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Earth First!

Beltane May-June 2004

The Radical Environmental Journal

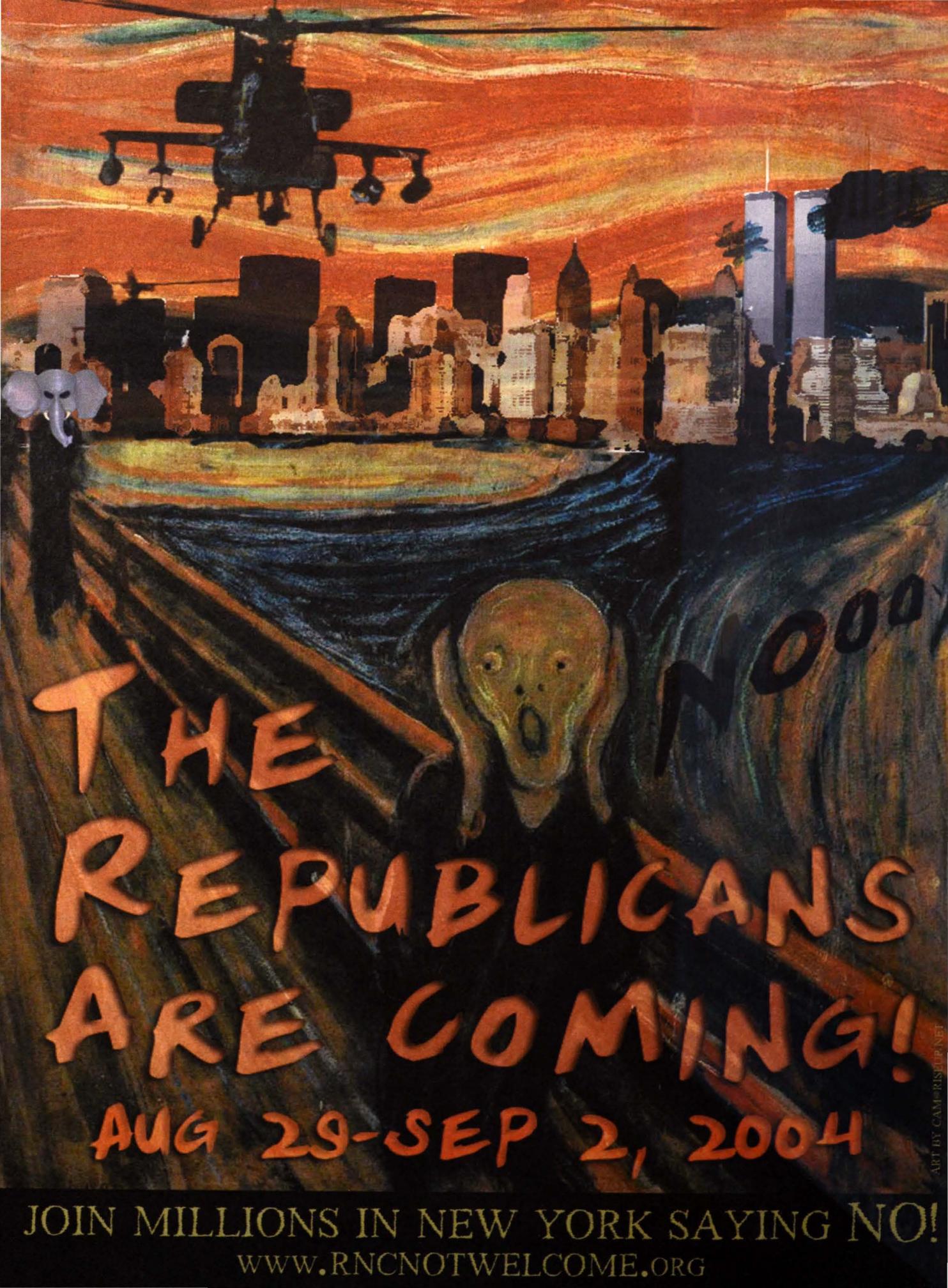
Sab the Bastards!



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Earth First!

Beltane May-June 2004

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Survey and Manage Program Dismantled: The never-ending assault on ancient forests continues with the systematic dismantling of the "Survey and Manage" program, a provision under the Northwest Forest Plan (see *EF!* March-April 2004). On February 23, protesters descended upon US Forest Service (USFS) offices in nine cities from Eureka, California, to Olympia, Washington. In Portland, Oregon, several activists donned animal costumes as 70 people gathered to protest at the USFS regional headquarters. Many people fear that the loss of the program is a harbinger of extirpation for countless rare and endangered species.

Freedom in a Captive Land

During the production of each issue of the *Earth First! Journal*, the editorial collective compiles a diversity of articles from around the world. When all of these stories converge, an interesting thing happens. A whole other narrative jumps out at you—a comprehensive analysis of the plight of the Earth and its inhabitants. This issue, the story is about freedom and captivity.

Earlier this Spring, Earth First!ers in Tucson, Arizona, sprang into action after a long period of rest. The Arizona Game and Fish Department was attempting to hunt down mountain lions inhabiting a nearby national forest because the

lions allegedly posed an unusual danger to humans. The possibility of these lions being killed, or even spending the rest of their lives in captivity, fired people into action.

Suddenly, subconsciously, much more was at stake. What does it mean for us as humans if our society cannot allow for wild places and animals to exist? What happens when suburban sprawl paves over the last forests and the remaining buffalo are exterminated? When, finally, there is no escape from the captivity of our jobs, our mundane lives and the unending strip malls?

Our culture's obsessive drive to subdue all wild creatures easily extends to humans. Within this issue of the *Journal*, you will find the stories of political

prisoners Sherman Austin, Jeff "Free" Luers, Billy Cottrell, Tre Arrow and Helen Woodson—just a few of the many people entrapped in the US legal system for stepping outside the box of dictated "normalcy."

Why is speaking and acting in defense of wildness such a threat to those in power? Because freedom lies in wild-

ness, and wildness demands taking action against the status quo. The US government persecutes these people to set an example of what could happen to anyone who acts out.

Yet, forced captivity has only served to highlight these individual's drive for free-

dom. In fact, rather than the examples of defeat that the government wishes to scare us with, these individuals are pillars of inspiration. Helen Woodson would rather spend her life in prison and be true to her conscience, than be "free" in a society that will not let her live by her values. Despite serving a 22-year prison sentence, Free continues to inspire people to take action with his writings. What does it mean for those in power when their harshest attempts to subdue us fail? What does it tell us about the human spirit and that of truly wild creatures?

We will not be extinguished. We will live with all our might, and we will win.

—SAMANTHA



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Earth First! 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, classism, 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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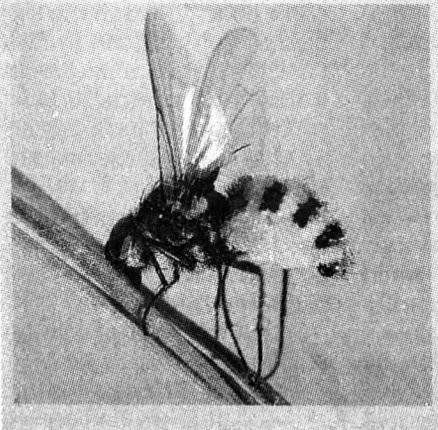


BY FAITH WALKER

In springtime, invading aliens take control of bodies and behavior. The parasitic fungus *Entomophthora muscae* preys upon Dipteran flies, such as the common housefly. When a spore lands on an unsuspecting fly, it germinates, puncturing the exoskeleton. Tendrils spread swiftly through the body, consuming hemolymph (fly blood).

One evening a week thereafter, weak and collapsing, the fly staggers to the top of a plant or windowpane under the control of its invader, where, belly swollen, legs locked, wings akimbo and mouthparts clinging, it dies. Three hours later, white fruiting bodies burst through the lower abdomen and upper abdominal segments, creating characteristic stripes. Spores then shower forth, forming a halo around the deceased, and drift away in air currents from the advantageous perch.

Males find this sexy. They're infatuated with infected females and enjoy elaborately courting and mounting dead, zebra-striped ladies, only to discover a short while later that they themselves are being penetrated. The fungus, it appears, bolsters or mimics female sex pheromones, thus luring males and thereby breaching their amorous armor. This, then, is a tale of parasite propagation by absolute possession: behavior to position the corpse, and physiology to entice more prey.



Hungarian Activists Defeat NATO Radar Station

BY MAYA

Mount Zengo, the highest peak of southern Hungary's Mecsek mountain range, is host to an array of rare plant and animal species that exist nowhere else in the world. This region has been part of the East-Mecsek Landscape Protection Area since 1977, and it is coveted by environmentalists and local citizens who make a living from both eco-tourism and medical tourism.

In 2003, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Hungarian Ministry of Defense laid out plans to build three wide-range, strategic radar stations in Hungary in order to fortify NATO's radar power in the East. Two radars would replace obsolete locators in Bankut and Bekescaba, while the third would be erected on the summit of Mt. Zengo.

The Hungarian Ministry of Defense, in its efforts to carry out these plans, has totally disregarded the environmental protection laws of the area. A spokesperson from the National Society of Conservationists in Hungary stated, "Deploying the radar station on Mt. Zengo would damage an intact natural site and irredeemably jeopardize the welfare of local inhabitants in the long term."

The Ministry of Defense tried to keep the public and local organizations in the dark about its schemes. Fortunately, environmental groups—including Civilians for Zengo, Vedegylet (Protect the Future) and the Pecs Green Circle—received information about the radar and quickly gathered into action. They staged a series of protests and direct actions in order to prevent any tree-cutting from taking place.

On February 13, braving sub-zero temperatures, hundreds of people climbed to Mt. Zengo's peak to battle the assault on the mountain. Some activists chained themselves to trees, while others physically prevented tree-cutters and security guards from advancing up Mt. Zengo. When security guards removed one activist from a tree, others would jump in and successfully fend off any attacks against the forest. Police were unable to make any arrests due to the fact that these protests were taking place on private land.

Time was of the essence, as the Ministry of Defense's permit to ax the trees expired on February 15. Protesters successfully managed to prevent any clearcutting from taking place before this deadline, and the assault on Mt. Zengo has ended for now.

The defense of Mt. Zengo received an incredible amount of support and media attention. Environmental organizations in Hungary have been gaining strength and are achieving positive results. For example, citizens recently convinced the city of Budapest not to widen a road along a river embankment.

Because of the environmental sensitivity of Mt. Zengo, there are regulations in effect until October to prevent tree felling in protected areas. The Ministry of Defense may still try to illegally cut down the trees this Summer and pay the subsequent fees. Environmentalists, however, will remain vigilant in their protection of this unique ecosystem.



Back off Mt. Zengo: Hungarian environmentalists take on NATO

photo by Nagy Erzi

Dear Shit fer Brains:

Letters to the Editors (300 words or less, please!)

EF! Journal Collective,

Just wanted to send you a heartfelt thank you. A short time ago I wrote inquiring about the possibility of some free back issues since I was an indigent prisoner in dire need of some meaningful reading material. You responded by letting me know that although you usually discount prisoner subscriptions, due to the fact that another prisoner recently donated a subscription, you were able to provide me one for free. This gesture was most greatly appreciated. Also, if possible, please relay my thanks to the prisoner who made it possible for you to do that. My deepest thanks are to both of you.

In solidarity,

—MIKE

Editors' note: If you'd like to sponsor a prisoner subscription, send a check, money order, credit card information or well-concealed cash to the EF! Journal for \$25 and indicate that you would like it to go toward a prisoner sub. If you are a prisoner, please contact the Journal for details on obtaining a discounted subscription.

Howdy Gang!

I've been away for a while. The last time you heard from me was from Alaska, during the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the troubled times that followed. I spent some time in Duke City, Ed's old stomping ground, visited the shrines thereabout, talked to some folks who knew him, absorbed the atmosphere of the place that witnessed the birth, and death, of "Jonathan Troy," and the genesis of "Fire on the Mountain."

But in the end, I left. All in all, Albuquerque is still a doomed city in the desert, split in twain by the desic-

cated remains of the Rio Grande. Peralta exists only on a sign soon to be displaced by rampant urban sprawl. Even Ed's beloved Arches, far to the northwest, have been paved and gentrified beyond recognition. Time to move on.

And yet, the bulldozers and bundlers rattle through the remaining forest remnants, road building continues apace, the earth-rapers recline at their ease in White House splendor and another spasm of patriotic excess threatens the future of...the future.

It's good to know a small cadre of dedicated environmentalists is still hard at work, and play, in the forests and deserts of this once fine country, and elsewhere. And to wile away the lonely hours chained to the stinking remains of industrial logging machinery, what better than a modest periodical documenting the lives and loves of the last free humans on the planet?

Long live the *Journal*! Earth First! first and last! Freedom and wilderness, that's our cry, uttered at length and volume until the jackboots descend, finally and ultimately, on our necks.

—MICHAEL LEWIS

Dear yearning to be relevant SFB,

Peggy Sue and Nonny Mouse are such wonderful examples of why Earth First! and US environmentalists are so irrelevant to world revolution (change) and instead support the enemy (see *EF!* March-April 2004). Guilty of ignorance or clever manipulators? They exhibit a deep

lack of history/vocabulary. Eco-anarchists (whoever they are) are against any nationalism? The PLO, the Corsicans and the Basques are for devolution—they are trying to break away from larger nations—this is anti-nationalism! The heroic FARC and the IRA fight to recover land taken from them or occupied by imperialist powers.

If there were any real environmentalists in the US, they would be down in Colombia fighting with the FARC to stop the US, the Coal and Oil Companies and the Colombian Narco-Death Squad Government from destroying the most biologically diverse country on Earth. Colombia has more bird species than North America, and most are endangered.

But the greater tragedy of "Sue and Mouse" is their obvious Western, liberal and bourgeois (middle class) viewpoint on everything. They reject self-defense or any resistance other than their own ineffective efforts. They misunderstand Gandhi, who doubted that mass non-violence could work against immoral regimes like the Nazis—or the US Empire. And they lack a basic understanding of strategy: how violent and nonviolent movements have always aided each other.

Yes, we need more Kaczynskis and more revolutionary cells. We need to tie disparate struggles together in our minds and statements, because they aren't really different when viewed from outside the US. For billions of people, there is a global war underway by the Capitalist Globalizers and the US military. All struggles against

these twin towers of global fascism—yes, even Al Qaeda—are connected, vital, relevant—unlike Peggy or Mouse—or the *EF! Journal*.

The *Journal* deserves its share of blame for the sorry state of education among its readers and its staff. On the other hand, it is just a magazine—there is no movement—the Carnival too is a con-job. What can a magazine trapped in a vacuum of a Fascist government and an ignorant public do?

Sad is the land that has no hero—but sadder is the land that needs a hero.

—NASSIM MOBASHER

Dear Earth First!ers,

If anyone reading this owns a car or truck, or uses a car or truck, I have a suggestion for a continuous political action.

The faster a vehicle is driven the more fuel it uses, correct? What if all of us activists, inactivists, non-activists and sympathetic readers drove *at the speed limit*, or five miles under the speed limit?

We would not only be saving fuel wasted by speeding, but on a two lane road would affect other drivers to use less fuel. If people behind us race forward to pass us, more people would see our bumper stickers.

We couldn't be harassed by the law because we are *obeying the law*.

So I suggest to all of us who feel the need to own a vehicle and use it: "Leave earlier, drive slower."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

—KAREN HINDERSTEIN

P.S. For those of us impatient people, this is a means of teaching ourselves patience.

Editors' note: Contact the Journal to get our merchandise catalog. We sell a wide selection of bumper stickers to meet your needs.

Dear brothers and sisters,

My name is Cassidy "Varmint" Maddox, and I just received the Litha 2001 issue of *EF! Journal* as part of a free book package from "Bound Together" in Frisco, along with the current issues of *The Sun*, *Anarchy*, a copy of *Turtle Island* and the latest AK Press catalog.

I've been getting very complacent lately and needed a reminder of what it is I'm here to do. Thank you, brothers and sisters; for reminding me, for without it, I might have never pulled my head out of the sand. I'm currently in prison for the next 6-12 years for a "social" crime, but was as active as possible in the Phoenix area while free. I'm currently in SMU one, which is where "dangerous" or "subversive" inmates are placed. 24 hour cell time, etc. I'm sure you know the deal.

I'm writing mainly for some help in obtaining a vegan diet. By Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) regulations, only medical or specific religious anomalies can result in a special diet. I've tried to have it changed on the basis of my moral objections, but that hasn't worked. The only religious affiliation that is recognized as a vegan/vegetarian is the Seventh Day Adventist faith. If anyone could help, I would really appreciate it. Such a large portion of our food is egg/meat based that I'm losing a lot of weight.

Also, I was interested in starting a campaign to get ADC to use more acceptable materials, e.g. recycled paper, options for inmates to recycle their own materials, a ban on animal tested/genetically engineered products, etc. I've attempted to

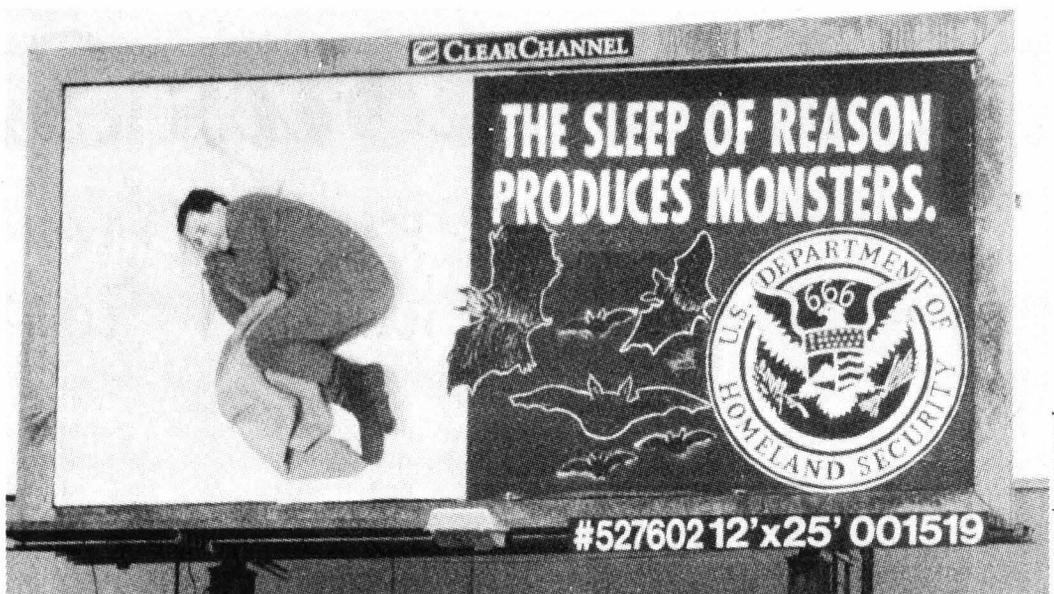


photo courtesy CDC

California Department of Corrections Joins Homeland Security for Ad Campaign

On February 14, the California Department of Corrections (CDC) unveiled the latest billboard alterations in its 10-year campaign against the state's most criminal advertising. Released for Valentine's Day, two rehabilitated ads, located in San Francisco, California, were presented as a gift to the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Since CDC's inception in 1994, the security of its facilities and the safety of correctional staff have been high priorities. Therefore, CDC supports the efforts of DHS to extend maximum security throughout the US and to introduce the general public to the safety, efficiency and discipline found in California's correctional facilities.

The billboards in question were apprehended, detained and released without incident. After a brief period of rehabilitation, one advertisement was

discharged into San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. A Spanish-speaking counterpart was released into the Mission District.

The formerly criminal advertisements seem to have successfully readjusted to public life. Once touting the benefits of cold medicine to feverish insomniacs, these ads were corrected with assistance from Francisco Goya's *Caprichos*. The billboards are at liberty, but they remain under surveillance by CDC staff to prevent any potential lapse into prior criminal behavior.

CDC is a private institution operated by individuals who feel that California's correctional facilities insufficiently manage the state's most criminal elements.

For more information on CDC operations, visit www.geocities.com/billboardcorrections.

rally my fellow inmates, but apathy is rampant among the population—along with fascism and ridicule of any willing to sacrifice so our mother may reclaim her health. But if they were presented with the option of recycling, they would gladly comply, simply out of the desire to do

something different.

It's hard here, but it is made doubly hard by being told to "shut your dirty hippy mouth" or "take that pinko-homo stuff somewhere else" when I try to get anything done for mother earth. If this is all I must endure to get something done, I willingly

run headlong into the beatings and food deprivation that "trouble-makers" commonly face.

Yours in solidarity,

—CASSIDY LEE MADDOX

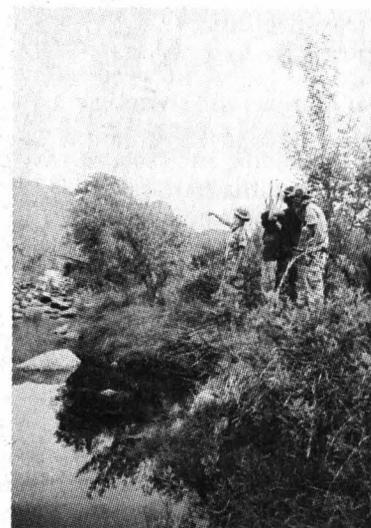
ADC #157399

ASPC EYMAN, SMU 1

POB 4000

FLORENCE, AZ 85232

Notorious SAB



photos by Karmi Middelman

Chuk'shon Hunt Sabbers: Too Legit to Quit!

BY CHUK'SHON EARTH FIRST!

We were preparing for the Spring black bear hunt sabotage when the word arrived. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) was planning to kill up to five mountain lions that were allegedly "showing no fear" of humans. AZGFD claimed that a full-scale hunt was necessary to prevent an "imminent attack."

On March 10, the US Forest Service (USFS) enacted a federal closure around the Sabino Canyon National Recreation Area, a popular hiking spot in the Coronado National Forest north of Tucson, Arizona. There was no public input, no exploration of alternatives and no evidence of any real threat to humans.

In the Sonoran Desert, like elsewhere, Spring has become a time of conflict between the native wildlife and urban sprawl, which abuts land that was still wilderness when Dave Foreman first hoisted a monkeywrench here 20-some years ago. Suddenly AZGFD, with the cooperation of the USFS, was launching a lion-hunting expedition in one of Arizona's best-loved parks, where native predators and other wildlife are supposed to be given a reprieve.

While the Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife mobilized to fight within legal parameters, Chuk'shon Earth First! (CEF!) prepared for direct action. The energy in our community was frantic as we assembled a crew to go into the canyon on the first day of the hunt. Together, we burned white sage and prayed to the spirit of the lion as we readied ourselves for battle. By the stroke of midnight on that first day, an eight-person patrol was in the canyon carrying out reconnaissance and hunting for the hunters.

CEF! decided on a two-pronged strategy: direct action and a media blitz. We had teams in the canyon every day and night watching for lion hunt activity and using masking

scents and lion urine—purchased from a dog training store—to lead the hounds down false trails. With video cameras, we documented and exposed AZGFD's hunting operation. We gave footage to the media and openly discussed our sabotage tactics in interviews with the press.

We tried to balance security culture with a degree of openness about our tactics in order to educate and empower the public (and piss off the feds!). Given the haste of our actions, however, security was not practiced at the level it should have been. We used cell phones to coordinate drop-offs and pick-ups, most of us using our real names. Questions arose as to how much information we should share with the media, especially when the audio tapes of *Esquire* reporter John Richardson, who had been following the campaign (and us), fell into the hands of the FBI.

Yet despite our lapses in security, CEF! patrols slipped in and out of the park without incident on numerous occasions. One moment we may have been at work, in class or cooking dinner with the family, and the next moment we were getting dropped off at the edge of urbanization to begin a shift as hunt saboteurs.

Our media work paid off. CEF!'s presence in the canyon earned us air time equal to that of AZGFD officials, which antagonized them to no end. We rallied enough public support to legitimize our guerrilla tactics while also creating space in the media for an ecocentric viewpoint. This wasn't a lion problem, it was a people problem. Creeping urban sprawl is destroying the habitat of mountain lions who have been in the Sabino Canyon area for thousands of years. If anyone needs to be relocated, it is the people who live at the edge of development and don't respect the wildness of their environment.

When we flied at public events, people walked up to us and gave us money. An upscale homeowners association voted unanimously to support CEF!'s presence in Sabino

Canyon. A pro-mountain lion rally in downtown Tucson drew more than 300 people. The corporate media returned every call and provided us with new information when they contacted us for comments on AZGFD's latest move.

After five days of searching for lions and a steady increase in public pressure to leave the lions alone, AZGFD imposed a three-day moratorium on the hunt. The agency then announced that it would no longer try to kill the lions but would instead imprison the animals at a private "rehabilitation" facility for the rest of their lives. Experts considered this an equally lethal plan, as adult mountain lions have not been known to live for very long in captivity. In addition to using trained hounds to find and tree the lions, AZGFD placed cable snares with battery-powered sensors strategically along Sabino Creek. A helicopter stood ready to airlift the shocked and tranquilized lions to the facility.

CEF! videotaped a military Black Hawk helicopter flying through the canyon. The next day, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, who had opposed the hunt from the beginning, forbade AZGFD from using military equipment in its war on the lions. AZGFD was then forced to hire a private helicopter for the duration of the hunt.

Not one environmental group endorsed the relocation plan. CEF! worked together with the Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental groups, supporting each other's tactics and denying the media an opportunity to report division in the environmental community.

Meanwhile, in the canyon, recent lion tracks could be seen on the trails. Hunters and their hounds, however, were observed following the fake lion scent laid by our crew. As the media continued to run the hunt sab as a top story, a news poll reported that 62 percent of the public was opposed to the relocation plan.

The park was losing up to \$10,000 a day in visitor fees, and the hunt cost an additional \$6,000 a day. Our presence in the park forced AZGFD to constantly reassess the cost-effectiveness of the hunt. Our biggest fear was that a territory-seeking young lion would wander down the canyon and into one of the largest lion hunts in Arizona history.

On March 24, hunt saboteur and media spokesperson Rod Coronado was arrested in the canyon, along with Richardson. Coronado's capture and arrest lent credibility to our promise to disrupt the hunt, and it kept the issue on the front page.

Resistance in the canyon continued, and AZGFD became increasingly desperate. On March 25, AZGFD officials physically restrained and ejected the Center for Biological Diversity's desert ecologist from a daily news briefing, right in front of a bank of television cameras.

We were winning. Mother Nature aided our disruption of the hunt by providing hot weather, which made it nearly impossible for the hounds to pick up the lion scent. The AZGFD regional supervisor admitted that the agency was "approaching the limit of its budget endurance."

