000. For this crime against property, Free was convicted of 11 felony charges with no possibility of parole and is currently serving his sentence of 22 years and eight months.

Let's Get Free is not only a comprehensive introduction to Free's case but also to larger issues such as sabotage and political prisoner support. Although much of the zine consists of

reprinted materials, *Let's Get Free* is an excellent resource for folks who haven't been following Free's case from the beginning and who want to know more.

For many, the cases of Free and Craig "Critter" Marshall—who is also serving time for conspiracy to commit the same arson and possession of incendiary devices—have been

landmark events in the ecodefense struggle. They each are respected members of the environmental community as well as powerful examples of personal sacrifice and commitment to stop environmental devastation by physically destroying instruments of ecocide. It is vital that every one of us continue to support ecological political prisoners

not as fallen martyrs but as active members in the struggle for Earth liberation. Some ways to support Free include writing to him, sending him books and zines (*Let's Get Free* lists the mail regulations for Oregon state prisons), as well as contributing to his legal defense and college education funds.

"I've been given a forum to help radicalize people, to bring the dire situation our planet and we are in to the attention of those who would normally choose to ignore it," says Free. *Let's*

Get Free is one of those forums.

To send letters to Jeffrey "Free" Luers, write to #13797671, OSP, 2605 State St, Salem, OR 97310.

To order a copy of *Let's Get Free*, send five dollars to Free's Defense Network, POB 50263, Eugene, OR 97405; howl_for_freedom@yahoo.com or to *Break the Chains*, POB 11331, Eugene, OR 97440; breakthechains02@yahoo.com.



Silence

BY FREE

Trapped in walls
Imprisoned by lies
living in a world that's blind
to suffering
to suffering
See no evil
Hear no evil
SPEAK NO EVIL

Be blind

Be deaf

Be silent

BE SILENT!

If you don't have something nice to say
Don't say anything at all
We don't talk about things that are
unpleasant.

Rape,

we don't talk about that

Starving children!

Shhh!

Genocide, mass murder, nuclear war,
SHUT UP!

Global warming, poisoned water,
poisoned air,
ENOUGH!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYMORE!

Toxic soil, dying species, extinction

I don't believe you...

I don't believe you...

I don't want to believe you.

It changes everything.

You just need the right anti-depressants.

I'm comfortable.

I'm safe.

EVERYTHING'S JUST FINE...

Trapped in walls

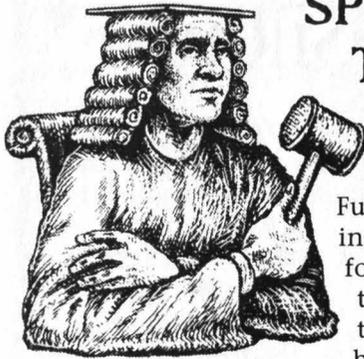
Imprisoned by lies

Happy in a world that's blind
to suffering
to suffering.

announcements

Are you organizing an event that you think people around the world should know about? Send your announcements to the *Earth First! Journal*. Upcoming deadlines: November 1 • January 1.

Earth First! Journal, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.



SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

The Speaking Truth to Power Defense Fund was formed in the wake of federal indictments brought against four Oregon forest activists in August (see *EF!J* September-October 2002). It has been established to defray the expenses incurred by those targeted by the Portland Joint

Terrorism Task Force (PJTTF).

The PJTTF has a consistent record of spying on and harassing law-abiding, nonviolent activists working for change through legal channels. Many view these indictments as one more example of the PJTTF attempting to justify its unconstitutional existence.

The defense fund seeks to protect the civil rights of defendants in cases where the investigation, arrest, evidence gathering or other issues threaten the integrity of their constitutional rights. All contributions go directly toward paying legal expenses.

For more information, contact the Speaking Truth to Power Defense Fund, truth2power@griffinsforge.com. Donations can be sent to the National Lawyers Guild, 125 NE 83rd, Portland, OR 97220. Checks should have the notation "STTP Defense Fund" in the memo line.



The 2003 *EF!* Organizers' Conference will be held in Central California in February. The committee is asking for suggestions that will help provide direction for the event. For more information, contact SCEFI, POB 344, Santa Cruz, CA 95061; cruzef@cruzio.com.