Under the light of the moon on March 27, a CEF! patrol entered the canyon with one mission: to locate and disable as many of the lion snares as possible.

The next day, after nearly a week of intensive hunting, AZGFD announced that it was suspending the hunt indefinitely, without having seen a single lion. At a press conference announcing the decision, the district ranger for the Coronado National Forest also expressed disappointment with the media for giving "eco-terrorists and convicted felons the level of credibility given to state officials."

Are we celebrating? Hell yes! Real victories are too rare to be ignored. But CEF! will not rest as long as AZGFD continues its war against the Sonoran Desert's native predators. The Spring black bear hunt is on, and CEF! will be there to sab the bastards!

For more info., contact sabthebastards@hotmail.com.

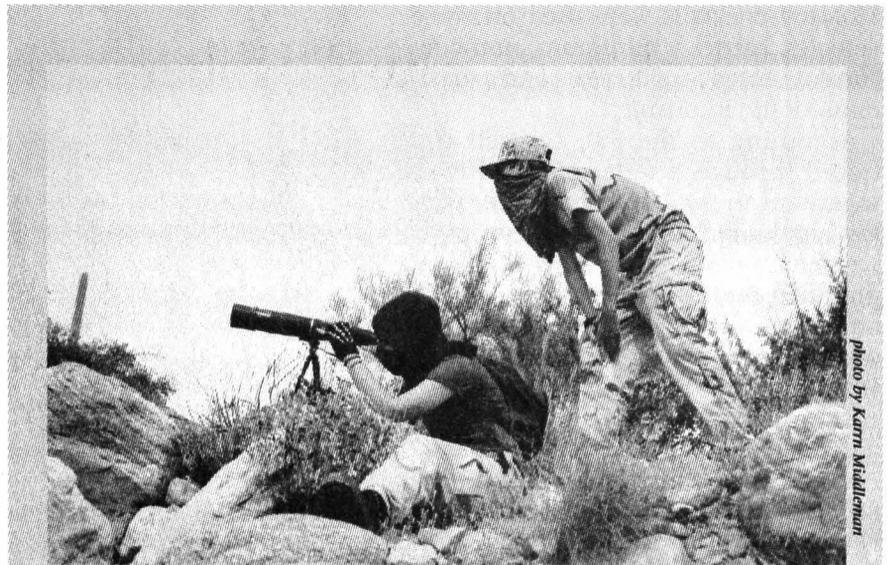


Photo by Karm Mittleman

"The helicopter hovered just above the cottonwoods; through its open doors were two Arizona Game and Fish officers staring directly at us. We instinctively ran down a small trail where, among the brush, was a steel cable snare intended for a mountain lion. I leaped onto the trap, ripping it from the ground as the spring-loaded snare caught my arm and was torn from its anchor on a mesquite tree. After disabling the snare, I hid in the underbrush while the helicopter dropped lower and lower, blowing away my cover with its backdraft and forcing me to run down the creek until an AZGFD officer drew his gun and ordered me to stop. Had I been a lion, it would have ended right there.

"Another hunt saboteur in our group hid further up the creekside, while AZGFD, USFS and FBI agents combed the area. For seven hours, the agents searched the canyon, sometimes standing only a few feet from the cloaked warrior. When darkness descended, he fled to freedom and more nights back on patrol.

"I was captured, but at least no mountain lions were."

—ROD CORONADO

Caltech Student Charged for SUV Actions

BY LENNY

On March 9, federal agents and West Covina police officers arrested William Jensen Cottrell for allegedly participating in a series of Earth Liberation Front (ELF) actions in southern California. On August 22, the ELF burned and spray-painted 125 SUVs at four car dealerships, resulting in more than two million dollars of damage (see *EF!* November-December 2003).

"Billy" Cottrell is a Ph.D. student at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and an outspoken critic of SUVs. He is being held without bail on seven counts of arson, one count of conspiracy and one count of using a destructive device during a violent crime. The first eight charges carry sentences of five to 20 years each, which may be served concurrently. The ninth charge, added because Molotov cocktails were used on some vehicles, carries a minimum, non-concurrent sentence of 30 years and a maximum of life in prison.

According to the FBI, Cottrell was traced through a series of email messages sent to the *Los Angeles Times* following the ELF actions. The messages, written under the alias Tony Marsden, provided details from the actions in an attempt to clear Josh Connole. Connole was initially arrested in connection with the vandalisms and then released without charge.

"The police have the wrong man here—I was amongst those responsible for the SUV attacks," read one email message from Marsden. "The FBI hasn't seemed to pick up on any of the clues, which makes this whole ordeal rather boring for us, the true culprits."

When the FBI informed the *Los Angeles Times* that the details outlined in the message were accurate, details that had not been released to the press, the newspaper researched the source of the email. Soon thereafter, the *Los Angeles Times* informed the FBI that it had traced the email to a Caltech computer.

University officials stated, "We have been aware that the FBI has been pursuing its investigation, and the institute has been cooperating fully." As part of this cooperation, Caltech computer specialists confirmed that the first email message was sent from a computer in one of the school's libraries. Further investigation revealed that six different computers in two Caltech libraries had been used to send email messages about the ELF actions to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Caltech also revealed that Cottrell's identification card had been used to enter the libraries within eight minutes of the time when the messages were sent. Computer records showed the FBI that on 11 occasions, someone had

been logged onto a Caltech computer on Cottrell's student account at the same time Marsden's email account was being accessed. Finally, a security camera recorded "a person resembling Cottrell" entering the Caltech library a few minutes before Marsden's account was accessed.

Cottrell was first questioned by the FBI in January, but he maintained his innocence and denied sending the email messages. Days later, the FBI questioned Adeline Shu Ping Seah, Cottrell's girlfriend and fellow Caltech graduate student. According to the FBI, Cottrell told her that he had carried out the ELF actions, but she had always believed that he was joking.

The FBI claims that Cottrell confessed to other friends as well and that he confided his detailed plans to go on the run if the police started to close in. Cottrell's supporters believe, however, that these statements were coerced by the FBI. Because the FBI has targeted a non-activist community, Cottrell's friends were not prepared to deal with the pressure exerted by armed federal agents. The validity of all the FBI's claims, including those about tracing the email messages, is currently in question.

"As Billy has always maintained, he's innocent—all of that will come out in court," said a spokesperson from his support network. "The FBI has become desperate in its search for the ELF. It is looking for someone to make an example out of. Billy is not fond of SUVs. That was all the FBI needed to warrant destroying his life."

Cottrell has pled not guilty to all charges. He is suffering from sleep deprivation and weight loss while in jail, and he has been denied confidential access to his attorney. He talks frequently about the support letters he receives and how much they mean to him.

Cottrell's trial is scheduled to begin on May 11. The FBI says that two other suspects in the SUV arsons have left the country.

"These are very difficult cases to work with when it involves a group as vaporous and nebulous as the ELF," said FBI spokesperson Jan Caldwell. "They have the skeletal structure of a slug. It's like herding cats or trying to shovel smoke."

Donations for Cottrell's legal defense can be sent to the Free Billy Defense Fund, POB 3372, Anaheim, CA 92803-3372 (make checks payable to William Cottrell).

Letters can be sent to William Cottrell, Inmate #0403300535, Central Detention Center, 630 E Rialto Ave, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0025.

For more information, contact the Free Billy Support and Defense Network, freebillycottrell@yahoo.com; www.freebillycottrell.org.



Billy Cottrell

photo by Adeline Seah

FBI's Most Wanted Arrested in Canada

BY TIM REAM

"In every deliberation, we must consider the next seven generations, not just seven generations of humans, but of all species, of all life on this sacred Earth. May it stay forever wild."

—TRE ARROW

What does it look like when the Earth calls forth a true warrior to protect life? Maybe it starts with giving one's voice to the Earth, speaking truth to power, calling for an end to the desolation. After the words, one's heart might follow, really feeling the pain of a forest freshly cut, a species on the edge. Truly called, one's body is next as actions align with beliefs. From then on, it is always a gamble that at any moment one's freedom might be taken too. This has been the path for Tre Arrow, bedding down tonight imprisoned for loving life before respecting the law.

After more than a year on the FBI's most-wanted list, Canadian authorities have Tre Arrow in custody. They are seeking to extradite him to stand trial in the US for charges that could carry a maximum sentence of 80 years in prison.

My favorite memory of Tre comes from a bright July afternoon in 2000: Outside the US Forest Service (USFS) regional headquarters in Portland, Oregon, a successful rally against the Eagle Creek Timber Sale was coming to a close. The speeches had all been made; the crowd inspired by radical cheerleaders and radical musicians. Happy with the turnout, organizers were smiling as they wrapped up and prepared to leave. Tre was still new on the scene at that point, but he was not so new as to be satisfied by a one-hour rally.

I watched Tre as he began, seemingly without forethought, to scale the side of the building. In a t-shirt and baggy pants, barefoot with pockets empty, he quickly gained a nine-inch ledge about

30 feet above the street and called for us all to stay on in protest. I knew instinctively that he wasn't coming down soon and ran to get some rope.

Within minutes he had hauled up water, food and signs. An occupation began on the sidewalk below. He lived on that ledge for 11 days, breathlessly speaking to thousands of people who came out for the spectacle.

I met Tre only the month before. I had stopped in at the Cascadia Forest Alliance office and found a man in a tie-dyed

shirt with blue eyes and curly hair, both as wild as the heart inside him. Tre bounded about, an uncontrollable ball of energy wrapped up in an oversized phone cord. He was simultaneously greeting newcomers, answering phones and preparing a supply run to the Eagle Creek basecamp. Here, clearly was a man inspired, empowered and alive.

Martha Aspy became a friend of Tre's during the ledge sit. "I've never met anyone who walks his talk like Tre does," she said recently. "It's how he has to live his life. I was always learning from him. He opened my eyes to so many things. I lived in suburbia. I raised my kids. It was like I had been asleep for 40 years. Once your eyes are opened though, you can never go back."

That energy of Tre's never quits. In fact, it multiplies. Tre has a way with people, which brings them into the action, into a new way of life. He found converts to raw food at basecamp. He recruited treesitters in the streets of the city. He even convinced more than 15,000 Portland residents in November 2000 to vote to send him to Washington, DC, as a congressman.

Clearly, he had to be stopped.

After the victory at Eagle Creek, Tre turned his attention to Oregon state lands in the Coast Range. In October 2001, at a timber sale in the Tillamook State Forest, Tre climbed a Western hemlock in an attempt to save it

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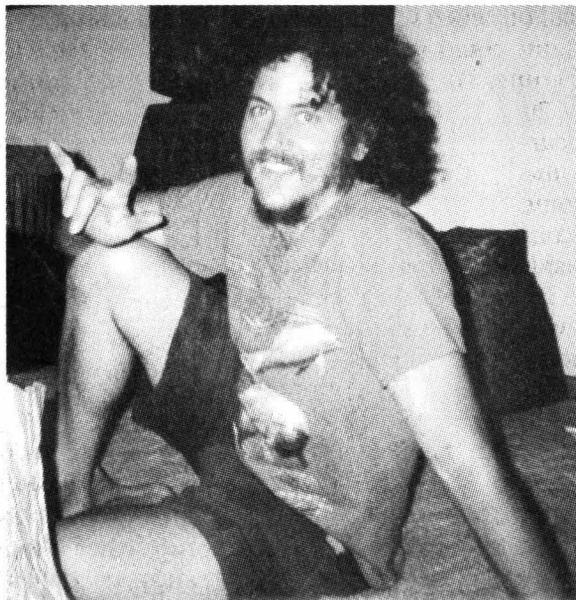


photo by Martha

"I am doing well and am grateful for the overwhelming love and support pouring in from all over the world. I have been on a hunger strike since my arrest on March 13, which involves consuming only water. The two main reasons for this hunger strike are: firstly, to protest this incarceration and the lack of justice within the US judicial system; and secondly, to show a token of solidarity to all those suffering around the world as a result of corporate agendas which leave in their wake poisoned water, contaminated air and lack of adequate food.

"I have been a longtime activist for human, nonhuman, animal and environmental issues. My involvement in peaceful, nonviolent activism is well-documented. Any attempt to label or brand me as the 't'-word is only an effort to discredit my reputation and detract from the effective campaigns I've been involved with."

—TRE ARROW

continued from previous page
from the saws. Law enforcement and loggers teamed up to make Tre pay for his actions.

Rather than backing off cutting that tree, they set up an around-the-clock camp designed to defeat Tre Arrow. A guard was posted at the base of the hemlock. The sheriff mounted a rifle with a scope onto a tripod and kept it trained on Tre for the bulk of the time he spent in the tree. Spotlights and powerful speakers were brought in to blast music and shine light throughout the night. Tre had no platform. He perched on a single branch and began to endure the onslaught. After nearly 48 hours of sleepless harassment, thinking he was safely clipped onto the branch, Tre nodded off.

He fell 75 feet. Broke his pelvis, his collarbone and a rib, which punctured a lung.

I saw Tre a couple of months later at a friend's house in Portland. I marveled at his recovery. Clearly, he had turned his amazing energy inward to heal his battered body. During his entire stay in the hospital, he had refused all medication, including painkillers. Unable to stop him, the authorities turned to more extreme methods.

Back in June 2001, on the day logging season was set to start at Eagle Creek, a log truck was burned on the lot of the contractor who would profit from the forest's destruction. No one took credit for the arson. A few months before, several pieces of heavy equipment at a sand and gravel company had been destroyed. The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) claimed responsibility.

According to the FBI, Jacob Sherman bragged of committing both acts of sabotage to his girlfriend, who then told her father, a deputy state fire marshal. With Sherman facing decades in prison and a pregnant girlfriend, the FBI



Tre Arrow does yoga sun salutations on the ledge of the US Forest Service building in Portland

photo by Kyr Westwind

offered a sweet deal. Sherman claimed that Tre was the arson ringleader who beguiled him into these wayward acts. In August 2002, an indictment was announced against Tre. Sherman was given 41 months in prison.

The FBI declared the ELF the nation's number one domestic terrorist threat and Tre Arrow their number one target. They put a bounty of \$25,000 on his head and plastered his face in post offices around the country.

In August 2002, soon after the indictment was handed down, a USFS research laboratory was torched in Pennsylvania. Several weeks later, the ELF claimed responsibility with a message unlike anything previously written: "While innocent life will never be harmed in any action we undertake, where it is necessary, we will

no longer hesitate to pick up the gun to implement justice." With this unprecedented threat of violence against people, the FBI put out a press release claiming to have spotted Tre Arrow in the area. To date, the FBI has not been able to prove this claim.

Despite all of the money spent on Joint Terrorism Task Forces, US officials' efforts came up empty for more than a year and a half. It was Canadian authorities who arrested Tre on March 13, in Victoria, British Columbia, on charges of shoplifting a pair of bolt-cutters. After running his fingerprints, they learned his identity.

We can speculate on the real Tre Arrow. Is he what he has always outwardly appeared to be, a forest defender with boundless energy and a huge heart on a path of peaceful resistance? Or does he have a side unknown, happy vegan treesitter by day, a highly effective saboteur by night?

In *The Matrix*, Thomas A. Anderson escapes his cubicle, his white shirt, his tie and his dead end job, and he transforms into his true self—Neo. Similarly, Tre Arrow, while sitting high in a tree in a Cascadian forest, shed his original name and took on the moniker he has made famous. He so identified with his new name that he legally changed it in 2001.

Tre, through sacrifice (sitting on a nine-inch public ledge for 11 days) and charisma, won over Portland, Oregon. He created an outcry that bolstered the nearly decade-long campaign to save the Eagle Creek watershed from destruction at the hands of the US Forest Service and Schoppert Logging.

In August 2002, the federal government accused Tre of committing arson at Schoppert, and it began a campaign to destroy his good name. It used an old tactic, by lying about Tre's true name and feeding its own version of the facts to the media. From that time on, in every newspaper, television and radio report, one could count on the reporter beginning the story with something like: "Michael James Scarpitti—better known as Tre Arrow."

Recall that in *The Matrix*, Agent Smith didn't say "Neo." Agent Smith only said "Mr. Anderson."

—STU SUGARMAN

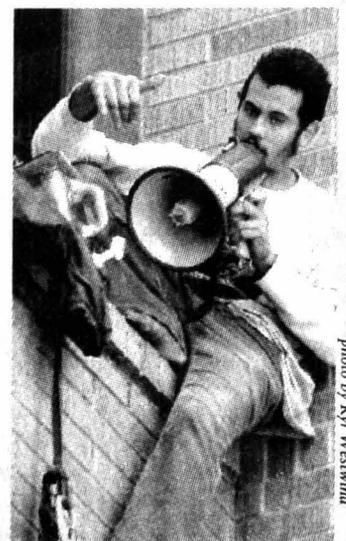


photo by Kyr Westwind

To my mind, it doesn't matter a bit. Tre Arrow lives his convictions and that meant he broke the law to protect life. Saving Eagle Creek was illegal. Protecting the Tillamook was illegal. If you break the law and garner increasing popular support, you are a threat to everything the state stands for. You must be stopped.

So for that reason and a dozen others, Tre Arrow must be supported unconditionally. As far as I can see, Tre gives every day of his life for the Earth, so I'm calling on everyone to give a day for Tre. Here is my hope: that the actions of Tre Arrow inspire the support of one day of your life, one whole day. If you are a working person, that means you figure a day's wages and send it to Tre's legal defense fund. If you live outside the wage economy, give a full day's work organizing a benefit or spreading the news of Tre's case through every venue you know.

The next step in Tre's legal battle is to fight extradition. One need only to look at Jeffrey "Free" Luers' sentence of 22 years for burning SUVs to understand that there is no way Tre Arrow can get a fair trial in the US. Canada can try him for shoplifting, but beyond that he should be granted political refugee status.

If Canada hands Tre over to John Ashcroft's Department of "Justice," he will need all the help he can get. This administration is hell-bent on pinning the terror label on everyone from 13-year-old Afghanis in Guantanamo to Colombian peasants to anyone who stands up for the Earth. Tre needs to fight this case with all of the resources our movement can muster. "A Day for Tre" is a way we can all help.

To donate to Tre's legal defense fund, make checks payable to "TALDF." Send contributions to the Tre Arrow Legal Defense Fund, 125 NE 83rd Ave, Portland, OR 97220.

You can write to Tre Arrow, CS #05850722, Vancouver Island Regional Correction Center, 4216 Wilkinson Rd, Victoria, BC V8Z 5B2, Canada.

Tre has been on a water-only hunger strike since his arrest. He has been receiving a large number of visitors and heavy interest from the media. After activists in British Columbia held a rally on Tre's behalf, he was moved into solitary confinement and is allowed only one hour a day to stretch his legs. You can get the latest updates at www.portland.indymedia.org.

Finally, I have no doubt that Tre will feel the power of your prayers for life and especially your actions for the Earth. If you haven't yet begun to give your voice for the Earth, your heart, your body, maybe today.

Tim Ream is a regular contributor to the Earth First! Journal.

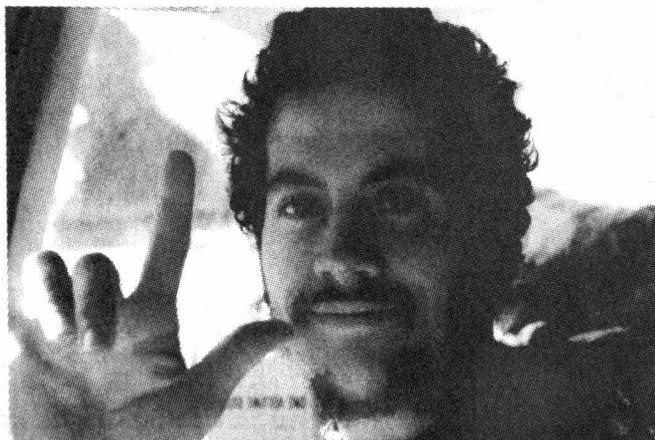


photo by Martha

The Long Road Ahead

BY ICARUS

Tre Arrow's arrest in Canada is really bad news, but sadly, it is not an entirely new feeling—and it is one we are going to have to get used to. These are some thoughts from someone who has been through this before—watching my friends get arrested and sent away for a long time and watching people forget about them.

The arrests of Tre Arrow and Billy Cottrell and the 22-year prison sentence of Jeff "Free" Luers are evidence enough that things need to change. We need to learn and strategize new methods of supporting our comrades.

There is a strong tendency in our movement to cheerlead actions, but when people get arrested, the energy is not always there. We all know that oft-repeated slogan, "A movement that doesn't support its prisoners is a sham movement," but we don't always act on it.

For example, some of the posts on the Portland Indymedia website in the day following Arrow's arrest focused on the manner that he was arrested and problems people had with him from past campaigns. I kept thinking, "Is this really the most important issue here?" The point is, he could be facing a long extradition process and a serious amount of time in prison.

Here are some ideas for the movement about supporting people like Arrow, Cottrell and friends who get caught in the future.

Don't claim that the accused is innocent on all charges unless they actually are. This is a tricky one; unless you participated in an action yourself, you really are not qualified to say someone is innocent.

Form a tight group that will support the defendant by coordinating media work, legal defense, websites, etc. The group should be competent, committed and close to the accused.

Have the accused state publicly who is, and who is not, allowed to act and speak on their behalf if that becomes necessary. When people get arrested for actions, often people will come out of the woodwork to claim friendship or affiliation, as well as claiming to speak on behalf of the accused.

Be honest about where you're coming from. Don't hesitate to abandon certain types of language if that is what you need to do in order to build a broad support base for the accused. It is imperative to get a base of support that extends beyond activist scenes.

When someone gets arrested for major actions, there is a need to act fast. Set up a website, create a listserv, fundraise and find a lawyer that can meet with the accused right away. It is easier to fundraise for legal defense in the beginning than at any other time. Mistakes made in the first six months will haunt the situation as time passes and people forget about the case.

We already have one of our comrades serving more than 20 years in prison. Do we need more? Now is the time to get serious.

For more information, visit www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk; www.anarchistblackcross.org.

Taking a Stand for Treesitters

Civil Liberties Lawsuit to Challenge Torture Tactics

BY REBECCA SMITH AND HER TEAM OF EDITORIAL GENIUSES

It is no coincidence that while Bush's "Shock and Awe" attack on our national forests is amping up, John Ashcroft's "Patriot Act" Gestapo tactics pose ever greater threats to those of us who put our freedom on the line to defend Mother Earth. Rather than shrink away in the face of this intimidation, it is more important than ever that we strike back.

When agents of the government use cruel and repressive tactics against the people, they need to be held accountable. Civil lawsuits that seek to make law enforcement officers personally liable for the inhumane treatment of activists will force renegade agencies, such as the US Forest Service, to think twice about how they respond to civil disobedience. Along with a fellow treesitter, I have decided to take a stand on behalf of all those who have, and will continue to, put their safety at risk in defense of the environment.

Two Summers ago, Joel Wyatt and I protested the "Bitterroot Burned Area Recovery Plan," which allowed for logging thousands of acres of forest that had burned in the wildfires of 2000 (see *EF!* August-September 2002). The Bitterroot is part of a beautiful ecosystem in the Northern Rockies, thriving with moose, elk, cougars, bobcats, black bears and bald eagles. This is a land comprised of tall ponderosa pines and Douglas firs, cool mountain creeks and clear blue skies. The wildflowers paint the blackened ground throughout the burn mosaic. It is a beautiful, spiritual place that deserves to be protected from human greed.

Conservation science is clear that salvage logging in places like the Bitterroot prevents ecological recovery. To protest the fraud behind one of the largest timber salvage sales ever proposed, we decided to inhabit two huge, green trees on a proposed helicopter landing pad.

For the first two weeks, Joel and I had a delightful treesit. We had multiple visitors, and the Freddie's told the

All of a sudden, our platforms were illegal. Our traverse line and plastic rope were illegal, our presence was illegal, and our refusal to give up our First Amendment rights was illegal. We were placed under arrest, and an unwelcome visitor was sent up each of our trees. Finding us locked down, he proceeded to remove our food and water caches for the purpose of dehydrating and starving us into submission. Prisoners have more rights than this, and we were still presumed innocent! At one point, he even took his pocketknife out and started haphazardly stabbing around my legs to puncture the water jugs I had underneath them.

Next, the police and Freddie's cordoned us off, thus cutting off our ground support. They set up 24-hour surveillance, complete with floodlights, to cause sleep deprivation. This morbid death watch, waiting for us to literally drop out of the trees, was paid for by taxpayers at a cost of \$1,000 a day for a total of 14 days.

After six days, Joel began losing consciousness due to severe dehydration and ended his protest. He was immediately handcuffed and wasn't offered water until the crowd became irate. He was taken to the hospital, then thrown in jail.

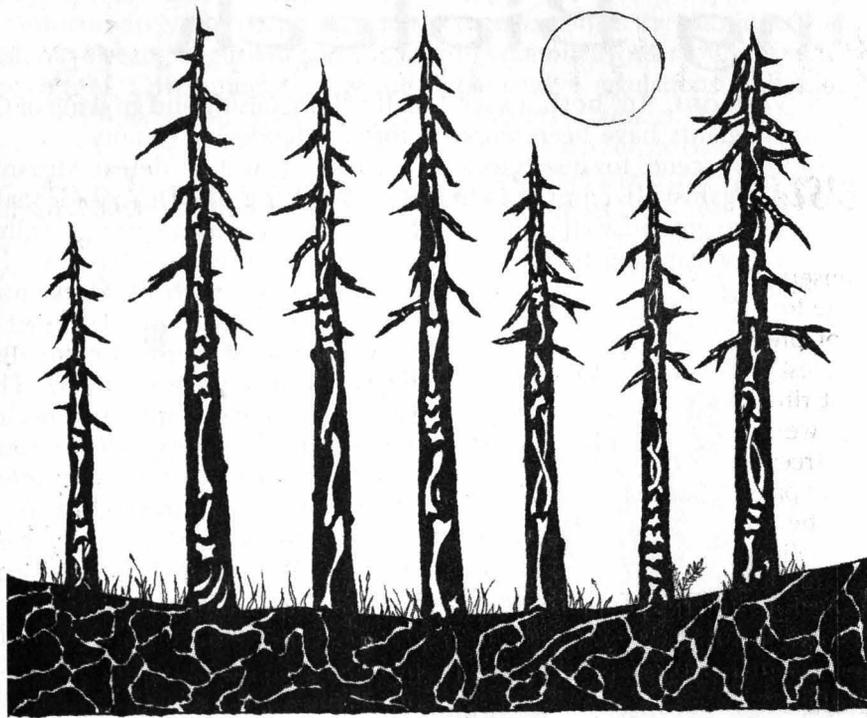
I had more water available than Joel, and I was able to ration it out to several ounces a day for about 12 days. I was losing lots of weight and could barely move without extreme dizziness. I had set up a rainwater cachment system in the beginning, and on day 12, Mother Earth answered my desperate cries and poured down four gallons of water for me to drink with abandon.