Arrested for Peace?

The Nuclear Resister reports news of anti-war and anti-nuclear arrests in North America and around the world. As the US threatens massive escalation of the war against Iraq, the *Resister* anticipates more protests and arrests.

Your help is needed. Please send any news of anti-war or anti-nuclear arrests in your area. If you were arrested, send your story and what you know of your legal status and any others arrested.

For more information, contact *The Nuclear Resister*, POB 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733; (520) 323-8697; www.nonviolence.org/nukeresister.



Big Mountain Thanksgiving

November 22-December 2

Food and Supply Run

Clan Dyken, a band from Northern California, is preparing to embark on a series of benefit shows to raise funds and awareness for the annual Thanksgiving Food and Supply Run to the Navajo people resisting US-sponsored and corporate-driven relocation from Big Mountain.

This year, Clan Dyken is asking friends and concerned individuals to help raise funds. People can help by attending and promoting a local show, holding a garage or bake sale, gathering up some good food to send, holding an art auction or by joining the caravan (trucks are needed) and helping in work parties on the land.

The caravan will be leaving Wilseyville, California, on November 22. It will be at Big Mountain by November 26.

For more information about this or other support caravans to Big Mountain, to volunteer or to send donations, contact Clan Dyken, POB 101, Wilseyville, CA 95257; mgp@cal.net.

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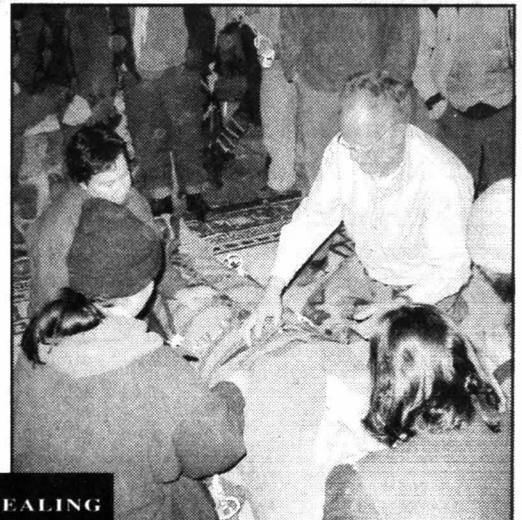
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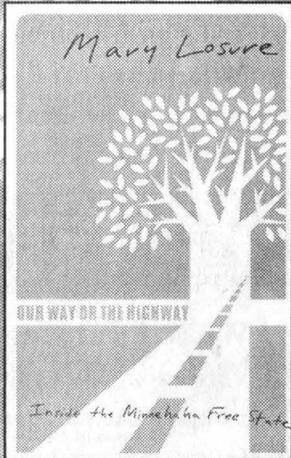


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ACTION UPDATE ?!?

That's right, with the *EF! Journal* switching to bimonthly, we think the time has come for a monthly newsletter, an "action update." The *Earth First! Action Update* (North American edition) would present news of radical direct action in defense of the Earth and the critters that live here. What do you think? We plan on running the first one as a blankwall in the *Brigid* (Feb. 2) issue of the *EF!J*, and we would like your input. Please send articles, artwork and ideas, and, heck, some money would be swell. Contact us at *EF!AU*, POB 10384, Eugene, OR 97440; mpg@efn.org.



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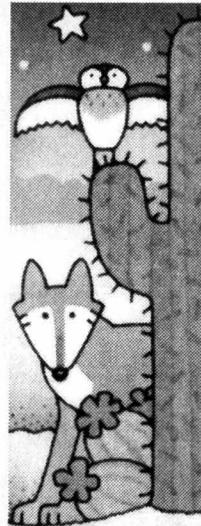
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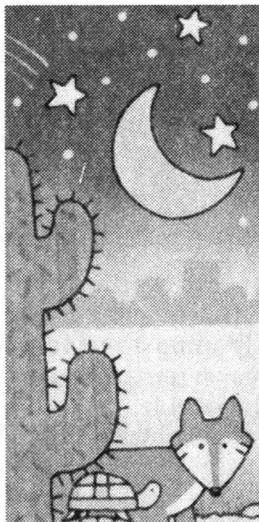
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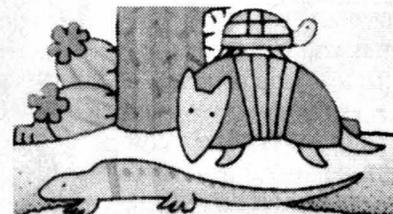
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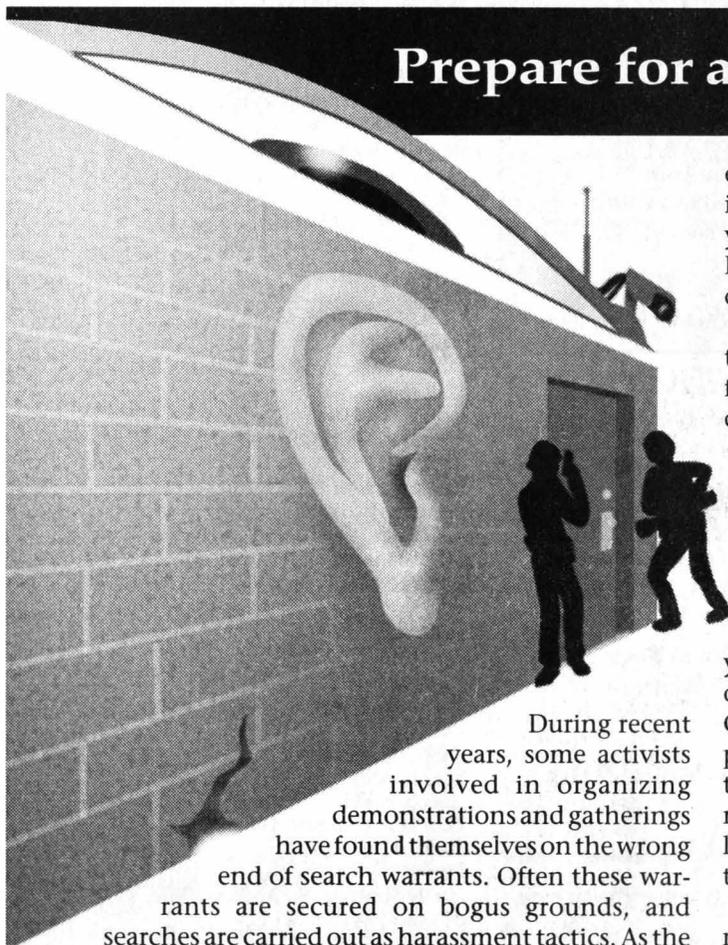
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Creating a Culture of Security

Prepare for a Raid Before it Happens



During recent years, some activists involved in organizing demonstrations and gatherings have found themselves on the wrong end of search warrants. Often these warrants are secured on bogus grounds, and searches are carried out as harassment tactics. As the recent Royal Canadian Mounted Police raid of an Animal Liberation Front spokesperson's home shows (see *EF!* September-October 2002), even speaking out in support of direct action can lead to equipment and materials seizures that can be personally and organizationally disruptive.

The following tips are meant to assist you in preparing for the worst: a raid on your home, office or infoshop.

- Use scenarios to strategize: Building scenarios helps you to mentally and physically prepare for an event like this—though you will never be fully ready for an invasion of this scale. Only you know the work that you do and what specifics would be impacted in a search and seizure operation. What do you need to access daily that could be seized? Do you have other illegal items that could be used to incriminate you? Walk yourself through what you would do from the moment the police show up with a search warrant.

- Encrypt and wipe: All files—not just those that are sensitive—on your computer hard drive should be encrypted using a program such as PGP disk (available at www.pgpi.org). This includes cache files, email (your whole

email program should be set up on an encrypted partition), image archives and text documents. Wipe all free space on your hard drive weekly using a program such as PGP or Burn (for Macs); this makes retrieving data from your hard drive difficult if not impossible.

- Backups, backups, backups: If you lost all your data tomorrow—how would you function? Your best strategy for getting back to work is making regular backups and quietly storing them with a trusted friend or in a safe deposit box not connected to you. Don't just back up your computer files, also make copies of any paper files that you could not live without and store them in a sealed envelope in a safe place.