Now that I had an abundant water supply, the Freddie's became "concerned



artwork by Hillary

press that we "weren't doing anything wrong," obviously hoping that the media would ignore us. Yet, the media didn't go away. After 14 days, Smokey decided that we had "overstayed our welcome" by exceeding the national forest's 14-day camping limit! Joel and I patiently explained that we were not camping, we were protesting, but Smokey did not seem to understand. This led to some strained relations, and the Freddie's decided that we were very dangerous—in fact, we were breaking multiple laws!



artwork by Hilary

for my health." They brought in a cherry picker and cut off the top 20 feet of the tree above my locked embrace. I was hoisted over the stump and taken down by the cherry picker. Immediately, I was shoved into a police car, without so much as a pulse check by the Freddy medic onsite. I was taken to the hospital, then carted off to a detention facility, where I was further harassed.

At our trial, Joel and I were convicted of resisting arrest, camping more than 14 days, maintaining an unauthorized structure and a Class A misdemeanor: intentionally creating a hazard to obstruct timber harvest. This charge, intended for tree-spikers, was added so that the logging company could seek restitution. A logger-friendly jury convicted us in less than 60 minutes.

We were eventually sentenced to spend up to a month in a halfway house (which has been deferred until our appeals are over), more than \$10,000 in fines and restitution each and three years of supervised probation where we are essentially banned from our national forests and barred from First Amendment activities.

Turnabout is fair play. We will be dragging the Freddies to court this Summer. We intend to sue all of the eligible law enforcement officers and forest officials who contributed to

the use of torture tactics against us. Depriving detainees of the basic necessities of life is considered cruel and unusual punishment, dating back to when jailers in the deep South threw convicts into solitary confinement with only bread and water. A forest defense lawyer in Missoula, Montana, has agreed to make this a test case for the rights of treesitters everywhere.

We need your help! We're establishing a "Tree Sitter Legal Defense Fund" to help us fight what promises to be a complicated and challenging legal case. We also need to hear from any other treesitters out there with similar stories.

Let's band together and send a powerful message to law enforcement: There will be personal and legal consequences to pay for your blatant disregard of basic human rights!

Please help us win this struggle!

Donations can be sent to the Tree Sitter Legal Defense Fund with checks made payable to The Ecology Center, POB 7681, Missoula, MT 59807. For more information, contact wood@wildrockies.org.

Rebecca Smith is currently serving a three-year, super-supervised probation period, in which she has to work full-time, pay rent and bills, is not allowed to protest indiscriminately, leave the state freely or enter most national forest land in the country.

BARE BONES

Recall Fails in Humboldt

On March 2, Humboldt County District Attorney Paul Gallegos defeated the Pacific Lumber (PL)-sponsored campaign to recall him from office. Gallegos took over the district attorney post in January 2003, after defeating 20-year incumbent Terry Farmer.

One of Gallegos' first actions as district attorney was to prosecute PL for lying to state legislators about the Headwaters Forest deal. According to the charges, PL and its parent corporation, Maxxam, submitted fraudulent data to state regulators in order to get a higher rate of cut on their forests. This rate of logging has led to massive flooding and landslides, damaging salmon streams. The district attorney's lawsuit against PL is calling for a \$2,500 fine for each "wrongfully harvested" tree.

Soon after the lawsuit was filed, the Gallegos recall movement began, backed primarily by Maxxam/PL. The corporation contributed 95 percent of pro-recall funds. The public rejected the recall by 61 to 39 percent.

Email the Forest Service

In response to public pressure, the US Forest Service (USFS) agreed in December to drop its contentious plan to ignore public comments that are in the form of email messages and other mass mailings. Under the plan, which was proposed a year ago, anything other than "original substantive comments" would be dismissed, including postcards, form letters and other duplicated materials.

The USFS plan sustained harsh criticism from the environmental community for potentially excluding public opinion from the decision-making process.

"We won!" said Cindy Cohn, legal director for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a San Francisco-based group that promotes online civil liberties.

Banning Biotech

BY ABIGAIL

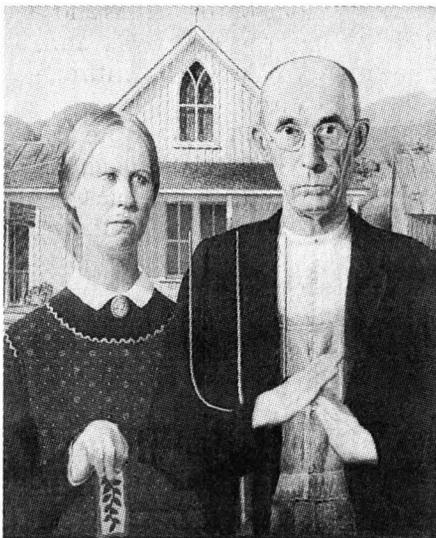
As biotechnology corporations continue their offensive to control the global food supply, communities around the world are rejecting the empty promises of the industry and its threats to the environment, public health and sustainable agriculture.

On March 31, German biotechnology giant Bayer Cropscience abandoned its plans to commercially grow genetically engineered (GE) maize in Britain. Bayer's Chardon LL strain of GE maize, which would have been developed as cattle feed, was given limited government approval in early March, with conditions attached intended to protect the environment. Bayer decided that those conditions would make the crop "economically non-viable."

Bayer's withdrawal makes it unlikely that any GE crops will be grown commercially in the United Kingdom until at least 2008. In the words of Greenpeace International, "The only genetically modified crop to be given the green light for commercialization in the UK has been abandoned by its manufacturer—before it was even planted."

In the US, grassroots groups have recently achieved anti-biotech victories in Mendocino County, California,

and in Vermont. In both cases, agribusiness giants have been working behind the scenes to squash local movements against GE crops, and in both cases, the groundswell of popular support for banning biotechnology is winning.



smartMeme's Vermont Gothic ad features the Monsanto logo and a "time-out" on GMOs

Photo courtesy GE Free Vermont

Mendocino Goes GE Free

On March 2, Mendocino became the first county in the US to ban GE crops and animals. Fifty-six percent of voters approved Measure H, an initiative put forth by local organic farmers. The measure prohibits the "propagation,

cultivation, raising and growing of GE crops in Mendocino County."

In an attempt to defeat Measure H, a Washington, DC-based coalition of agribusiness groups called CropLife America—backed by biotech giants such as Monsanto, Dow Chemical and DuPont—outspent the Measure H campaign by a margin of seven to one. The \$300,000 that CropLife America poured into the opposition campaign was the most money spent during an election in the history of Mendocino County. CropLife's efforts were backed by California Farm Bureau leaders and members of Mendocino's agricultural establishment. Voters, however, supported Measure H's coalition of organic farmers, business owners, wineries and anti-biotech activists in demanding protection from GE crops.

Els Cooperrider, a Ukiah business owner who helped spearhead the initiative, stated, "This is just the beginning of the revolution. We're the first county in the US to prohibit the growing of GE crops and animals—but we won't be the last."

The Mendocino victory is already inspiring others to organize against biotechnology in their communities. Groups in Humboldt and Sonoma Counties are preparing similar ballot

Evidence of GE Pollution Growing

The threats posed by biotechnology-based agriculture are becoming increasingly evident. Scientists in the Philippines are exposing the health impacts of living near genetically engineered (GE) corn, while the Washington, DC-based Union of Concerned Scientists has found GE DNA in traditional seed supplies in the US.

Scientists investigating a series of new illnesses in people who live close to fields of Monsanto's *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn in the Philippines believe that the crops may be responsible for respiratory illnesses, skin reactions and fevers. If confirmed, their research could provide some of the most substantive evidence yet of direct links between GE crops and serious health problems.

In northern Mindanao, 39 people living near a Bt corn field began suffering from health problems when the crops started producing pollen. When four of the affected families left the village and recovered, then

returned to the village and became sick again, doctors suspected an environmental cause.

According to *The Guardian*, research in the Philippines suggests that "GE viruses recombined with natural viruses to create new hybrid viruses with unpredictable characteristics." In addition to the allergy risks posed by GE plants, these hybrid viruses could create new diseases.

On February 23, the Union of Concerned Scientists announced in a landmark report that GE DNA has already contaminated the seed stock of corn, soybeans and canola. The seeds tested were traditional varieties that had no history of genetic engineering.

Seed contamination by GE pharmaceutical and industrial crops was not specifically tested for in the study. However, scientists say that genes from these crops may also be contaminating seed stocks, which could introduce hazardous materials into the food chain and cause substantial risks to human and animal health.

For more information, visit www.ucsusa.org.

campaigns for next November.

Unfortunately, the corporate backlash has already begun. According to the Organic Consumers Association, biotech industry lobbyists are working to introduce a bill in the California Senate to nullify Mendocino's ban and prevent other counties from passing similar laws. Allan Noe, vice president of CropLife America, stated, "We don't want to see this pick up any steam. The activist community is well-known for championing causes and for going all out to fuel their beliefs."

Victory in Vermont

On March 10, the Vermont Senate passed the Farmer Protection Act, which would hold biotech corporations liable for the contamination of organic or conventional crops by GE materials. The unanimous vote of approval came after 79 towns in Vermont (more than one-third of the state) passed measures calling for a state-wide moratorium on GE crops.

The Farmer Protection Act is one of three bills put forward by the GE Free Vermont campaign, a coalition of environmental and consumer advocacy organizations. If enacted, the combination of these bills would make Vermont the first GE-free state in the US.

The Farmer Protection Act would protect farmers whose fields have been contaminated with GE material from being sued by biotech corporations. In addition, all seed contracts signed in Vermont would be subject only to Vermont laws. The bill is now awaiting action by the republican-controlled House of Representatives.

On April 2, the House passed the Right to Know bill on seed labeling and registration by a vote of 125 to 10. The bill, which provides a legal definition for GE crops as distinct from traditional varieties, would require clear labeling of GE seeds. The bill was passed by the Senate last year in a slightly different form, and will likely pass again with little debate.

The Time-Out on

GMOs bill would impose a two-year moratorium on the planting of GE crops in Vermont in order to create more comprehensive regulations addressing the concerns of farmers. This bill is currently on hold in a Senate committee.

Together, these three pieces of legislation represent a real threat to the biotechnology industry and its control over local agricultural markets. The bills have garnered widespread support among both citizens and lawmakers, and the grassroots anti-GE movement in Vermont continues to gain momentum.

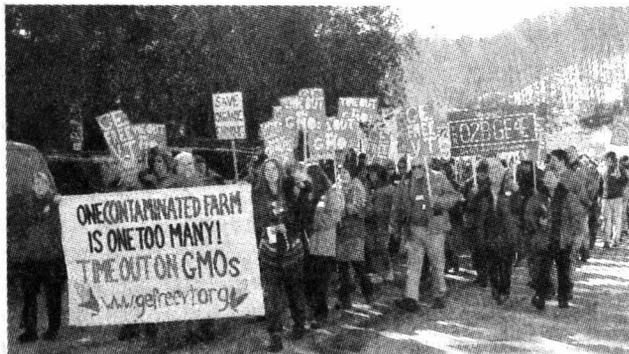
Brian Tokar of the Institute for Social Ecology states, "We've gotten as far as we have because we've focused on grassroots organizing...the more discussion and debate there's been, the more centrist politicians have come around."

Community Power is Stronger than Corporate Coercion

From California to Vermont, the battle to ban biotechnology is far from over. The biotech industry's efforts in both states threaten not just our food supply but also the right of communities to exercise local democracy.

Citizen groups are outmatched by the biotech industry in both funding and access to lawmakers, yet these recent victories show that the power of organized communities is ultimately stronger than the glossy public relations propaganda of an inherently unsustainable industry.

For more information on the GE Free Vermont campaign and the Mendocino victory, visit www.gefreevt.org; www.gmofreemendo.com; www.organicconsumers.org.



Protesters in Vermont march for a moratorium on GE crops

BARE BONES

Europe Closer to GE Ban

On February 2, the Belgian government rejected an application by German-based Bayer CropScience to grow genetically modified oilseed rape in Europe. Bayer had applied through Belgium for a Europe-wide license to grow the genetically engineered (GE) crop. The Belgian Government could only have forwarded the application to other European Union (EU) member states for a joint decision if it had met European environmental laws.

The Belgian government's decision followed the largest field trials of GE oilseed rape to date in the UK, which concluded that the GE crop is worse for wildlife and the environment than its conventional counterpart.

While the Belgian government rejected Bayer's proposal for crop cultivation, it approved the same crop for import. The import part of the application will now be forwarded to other EU member states.

Congo Forests Attacked

Civil society groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo are uniting against plans by the World Bank and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to dramatically expand industrial logging in the world's second largest continuous rainforest.

Up to 150 million acres, an area the size of France, could be threatened with logging in coming years, thus affecting the rights and livelihoods of millions of Congo's poorest people. The World Bank's plans include a rezoning of the area and subsidies for the development of new forestry laws that would "create a favorable climate for industrial logging."

The Congo's forests are home to a wide diversity of species found nowhere else on the planet—including three of the four nonhuman great apes, all of which are critically endangered.

Photo by Rob Fish

The Disappeared

BY KIM ANTIEAU

Thousands of people across this country are disappearing. And I am one of them.

County, state, city and federal agencies, along with utility departments, railroads, farmers and local homeowners, have declared war on the environment—and on me—as the annual pesticide spraying commences with vigor.

Every Spring and Summer, when Nature is at her liveliest, boys with their pesticide-laden toys do their best to kill her. Most US county and state transportation departments spray roadsides with herbicides from April through October. Washington state alone uses more than 38 million pounds of pesticides a year. Add that to what every other state sprays, and we've got ecological disaster—every single year. Cases of cancer, respiratory disease and multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) are rising to epidemic proportions, and the powers-that-be shake their heads and say, "Gee, I wonder why? I guess that's just life."

In a recent two-year study in California, the Environmental Working Group detected pesticides in 60 percent of the air it sampled; the detected pesticides are known to cause cancer, brain damage, birth defects, acute poisoning and other illnesses. Even when we don't personally use pesticides, the chemicals are brought in on our shoes, our children's clothes, our animals and through the windows. Schools regularly use pesticides both inside and outside of the very buildings where children sit all day. In most states, schools are not required

to notify parents that pesticides are being applied.

The Chemical Injury Information Network has determined that of the 40 most commonly used lawn chemicals, 36 cause skin and throat irritation, 21 are linked to liver, kidney and nervous system damage and 12 are linked to cancer. A child's risk of contracting leukemia increases by up to 650 percent wherever lawn chemicals are used. Most lawn chemicals don't dissipate or

travel through agricultural areas during the Spring and Summer, and I have to call the county and state to see where they are roadside spraying when I want to go somewhere.

Many researchers believe that the alarming increase in cancer among women is the result of the proliferation of pesticides in all parts of our ecosystem. Organophosphates, the primary chemical pesticides employed, mimic female hormones; therefore, some scientists—including Drs.

Devra Lee Davis and Leon Bradlow—suspect that girls and women may be more susceptible to their harmful effects.

The list of the horrifying side effects goes on, yet the use of pesticides continues.

Participating in direct action when chronically ill is problematic. Often the people most aware of local pesticide use are the ones who are most harmed by it. Putting one's sick body in the way of a truck that is spraying pesticides could be suicidal. No one should be exposed to pesticides, but if you're already pesticide sensitive, you should not be around a spray truck or an area where pesticides have recently been sprayed. This particular environmental



artwork by Euan Wilson

break down "harmlessly." Instead, they filter into our lakes and rivers. Pesticides have even been detected in some of the deepest aquifers in the US.

Knowing all of this, I don't understand why people are not standing on the rooftops shouting: "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore."

Children, people with compromised immune systems and those with MCS are at the most risk when the annual pesticide-spewing binge ensues. I have to be careful where I walk and what roads I drive down—and when. I don't

issue is ripe for creative direct action.

I tried to stop the roadside spraying where I lived. I started a group with five other women. Three of the women had been treated for cancer, and within two years of starting the group, another woman was also diagnosed with cancer. Two of us had MCS.

MCS is a debilitating illness with symptoms including skin disorders, asthma, dizziness, loss of memory, coordination problems and chronic fatigue. It was first documented by Theron Randolph, MD, in the 1950s.

The medical establishment ignored Randolph's research and dismissed the symptoms of his MCS patients as psychosomatic. The medical establishment held this opinion for a number of reasons. For one, the rapidity of the reactions (instant nausea when encountering perfume, for instance) didn't correlate with what they knew about immune systems. Except for histamine or anaphylactic reactions, the immune system generally works more slowly. Also, the majority of sufferers were women.

The Western medical establishment has a long, documented history of dismissing and disbelieving women. For instance, take the case of the "downwinders." Women from St. George, Utah, went to doctors complaining of illness after nuclear testing in the area, and they were diagnosed with "housewife syndrome." Instead of being treated for radiation poisoning, they were told to go home and tend to their households, maybe get a hobby.

Since so many people are contracting MCS—particularly Gulf War veterans—research is increasing. Researchers now suspect that MCS is not an immune disorder but a central nervous system dysfunction. Several states have declared a particular week or month as a time for MCS awareness.

When our environmental group of five women went to the county to try to get them to stop—or even to decrease—their use of chemicals, they refused. The county insisted that we had no scientific evidence for our claims, even though we provided hundreds of pages of documented scientific proof. One county employee sent me "documentation" that MCS wasn't real.

I'm not sure why people cling to their chemicals like some toxic baby bottle they're still sucking on—and making the rest of us suck on, too. One woman told me she had to believe pesticides and other chemicals were

harmless, because the alternative was too horrific to imagine.

Imagine? No need: Just look around! I feel like I live in a dictatorship where Nature and women, in particular, are hated. Except, here the secret police don't come in the night to take away our friends and family. Instead, we watch as one by one they are killed or disabled by cancer, immunological disorders, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, allergies and asthma.

Twenty-five years ago, after enduring a brutal military regime in Argentina and watching their children, husbands, sisters and brothers disappear, the women of Argentina went to the Plaza de Mayo and stood in front of the government building. They held up pictures of their loved

ones with the word "desaparecidos" written across the photographs: disappeared. Their courage, their willingness to step forward and say, "This is enough," was a catalyst for ending the dictatorship.

Perhaps I should do that. Bring photographs of all that has been lost because of the exploitation—the ruin—of Nature, and stand in front of the county building. Or the state capital. The White House. I could hold up a photo of the salmon

that used to turn the Columbia River red. Or perhaps a picture of an Amazon rainforest. A frog. Passenger pigeon. Platypus. Snow leopard. Or maybe I would show a photo of myself before I was sick. I'd hold it up high, with the word "disappeared" written across my chest.

Would everyone finally see, before I disappeared altogether?

Would they stop?

Would you stand your ground next to me—on this sacred Earth—and say, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore?"

Kim Antieau is a writer and a peace and environmental activist. Her latest novel, Coyote Cowgirl, is now out in paperback. Visit her website at www.kimantieau.com.

BARE BONES

Car Fast for Lent

Several Lutheran and Catholic churches in Germany organized a "car fast" during Lent, which began in March, urging people to use alternative means of transportation. The car fast was "an appeal to all Christians to question their daily lifestyle and their relationship to the environment, in order to become inwardly free and independent," according to an announcement released by the archdiocese of Mainz.

Traditionally, Lent is a time of sacrifice, soul-searching and repentance in preparation for Easter.

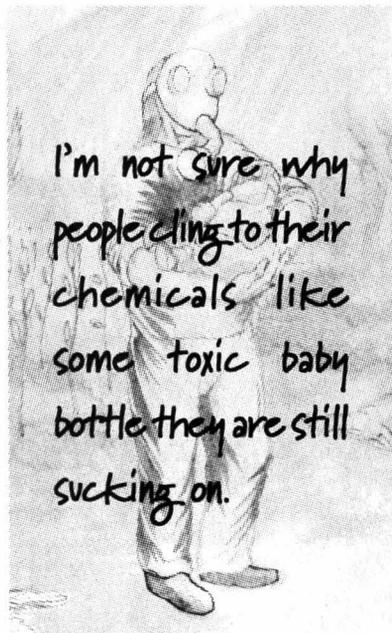
Those Evil Greenies

In January, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) hosted a conference in New York City on "eco-imperialism," which conference organizers defined as "the global green movement's war on the developing world's poor." According to Paul Driessen, author of *Eco-Imperialism: Green Power—Black Death*, environmentalists have contributed to the pain and suffering of poor people by denying them "the benefits of genetically engineered food."

Driessen is a senior fellow with the Center for the Defense of Free Enterprise. A review of his book on the organization's website proclaims that it helps readers "understand why the environmental movement is engaged in the most appalling example of genocide the world has ever known."

The CORE conference blamed radical environmentalists and the World Health Organization for the two million malaria deaths each year because of the ban on the chemical DDT.

CORE was started during the civil rights movement, but the organization nearly collapsed in the '70s and was taken over by Roy Innis, who used CORE to advance the agenda of the republican right.



Buffalo Resistance in Yellowstone

BY YOTE RISA

The buffalo struggle continues in Montana. This Winter, the National Park Service has been awash in the blood of the last wild buffalo in the US. Abdicating its responsibility to protect the wildlife of Yellowstone National Park, the National Park Service has systematically harassed, captured, vaccinated, confined, slaughtered and shot buffalo from the Yellowstone herd.

According to a press release issued by the park, the current slaughter is designed to keep buffalo "away from cattle grazing adjacent to the park." This is meant to protect the cattle from brucellosis, a disease that has never been proven to jump from wild buffalo to livestock.

As of late March, the National Park Service had captured 464 wild buffalo at the Stephens Creek Trap, which is located *inside* of the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. With the help of the Montana Department of Livestock, the National Park Service has killed 278 buffalo since February. Most were sent to slaughterhouses, although two bulls were shot in the field. One bull turned to charge his tormentors and was shot for his act of resistance. Some bulls have been sent off to slaughter under the bizarre rationale of protecting the captured herd from being gored, which sometimes happens when buffalo are held in confinement.

There are 198 buffalo being held in captivity until later in the Spring, and 113 of them are yearlings who have been vaccinated with an ineffective brucellosis vaccine designed for cattle.

Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) volunteers have documented numerous injuries during the capture and vaccination process. Captured buffalo are often subjected to gruesome testing procedures, where they are held in place with head clamps and with their noses pinched by metal rings. It is a cruel and bloody sight.



Photo courtesy National Park Service

Yellowstone buffalo are violently trapped and tested for brucellosis

The National Park Service is domesticating this unique herd and destroying the wild quality that makes it a national treasure.

Nearly 35 million buffalo once thundered across North America. But like the native people, the native wildlife was exterminated and pushed onto marginal lands. Bison are sacred animals for many native peoples. Plains tribes tell stories of the buffalo giving of themselves so that the people could survive. The buffalo in these stories

are part of creation, and it is told that the future of both humans and buffalo are intertwined. Indeed, the fate of the bison seems to be an indicator of our own struggle. Will there be any wild places and wild animals left? If we cannot defend the buffalo, is there any hope for other struggles?

Bison are a living example of resistance. Year after year, buffalo sacrifice themselves when they follow traditional migration paths that lead them into Montana's killing fields. Every time BFC volunteers bear witness to their slaughter, we are inspired by their persistence. Usually, a new group of bison will leave the park after their family has been slaughtered, as if these individuals are taking the place of their deceased family members. They remind us that wild bison are indeed wild and force us to confront the blood of an age-old slaughter. The buffalo is a symbol that remains caught in the crossfire of the battle for control of public land.

In November, I got caught in the crossfire of another battle for control. I traveled to Miami, Florida, to confront the corporate free trade agenda—to speak truth to power—during the Free Trade Area of the Americas ministerial summit. Unfortunately, "power" has a huge fence, a paramilitary force armed with the latest "non-lethal" arsenal and a standing order to attack anything that resembles dissent. As I was herded through the empty streets of Miami, shot at with pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets, I was overwhelmed by a sense of powerlessness and frustration. Perhaps I got a sense of what it is like to be a buffalo in Yellowstone National Park.

Most buffalo in Yellowstone are chased by snowmobiles, ATVs and park rangers on horseback. With the roar of helicopters overhead and cracker rounds exploding nearby, the buffalo run to escape.



photo courtesy BFC

They are surrounded, pushed through barbed wire fences, forced into a trap, held in captivity and shipped to a slaughterhouse. The buffalo pay for their resistance with their lives.

This Spring, hundreds of wild buffalo will follow the Madison River west to their traditional calving grounds on the national forests of Horse Butte. In the midst of the sagebrush and grass, there is a buffalo trap waiting for them. The Horse Butte Trap is a large, metal scar on the land, a holding cell for prisoners of the buffalo wars and a deportation center for native wildlife stripped of their right to roam free.

Humans share the same fate as the buffalo. We can be herded and controlled by those who use force to maintain power, or, like the buffalo,

As I was herded through the empty streets of Miami, shot at with pepper spray, tear gas and rubber bullets, I got a sense of what it is like to be a buffalo in Yellowstone Park.

unteers are always needed. BFC runs patrols in the field through May and is planning a Week of Action for the Buffalo from May 1-8. Spring is a demanding time for BFC.

Days are long, bison are everywhere, and BFC is usually short of volunteers.

If you cannot make it this season, remember the buffalo next year. BFC's field season runs from November through May, with the busiest months in the Spring. Donations are gladly accepted, or you can get involved by starting a buffalo support group and organizing events in your community.

For more information, visit www.wildrockies.org/buffalo.

Yote Risa is currently spending his third season defending Yellowstone's wild bison. He is still trying to learn how buffalo keep their feet warm.

Take action today—help stop the senseless slaughter of Yellowstone's wild bison!

Support the Yellowstone Buffalo Preservation Act. The bill, HR 3446, calls for a three-year moratorium on the hazing, capture and killing of Yellowstone buffalo. It also expands the range where buffalo are allowed to roam free, requires the dismantling of the Stephens Creek Trap inside Yellowstone National Park and gives the National Park Service complete jurisdiction over buffalo within the park.

Contact your representative and tell them to support the bill. Visit www.wildrockies.org/buffalo/

politico/3446.html for talking points and to see if your representative has already signed on. If they haven't, give them a call and strongly urge them to do so. If they have, thank them and encourage them to speak with their colleagues.

You can contact your representative by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (800) 839-5276 and asking to be transferred to his or her office. Or, you can use www.house.gov/writerp to send an email message to your representative.

BARE BONES

Victory for Whales and Wetlands in Baja

On February 2, the Mexican government designated Bahia Magdalena, off the western coast of the Baja peninsula, a wetland of international importance and guaranteed permanent protection for the ecosystem.

Gray whales are known to give birth to their young in this coastal lagoon, and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society had been working for several years to preserve their habitat.

In March 2000, the Mexican government announced that the Mitsubishi Salt Works Project would not go forward in this delicate ecosystem. However, without a more permanent protection plan in place, it was feared that this victory would be short-lived.

The recent designation marked the 33rd anniversary of the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands, which currently has 138 participating governments.

Sea Shepherd Boycotts Wal-Mart

In early March, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society called for a boycott of Wal-Mart to pressure the retail giant to divest from its 37 percent ownership of the Japanese supermarket chain Seiyu Ltd.

In a survey of Seiyu outlets, an independent investigation agency determined that 123 out of 202 Seiyu stores sell whale or dolphin meat.

Sea Shepherd is urging people to contact Wal-Mart and demand that it either divest of its Seiyu holdings or convince Seiyu to stop selling meat from marine mammals. Sea Shepherd Captain Paul Watson says, "This company must be boycotted until it denounces the slaughter of the gentle dolphins and majestic great whales by their Japanese partner."

blast from the past

May-June 1997 *Earth First! Journal*



Blood and Guts in Montana

BY DELYLA AND STAN WILSON

She began by painting her face—symbols of the Earth and protection, symbols of power, witchy symbols to calm and center the soul. Slowly, casually, she made her way to a side door. There she paused, prayed and asked the goddess for strength. A knock answered by a polite cattleman gained her admittance to the hall. Walking quickly with a nonchalant carefulness, carrying a heavy bucket filled with rotting bison guts in one hand, she made her way past the US Forest Service and National Park Service Freddie's.

She advanced to the table where the felonious four sat: Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Montana

Senators Conrad Burns and Max Baucus and, of course, Montana Governor Marc Racicot—once again justifying how it's not his fault and the government made him do it. Racicot, sounding like Goerring at the Nuremberg trials after the Holocaust, stood whining about the sad, sick slaughter of the sacred Buffalo Relations.

Of course, there is one difference; in Montana, the genocide continues.

The men talked so much that nobody

even noticed a lone, painted woman, except maybe to wonder, "What is that on her face?" Amazingly, they didn't notice the plain, white, five-gallon bucket or the wafting odor of not-so-fresh buffalo guts emitting from it. Time froze for a moment, then suddenly, as Delyla reached the edge of the table, somebody shouted, "Noooo," and time started.

Even Racicot shut up and took notice. The bucket of bison guts splashed onto the table. Juices from

The bucket of bison guts splashed onto the table. Juices from putrid buffalo entrails flowed over the edges, splashing the very men who had conspired to put the buffalo in that condition.

Frontlines

EF'er Takes Fight to the California Capital

On February 5, a North Coast Earth First! activist named Bear climbed 70 feet up a China fir outside the capitol in Sacramento, California, in order to draw attention to the Heritage Tree Preservation Act put forth by Senator Don Perata. This legislation would protect cedars, redwoods and sequoias that were alive before California became a state in 1850.

The bill, which did not pass the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, will be reintroduced for another vote. The Campaign for Old Growth is lobbying assembly members in order to secure enough votes to pass the legislation—which would then have to be approved by the governor.

Bear, who stayed aloft in the tree for three hours, was arrested by Special Weapons and Tactics officers and charged with trespassing. Another North Coast Earth Firstler, Sunset, was also arrested while providing ground support. While Bear and Sunset were held in jail, they continued to urge California citizens to voice their support for the bill.

Among Bear and Sunset's many charges were conspiracy and protesting without a permit. Bear, who lives in Humboldt County and is active in the fight against Maxxam/Pacific Lumber, is the first person to take a treesit to the state capital.

March to the Mattole

Community members from northern California gathered on March 18 for the "March to the Mattole." The march began at the Fox Camp Gate, an entrance to the Mattole watershed in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

Marchers made a 12-day, 70-mile trek through various communities and spoke to local residents along the way about problems facing the Mattole. They discussed the history of the area and the perils it faces as a result of Pacific Lumber's non-sustainable logging practices.

Reaction to the marchers was more positive than negative. Even residents of logging towns, such as Rio Dell and Scotia, showed support by honking their car horns and shouting, "thank you."

putrid buffalo entrails flowed over the edges, splashing the very men who had conspired to put the buffalo in that condition. One man, a special agent, put Delyla's arm behind her back and quickly escorted her outside. Another freeze frame in time as she explained why this had happened. For a moment, it seemed as if he might let her walk away—but then time started again, and the sheriffs came roaring down the hill. Caught but content with a good day's work, Delyla Wilson went to jail that sunny day in March.

The results of the action were immediate. After a short break for clean up, and so Burns could fly the coop, the meeting resumed. But the format had changed; people were allowed to speak and, as best they could, the politicians sat down and shut up. Next the local news hit, quickly followed by the national press. As Delyla was being bailed out, the officer in charge told her that the *New York Times* had just called. The following days were spent talking to press from Washington, DC, to Australia to Wyoming—and on the word spread.

The decision to dump bison guts in front of America's criminals—Burns, Racicot, Glickman and Baucus—was

made, for Delyla, by those very men. For months, years, these men and many others have talked and talked while every year, more bison have died. Environmentalists talked. Politicians talked. The Native American tribes talked. People talked.

In this state-sanctioned blood bath, the only thing cheaper than words are bullets—bullets fired by state and federal employees and private citizens year after year while everyone sits around talking and lying. All that talking ever accomplished was piles of dead bison. Only actions ever saved lives.

When the state wants to kill, kill it will. It takes years of concerted, in-your-face actions to cease a state-sanctioned blood fest. The policy of genocide directed by the state of Montana, Yellowstone National Park and the cattle industry against the last free-ranging bison herd in the world is just such a blood fest. Government agencies respond to very little—a hit in the pocketbook and public embarrassment. The lie



Delyla Wilson dumps bison guts on the politicians responsible for the bison slaughter at Yellowstone National Park

machine of Montana, fueled by its cattle industry, can believe what it will, but nobody comes from Germany, France, Japan or New York to see Montana cattle. They come to see Yellowstone National Park, and they come to see bison!

Wanna know what you can do? Come to the park and help out. Come with all you can muster. Come with ideas. Come with outrage. Come with a sense of humor! Just be ready to act!

Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for five dollars each. Please inquire for bulk discount prices, or order our near-complete, 23-year set for \$500.

Marchers varied greatly in age, and many were newcomers to forest defense actions. The march ended with a rally, where participants listened to a prayer led by Yurok tribal member Jene McCovey. "There is a pain in our hearts to see the devastation of the forest—to see only stumps," said McCovey. "The most important thing is to walk with people with like minds and like hearts and to stand as one people."

French Accrobranchists Fight Stadium

On February 12, police removed the final group of treesitters from Paul Mistral Park in Grenoble, France. Activists had been taking turns living in the trees since November 3. They were protesting the mayor of Grenoble's plans to hack down more than 300 trees, including a 200-year-old elm, in order to make space for a giant football stadium.

A resistance camp was built containing a village of 10 treehouses linked by a platform 20 feet off the ground. Permanent action camps like this are a relatively new form of direct action in France. The treehouses helped people become acquainted with new applications of activism.

The media, along with the population of Grenoble, gave the camp a high level of support, and they came up with the title "acrobranchists" for the treesitters.

Communities Block Roads to Protest Dams

On March 15—the International Day of Action Against Dams—indigenous and *campesino* communities from Peten, Guatemala, located on the border of Chiapas, Mexico, gathered to protest the construction of a system of dams planned for the Usumacinta, Pasion and Salinas Rivers.

More than 60 communities with a collective population of 15,000 people inhabit these watersheds, and all would be forcibly removed from their lands as a result of the flooding caused by the dams. Floods would also damage the Sierra Lacandon National Park, which is known for its abundant biodiversity and valuable Mayan archaeological sites.

The protesters, mostly of indigenous Qeqchi origin, set up roadblocks along major highways between the oil-rich north and Guatemala's capital. Organized by *Frente Petenero Contra Las Represas* (Peten Front Against the Dams), the roadblocks lasted for more than eight hours.

The group wants information about the dam projects to be made public and is looking for support in its fight against the multinational corporations that intend to build the dams.

Tips for Taking on the Ku Klux Klan



Photo by John Connor

Police protecting the Ku Klux Klan from Katúah Earth First!ers

Frontlines

ELF Maintains War Against SUVs

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) left its mark on five Hummers in Fayetteville, Arkansas, during the first part of January. Several of the vehicles had the initials "ELF" spray-painted on their bodies. One Hummer owner, Richard Cogger, was distressed to find his vehicle's windows smashed and tires slashed. There was also a sandwich shoved into the gas tank.

Nine SUVs were also vandalized in Bloomington, Indiana, within a 24-hour period during the first week of March. SUV owners were surprised to find their windshields covered with a white crystalline powder, which couldn't be cleaned off. The acid-like substance caused thousands of dollars worth of damage.

The Bloomington Police Department, accustomed to acts of vandalism against SUVs that feature smashed windows and keyed paint jobs, found the use of acid "strange." Valarie Schweitzer, one of the SUV owners, said, "I've only had my car for two weeks. I bought it myself. When I called the auto glass place, and they told me my windshield had to be replaced, I started to cry."

The ELF issued a statement saying, "The cost of arrogant gas-guzzling just went up."

ELF Deconstructs Development in Virginia

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF), in its second known action of the year, targeted a 30-acre construction site in Charlottesville, Virginia, during the first week of February. This large, recently clearcut area is slated to be developed into 300 duplex apartments, a bank, a Target store and several restaurants. The ELF set fire to a bulldozer and damaged surrounding construction equipment. A banner reading "Your construction = Long term destruction—ELF" was hung at the scene.

Acadian Green Brigade Strikes

On March 12, the Acadian Green Brigade struck against Casella Waste, Inc. in Saco, Maine. The action consisted of toothpicking and gluing the locks on doors, as well as painting and etching Elfish slogans on signs and glass.

A communiqué following the action stated, "We of the brigade would like to stand in solidarity with the people

The Ku Klux Klan/Nazis seemingly have decided to rebuild their image and organization in Katúah. Unluckily for them, Katúah Earth First! (KEF!) has been here a lot longer than these Alabama boys, and we actually are "from around here." Since 2002, KEF! and Katúah Anti-Racist Action (KARA) have utilized direct action to disrupt Klan/Nazi rallies (see *EFJ* May-June 2002).

It was raining in Newport, Tennessee, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January. There was not supposed to be a Klan rally that day; a pro-diversity church group had obtained a permit for the Newport courthouse steps to celebrate King's birthday. Some Klan members had announced that they were going to show up to counter-demonstrate, but the police told all of the newspapers that the Klan did not have a permit and that Klan members would be arrested if they showed up. Based on this information, KEF!/KARA decided to come and heckle the Klan as they got hauled off.

Upon arrival, we found the circumstances to be radically different from what the police and corporate media had communicated to the public. There was no rally. The pro-diversity organizers had either intended to keep the Klan from obtaining their own permit or had chickened out. This was a mistake on several levels. Though the organizers didn't show up, the media did. We saw bored reporters standing around with tripods waiting for the diversity rally, which never manifested.

The Klan also showed up, in force. Stars and Bars, big old boys and Klan/Nazis. Many KEF!ers wear camouflage, drive old pick-up trucks and have no problem infiltrating the Klan's ranks. Six of us walked into the Klan crowd and began collecting cards and copies of all their propaganda

before beginning loud disruption. Not one piece of the propaganda we collected that day had Tennessee contact information; it was all from Alabama, northern Georgia and elsewhere. Several of us were engaging Klan members in conversation when the rest of the KEF!/KARA resistance decided to start.

The resistance in this form was carrying a chihuahua and was a five-foot Mexican-American Katúan named Paloma Galindo. Paloma walked right into the middle of the largest group of Klan men. "I don't see why anyone would be stupid enough to join a church-burning terrorist organization like the Ku Klux Klan," Paloma announced imperiously. "You all must have brain damage to join an organization that burns and hangs people!"

You could have heard a pin drop. Large, white male number one tried to debate Paloma and lasted about a minute before giving up. While large, white male number two was getting his arguments cut apart, Paloma disappeared. So much media surrounded her that, for a moment, it looked like she was speaking from a cave. Number two decided that he was tired of looking like an idiot and grabbed number three, who sounded quite stupid trying to argue with this loud, rational woman. The police then came and dragged Paloma off for inciting the Klan! She was "escorted" away from the Klan a total of three times that day.

After a while, the police made no attempt to keep us separated. We argued back and forth in front of the media, and it was sort of like an oral mosh pit. Reverend Richard Butler, founder and president of the Aryan Nation, began yelling about communism. An Earth First!er responded, "What the hell are you arguing communism

continued on next page

of Old Town, Maine, and the surrounding areas that are being threatened with the creation of the largest landfill in New England, near three streams from which thousands get their drinking water."

State legislators are currently endorsing plans for the landfill in order to keep a Georgia Pacific (GP) paper mill in business. GP owns the 780 acres of land intended to become a landfill. If Casella Waste fails to purchase the land, GP will not have the funds to upgrade its paper mill and will have to shut it down.

The Acadian Green Brigade ended its communiqué with an announcement that "acts against Casella and GP will continue and will increase in severity until they halt their expansion into the Northern Woods."

Illegal Logging in Indonesia Under Attack

Illegal logging is destroying Indonesia's forests at a rate of more than nine million acres a year, thereby forcing species such as orangutans and tigers toward extinction. Due to the extensive corruption of park officials and the court system, the environmental minister of Indonesia has exhausted human resources in the battle against illegal loggers. As a last resort, the government has endorsed tree spiking as a plan to save Indonesia's trees.

Joining in the fight to save Indonesia's forests, the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* has maintained a steady search for boats suspected of carrying illegal timber. For several months, Greenpeace's target has been the 20,000-ton cargo ship *MV Greveno*, which is carrying plywood obtained from a protected orangutan refuge in Tanjung Putting National Park.

Activists are making ongoing efforts to board the *MV Greveno* and to interfere with the shipment of illegal wood. Though they have not yet successfully boarded the ship, they have vowed to continue their efforts.

Buffalo Trap Closed by Direct Action

On the morning of April 7, 24-year-old Akiva Silver disrupted the Montana Department of Livestock's plans to capture buffalo that day by perching himself upon a platform suspended from a 45-foot-high monopod in the Horse Butte Trap. The monopod was supported by ropes anchored to the outer walls and gates of the trap.

During the action, a group of 50 buffalo migrated past the trap, eliciting cheers from Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC) volunteers who had gathered to support Silver. "It was as if the buffalo were celebrating the trap's closure," said a BFC spokesperson. "Had Akiva not been up there, those 50 buffalo would be in the trap awaiting slaughter."

for? Communism is dead! You're arguing communism when the government has been hijacked by corporations!" When Butler yelled again, "You all are a bunch of communists!" we replied, "We are anarchists!"

"Marx had a brilliant analysis of history, but we disagree with his solution of centralizing all power in the hands of the state on the way to a workers' paradise." We yelled until we were sure that everyone understood; they had to stop calling us communists then. A lot of the poor, white people who had come to the rally began nodding. Anarchist ideology had a real impact on the folks that the Klan was trying to recruit.

The rally was a draw. We learned that we can cut them to pieces with oral arguments and that the closer we can get to them, the more damage we can do. We learned that the poor whites the Klan is trying to recruit are down with anarchy. And we also confirmed, through the Klan's own information, that they weren't from around here. It was with this intelligence that KEF!/KARA prepared to confront the Klan/Nazis at their next rally in Nashville.

Having learned from the Newport rally the importance of being there first, we left early to occupy the Klan site. In *The Art of War*, Sun Tzu emphasizes the importance of holding ground first and making your enemy come to you. Our experience in Nashville confirmed this tenet. When we arrived onsite there were a few cops and some media, but no Klan. We prepared our materials to confront them.

We waited and waited, but they chickened out. Our numbers had swelled to 125 people by the time the rally was scheduled to start. We had all of our signs out, were chanting and making a ton of noise. All of the media were out in force too, and the numbers of interviews we had to give was almost annoying. Klan members drove by us, but they wouldn't get out of their cars. We shut them down.

In general, we utilize two basic tactics that are appropriate to discuss openly in confronting the pointy heads.

First, hijack the airwaves. With several trips to a dollar store, you can buy bags of various noisemakers (kazoos, bells, whistles, funny balloon things that you blow up and go "waaaaaa"). Additionally, we have lists of chants that we use to get them angry. When they start bible thumping, we yell, "Nazi with a bible." When they yell, "white power," we respond, "white asses."

This tactic accomplishes two main objectives. Usually the Klan/Nazis don't talk openly about killing people and racial holy war. No, today's Klan uses more populist rhetoric that is oriented specifically at poor, disenfranchised whites. Posing as anti-free trade and, of course, pro-environment, today's Klan organizers drive brand new SUVs to

recruit folks driving old pick-up trucks and wearing worn camouflage, who are distrustful of the government and who feel like the government has basically sold us all out.

Chanting at the Klan makes them mad. They start yelling about racial holy war, rounding up "all you mud people and race traitors" and about killing everybody. This subverts their objective of having a nonviolent, more populist message. When they get mad, they say lots of stupid things to the media and to everyone else who comes to their rally.

The other objective we accomplish through noise is that we prevent them from taping the rally without our loud resistance in the background. For Katúahs this tactic has special appeal because we are so good at being loud.

Second tactic: Steal all the visuals. Signs, placards, cross dressing, out and out weirdness. This serves many basic objectives. The most obvious is that no picture can be taken or videotape made without visible resistance in the foreground, background and sometimes mid-ground. We make it really difficult for the media to show only Klan members

without getting right in front of them and taking highly orchestrated pictures or tape. This also serves to show our numbers and to anger the Klan.

Public groups like the Klan must have a public presence in order to survive and recruit. If they can't recruit and rally, they can't survive as an organization.

Given the choice

between beating the hell out of the Klan/Nazis or getting in their faces, ripping their arguments apart and exposing them for what they are, KEF! would choose the latter. A social relationship is not something that you can beat out of people. With the zillion plus cops that come to these rallies, physical confrontation will often land you in jail. And though the Klan is weak at oral argument, it excels at violence. More than 150 African American homes and churches were burnt to the ground in the '90s. Sun Tzu tells us to fight our opponents where we are strong and they are weak. And in the field of rallies and demonstrations, the Klan can't compete.

Last, a message to those who have been trying to affiliate Earth First! with the Nazis in the public eye: Don't bring your lies down here to Katúah. Cause down here in the hills of southern Appalachia, folks know that Earth First! is not only anti-racist in word, but in liberated fact.

John Conner was the child of Sarah Conner who trained him in resistance. It was almost over for the human race after the machines seized control. Conner taught the human prisoners how to tear down the fence and brought them back from the edge. He now lives in Katúah where KEF! periodically helps him "dispose" of terminator units sent back in time to eliminate him. Conner is a DJ at KFAR 90.9, and you can listen to his show Fridays and Saturdays from 8-10 p.m. Go to shoutcast.com and search for KFAR.



Katúah EFl'er Paloma Galindo, left, is not afraid to get up close and personal with the Klan

photo by Jason R. Davis

Earth First! RRR Maine 2004

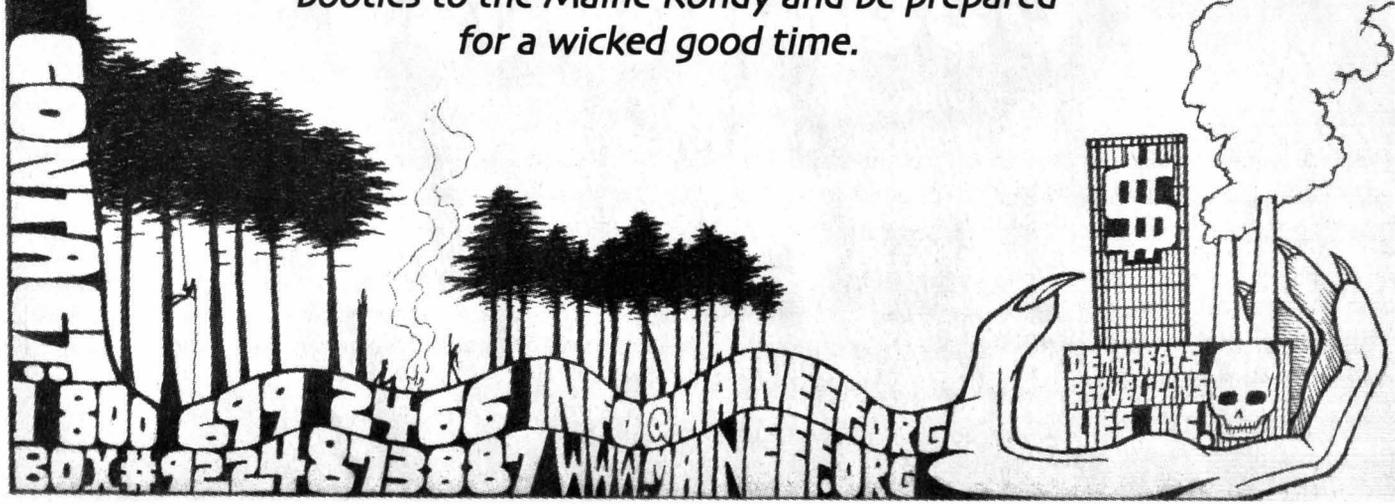
JUNE 28 - JULY 5 CONTACT:

*It's 'bout time we get together up here in Maine!
Come on out for an adventure and see what we have in store
for you at the Round River Rendezvous 2004. We Maine-iacs are
planning a kick-ass Rondy, and we have high hopes that each and
all of you (Maine folks and out-of-towners alike) will show up for the
week of June 28th-July 5th and help make it happen. Let's rock the
northeast!*

*This year's RRR will be an eclectic week of workshops, discussions, out-
door living and a variety of entertainment; followed by the annual EF!
Rally. Also, join us for other actions and events happening throughout the
east this summer (check out "east coast events").*

*Come and meet up with old friends, make new ones.
Everyone is welcome.*

*There's no excuse: we know you can get here from there.
So no matter the distance, get your
booties to the Maine Rondy and be prepared
for a wicked good time.*



1 800 699 2466 INFO@MAINEEF.ORG
BOX# 9224873887 WWW.MAINEEF.ORG

Where is the 2004 Rendezvous?

The 2004 EF! Rendezvous will be held near Midcoast Maine to bring attention to the plans for natural gas terminals and the existing oil ports on Maine's coastline. The exact location of the Rondy will be announced at a later time and we will have detailed directions posted at least a week before on the voicemail and website.

Workshops

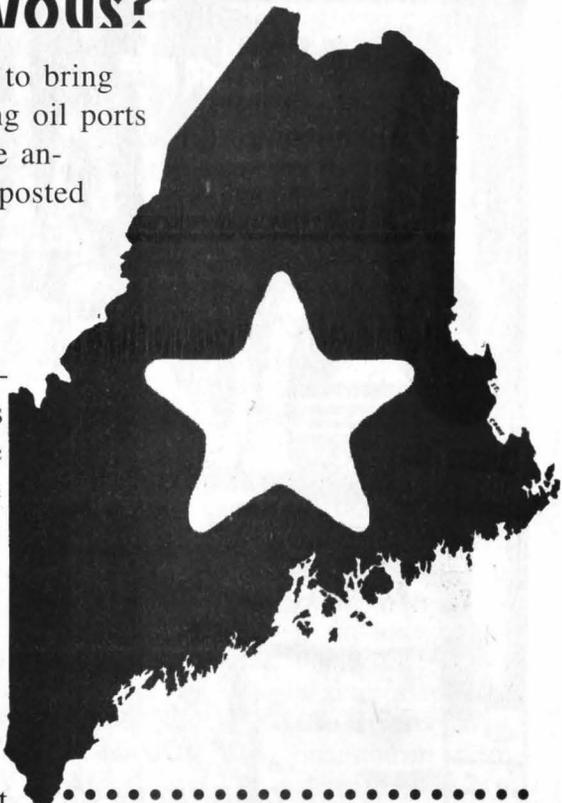
Get ready for a week filled with many good workshops and discussions. There will be the usual assortment of workshops, but this year we're also hoping to include a few topics that aren't on the average agenda (further info later). Here is a list of topics we're hoping to cover at this year's event. The schedule may include some or all, but is not limited to the following:

Patriarchy, sexism, ecology, first nations history, skillshare workshops, climbing and ropes training, multigenerational activism, direct action skills, cooking for numbers, childcare, oil and empire, globalization, natural healing, dance, permaculture, farming and gardening (rural and urban), history and issues of Maine, strategy, no DNC, RNC not welcome, tracking, security culture, first aid, plant walk, etc., We'll also have a focus on alternative energies, including biodiesel, solar, wind, and others.

If you're interested in doing a workshop, please send us an email or voicemail (see contact info). Also, feel free to bring your skills/ideas/materials to share, and we'll make room for unscheduled workshops and events! Check for updates of the workshop schedule @ www.maineef.org.

Food

There will be a kitchen set up, so please lend a hand and help cook. There will be produce donations from local farms and gardens, and hopefully y'all can grab a thing or two on your way up as contribution!



The Maine EF

Homebrew Challenge

The Maine-iacs are challenging you all to a friendly competition.

Our Maine EF! homebrew connoisseurs have created a panel to sample all the regions' best batches of your secret recipes. It's in the water and we have some powerful brews! Come equipped, and show us what you got!!

H A P P E N I N G S

We couldn't have a Rondy without fun, so bring your instruments, songs, creativity, and your dancin' feet, 'cause there's gonna be a whole lotta shakin' goin' on! The bonfires will be ablaze each night and complemented with musical diversity. There will be theme nights, so everyone can get a taste of their favorite tunes. Try some folk, hip hop, metal ballad reenactments, old timey, acoustic punk, favorite 80's tunes... You name it, it's all welcome in Maine, so bring it on!

Some planned events:

Puppet shows, poetry/spoken word, possibly an 80's dance party and a contra dance. And of course the annual EF! Rally: come and cause a ruckus with us! Bring costumes, skits, radical cheers, etc.. and we'll have some good times at this year's rally. More confirmed events will be posted on our website.