- Clean up your desk and filing cabinets: Ever write down a password on a piece of paper and then shove it into a file? Ever write down a phone number of a person you don't want to be officially connected to? All those bits of paper start to add up to a lot of information after a while. Go through your desk and transfer that data into a secure place, like an encrypted disk, and then securely dispose of the paper. Likewise, go through filing cabinets every few months and pull out old phone lists, research that is no longer useful and anything else you don't want the police to get their hands on.

- Know your home and its contents: Have you had a lot of roommates or traveling friends visit throughout the years? It is essential to clean up after someone visits or moves out, so you aren't storing items you don't want to be connected to.

- Your electronic organizer and cell phone: Are all your phone numbers stored on your cell phone or palm pilot? Where would you get that information if the police had a warrant to seize those items as well? An encrypted backup zip disk should go along with your computer backups.

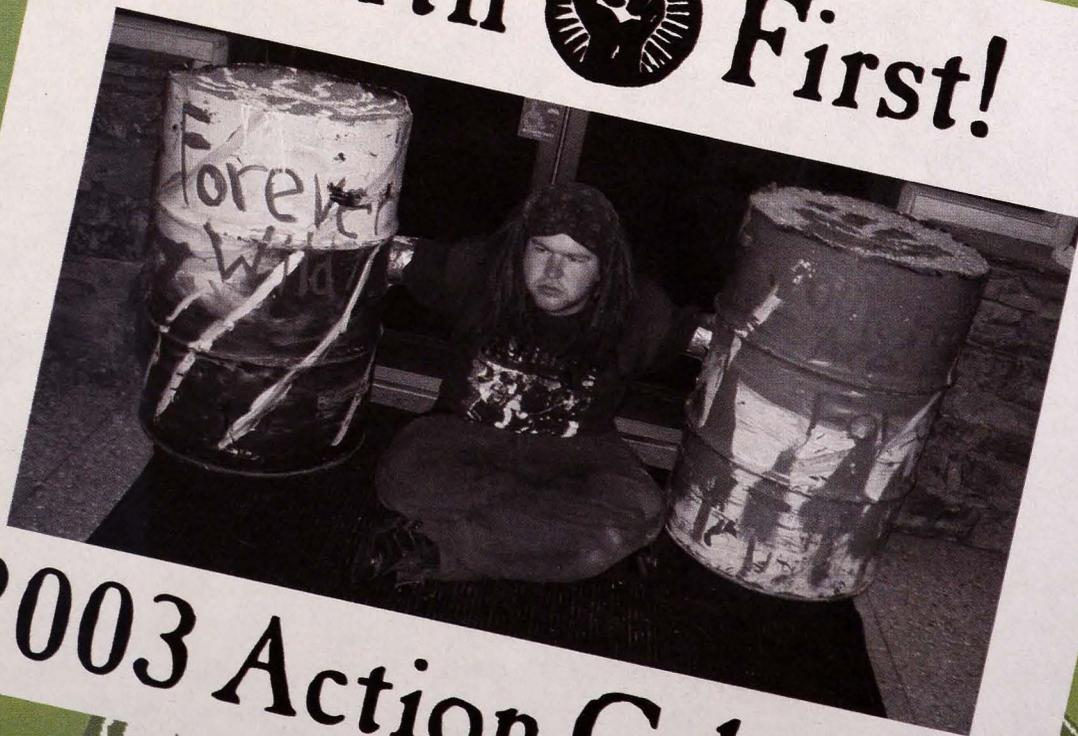
- Emergency numbers and support: Keep a lawyer's number on hand, as well as the

numbers of anyone who would support you during and after a raid. Make sure that the people you live with know where they can get that information if necessary, and also that they know what to do in case of a raid. Most importantly, don't forget that you should not talk to police before, during or after the raid, and you should contact a lawyer for assistance as soon as possible.

There are many reasons to develop security-consciousness in the activist community. The information provided here is an attempt to begin to satisfy the questions activists ask about computer security and overall security culture. For more information, visit security.tao.ca.