Contact Info:

Check the website for updates, directions, and ride board bulletin.

www.maineef.org, info@maineef.org

1-800-MY-YAHOO mailbox #: 922-487-3887

224 West Side Dr, Verona Island, ME 04416

What to Bring

- proper clothes: warm weather, cold weather, and wet weather clothes. Long sleeves, pants, and closed-toe shoes are recommended if you're concerned about biting insects, ticks, and poison ivy.
- insect repellent of your choice.
- poison ivy treatment of your choice. There will be identification, prevention, and treatment training during the gathering.
- drinking water or a camping water filter if you have one.
- food to donate to the communal kitchen.
- your own dishes, cups, and utensils.
- your own toilet paper and non-toxic soap.
- washwater and drinking water containers.
- a tent & sleeping bag.
- a flashlight.
- any materials you need to run a workshop of your choice.
- toys and instruments and costumes.
- any water stuff you want. There will be places to swim.
- fishing pole.

NORUMBEGA AND WAS 'A' UMKEAG ISLAND

The great state of Maine, though it is as far East as you can get in this country, has never fully been tamed. It is a wild, diverse, and extremely resilient land. Though consistently and increasingly threatened by the demands of industrial civilization, this region of mountains, rivers, forests, rocky coast, archipelagos, and, of course, blueberry barrens, continues to fight like a soccer hooligan to survive.

Maine's is a transitional forest between the Southernmost range of the conifers of the Boreal forest (typified by fir and spruce) and the Northernmost range of the eastern deciduous forest community (typified by birch, maple, beech, and oak; also called Northern Hardwood forest). The forest interior has a well-developed under story with a variety of shrubs, wildflower and fern species. In older-aged forests the floor is often carpeted with moss.

The habitats of Maine support a wide array of fauna. Bird species range from Black capped Chickadees, Redbreasted NutHatches, and Woodcock, to Bald Eagles, Loons and Peregrine Falcon. The state is well known for its dynamic mega-fauna: white Tailed Deer, Moose, Black Bear, Bobcat, and Coyote. In recent years we have seen the furtive, but indisputable return of the Cougar and the Wolf.

In the last 400 years much of Maine's wilderness has been cleared for agriculture or forestry, and is in various stages of re-growth. Now 90% of the state is categorized as "forested" making it, on paper, the most heavily forested state in the union. The reality however is a little less rosy. Most of this so-called "forest" land is privately owned by paper companies and timber interests. These are engaged in a continual, cyclical assault on our habitat: clearcutting, replanting, spraying, then cutting again. Added to this are the poisons introduced into the air and water by the paper mills that dot Maine's many rivers. Picking up more pesticides and industrial run-off along the way, these rivers drain out into the Gulf of Maine.

The boundaries of a bioregion can be defined in various ways, but generally utilize the concepts of watersheds, types of plant cover (eco-

systems), wildlife populations, and homogeneity of human populations (regional culture). The bioregion where the rendezvous will be held has been called the Gulf of Maine bioregion by white people and Norumbega by Native Americans.

The name Norumbega is thought to denote the estuaries, bays, reversing falls, oyster and clam shell heaps and general ambience of the region between the Kennebec and the Penobscot rivers. Norumbega means "quiet place between two rapids" in Algonkin. It is a vague regional reference however, and could be as large as all of "New England." The earliest European explorers visiting this region first heard of Norumbega as a regional reference contiguous with what Capt. John Smith later renamed "New England." Norumbega seems to be a place name for a tidewater bioregion stretching from at least from Casco Bay to Frenchman Bay—not a Viking settlement, a European myth or a Native American city state of wealth and riches. Rather, Norumbega is what Native Americans named their bioregion long before European invaders fantasized about cities of gold or contemporary historians began ethnohistoric eradication of the tribal identities of Maine's Native Americans. Those Native Americans who have survived the encounter with European settlers have retained a tribal identification (Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, Micmac, Abenaki and others), tribal mixing and intermarriage notwithstanding. The very heart of Norumbega appears to be the estuarine environments of central coastal Maine, where the Penobscot River empties into the Atlantic. This is where the Rendezvous will be held.

Was'a'umkeag Island, known as Sears Island to cartographers, is situated near the mouth of the Penobscot River. The Penobscot Nation named this island "shining beach island" because at night, after a day of fishing, the moon illuminated its rocky beach making it easy to see and come back to. Regional Native Americans were

continued on next page

the first seasonal inhabitants of this island thousands of years ago when they would spend the summer on or near the island to fish and get away from black flies. Was'a'umkeag has been uninhabited for the last 100 years and is the largest uninhabited island on the East Coast with 943 acres.

Was'a'umkeag island provides important habitat for a wide array of fish and wildlife. It has an unusual combination of characteristics that make it highly productive and biodiverse. There are very few, if any, large uninhabited islands with flora similar to that of Sears Island off the coast of Maine. Its forest interior habitat is important to the conservation of migratory songbirds, its intertidal habitat is important to the conservation of shellfish and finfish; vernal pools are important to the conservation of amphibians; mudflats are important to shellfish, shorebirds, and some mammals; and eelgrass is critical for a variety of shellfish and finfish. Was'a'umkeag is home to some 168 species of birds, 9 species of amphibians and 20 species of mammals. It provides important winter shelter for deer in softwood areas and has 73 documented wetlands totaling 243 acres. The island provides habitat for 21 state and/or federally listed wildlife including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, small whorled pogonia, furbish lousewort and prairie white fringed orchid.

Was'a'umkeag island's habitat is uncommon, highly productive and critical for many species. On the western portion of the island, there are a wide variety of habitat types. It is uncommon to find rocky intertidal tide pools, intertidal mudflats, eelgrass, kelp and a variety of subtidal habitats in one location. South of the rock jetty, the island is fairly exposed so rocky shoreline predominates; north of the rock jetty, the shoreline is more protected and mudflats and softshell clams prevail. Subtidally, eelgrass dominates with smaller patches of kelp. Eelgrass root systems stabilize sediment on the ocean floor, and it is a valuable habitat utilized by commercially important finfish species.

Freshwater intrusion from the island makes intertidal areas of the ocean less saline which is critical for young nursery fish species. There is evidence to suggest that fish and shellfish species that propagate in upper Penobscot Bay tend to migrate to and replenish Maine's coastal waters southwest of Penobscot Bay. In addition, credible science has shown that estuaries such as upper Penobscot Bay serve an important role in replenishing offshore fisheries depleted by overfishing.

Was'a'umkeag island has been proposed for a number of industrial development projects over the years. Proposals have included a coal-fired power plant, a nuclear power plant, and most recently, a deep-water cargo port for shipping wood chips overseas. All of them were defeated. However, a causeway from the mainland was constructed in 1982. This seriously compromised the tidal flushing action around the island. As a result there has been a drastic loss of clam and eelgrass habitat, as well as increased concentration of industrial waste discharges in nearby coves. Another potentially more disastrous effect of this causeway is that it leaves the island accessible to future industrial

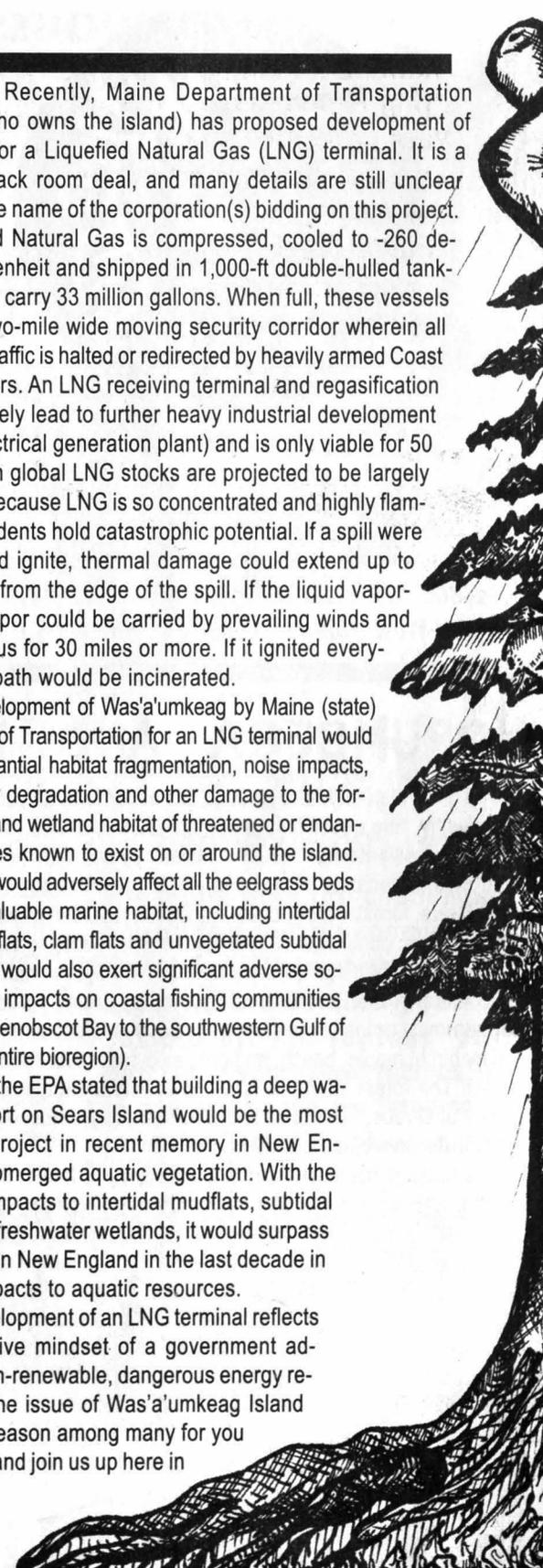
schemers. Recently, Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) (who owns the island) has proposed development of the island for a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal. It is a secretive back room deal, and many details are still unclear including the name of the corporation(s) bidding on this project.

Liquefied Natural Gas is compressed, cooled to -260 degrees Fahrenheit and shipped in 1,000-ft double-hulled tankers that can carry 33 million gallons. When full, these vessels require a two-mile wide moving security corridor wherein all watercraft traffic is halted or redirected by heavily armed Coast Guard cutters. An LNG receiving terminal and regasification plant will likely lead to further heavy industrial development (like an electrical generation plant) and is only viable for 50 years, when global LNG stocks are projected to be largely depleted. Because LNG is so concentrated and highly flammable, accidents hold catastrophic potential. If a spill were to occur and ignite, thermal damage could extend up to three miles from the edge of the spill. If the liquid vaporized, the vapor could be carried by prevailing winds and be hazardous for 30 miles or more. If it ignited everything in its path would be incinerated.

The development of Was'a'umkeag by Maine (state) Department of Transportation for an LNG terminal would cause substantial habitat fragmentation, noise impacts, water quality degradation and other damage to the forest, stream and wetland habitat of threatened or endangered species known to exist on or around the island. This project would adversely affect all the eelgrass beds and other valuable marine habitat, including intertidal habitat, mudflats, clam flats and unvegetated subtidal habitat. This would also exert significant adverse socioeconomic impacts on coastal fishing communities from upper Penobscot Bay to the southwestern Gulf of Maine (the entire bioregion).

In 1995, the EPA stated that building a deep water cargo port on Sears Island would be the most damaging project in recent memory in New England to submerged aquatic vegetation. With the additional impacts to intertidal mudflats, subtidal bottom and freshwater wetlands, it would surpass any project in New England in the last decade in terms of impacts to aquatic resources.

The development of an LNG terminal reflects the regressive mindset of a government addicted to non-renewable, dangerous energy resources. The issue of Was'a'umkeag Island is just one reason among many for you all to come and join us up here in Maine.



WE WILL NOT ALLOW WAS'A'

THE EMPIRE STRIKES AGAIN

Irving Paper: based out of New Brunswick, Canada. This privately owned paper and petroleum corporation is Maine's largest landowner, with 2 million acres of paper land in the northern part of the state. They have been plundering natural resources (plant and human) for decades, with no regard to the land or communities they've been destroying (including the community of Allagash –mentioned later).

Plumb Creek: The 2nd largest private landowner in the state. They have practiced destructive logging operations, including clearcutting, in Maine forests, and use their landholdings mostly for paper industry and subdivisions.

Oil/natural gas ports: As if there weren't enough already, state agencies and business interests have had their greedy eyes all up and down the Maine coast with plans for more terminals and exploitation. Portland is one of the largest oil ports on the East Coast with oil tanks, tankers, pipelines, and oil rig construction replacing taking over the waterfront. In addition to the Was'a'umkeag Liquid Natural Gas proposal, Harpswells residents recently voted down a proposal by Phillips Conocco to develop a LNG port in their town (an hour south).

MBNA: A Delaware-based credit card corporation. They are one of the largest credit/debt manufacturers in the world. They set up shop in midcoast Maine in the mid-90's, and have been busy colonizing other parts of the state. They are now Maine's largest employer, offering low-paying, stressful, and emotionally debilitating jobs to Maine's workforce. Credit for sale!

Paper Mills: They are one of the biggest causes of environmental degradation in Maine. All major rivers here are consistently polluted from mills and it is no longer safe to swim or fish in these waterways. The rivers carry the toxins for hundreds of miles, and eventually dump them into the ocean. The Penobscot Nation, whose lives are intertwined with the rivers, suffers greatly from papermill pollution. They have struggled with this blatant form of environmental racism since their land was taken from them. The cancer rates from the Mead mill in Rumford are so high, that the locals refer to the area as "cancer valley".

The Proposed East-west Highway: Also known as the "NAFTA highway", it is a plan that has been in the works for some time now (strongly backed by the Irving corporation). The highway would be a publicly funded, major trade route running east to west across the state of Maine. The project would undoubtedly serve trucking and big business interests.

FUN THINGS TO FIND IN MAINE

Bust out a map, and you'll see there's many cool places to visit here including Acadia, White Mountain National Forest, Mount Katahdin (the end, or beginning of the Appalachian trail), Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge (near the Beehive!). There's the Big Reed Wilderness Preserve which is the largest area of pristine old growth in the northeastern US. Something must be said about the lakes and ponds here, containing some of the nicest, cleanest water you'll find anywhere these days. Islands, ARRRGH!!!! The jagged coastline is one of the longest in the US, because Maine contains more islands than any other state. There are plenty of places to explore and indulge in activities such as: swimming, biking, fishing, snowshoeing, riding trains, climbing trees and mountains, getting wild, etc... Hitchhiking's usually pretty easy here, and most of the time it's a reliable way to transport oneself. It's also a good way to experience Maine locals. You'll also find fun things like farmers markets, microbrews, country fairs and contra dances to be pretty popular in local culture. We'll have a list of more fun things to find in ME posted at the rondo, and possibly on the website too.

KEAG TO BE INDUSTRIALIZED!!

Some local groups



BEEHIVE DESIGN COLLECTIVE

You're invited to a month long work party at the Beehive Collective! Come help the swarm restore our 100-year-old Hive in time for its Birthday! We are a collectively run, all-volunteer, non-profit political graphics workshop, based in Eastern Maine. And Damn if us Bees aren't waggin' our stingers with excitement that so many of y'all will be in our neck of the woods! We are already busily preparing for what looks like a big summer of events on the East Coast, and are hoping you'll make the trek out to visit, see our stone mosaics in action, and lend a paw to our efforts to the revitalization of the old Machias Valley Grange Hall, a landmark building in our

small, rural town. In the late 1800's, as an outgrowth of the "Populist movement," the Grange was formed. The farmers of this national movement began organizing to keep agriculture local, work more cooperatively, and hold off the pressures of the corporate monopolies of their day. Since 2001, Us Bees have busily been restoring one of their amazing buildings, rich in the agricultural history that inspires our work against corporate monoculture and globalization....and thick with ghosts that LOVE what we're up to! This summer will be a major push for the last of our restorations and repairs, before the ol' girl turns a hundred in August, so that we may invite former grangers and our community for the rebirth celebration! We hope to see you in July... Please visit our website at www.beehivecollective.org for more info about our work, this summer's events at the Hive, and wannabee opportunities...



The People's Free Space is a community group based in Portland whose mission is to create autonomous collective spaces for sharing resources and information, building community and fostering sustainable alternatives and creative resistance to social, economic, political, and ecological oppression. To that end we have three primary projects: obtaining a community space and infoshop in downtown Portland, running the Frida Bus (a mobile vegetable powered community space), and the Free School. This summer the Frida Bus will be travelling to the EF! Rendezvous, the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, and Burdock. At these gatherings and protests we will be using the bus as a mobile convergence space and

kitchen. We will be helping cook food, offer workshops, provide water, demonstrate veggie oil power, and provide medical support. Our Free School offers workshops and video showings every month free to the Portland community. This year we are planning to open our community space with a large kitchen, lending library, performance and meeting space, technology resources, a home for a free school and more.

For more info: info@peoplesfreespace.org, www.peoplesfreespace.org, box 1582 Portland, ME 04104

Burdock August 10-17, 2004, Starks, ME

This will be the 3rd annual Burdock; a **gathering for a free and sustainable future**. For the past two summers people have come from all over the northeast to celebrate the earth, community and the resistance to local and global corporate control. At Burdock we seek to break free of the disposable culture of consumption and become our own creators and producers. We can no longer be only spectators of the world around us and so at Burdock we encourage everyone to participate and help make this gathering happen. At Burdock we are abolishing the beliefs of this oppressive world in order to create a vision for a equitable and sustainable future. There will be workshops, music, discussions, swimming and good food all on a beautiful organic farm in Starks in Central Maine. We want to nurture an environment for people to educate each other on practical everyday skills, ecology, political and social issues and ways to relinquish human control over the rest of wilderness. At Burdock we want to build relationships and a sense of community with people from around Maine, throughout the entire region and around the world. Burdock will be child friendly with workshops and events specifically designed for children. Burdock is cooperatively organized and is not affiliated with any government, political party, or corporation. Burdock is based on mutual aid and cooperation to encourage education, community building and a wicked good time. Everyone is Welcome.

Burdock, Box 1582, Portland, ME 04104, burdock@riseup.net, www.burdock.org

International Loggers Association

Logging sputtered to a halt in much of northern Maine in January, when about 50 logging and trucking contractors for J.D. Irving Ltd. refused to keep working on the company's 1.4 million acres of forestland. The contractors said they were fed up with Irving's heavy-handed management style—vague contracts, wage rates that can change overnight, and required "double-shifting" of machinery that forced them to work far into the bitter winter nights of northern Maine. While Irving is believed to be one of the worst landowners to work for in Maine, loggers throughout the state are lashing out against pay scales that leave them little choice but to cut as much wood as they can, as cheaply as possible, in order to avoid bankruptcy. The impacts are being felt across the state, where lunar landscapes of liquidated forestland can be seen in virtually every township. And still there is not enough wood flowing to keep all of the state's paper mills and sawmills open. The situation is likely to continue for years. A University of Maine professor recently published a study in which he reported that only half of the loggers in New England expected to be working in the woods in five years. The chief reason: there is no money in it. The study showed Maine loggers earn much less compared to other forestry workers in New England. Woods workers in northern Maine blame the influx of "bonded" Canadian labor for depressing the wages of local loggers.

In October 1999, activists from the Native Forest Network and Earth First! joined with Maine cutters to block a border crossing and prevent Quebec loggers and logging trucks from entering into Maine. The dispute over bonded labor continues today. Several of the Irving contractors said they couldn't compete with the Quebecois, who receive medical insurance and other benefits from the province. The Irving contractors formed a new group, the International Loggers Association, to represent them in talks with the company. Irving refused to negotiate with the ILA. The contractors wanted a 25 to 30 percent increase in pay scales and help with paying the rising cost of diesel fuel. After four weeks, they agreed to return to the woods on two conditions: that Irving take back all of the workers who went out on strike, and that Maine Gov. John Baldacci would support a bill that would give the ILA the legal authority to bargain with Irving. However, the governor refused to guarantee that he would not veto the bill, and it is not clear how many striking contractors were rehired by Irving when the job action ended in late January. Irving forestland was once "green-certified" by the Forest Stewardship Council, but the company gave up the certification last year in a dispute over its use of herbicides and plantations, and growing questions about its treatment of woods workers.

The JED Collective Greene, Maine

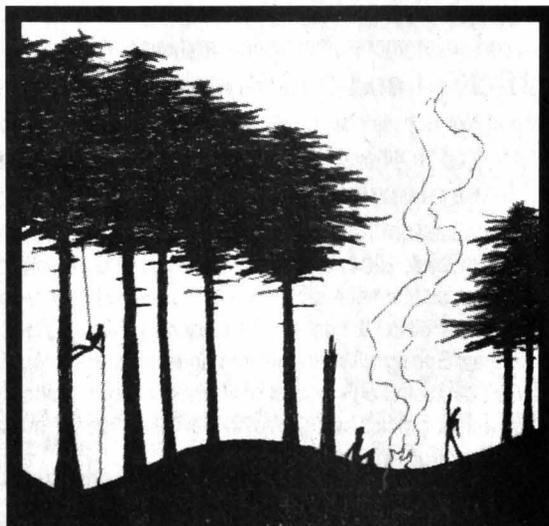
JED is a collective of activists and organizers, farmers and artists who came together in the summer of 2002. Depending on the season, between 6 and 10 people live at JED. It is a home and a family for the people living there; it is a cultural center where people can recreate community; it is a cooperatively-run organic farm; it is a community of support for activists and organizers. It is a web of relationships between each other and as a group, in relation to the land and its creatures and with local and international folks. By putting resources together and being freed from a one dimensional life, we can individually work on what we are passionate about. By living together, we can collectively determine ourselves as a group, while developing space to express conflict and practice radical honesty, to support each other and be joyful.

The JED Collective/Center, 217 South Mountain Rd., Greene, Maine 04236 (207)-946-4478

Downeast Biodiesel Co-Op

The Downeast Biodiesel Co-Op is a conglomeration of folks who use biodiesel for diverse reasons and in a variety of ways. Launched into existence about a year and a half ago, and now more than 50 members strong, the co-op serves as a hub for the bulk ordering of fuel, a clearing-house of information, and a way to connect to others interested in this petroleum alternative. In the warmer months we make biodiesel in 55 gallon batches. We are always looking for folks interested in coming and helping out at our facility and sharing information.

For more info. on us, go to www.downeastbiodiesel.com, or write Downeast Biodiesel Co-Op, PO Box 5156, Ellsworth, ME 04605



EAST COAST EVENTS

Hell, come and spend the summer or longer. There's a lot going on in the east this season (including actions/events planned between the RRR-DNC, to be announced)...

JUNE

8-10: Fight The Octopus, 2004 G8, Sea Island, Georgia

The G8 is coming back to the United States. Tens of thousands of people will converge once again on Georgia for mass protests against the G8, neoliberalism at home and abroad, and capitalism. http://www.infoshop.org/octo/g8_2004.php

13-21: 3rd Annual Eastern Forest Action Camp

Come to the 2004 Eastern Forest Action Camp to learn how to stop the destruction of our eastern forest. www.easternforestdefense.org
Tel. 865-633-8483, Katúah EF! River Faction, 2131 Riverside Dr., Knoxville TN, 37915

June 28-July 5: Maine EF! Rendezvous

JULY

All Month after the Rony: Beehive Renovation Work Party (see previous pages)

26-29: Democratic National Convention

We are calling for a decentralized network of direct actions to confront the Democratic National Convention in Boston this coming July. Many would ask why? They are not even in power. Others would argue that we must organize with them in order to oust the current party from its hold on the executive branch. The Bl(A)ck Tea Society stands defiant before these arguments. We see no future along the doctrines of state reformism or electoral politics. The Democratic Party is but one spoke upon this wheel of oppression. It, like the rest of the structure, must go. We must sow the seeds of revolution ourselves. We will demand freedom. We will resist the DNC with all of our might. We will refuse to recognize the State and we will continue to fight against the crook that is nominated. Whoever they vote for, WE ARE UNGOVERNABLE!!!

The Bl(A)ck Tea Society is an ad-hoc coalition of anti-authoritarians organizing in the Boston area and beyond to resist the Democratic National Convention. **for more info contact: nodnc04@hush.com, check out www.blackteasociety.org**

AUGUST

DNC to RNC March

This August, as the gears of the two-headed corporate party kick into overdrive, we will march 225 miles from one mass mobilization to another, between two cities under siege: Boston and New York. We will be networking, educating, sharing, singing, and dancing in the streets. We will march 8-11 miles a day, working with local grassroots organizations for community empowerment as we weave our many struggles into a global solidarity which recognizes no borders, fences, or walls. We will connect distances, ideas, communities and visions as we conduct teach-ins, plant community gardens, celebrate, demonstrate, listen, and share. Join us! www.dnc2rnc.org, West Coast Contact: nextstep@riseup.net, East Coast Contact: dnc2rnc@riseup.net

10-17: Burdock 2004 (see previous pages)

12-15: North American Anarchist Convergence

American Anarchists will cross borders to converge in the foothills of Appalachia to network, brainstorm, and discuss social change through building a positive movement toward a free and responsible society. We will focus on practical alternatives to problems associated with power-based governments, institutions, and internalized systems of oppression. www.naac2004.org info@naac2004.org

25-27: Food Not Bombs World Gathering

Food Not Bombs chapters from around the world will come together in New York City prior to the Republican National Convention for discussion, food sharing, workshops and direct action. **for more info contact: nyc_gathering@foodnotbombs.net**

29-September 4: Republic National Convention

The Republican National Committee has for the first time in their 150 year history, selected New York for their Convention from August 29-September 4, 2004. In a shallow attempt at exploiting the lives lost at the World Trade Center, the RNC has pushed the Convention date to September. We have witnessed two unjust wars, at least one American life lost each day overseas, a depressed economy, the collapse of the dollar, \$87 billion to boost war profiteering, the closing of our firehouses, a health-care crisis, millions of children being left behind, and now this.

We say, Enough! When the vote does not place in power those who represent the will of the people, democracy must be taken to the streets. This administration's choice of New York City, historically known for its diverse population, its welcoming of immigrants from far off lands, and its radical politics will prove to be their biggest mistake yet. **for more info, comments and questions: info@rncnotwelcome.org, www.rncnotwelcome.org**

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Sunscreen for Plants

Earlier this year, researchers in Queensland, Australia, announced their discovery that fruit and nut trees, such as macadamias and avocados, produce higher quality fruit when they are covered with sunscreen. The sunscreen being used on the trees is made from an insect-repellent clay called kaolinite. According to principal horticulturist Alan George, "The trees actually look like little, white Christmas trees. It changes the leaf color from green to white, reflecting a lot of the light, which reduces the temperature within the tree itself." The scientists are still searching for a way to keep the kaolinite from washing off in the rain.

Owl Gets Contact Lenses

Dr. Chris Murphy, a veterinarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, implanted new lenses in the eyes of a starving great horned owl after it was brought to her by a pair of wildlife biologists in December. Sue Theys, one of the biologists, suspected that the owl had cataracts after it sat on a fence post for three days without hunting. Murphy confirmed this diagnosis, and the contact lenses were successfully implanted during a two-hour operation. The owl was kept for treatment with antibiotics and rehabilitation, then released in April. "She can't understand why we're messing with her," Theys said. "She can see, and she wants to take off and fly."

How Herring Keep in Touch

Biologists reported in November that herring may communicate with each other at night using a noise produced by gas emitted from their anuses. "It sounds just like a high-pitched raspberry," said researcher Ben Wilson of the University of British Columbia-Vancouver.

The raspberry sounds might also function to ward off predators, or they may be a side-effect of staying buoyant. The fish produce the sounds more frequently when gathered together in groups, however, suggesting a social role.

The researchers did not witness an increase in the frequency of the noises after feeding the fish, so they ruled out digestive gas as a cause.

Oldest Male Fossil Has Large Penis

In December, geologists in the United Kingdom announced the discovery of the oldest unambiguously male fossil, a 425-million-year-old arthropod. The fossil of this two-inch-long shellfish was unusual in that the outline of soft tissue was also preserved, including a penis that was one-fifth of the animal's length.

Researchers named the species *Colymbosathon eplecticos*, meaning "amazing swimmer with a large penis."

"Sawfish" to Log Submerged Forests

In dam-created lakes throughout the world, millions of submerged, unrotted trees still stand rooted in the ground. Now Triton Logging Company, based in British Columbia, Canada, has devised the world's first logging submarine as a way to extract the trees.

The submarine, called a Sawfish, can reach depths of 700 feet and can cut 36 trees each time it dives. It is equipped with reusable airbags that it screws into the logged trees to help them float. Remotely operated from a control room, the Sawfish uses cameras and sonar readings to navigate.

Chris Godsall, founder and chief executive officer of Triton, sees the Sawfish as a way to save 20 million trees a year. "We're not advocates of dams. Our company tries not to judge what happened in the past. We try to recover the wood with the proposition that we can deliver it as a substitute for virgin timber. There's one lake in British Columbia where we could put 20 Sawfish out there for 40 years."

Artist Seeks to be Eaten by Piranhas

Karl Friedrich Lentze, a 56-year-old German artist, contacted zoos throughout Germany in March, asking if they would agree to feed his body to piranhas after he dies. Lentze says that the zoos could get an educational benefit by letting a group of biology students watch him be devoured.

Günther Nogge, director of the Cologne Zoo, explained that the display probably would not work. "It's a great idea. But if you want to carry it out for educational purposes, then it would be better if you were fed

to the piranhas alive. They're not as keen on dead flesh."

Lentze, undeterred, responded, "They could always poke my body with sticks to get me moving and to get the fish interested."

Nature Bites Back: Sea Lion Attacks Fisherman

On March 9, a 12-foot-long, 1,200-pound sea lion attacked a fisherman working on a docked boat in King Cove, Alaska. The sea lion leaped more than six feet out of the water and clamped its jaws on the seat of Ray Dushkin, Jr.'s pants, pulling him into the harbor and holding him underwater.

Dushkin, 19, suffered a scrape on his buttocks but escaped without serious injury when the animal released him a moment later. "Lucky he wears baggy pants, or I'm sure that sea lion would have taken a chunk of his butt," said fellow crew member Henry Roehl.



Ancient Woman

I am walking through the green and brown
of something ancient that smells new.
I am sitting on the
soft,
damp earth breathing in the sap from this giant mother tree.
Her arms are reaching up, up, up
each one reaching higher.
and where her fingers are broken off,
she reaches even more ferociously.
I count her rings where the thickest branch has been torn
above my head,
below her imaginary eyes,
above my skull
and we exchange each others heat.
In the distance I hear her sons and daughters scream of
heavy metal teeth tearing into elder flesh
over and over again because
the first bite is never enough to topple history,
to tear their giant bodies down.
They fight against the metal and hands
and grunts and groans from men in heavy hats,
from the tips of fingers that bear rings like their own.
I am sitting,
I am watching,
I am feeling the ground shake.
The animals run past me shrieking and panting
in this manmade earthquake.
and then
The slow, slow, dragging moan of her heavy body
as she gives in and screams from her roots,
shaking the whole forest with her echoes.
Slow first in disbelief,
slow then rising like a question,
Aaaaaaeeee?
Silent pause, then again
AaeEEEEEEEEEE!
and louder and louder as she falls from the sky
Shriek, sway, crash, rustle.
naked silence.
That ghost is so large, so heavy, so old, so shocked
that it will take her forever to pass through.
Down here on earth, we murder those who give us life
and sell their ghosts to the highest bidder.

—Michelle Walsh

Armed with Visions



Poem for the J

Yuba River watershed
Granite washed smooth riverbed
Sierra Pacific impending dread
This is what the forest said

Earth First! hear my native call
March your banner through the mall
Leaflets like the leaves of Fall
Uninnocent bystanders one and all

With pleasure Mother Nature we
Offer strength and love to thee
Call attention to the travesty
Big Red calls corporate forestry

Tuesday, May 29
And so it was

—Ms. Chris Preucil

Clear as cut glass and just as dangerous

The Folks Who Drove Old Dixie Nuts

Big Jim Miller's my name
And from California I came
But it's a dirty shame
How those Earth Firstlers ruined my game
It started in '92
With a small and kind of goofy crew
But what I know now if I'd known it then
I'd of blasted the shit out of each of them

The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
In the woods they're a prowlin
The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
Every night they're a howlin
They go (HOWL)

Then there was '93
Hippies far as you could see
They buried themselves in the road
And they sat up in the trees
I tried to lasso Erik Ryberg away
But some damn cop came and ruined my day
I swore by the dirt below my feet
That Big Jim would not go down into defeat

The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
They call it direct action
The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
I'll put them all in traction
They go (HOWL)

'94 came around
And they all came back to town
Although some judge in a gown
Had shut all the loggin down
But I can think as well as hate
And I blocked their land with my gate
So now they drive up a killer hill
And they're stuck with huge car repair bills

The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
We won't sell em gas here
The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
We say that this is their last year
They say (HOWL)
And now it's '95
And these ecos are still alive
They're back for another try
Say they won't let the forest die
Well I don't care if the critters are hurt
And the workers are all treated like dirt
I take what I need, overcharge for what I sell
And the rest of the world can just go straight to hell

The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
They take nonviolence training
The folks who drove ole Dixie nuts
I take aim while complaining
They go (HOWL)

—Sarah Seeds

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Send poems to:

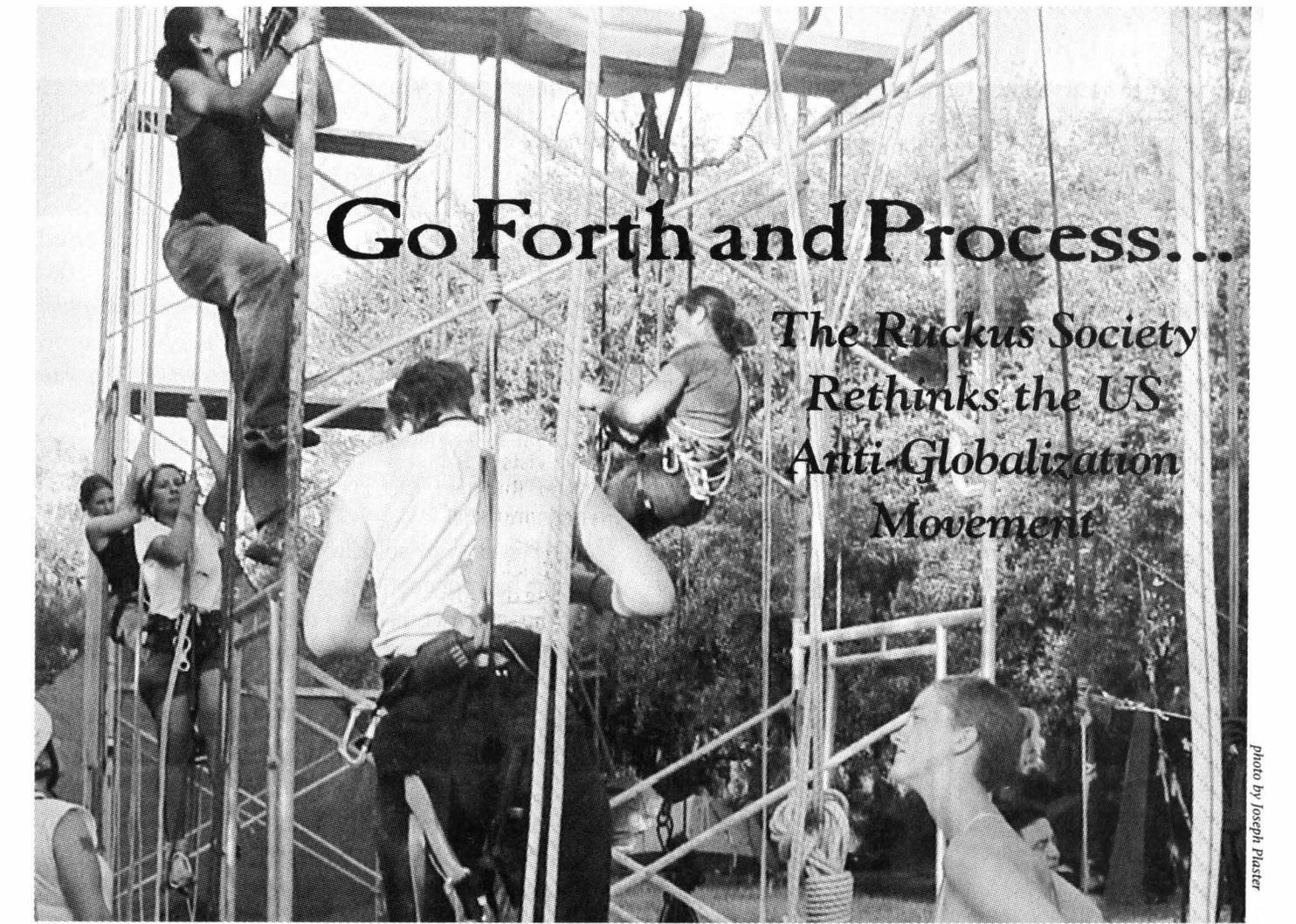
Warrior Poets Society, POB 14501, Berkeley, CA 94712-5501

Birdsong

...Shuyak Island, Alaska

Flowering lily-pads grow
crazy patterns across the lake.
These patterns don't have a name,
neither does this lake.
The birds sing it anyway,
echoes through moss,
spruce, and rain.

—Mac Lojowski



Go Forth and Process...

The Ruckus Society Rethinks the US Anti-Globalization Movement

photo by Joseph Plaster

BY JOSEPH PLASTER

"Close your eyes," directs a young workshop facilitator. In the sticky heat of a secluded Florida campground, under a large tent, a group of activists close their eyes. "Now I want you to picture an anti-globalization activist." The campers furrow their collective brows. "Okay," says the facilitator after a brief pause, "how many saw a white person?"

More than 150 activists—roughly a third of them people of color—have gathered in the Florida wetlands from across the hemisphere to participate in a week-long training camp hosted by the Oakland, California-based Ruckus Society. The nonprofit is best known for training many of the demonstrators who shut down the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial in 1999, and continues to coach people of conscience in nonviolent and often provocative direct action. But as the workshop above suggests, Ruckus has also been working to broaden activists' conception of the anti-corporate globalization movement itself, building broad coalitions and redistributing power in an effort to redefine segments of the movement that it helped spawn. The activists, trainings and conversations at the Florida camp are evidence of this work.

Chrissy Swain, a 24-year-old member of Grassy Narrows First Nation in Ontario, Canada, sits by the aptly named Peace River, which runs through the campground. Since December 2002, her tribe has maintained the longest blockade in Canadian history, preventing a Montréal lumber company from logging in the tribe's Traditional Land

Use Area. "A lot of the young people are frustrated with everything that's been done to our community in the past," says Swain. "When the clearcutting started, it was just like 'that's enough.'"

Carlos Alicia, a 36-year-old Puerto Rican, is representing the South Bronx Clean Air Coalition, which has led protests against a medical waste incinerator in his neighborhood since 1991. He made the trip south to perfect his civil disobedience skills and to prepare for an upcoming campaign against two major corporations back home. Alicia noted that at the camp, "We had the opportunity to establish associations and networks with people from Brazil, Costa Rica, Argentina, Peru and Native American nations."

One of them is 22-year-old Urías Bejarano, a member of the Ngöbe tribe in Costa Rica, who relies on Alicia for translation. Bejarano represents the youth of his community with the Asociación Cultural Ngöbegue, which has organized several 200-mile protest marches from indigenous communities to the capital, San José. During a 1999 march, they occupied the presidential house for more than an hour, demanding ownership of land, territorial autonomy and health care. At the Ruckus camp, Bejarano is being trained in popular education practices and conflict resolution skills. "Because," says Bejarano, "in my experience we have had rallies that have not been successful, perhaps due to lack of organization."

A Shift in Consciousness

Swain, Alicia and Bejarano might not be the folks who come to mind when most white people in the US—even

those on the left—close their eyes and picture an anti-globalization activist. But they represent the constituency that Ruckus is increasingly looking to for leadership.

This represents a shift in consciousness within Ruckus, which is also reflected in movement terminology: What most activists in the US were calling the “anti-globalization movement” a few years ago is now more accurately referred to as the “primarily white sectors of the global justice movement.” In most countries, the global justice movement is led by those most affected by corporate globalization. Consequently, Ruckus is working to support local struggles for global justice among low income and communities of color, in the belief that a global justice movement led by those most negatively affected is also possible in the US.

Ruckus’ “Crusty, Eco-Activist” Roots

During the first few days of the Florida camp, introductory exercises acted as icebreakers and laid down the groundwork for the organization’s approach to power dynamics.

This is a far cry from earlier camps, says J.C. Callender, Ruckus’ 37-year-old operations director. A member of rural North Carolina’s Coharie tribe, Callender joined Ruckus soon after it was founded in 1996.

“The first Ruckus camps were totally about skills,” says Callender, a former Greenpeace organizer. “They were very white, very hetero-normative—basically crusty, eco-activist hippies. It was a homogenous group, so everybody knew that everyone else was working on the same issues.”

Founding fathers Mike Roselle, a cofounder of Earth First! and the Rainforest Action Network, and Howard “Twilly” Cannon, formerly a ship’s captain with Greenpeace, modeled Ruckus after Greenpeace action camps, which had been discontinued due to budget cuts in 1995. Like Earth First! and Greenpeace, Ruckus was often criticized for its culture of machismo and lack of analysis of race, class and sexuality. There were objections, for instance, to men using their status as hot-shot climbing trainers to get with female students at camp. People also objected to the way older Earth First! guys got drunk and made passes at younger women.

Don’t Go Down that Rainbow Path

“We’ve made so many mistakes,” admits direct-action veteran John Sellers, Ruckus’ white, 39-year-old executive director. “And we still grapple with this work. We argue about it and yell at each other, and sometimes it’s really painful.”

The first signs of change came in 1998, when Ruckus hosted an all women’s camp and began to work with groups from international human rights “hot spots,” like Burma, the Niger River Delta and Tibet.

Mojgone Azemun, a 28-year-old Iranian immigrant, was hired as Ruckus’ training director in 2001, after working closely with the Free Tibet movement.

“I think,” says Azemun, “what was constantly not addressed in the organization [in the late ’90s] was, what about indigenous people and people of color from this continent? Where’s the space and where’s the attention focused on their struggles?”

According to Azemun, “The motivation behind diversifying can’t just be about window dressing. It actually means sharing values, creating spaces where people bring their whole selves to the group and doing work that builds toward our collective liberation in a democratic way.”

Sellers points to a training camp in Malibu, just before the 2000 Democratic National Convention, as a watershed moment for Ruckus. The camp, one of the first with a large percentage of people of color, came to a halt after many of the activists of color called attention to the contradictions between Ruckus’ desire for “diversity” and its lack of analysis and strategic planning.

Caucuses, essentially breakout discussion groups, became part of Ruckus camps for the first time in Malibu “because they were demanded,” says Sellers. “At my first white male caucus, all of us were so scared that we’d be called on all this stuff,” he remembers. “We felt we had to solve it and fix it and make everything better within a few hours.”

Ruckus has been working to broaden activists’ conception of the anti-corporate globalization movement itself, building broad coalitions and redistributing power in an effort to redefine segments of the movement that it helped spawn.

Post-Malibu Restructuring

Of course, they couldn’t. But if early camps were overwhelmingly white, single-issue and culturally “insensitive,” Ruckus has made a commitment to move toward anti-racist, multi-issue camp environments, incorporating an analysis of power dynamics, referred to as “anti-oppression analysis.”

Anti-racist workshops for white people, facilitated by the San Francisco, California-based Challenging White Supremacy, became a core part of the curriculum after the Malibu intervention. Ruckus also adopted the Jemez Principals for Democratic Organizing. These guidelines were developed by grassroots organizations, including labor and anti-globalization activists, in the mid-’90s. They call for diversity at the planning table, in staffing, an emphasis on bottom-up organization and a commitment to foreground the voices of those directly affected by globalization.

After years of recruitment and coalition building, Ruckus’ paid staff and training group are now primarily people of color, quite a change from the past.

Ruckus’ volunteer core, which remains primarily white, has formed an Anti-Oppression Working Group. The working group agitates to keep an analysis of power and privilege at the forefront of the organization and works to develop the leadership of people Ruckus deems “most affected by the injustice and oppression we struggle against.” Those include “youth, women, people of color, indigenous people and immigrants, poor and working class folks, lesbian, gay, bisexual, gender queer and transgendered people, and other

continued on next page

historically marginalized communities."

Following the WTO meetings in November 1999, Ruckus focused on training activists for mass mobilizations organized against the WTO, Free Trade Area of the Americas and the World Bank. Today, the organization has expanded its agenda to include more localized struggles. Most of 2004 will be spent supporting environmental justice work in Harlem, economic justice work in Atlanta and Detroit, the fight against a giant pipeline above the Arctic Circle and the Indigenous Environmental Network's Native Youth Leadership Training program.

Cultivating "Safe Space"

There inevitably have been conflicts and false steps as Ruckus has shed its past in favor of a culture that is more welcoming to "historically marginalized communities." The growing pains were clearly visible at the Florida camp.

The better part of a day was devoted to a debate between animal rights activists (primarily white) and meat eaters (primarily working class and people of color). There was conflict when meat was brought into the historically vegetarian and vegan camp space for the first time, at the demands of many people of color.

John Taylor, a 25-year-old organizer with the African American Environmental Justice Action Network in Atlanta, Georgia, was one of them.

"In America, if you have access to resources and wealth you can make a conscious decision not to eat meat," says Taylor. "But if you come from one of my communities then you eat whatever is given to you, because you don't have the luxury to say, 'I don't want to eat that.'" Taylor also noted that meat is an important part of many indigenous spiritual traditions.

"We made it necessary for Ruckus to provide meeting spaces for us to talk about what issues of classism and racism exist, where someone else's culture is not being represented at a progressive camp," says Taylor. "And what makes Ruckus progressive is the fact that it dealt with that issue and didn't suppress it."

The tongue-in-cheek "gender aptitude tests" that campers found in the port-a-potties suggested growth around queer and trans issues. But Sasha Vodnik, a mohawked 32-year-old from Richmond, Virginia, noted that "no one in the queer caucus self-identified or came out as a person of color." While there were non-heterosexual identified people of color at the camp, the most vocal and visibly queer activists were white. This unfortunately perpetuates both the belief that homosexuality is the "white American disease" and the invisibility of non-heterosexual identified people of color. What do you think of when you close your eyes and think of a queer activist?

Alcohol, traditionally a "social lubricant" at Ruckus camps, was banned at the Florida training. The Indigenous Environmental Network will not participate in a camp with alcohol, explains Callender, "because alcohol has been used as a weapon of colonization and has had such a devastating impact on indigenous communities.

"Being a native person, I've had an awful history of alcoholism in my own family," says Callender. "There are a lot of people who are struggling with that, and if you're not providing a safe environment for them, chances are they won't say anything—they just won't come back."

Training camps are still about building skills, says Callender, "but it's about building skills within the context of an anti-oppression movement. All these issues are usually the white elephant in the room for a lot of organizing. Instead of trying to ignore it, trying to work around it or hoping that it will go away, we're hitting it head on and making it part of the work we're doing."

Still, many have pointed out that camp culture remains dominated by a certain style of activism, originating from urban centers like the San Francisco Bay Area and New York

City. Certain approaches to problem solving and elitism alienated people, particularly union members, rural folk and working class activists. Is Ruckus substituting one exclusionary form of organizing with another?

"The camp isn't white dominated," says 21-year-old Nick Tilsen, a member of South Dakota's Lakota tribe. "But it is urban, liberal culture. And it's actually something that rural indigenous people are not a part of and don't necessarily want to be a part of."

Tilsen and Charmaine White Face, his 56-year-old

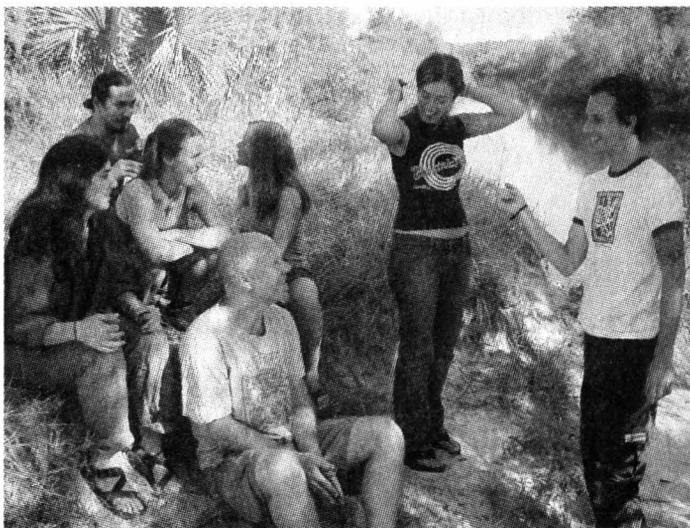
aunt—"probably the oldest one here," she says—are representing Defenders of the Black Hills, a nonprofit organization working to stop logging in areas that hold some of the last sacred places on their tribal lands.

An Evolving Process

Most campers recognize that these questions and conflicts are part of a continuing conversation within Ruckus as well as the primarily white sectors of the global justice movement. Many are arguing that if they are to be effective and relevant to the global justice movement as a whole, then they must continue to prioritize the leadership of those most negatively affected by globalization, shift movement culture, bridge gaps between local and global struggles, and incorporate an analysis of group power dynamics.

While many organizers still think that this struggle is a distraction from work against corporate globalization, Ruckus believes that "in reality, this struggle is the work."

Joseph Plaster is a white queer. Thanks to Jackie Downing, Laurel Paget-Seekins, Gabriel Sayegh, Chris Crass and Kate Berrigan.



Ruckus staff members take a break by the Peace River

photo by Joseph Plaster

How I Became an Ecowarrior

Part II

BY JEFFREY "FREE" LUERS

Editors' Note: In the last issue of the Journal, Free began his story by describing the first time he went out into the forest. With the help of experienced activists, Free climbed a tree to begin setting the lines for a treesit. After camping alone for several days, he was caught in a blizzard and barely made it through the night. The story continues the next morning.

I packed my gear and stashed what I would leave behind in the forest. I threw on my pack and started the 10-mile hike back to an asphalt road. About halfway down, the snow turned to rain with a slight rise in temperature. When I got to Highway 18, the road that runs through Oregon's Willamette National Forest, I started the 20-odd-mile hike to the nearest town. Fortunately, I got a ride after about a mile. Unfortunately, it was in the back of a pick-up truck in the pouring rain.

When I got into Eugene, I went to the only place I knew: a local coffee shop that was friendly to forest defenders. I sat in the corner drinking my free cup of coffee and shivering. I was found there by a woman who is now one of my closest friends. She didn't know me then, but she was friends with the pros, and she had heard about me. I wasn't really able to talk well or to explain everything right then. She knew right away that I had hypothermia, so she brought me to her home and took care of me.

Her house became a sort of in-town basecamp. During the next month, a friend and I traveled back and forth between town and the woods. We climbed trees, took measurements and planned out a treesit.

I continued talking regularly to the young tree that had sheltered me through the night of the snowstorm. I also started talking to the trees I climbed. I soon started calling the tree that I would eventually live in "Happy." It just fit.

I began to be able to feel the energy of the forest around me. My senses felt enhanced. I could smell rain half a day away. I could tell when there were others somewhere in the forest. I learned how to use this energy, how to communicate with the forest better. I learned to use the magik of the

woods to avoid being seen by Freddies (US Forest Service cops)—even when I was standing three feet in front of them.

This forest was my home. I was prepared to die for it. I was more than prepared to fight for it.

On April 19, 1998, I climbed to the platform we had hung from the branches of "Happy"—the first treesit at what would come to be known as Red Cloud Thunder and the Fall Creek treevillage. I was joined by a veteran treesitter, who made sure that I "knew the ropes."

On April 20, we were discovered by the Freddies. They caught our supply line on the ground, and a tug of war ensued. Ultimately, we were forced to cut the line.

The next day, we watched as giant trees were felled. When a tree that big falls, it shrieks all the way down. It lands with a thud that rattles the Earth up to a mile away. I wanted to rappel down and stop the loggers, but my friend wouldn't let me. He tried to comfort me, saying that this was part of it. Some trees will fall, others will stand. Yet, his kind demeanor could not stop my tears from falling.

He stayed with me for almost a week. During that time, we sat through miserable cold and wet rain, wind so strong that the center of gravity in the treesit would change as the tree swayed, even two lightning storms.

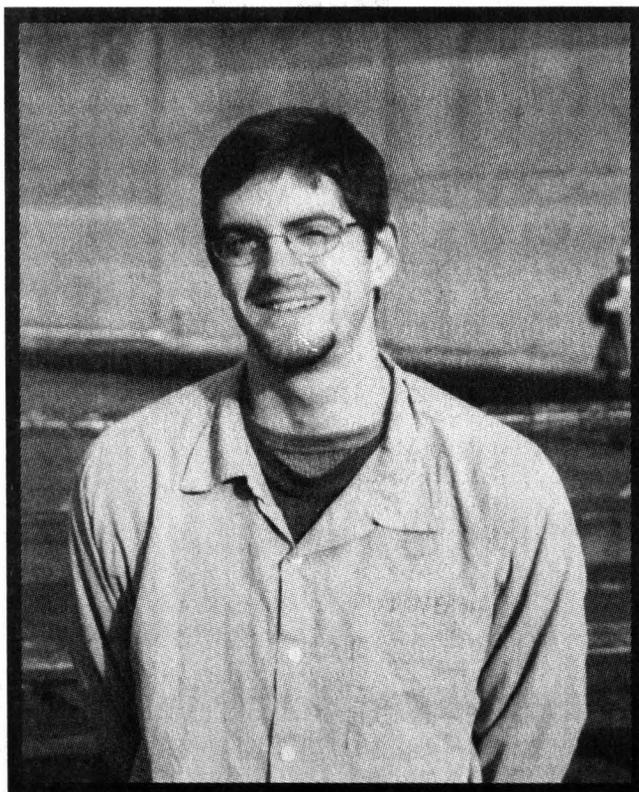
A lot of people will glorify treesitting as this warm and fuzzy experience. I did it on and off for two years, sometimes sitting for months at a

time. I sat through frozen lines covered in icicles, snow and sleet, breaking limbs and lines and hovering helicopters. It is a beautiful and horrible experience, and any person who does it for any length of time does so out of necessity.