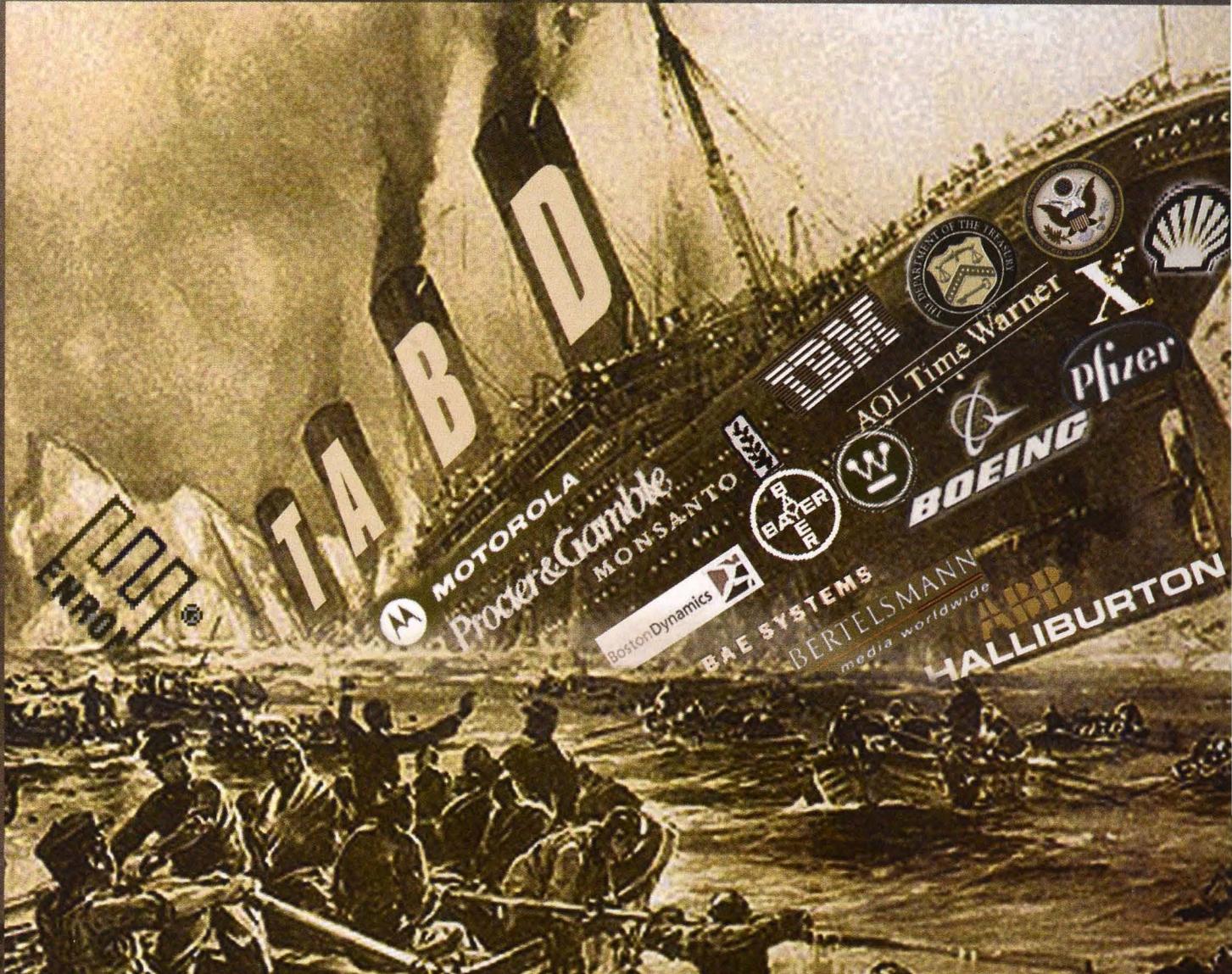
Start organizing the revolution.

Earth  First!



2003 Action Calendar

To order an action-packed, Earth First! calendar for yourself or a friend, send credit card information, check or money order for \$10 to EF! Journal, POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702.



VISUALIZE CORPORATE EXTINCTION

BE THE NEXT ICEBERG! On November 7, the TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) will meet in the luxury of the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago to discuss ways to wreak more TransAtlantic Business Disasters. Sink the ship! Instigate mutiny on the high seas of commerce! Check www.chicago.indymedia.org & www.azone.org/notabd/ for event information. Watery graves for the TABD!

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