After my friend left, I was the only one in the forest, all alone up in Happy. Still, I was loving life sitting under the warm Spring sun and blue sky. I felt a sense of belonging that I'd never felt before. I could feel the magik of Mother Earth in my blood. I finally, truly, understood what it was to be a human and to be alive.

I climbed up to my perch, the branch above the treesit. I sat cross-legged with my back against Happy, and I began to meditate. I went into a trance. I forgot that there was a plywood platform below me. I forgot that I was a single

continued on next page



Jeff "Free" Luers, Winter 2004

photo courtesy www.freefrom.org

continued from previous page

entity. I felt the roots of Happy like they were my own. I breathed the air like it was a part of me. I felt connected to everything around me. I reached out to Momma Earth, and I felt her take my hand.

I felt so in tune with the ebb and flow of life around me. I asked her what it felt like to have humanity forget so much and attack her every day like a cancer. I told her I needed to know; I needed to feel it.

She granted my request. My body began to pour sweat. I felt severe pain all over, and spasms wracked my body. Tears ran down my face. I could feel every factory dumping toxins into the air, water and land. I could feel every strip mine, clearcut, toxic dump and nuclear waste site. I felt my body being suffocated by concrete. I could feel every awful thing our "civilized" way of life inflicts on the natural world. The feeling only lasted a second, but it will stay with me for the rest of my life.

My life changed that day. I made a vow to dedicate myself to the struggle for the freedom and liberation of all life—human, animal and Earth. We are all interconnected. We are all made of the same living matter, and we all call this planet home. I vowed to defend my home. I vowed to stand in defense of Mother Earth.

The Fall Creek campaign grew. I came down from the trees and others went up. We had a huge influx of anarchist street kids who came for a punk gathering in the woods, and at that point, I felt I was needed on the ground.

I helped to organize road blockades, cat and mouse with the bulldozers and security patrols. More importantly, a group of us worked to keep the spectrum of tactics open. We were determined not to allow the sometimes dogmatic adherence to "nonviolence" to rule the campaign. I'm not against nonviolence; we used it with great effectiveness at Fall Creek. But no matter what, we were not going to let this forest fall.

When the road workers buried a kid in dirt with a bulldozer—and the Freddie's stood by laughing and saying, "We didn't see anything"—we'd had enough. The next day, armed with clubs and roadblocks, we stood our ground. When a kid was attacked with a machete, we fought back. When the US Forest Service sent climbers to remove treesitters, we chased them out. If Freddie's were in the woods, we surrounded them and made them leave. If Freddie's were spying on our camp and would not announce their presence in the woods, we threw rocks. When the Freddie's pulled their pepper spray, we pulled ours.

Above the basecamp flew a banner: "If trees fall, blood spills." We were denounced in some circles of activists and applauded in others.

The Freddie's quickly realized that we would not be bullied. If they pushed us, we pushed back. The authorities gave us a strange level of respect. I think they realized that their power meant nothing to us, which made them treat us as equals. I also think they were afraid to piss us off.

There are a thousand stories about Fall Creek and Red Cloud Thunder and about all of the people who lived there or passed through over the years. There were beautiful moments, like when the security guard that was hired to protect the big machines helped to carry supplies to our basecamp. Or the time when the loggers joined us for a beer to bitch about their boss and company practices. There was conflict, tragedy and love. There was some violence and more than one brawl with the Freddie's. There was also a family of devoted friends who, together, saved a forest that to us was sacred.

Today, Fall Creek still stands. It was ultimately saved by some wonderful people who worked through the legal system. They found several red tree voles and nests, which the US Forest Service had conveniently overlooked. Thus, the forest was saved using the US Forest Service's own rules.

However, if it was not for the hundreds of brave womyn and men—who stood their ground, held the blockades, sat in the trees, brought out supplies and fought off the Freddie's, climbers and hostile workers—Fall Creek would never have stood long enough for it to be saved by legal means.

Our Mother Earth is a living being, the giver of life and our home. The places we defend are ecosystems that support all kinds of life, including ours. The struggle for the Earth, for animals and humyns, is not one of separate issues. It is not just a struggle of the oppressed against the oppressors.

It is a struggle for us to remember a different way of life, one forgotten by our society. Our lifestyles have to change. We must learn to walk in harmony and balance with the world around us. We must teach these ways to our children so that they can build on them and teach their children.

We have also inherited the task of ensuring that there will be wild places and animals left. That the world our children grow up in is not one of pollution. We must fight to ensure that their world is free from oppression in all of its forms. It is not our children's battle, and we cannot leave it for them to fight.



photo by Spring

Fall Creek, Winter 2000

The movement to protect the Earth needs to employ many tactics. It will be necessary to use property destruction and sabotage. In some cases, like Fall Creek, people will be forced to defend themselves or others. We must support the people who make this stand, because they are fighting for so much, and they are risking their lives and freedom to do it.

There comes a point when, if you are paying attention, you become aware of all the wrongs and injustices around you. We have already lost too much; we cannot lose any more. You must decide what is important. You have to decide if you are willing to be part of something larger than yourself, and you have to decide if you are willing to fight for it.

If your answer is "yes," then it is time for you to pick up

your spear, draw a line on the ground and say:

"You have come this far, and you shall come no further. I have a voice, and I will use it. I will speak for the voiceless, and if you will not hear my words then you will feel my actions. I will not let you rape, murder and oppress any longer. I am a warrior, and I will fight you."

To all the brave womyn and men out there fighting with the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front, fighting for humyn freedom, fighting for a better world with equality and justice, my heart and gratitude is with you. May you always live free. May you strike like lightning and disappear with the wind. May all our dreams come true.

Free is serving a 22-year sentence for burning SUVs at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon, in June 2000.



June 12 International Day of Action & Solidarity for Free

June marks the beginning of the fourth year that our friend and comrade, Jeff "Free" Luers, has been held captive by the state. Sentenced to 22 years and eight months in 2001 for burning three SUVs at Romania Chevrolet in Eugene, Oregon, Free has continued to be active in prison and to fight back with his words and inspiration. On June 12, we aim to strengthen his efforts by promoting a worldwide day of action and solidarity for Free.

Free's imprisonment and sentence is without a doubt intolerable, but keep in mind that his sentence is yours as well. It is meant as a deterrent to social and environmental movements everywhere. Let us not forget that when you fight with Free for his freedom, you fight for yourselves and your freedom.

This day of action will mean many things to many people, and we encourage you to take whatever action fits your local situation and your desires. Some ideas include film screenings, protests at SUV dealerships, wheat-pasting campaigns, letter writing and outreach, music shows and direct actions. When planning your event, it is important to consider whether your action

will help Free's situation. Remember that what we do on the outside has an impact on his life on the inside—sometimes it's positive, and sometimes it's negative.

There is no central organizing body or group to check in with, but the J12 Organizing Committee can help by providing you with fliers, graphics, videos, zines and stickers. It is imperative that you are able to speak about Free's case if you do a public event. Take some time and read about Free's situation.

There will be events in many US cities and in countries such as England, Australia, Finland, Brazil and Russia. If you choose to hold a public event, email us, and we will include your information in outreach materials. After June 12, send us write-ups, photos and updates to post online. Many people have contacted us with a desire to do more for Free, and the June 12 day of action is the perfect time to show your solidarity.

For more information, contact Friends of Free, freefreenow@mutualaid.org; www.freefreenow.org; Break the Chains, POB 12122, Eugene, OR 97440; www.breakthechains.net; Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440.

Behind the Barbed Wire with Sherman Austin

BY LUPE

Approaching the Tucson Federal Correctional Institution, I immediately noticed the barbed-wire fences surrounding the facility that separate Sherman from the "free" world. I sighed at the thought that within minutes, I would be able to see him—but within hours, I would have to leave the facility without him. I pondered what our reactions would be. It had been three months since we had seen each other. Sherman had written to me about being homesick and wishing to be transferred closer to home—but behind bars, he doesn't get to choose.

As I entered the prison, the metal detector caught my eye, as did the guards staring at me. I felt their eyes on me and thought that at any moment they would say, "So, you're here to visit the 'terror boy.'" Instead, they just handed me a form to fill out, and I turned it in with my identification. Some of the questions on the form were quite ridiculous: "Do you have any cameras, weapons of mass destruction, food, electronic devices, narcotics, etc.?"

"Visit for Austin," the guard called. I got up and signed the visitor book. Meanwhile, the guards checked my clear purse that held about 10 dollars in loose change for the vending machines in the visiting room and a hotel key—pretty much the only things that anyone is allowed to carry in. They then asked me to take off my shoes and to pass through the metal detector. I passed without a beep and was then tested for drugs with a special ionic machine that works like a vacuum. I had to raise my arms while they sucked particles off my clothing. I felt awkward, but I imagined it was less of an ordeal than what Sherman has to go through on a daily basis.

On the way to the visiting room, the barbed wire was more apparent, like what Sherman had described to me: "I think they purposely put it in certain areas, like right above the entrance to the food court, so it's the first thing that you see when you get up in the morning and go to breakfast. It's there to remind you that you're 'a prisoner.'" I got a turning feeling in my stomach by partly experiencing his physical and mental sentence.

I waited anxiously in the visiting room amidst rows of plastic chairs under exhausting fluorescent lights. One by one, inmates were brought in after they had been patted down by a guard. After 20 minutes, Sherman appeared in khaki pants, a khaki shirt and black, steel-toe boots. At first, he glanced all over the place, looking for me like a lost little boy. Once we locked eyes, our smiles were unstoppable. We rushed to each other and were allowed to hug and kiss for a few minutes. It was so refreshing to feel him and smell his long dreads. After our "allowed touch time" was up, we sat down and held hands through-

out the visit. He put his arm around me a couple of times until a guard came up to us and said that we were not allowed to do that. I felt like I was back in high school with all the rules, fences, guards, security and uniforms.

Sherman and I constantly stared at each other looking for changes. I noticed that he had gained muscle and a couple of pounds. He told me that he works out twice a day because having a routine helps the days go by faster and builds self-discipline. I noticed that Sherman had a cold. He always seems to be catching some sort of cold or flu in there. I guess by being in such close quarters, illnesses just bounce back and forth between prisoners. At first, I was worried that he wouldn't be able to eat right with his vegetarian diet. He is lucky though, because one of the prison

chefs will cook soy meat on occasion.

Amongst the other physical changes was his face, which seemed to have years added to it from all of the stress that he's been going through. In a picture he had sent to me from the prison for my birthday, I could see how his boyish stare seemed hard-edged. But during our visit, he seemed to regain some of his glow. I guess the hardened look could just have been homesickness and prison life. Either way, I was glad to have the lively Sherman in front of me. He is truly an amazing spirit with phenomenal abilities to transform all the negative aspects of his situation into something positive. I love this about him. Even though his physical appearance is changing a little, his heart and mind continue in the same path of maturing strength, compassion, love and intelligence.



We talked and talked about a variety of topics. Sherman said that he is very glad to be receiving support letters and that he is reading all of them. Letters seem to be part of his motivation to move forward and stay strong. He sends thanks and appreciation to all of you who have taken the time to write to him.

We also talked about the books that he had just finished reading, including the Elaine Brown story, *A Taste of Power*, and *Lockdown America* by Christian Parenti. He shares his books with fellow inmates. Since a lot of his books deal with imprisonment, Sherman feels that he should share this wealth of information with other inmates. Education is a powerful tool.

Sherman also mentioned that in this facility he gets the chance to play music. He plays bass guitar for a prison rock band, and he plays drums for the prison chapel on Saturday evenings. Many other facilities don't offer this, so it's good that he has this opportunity while serving time. It also helps him practice for when he comes out, because one of his main focuses will be writing music with conscious lyrics. We're still not sure if he will be able to use computers for his art due to the three-year probation. I guess we'll know when he meets with his probation officer.

As we continued with our visit, inmates who also had visitors would pass by us and say hello to him: "What's up Sherm Tank (Sherms or Shermanator)?" I found it a bit amusing. I was glad to see this interaction. He would tell me about some of them. One of the guys was the singer of the rock band that Sherman plays bass for at the prison. From what I saw, Sherman hasn't had a problem making

friends. I got to see that other inmates were not Hollywood stereotypes but were "regular people," as Sherman said, with families and loved ones on the outside. Most of them are in prison for nonviolent drug offenses, and this really made me think about the prison system. I noticed that many of these prisoners seem to come from low-income families and the majority were people of color.

Sherman and I talked about his case. Sherman further realizes the railroading and manipulation that were involved in his case to set him up. He was used to "set an example to deter future revolutionaries." Being in prison, he replays and analyzes facts repeatedly. The injustice doesn't fade away. For Sherman and those supporting him, this case isn't closed.

Our first three-hour visit flew by in a flash. The guards announced, "Visitation is over! Inmates to the red chairs! Visitors to the door!" We were again allowed to give a quick hug and kiss goodbye. I felt like shrinking small enough so that I could fit into his pocket or vice versa. We joked about this, to break the sadness.

While Sherman held me tight in his arms, he reassured me that this nightmare sentence would be over soon and that he would come out upgraded to version Sherman 2.0. I couldn't help but to laugh at his goofy humor and feel comforted. His positive energy made me feel more serene along with the thought that I would be back to visit him again soon.



Sherman and Lupe in the visiting room at FCI Tucson

the injustice doesn't fade away...

"They are going to be on me for the rest of my life. This isn't something I can simply run away from or hide from by a change of lifestyle. The only thing that can bring this to an end is some kind of social change. That's why I didn't really lay low during my case, because it wasn't going to change anything. Everyone was telling my mom and me to be very quiet about everything, because it could 'hurt my case.' It was false, because the judge's mind and the FBI's mind were already made up from the start. So, the only thing that

could have been done strategically was to be very vocal about it and continue organizing. It would have at least organized more people and increased awareness, which is a key element that eventually leads to change. That to me is more important to focus on, rather than 'laying low,' because it's not like you're loosing anything. You're still going to struggle and end up in jail or struggle and live in paranoid fear of running your whole life. Both things are a prison."

—SHERMAN AUSTIN

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

In July 2003, John Ashcroft brought charges against Greenpeace for authorizing a civil disobedience action where two activists climbed onto a cargo ship off the coast of Florida in April 2002. The ship was carrying Brazilian mahogany, and the activists tried to unfurl a banner urging Bush to stop illegal logging. How can a nonprofit organization be prosecuted for the activities of its supporters? What are the legal implications for us as activists? What does this mean for Greenpeace?

—ENVIROS-R-US

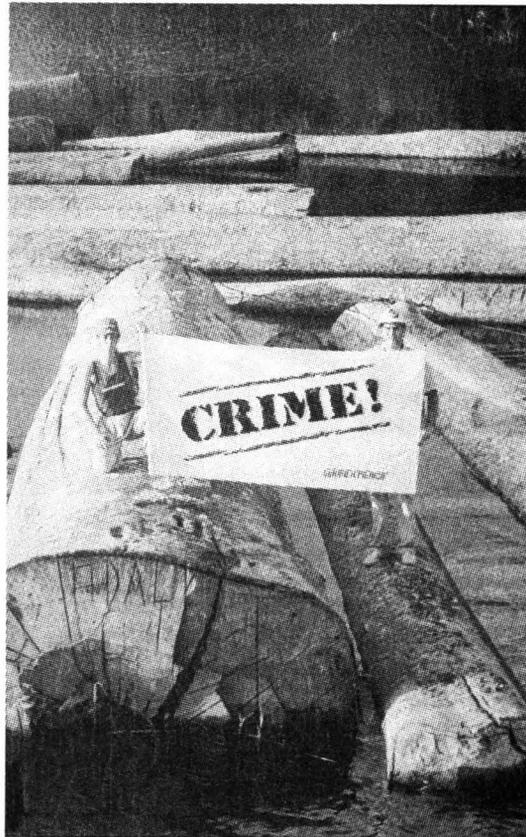
Dear Enviros,

First, please read the March-April 2004 issue of the *Earth First! Journal* for Lenny's excellent article about Ashcroft's Greenpeace prosecution. It explains why Greenpeace is protecting Brazilian mahogany, what Greenpeace stands to lose and how the case is going.

A nonprofit corporation can be prosecuted for the activities of its supporters if the organization acted in concert with them. Sadly, the explanation for this is pretty simple. Under federal law, any corporation, including a nonprofit, is treated as a person. While a criminal statute prohibits a person from planning with others to board a ship, Greenpeace's structure as a nonprofit will probably not be much of a hurdle for the prosecutor to overcome.

Legal implications for activists and organizations from this prosecution are potentially severe. Depending on the outcome, this case could discourage any civil disobedience activity where the government is able to prove that an organization was involved in some way. In Greenpeace's case, the government alleges that the organization violated the 1872 Sailor Mongering Act. Similarly, the government could potentially charge any group whose members take part in civil disobedience for violating any criminal law that fits the facts of that particular case.

This case will not affect those individuals who decide to risk arrest, whether or not they are supported by an organization. It may, however, make nonprofit organizations very skittish about having anything to do with civil disobedience actions.



Greenpeace action on illegal logs, which were apprehended by Brazilian authorities

photo by Oliveira/Greenpeace

On the issue of Brazilian mahogany, the activists' voices telling the US public about how Bush lied when he promised to protect mahogany will become much quieter if Greenpeace is convicted. The case also begs the question, as one example, of whether the civil rights movement could have attained as much progress as it did if the US government had criminally prosecuted the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other groups early on. I see no end to the mischief that this prosecution could create for organizations accused of getting involved with civil disobedience.

For Greenpeace, this prosecution could be a great disaster. While the case proceeds, I expect Greenpeace will have nothing remotely to do with boarding ships in US waters, which has been a successful tactic used by many groups. If convicted, Greenpeace risks a \$10,000 fine, loss of its tax-exempt status and worst of all, five years probation. During that

probation, the government could get its paws on Greenpeace's internal records, including financial records and maybe even membership lists. This final possibility is particularly scary for Greenpeace, because people may not want to send checks to the organization if the government is able to, openly or not, take down those people's names. If Greenpeace loses, it could set a dangerous precedent where other action-oriented organizations and their supporters would face similar consequences.

I see another future, however. I see a future where people rally around Greenpeace now and throughout the prosecution, increasing the organization's membership, building its financial base and improving its effectiveness. I see more activists volunteering for Greenpeace and other direct action groups in order to protect our natural environment and also to teach this court-appointed government that attempts to crush us will backfire. I see Bush losing this trial as members of the jury decide that their rights trump any politically motivated prosecution.

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stuart A. Sugarman, LLC, 3430 SE Belmont #101, Portland, OR 97214; blc@hevanet.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" on the subject line.

HELEN WOODSON: THE TRUTH BEARS REPEATING



artwork courtesy Nonviolence Today

Plowshares anti-war activist Helen Woodson was released from prison on March 9, after completing an 18-year sentence for using a pneumatic jackhammer to disarm a nuclear missile silo in Missouri, mailing warning letters to officials with bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money. Woodson was arrested again two days later.

In keeping with her promise to report to federal probation officials within 72 hours of her release, Woodson entered the federal courthouse in Kansas City, Missouri, on the morning of March 11.

Woodson describes her arrest:

"As agreed, I reported to the federal courthouse, which also houses the probation and marshal's offices. I had with me my release papers upon which I had written, 'I will not abide by these conditions,' and a plastic coffee mug filled with red enamel paint. When the guards at the lobby desk called me over, I told them I was reporting. Since it was obvious that I wouldn't get beyond them with the cup, I said, 'The government has blood on its hands,' and dumped the paint on their countertop."

Woodson was initially charged with a probation violation, namely the destruction of government property. A second charge, communicating a threat of a weapon of mass destruction, was added as a result of a phone call Woodson reportedly made following her release from prison and prior to her arrest. The maximum sentence is life in prison.

During Woodson's two days of freedom, she also allegedly mailed four letters that could be construed as making threats. She was visited by a postal inspector and told that additional charges would be brought against her based on the letters.

Woodson has indicated that she will not contest any truthful information behind these charges. In a letter dated March 28, she writes, "I did indeed do what the charges will say, and I will show in

court at my sentencing that everything I communicated is absolutely true. I wouldn't have said it if it were not."

You can send letters to Helen D. Woodson, #03231-045, Bates County Jail, POB 60, Butler, MO 64730.

In addition to regular mail (which is opened and inspected), Woodson may also receive self-adhesive postage stamps and magazines. Newspapers and news clippings are not allowed.

The "library" at the jail where Woodson is being held consists of one cardboard box full of books. Individuals can send donations of books, new or used, directly to Woodson—there is no need to order them from a publisher.

For more information, contact nukeresister@igc.org.

NOVEMBER 11, 1984 TO MARCH 12, 2004

Following is a statement Woodson wrote prior to her release from prison.

In the Gospel of Matthew we are told, "No one can serve two masters." Today, as perhaps never before in history, it is necessary for each of us to ask, "Whom do we serve?"

Whom do we serve when we name the first explosion of an atomic bomb "Trinity?" When we call a fast-attack submarine "Corpus Christi" (Body of Christ)? When the spires of the Air Force Academy chapel are shaped like missiles? When we possess 11,000 nuclear weapons, and our military policy is one of preemptive first strike?

Whom do we serve when the president who took his oath on a Bible leads us into a war based on lies and deception? When we explode hundreds of tons of depleted uranium shells, poisoning the air, water and soil, and inflicting sickness and death on both civilian populations and our own military personnel?

Whom do we serve when the federal courts, which begin each session by invoking God's blessing, sanction abortion, environmental destruction, capital punishment and war? When we print "In God We Trust" on the money and then use it to finance death and destruction all over the world?

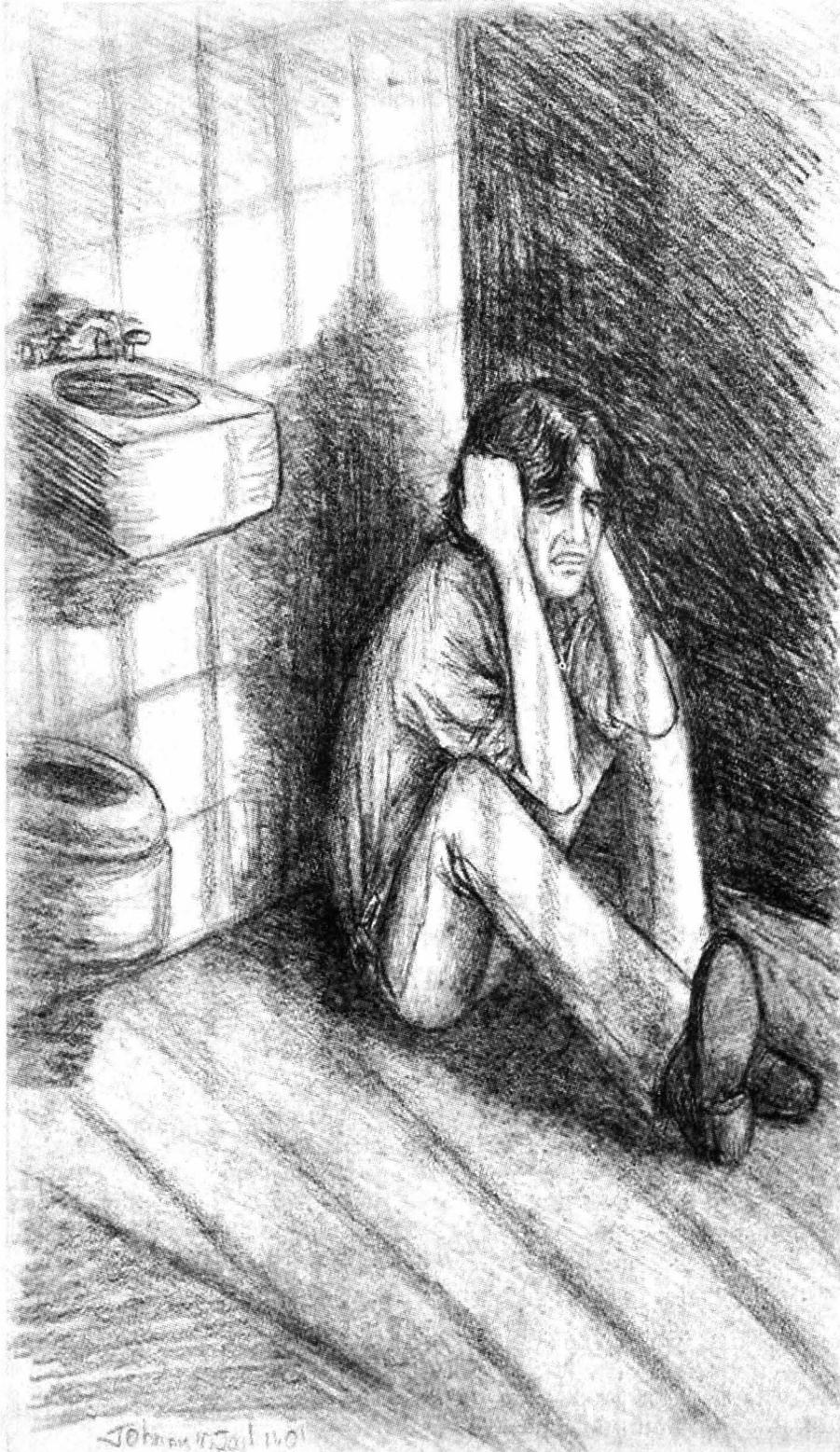
Two thousand years ago, when people were asked whom they served, they answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" The religious terms in which we clothe our murderous deeds cannot obfuscate the truth; we too have no king but Caesar.

A life of faith calls us to a different answer, one exemplified by two saints of the early church. Leaving the Roman army, St. Martin of Tours said, "I am a soldier of Jesus Christ; it is not permissible for me to fight," and St. Maximilian, martyred for refusing military conscription, said, "I cannot do evil. I will not be a soldier of this world."

In 1984, on the feast day of St. Martin, I was one of four people who went to a Missouri missile silo to witness to that truth. In 2004, on the feast day of St. Maximilian, I am expected to report to a Missouri probation office and accept government supervision of my life and conscience. The Christian life is one of ongoing repentance in the service of God, and so again, I must witness to that truth.

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

Regulations for mail sent to prisoners vary according to individual prisons. Before sending monetary donations, stamps, books or packages, ask prisoners what the regulations are. Assume that the authorities read everything that you write to a prisoner. The following list is a small sample of the total number of political prisoners and prisoner support groups worldwide. The EF! Journal offers discounted subscriptions for prisoners. Please contact us for more information.



Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Sherman Austin, #51565-054, FCI Tucson, 8901 S Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706, USA. Serving one year for maintaining a website that contained links to other websites with information on how to make explosives. In February, the FBI refused to return property seized during a raid on Austin's home, instead turning it over to the state of California for further investigation and possible prosecution. At this time, funds are being raised for Austin's ongoing legal defense. For more information, visit www.freesherman.org.

•Benjamin Persky, who was serving up to six years for property destruction at the homes of Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) affiliates, has been released.

•Rae Schilling, who was serving four-and-a-half years for harassment of HLS shareholders, has been released.

•Camilo Viveiros, a community organizer and housing activist, was arrested with more than 400 other protesters in August 2000, during the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He faced first-degree felony charges for his participation in the protests. After more than three years of delays by the prosecution, his trial finally began on April 5. Viveiros and his two codefendants, Darby Landy and Eric Steinberg, stood before a judge and told the story of how former Philadelphia Police Commissioner John Timoney violently repressed protesters. On the second day of the trial, the judge acquitted the trio of activists. For more information, visit www.friendsofcamilo.org.

•Naomi Wagner, a long-time North Coast Earth First! activist and 58-year-old grandmother, began a "Fast for the Forest" on March 23, to coincide with the beginning of a 40-day sentence for resisting arrest. She plans to fast during her entire incarceration. Wagner was convicted following a March 2003 protest in which she locked herself to a small tree at the

base of a 1,200-year-old redwood. A total of 45 people were arrested as they took action against Maxxam/Pacific Lumber's logging practices in the Freshwater watershed near Eureka, California. When asked if she was concerned about the effects of fasting on her health, Wagner replied, "I'm concerned about the health of the forest."

Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire OX60PZ, UK. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab supplier and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Hanna Ekegren, Box 1005, 718 92 Frovi, Sweden. Serving 10 months for damaging equipment at a chicken processing plant and destroying the eggs of thousands of chickens that would have been bred for the industry.

•Paul Holliday, KA9328, HMP Lindholme, Bawtry Rd, Hatfield Woodhouse, Doncaster, Yorks DN7 6EE, UK. Serving one-and-a-half years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

•Paul Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Hull, Hedon Rd, Hull HU9 5LS, UK. Serving five years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

Ecodefense

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

•Marco Camenish, Hörnlistrasse 55, 8330 Pfäffikon/ZH, Switzerland. Serving 10 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility powerlines. He reads French, German, Spanish and Italian.

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

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

•Craig "Crittter" 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 destroy SUVs.

Indigenous Resistance

•Byron "Oso Blanco" Chubbuck, #07909-051, POB 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048, USA. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault on federal agents, escape and bank robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Chiapas, Mexico.

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

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, SCICambridge 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, SCIMahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, 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. Abu-Jamal, a politically active journalist, was framed for the murder of a cop in 1981.

Political Prisoners

•Matthew Lamont, #T90521, A-5-248 UP, Centinella State Prison, POB 901, Imperial, CA 92251, USA. Lamont, an Earth First!er, is serving three years for possession of an incendiary device.

•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 Reclaim the

Streets action in Eugene, Oregon.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915, Chillicothe Correctional Center, 1500 W Third St, Chillicothe, MO 64601, USA. Before she was given a life sentence in the early 1990s for shooting a stalker in self-defense, Thompson was active in animal rights and environmental campaigns.

Vieques

Demonstrators celebrated the end of US military maneuvers on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, in May 2003. Actions taken during a victory celebration led to the arrest and conviction of several activists, who were charged with conspiracy to destroy federal property. Although they share the same address, they must be written to separately: MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147.

•José Vélez Acosta, #23883-069. Serving two years and nine months.

•José Pérez González, #21519-069. Serving five years.

•Néstor de Jesús Guishard, #21716-069. Serving one year and two months.

Prisoner Support Groups

•Anarchist Black Cross Network, www.anarchistblackcross.org.

•Anarchist Prisoner Legal Aid Network, 818 SW Third Ave, PMB 354, Portland, OR 97204, USA.

•Books Through Bars, 4722 Baltimore Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19143, USA; www.booksthroughbars.org.

•Break the Chains Prisoner Support Group, POB 12122, Eugene, OR 97440, USA; www.breakthechains.net.

•Critical Resistance, 1904 Franklin St, Ste 504, Oakland, CA 94612, USA; www.criticalresistance.org.

•Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk.

•Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440, USA.

•Friends of Free, www.freefreenow.org.

•North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group, POB 69597, 5845 Yonge St, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 4K3, Canada.

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

•Prison Book Program, 110 Arlington St, Boston, MA 02116, USA; www.prisonbookprogram.org.

•Prison Moratorium Project, 388 Atlantic Ave, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11217, USA; www.nomoreprisons.org.

Global Days of Action Against Ecocide & Empire

From June 8-10, the Group of Eight (G8) will meet in Sea Island, Georgia. The G8 is an association of the eight wealthiest nations in the world: France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy, Russia, Canada and the US. The meetings will not only include state leaders but also officials from the corporations that inflict the atrocities that wealth demands. These individuals will discuss how to make the world an even easier place to extract profit and to create wealth for Empire.

Rather than join in with the well-intentioned plea to "share the wealth," we should utilize the occasion of the G8 summit to collectively take aim at the notion of wealth itself. By nature, wealth is not sustainable. It takes more than it gives back. It has always been accumulated through the limitless extraction and control of the Earth's resources: water, air, forests, oceans, diversity of life forms and culture, as well as the labor of people and animals. For wealth to be maintained, this extraction must spread like a cancer, always searching for new colonies. Once it has consumed what it can, it returns again and again in different forms and shapes to feed on the already dispossessed. The pursuit of wealth generates Empire.

The extent of damage inflicted by Empire is evidenced throughout the biosphere and on every level of dominant culture. In the southeastern US, mountaintops are clearcut, blasted off and



piled into ravines, triggering catastrophic floods and landslides—all to mine coal to generate power. In the last remaining fragments of primal forest in the Northwest, old-growth dependent species vanish as their habitats shrink. In the Southwest, rivers are sucked dry for industrial livestock production, golf courses and suburban sprawl. The skies of the Northeast are choked with toxins emitted by Tupperware and tampon factories. Globally, Empire burns, poisons and starves in its various wars for resource control. The meddling hands of Empire manipulate economic, ethnic and religious tensions in the pursuit of power and profit.

In solidarity with those fighting Empire around the world, may we in the G8 countries hold those at the helm of this ship of fools responsible. A call has been made for Global Days of Action against Empire during the June G8 Summit in Georgia. In support of that mobilization, we call for strategic emphasis to be placed on the ecological costs of Empire. As for targets, take your pick. Be strategic, but remember that the world is an open book. Keep an eagle's eye open and leave no trace.

For more information and action reports, visit www.G8resistance.org.

This call to action was drafted by a committee empowered by the 2004 Earth First! Organizers' Conference.

Strengthening Ties at the EF! Winter Gathering

BY KATÚAH EF!ER AMANDA WOMAC

Activists from Arizona to Maine gathered in North Carolina for February's Earth First! Organizers' Conference, spending four days in the woods strategizing and socializing. The conference served to strengthen ties and build connections between EF!ers, particularly in the Southeast.

The gathering was held at Earthaven, an inspiring "ecovillage in progress." This thriving intentional community strives to live in harmony with the Earth—practicing natural building techniques, using solar power and experimenting with a local currency system.

Between the awesome food, music and homebrews, we managed to get through several workshops.

People were particularly moved by a presentation on mountaintop removal.

Currently, this is one of the largest threats to the natural environment of the Southeast (see *EF!* September-October 2003).

Another highlight of the conference was when EF!ers discussed action strategies and a call to action against the June G8 Summit. During the meeting, we evaluated our tactics. Concerns were raised about mass demonstrations and ass-kickings. Many folks called for more decentralized actions that interfere with capitalism yet don't end up with police brutality or mass arrests.

The traditional EF! Night to Howl saw folks performing and sharing talents at Earthaven's White Owl Pub. We paid tribute to friends passed

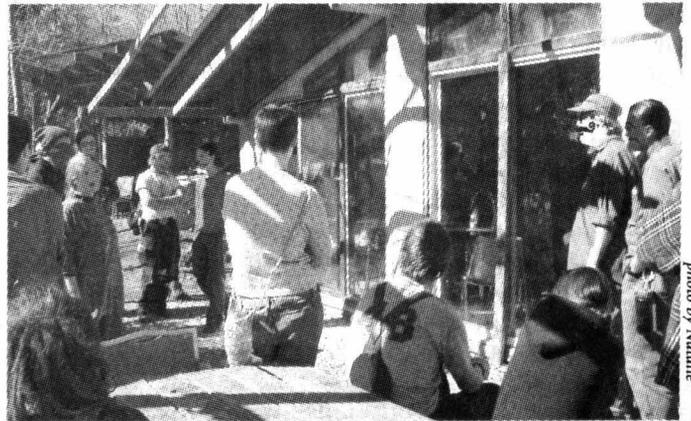
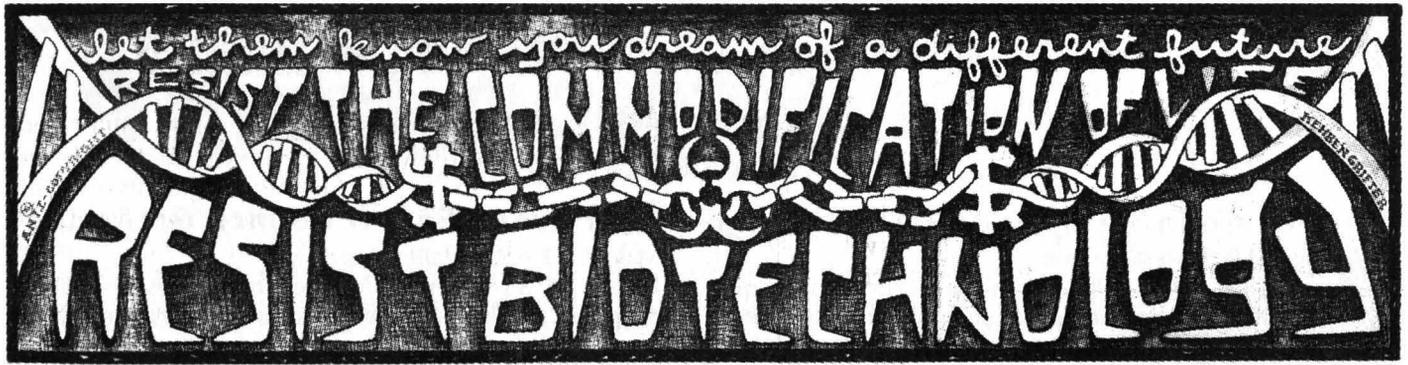


Photo by Natalie

away and reveled in the Earth First! spirit of resistance.

From workshops to forums, hikes to hootenannies, the EF! Organizers' Conference was a great success. Those present walked away with strategic information about how we are going to challenge the growing US empire and continue to struggle for revolution.

If your local EF! group would like to host next year's Organizers' Conference, you can present a proposal at this Summer's Round River Rendezvous in Maine (see page 25).



Join the Movement to Reclaim the Commons!

BY TIM BIRTHDAY

On June 8, the first day of the G8's behind-closed-door meetings in Sea Island, Georgia, the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries' largest meeting of lobbyists will be gathered in San Francisco, California, for the BIO 2004 conference. From June 3-9, activists are invited to converge in San Francisco to dazzle the forces of corporate globalization with streets full of resistance and a mass mobilization that says *no* to corporate profiteering and *yes* to the world we envision.

The biotech industry is an emerging face promoting the agenda of global corporatization. It is laying the groundwork for the next arms race (biological warfare), threatening the sanctity of the global food supply and pouring hundreds of thousands of dollars into the political system to make sure its agenda triumphs over grassroots democracy.

Reclaiming the Commons aims to offer a new face for the agenda of global justice.

We call for actions to disrupt the meetings and after-hours schmooze-fests that will be taking place. We also call for solidarity actions around every aspect of the global corporate agenda that the biopharmaceutical industry and the G8 ooze their way into. From the war in Iraq to the war in our backyard, we call for a demonstration that our struggles are united.

We are reclaiming the commons. Traditionally, the commons were croplands, grazing lands or forests that belonged to the community as a whole and benefited all. Now, the commons include everything needed to support life on Earth: air, water, shelter, food, energy and biodiversity, as well as our multi-cultural heritage.

It is time to put as much energy into creating a better world as we have been putting into resisting the exploitative one. This is a call to begin envisioning the next phase of our movement—the phase of building, growing and manifesting solutions to the ecological devastation and social injustice that is clearly articulated by the biopharmaceutical industry and the G8. San Francisco is the perfect place to be creating the world we want.

What will it look like?

Will Golden Gate Park become a food forest? Will bicycle taxis shuttle people around car-free streets? Will the streets burst with public art? Will we dig up Market Street and plant a garden? Will Bechtel be shut down? Will people resisting environmental racism and the war on the poor stand united and powerful? Will 1,000 local struggles come together in solidarity to realize that their power is greater than that which opposes them?

In June, we'll be showcasing community-based, eco-solutions to urban problems such as unemployment, homelessness, pollution, gutted education and services, unaffordable health care, exploitation of immigrants, police brutality, crime, corporate threats to neighborhood sovereignty and other pressing economic and racial justice issues!

Come to San Francisco and help to make a bold, beautiful, delicious statement that we the people have finally arrived, and we will not back down. Start rounding up your affinity groups and building your own solidarity among each other through local actions, so that you can hit the ground running when you get to San Francisco. If your community is doing related work lead-

ing up to this convergence or in its aftermath, let's work together to weave a continuous story from one to the next and link all of the local struggles that add up to create our movement.

For more information, contact Reclaiming the Commons, (877) 806-2871; sf.june8-suscribe@lists.riseup.net; www.reclaimthecommons.net.

Tim Birthday is a Buddhist organizer and a co-founder of the Green Bloc.



The Beehive Collective's Next Target: Plan Puebla Panama

The Beehive Design Collective is gearing up to complete the final poster in their corporate globalization trilogy, which already includes the Free Trade Area of the Americas and Plan Colombia graphic campaigns.

The third poster addresses Plan Puebla Panama, a monstrous array of super-highways, ports, dams, railways and sweatshops that clearly serve corporations and consumerism in the Global North rather than the needs of the people of southern Mexico and Central America.

The bees welcome any assistance—every bit helps! For information or to pre-order posters to help fund this project, contact the Beehive Design Collective, 3 Elm St, Machias, ME 04654; www.beehivecollective.org.

Summer Action Guide

Big Mountain Spring Survival Gathering

May 6-9 • Black Mesa, Arizona

This will be a gathering to support the indigenous people of Big Mountain who are currently facing forced relocation, environmental devastation and cultural extinction at the hands of multinational corporations and the US government.

Included on the agenda are discussions on cultural preservation, support for Diné and Hopi people, Diné/Hopi solidarity and aligning Diné resistance with global peace and environmental movements.

Workshops will include herbal and natural healing, sustainable traditions, weaving, Diné Sun Dances, sovereignty and self-reliance. There will also be daily prayer and sweat lodge ceremonies.

For more information, contact Black Mesa Indigenous Support (928) 773-8086; blackmesais@riseup.net; www.blackmesais.org.

Cirque-du-Lake Water Cycle Circus

May 22-July 1 • Great Lakes, Canada

This Summer, a rag-tag team of water sprites will cycle around the Canadian Great Lakes region to highlight issues of water.

Along the way, Cirque-du-Lake will be performing amazing feats of participatory artistry in parks, schools, community centers and markets.

We are looking for hosts for our festivities along the way, as well as artists, educators, bike riders, performers, citizens and water guzzlers to join our merry journey.

For more information, contact h2ocycle@yahoo.com; www.cirquedulake.ca.

Wild Earth 2004

Sixth Annual Gathering in Defense of the Land and Its People

May 24-30 • Mt. Elphinstone, British Columbia, Canada

Wild Earth is a gathering of activists, anarchists, communitarians, faeries, permaculturists, punks, primitivists and the like who are united in the belief that another world is possible and who are engaged in making it so. There will be a variety of lively workshops and discussions at the conference. Travel subsidies may be available.

For more information, contact wildearth2004@yahoo.com; www.geocities.com/wildearth2004.

Communities Conference

May 28-30 • The Farm in Tennessee

The lessons of cooperation and ecological consciousness have become the building blocks of sanity. If you are seeking more community in your life or if you wish to strengthen the community where you live, the Communities Conference offers boundless opportunities with workshops and discussions around the themes of community, sustainability and activism. The conference will also feature pioneers in natural building and permaculture.

For more information or to register, contact (931) 964-3574; www.thefarmcommunity.com.

Heartwood Forest Council Gathering

May 28-31 • Fort Valley, Virginia

Heartwood's 14th annual forest council will feature nationally known speakers and expert forest activists, workshops, strategy sessions, great music, food and rejuvenation!

The gathering will take place in Virginia's George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, which contain the most roadless acreage east of the Mississippi. These forests are also suffering the worst kind of exploitation, including logging, road building and gas drilling.

Join us in defending our freedoms and the wild forests of the US.

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

Forest Protection Week

May 31-June 4 • Washington, DC

Join American Lands Alliance and forest activists from across the US in Washington, DC, to educate Congress about this year's forest protection priorities. Elected leaders need to hear from you about how the Bush administration's policies and environmental rollbacks are harming forests in your area.

For more information or to register, contact Katie Barnes, (202) 547-5974; kbarnes@americanlands.org.

Against the Wal

Summer Mobilization
Against Wal-Mart

June 5-6 • Fayetteville, Arkansas

For human rights, for labor, for the environment, for peace: Come to Fayetteville to protest Wal-Mart at its annual shareholders convention.

The shareholders convention is an opportunity for the diverse movement against Wal-Mart to come together, strategize, have fun and bring the voice of the poor and dispossessed to the pinnacle of corporate America.

In the days leading up to the convention, there will be rallies, workshops, skill-sharing fairs and concerts.

For more info., visit www.againstthewal.org.



Western Regional Rendezvous

June 10-14 • In the Biscuit Burn, Oregon

The Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area is one of the most diverse conifer forests in the world. It has the largest concentration of rivers designated Wild and Scenic or even considered eligible for such designation in the entire US. And it is the area where the "Biscuit Fire Recovery Project" has proposed the largest timber sale in modern history.

Last year, more than 200 Earth Firsters attended a regional rendezvous in the Biscuit Burn in the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon. The beauty, diversity and threats are drawing us back again this Summer. Join us to celebrate and initiate a season of eco-resistance in the Biscuit, the Siskiyou and across Cascadia!

For more information, contact Cascadia Rising, (503) 493-7495; siskiyou@cascadiarising.org; www.cascadiarising.org. See you in the Burn this Summer!

World Naked Bike Ride

June 12 • Your town

Protest oil dependency and celebrate the power and individuality of our bodies. Organize a naked bike ride in your town. Go as bare as you dare! Naked bicycle people power!

For more information, visit www.worldnakedbikeride.org.

Continental Bioregional Congress

June 12-20 • Earthaven Ecovillage, North Carolina

The Ninth Continental Bioregional Congress promises to bring together hundreds of activists, artists, permaculturists, farmers, policy-makers, scientists, children and adults concerned about the state of this continent and the planet. With the escalation in ecological and societal devastation around the world, the answers that bioregionalism offers—ones based on ecological principles—are more important than ever.

The week-long congress will link people across the artificial boundaries of state and nation in order to exchange information and strategies on how to live meaningfully and in balance with nature.

For more information, contact Culture's Edge, c/o Mary Armstrong, 1025 Camp Elliott Rd, Black Mountain, NC 28711; biocongress2004@earthaven.org.

Allied Media Conference

June 18-20 • Bowling Green, Ohio

If you believe that everyone should have the tools to create and distribute their own media, then you should be at the Allied Media Conference.

This annual conference focuses on sharing skills, building alternatives to corporate media and using the media for social change. In addition to hands-on

workshops, the conference features film screenings, artist presentations and space to share your work.

For more information or to register, visit www.alliedmediaprojects.org.

Occupied Territory

Anarchist Gathering 2004

June 18-20 • Near Fresno, California

Individuals who dream of freedom from capitalism and the state will gather at Occupied Territory. Instead of just talking about overcoming the constructs of hierarchical society, let's grease up our hands and exist in community structures of our own design.

Occupied Territory will be cooking, teaching, loving, working, enjoying, existing and providing for others in an autonomous community without coercion.

Your thoughts and skills are needed for open discussions and workshops! Come and un-build the spectacle, dismantle the empire, smash the state and un-learn hierarchy once and for all.

For more information, visit www.occupiedterritory.net.

We are Resisting! Conference

A North American Convergence Against Imperialism

June 30-July 4 • Leavenworth, Kansas

The We are Resisting! Conference is an opportunity for anti-imperialists and anti-capitalists to create a four-day gathering focusing on critical analysis, skill sharing and discourse on how to build a movement for social justice and collective liberation. Scheduled speakers and performers include Ward Churchill and David Rovics.

The conference will culminate with the July 4 Day of Action Against US Imperialism at Home and Abroad.

For more information, contact blackdove@s-mail.com; www.kansasanarchist.net/war.

Animal Rights 2004

July 8-12 • Washington, DC

Animal Rights 2004 is the annual national conference of the animal rights movement. It provides a forum for discussing strategies, networking, "recharging our batteries" and taking action.

The conference aims to bring the animal rights movement together under the banner of total animal liberation from human oppression, and it is dedicated to exposing the terror perpetrated everyday by our society against billions of nonhuman animals.

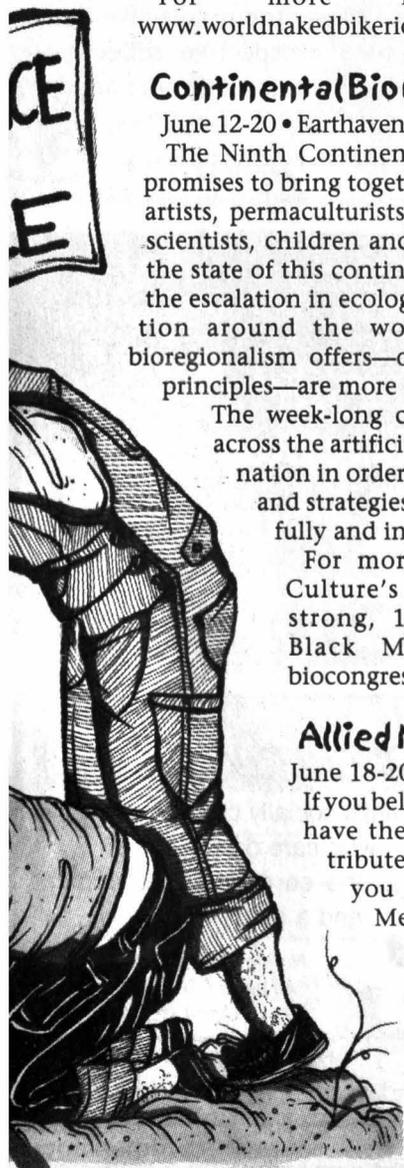
For more info., contact (888) 327-6872; www.ar2004.org.

Food for Life Gathering

July 8-11 • Southeastern Tennessee

The Sequatchie Valley Institute's sixth annual Food for Life gathering will feature skills-building around permaculture, organic gardening, food preservation, methods of cooking and diet choices, medicines and nutrition. Food for Life will also focus on explorations of the social and ecological implications of agriculture, including biotechnology, factory farming and genetic engineering, as well as their many alternatives.

For more information, contact the Sequatchie Valley Institute, 1233 Cartwright Loop, Whitwell, TN 37397; (423) 949-5922; www.svionline.org.



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—Turtle, Ian and Ellen the dog

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(812) 339-8710; boxcar@boxcarbooks.org

Buffalo Trace EF!

POB 3503, Bloomington, IN 47403

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1015 W Creighton St, Ft Wayne, IN 46807

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Mass Direct Action

POB 484, Somerset, MA 02726

Mass EF!

takeaction2001@hotmail.com

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massaugaearthfirst@yahoo.com

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Church of Deep Ecology

POB 16075, St Paul, MN 55116

(612) 362-3387;

contact@churchofdeepecology.org

Forest Ecosystems Action Group

2441 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55405

paarise@mtn.org

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55426

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(212) 662-2878; haja216@aol.com

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phillyearthfirst@yahoo.com

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(541) 482-2640;

mfd@mazamaforestdefense.org

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Katúah EF!/River Faction

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864 W 700 St, Brigham City, UT 84302

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risinguphburg@yahoo.com

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Olympia EF!

POB 11426, Olympia, WA 98508

Shuksan Direct Action

sda@riseup.net

The Last Wizards

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info@lastwizards.com

WISCONSIN

Madison EF!/Infoshop

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No Logging for Parking Lots!

BY RICHARD BOYCE

Cathedral Grove's giant trees are known around the world. Every year, nearly one million people visit this tiny, postcard-size park, which is home to one of the last low-valley-bottom, old-growth Douglas fir forests on the planet. With the intention of collecting five dollars per stall and accommodating visitors to Cathedral Grove, British Columbia's Liberal government plans to construct a parking lot for 140 cars and 15 buses.

Cathedral Grove, located on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, has been protected by the power of a few dedicated people for years. In October 2001, two people occupied the forest where Weyerhaeuser had planned to build a road to access three helicopter logging sites. When the felling crew entered the forest with their chainsaws, the noise of a bear banger scared them so much that they ran away and called the police. Forest protectors eluded dogs and police until they decided to let the fellers know that they were in the forest to prevent any logging. Weyerhaeuser has not logged in Cathedral Grove since that time.

Cathedral Grove includes 336 acres of protected old-growth forest that is bordered on one side by a highway. The visitation trails and parking area at Cathedral Grove are confined to one corner of the park near an estuary at the mouth of the Cameron River. This allows the remainder of the park to stay relatively pristine. Cathedral Grove's rare ecosystem provides habitat for a wide variety of animal life, including two threatened species: Roosevelt elk and red-legged frogs.

In addition to the parking lot, the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection currently plans to build a half-mile trail with a "Y" intersection in the middle, dividing the park into three parts in order to bring one million people to a viewing area with the largest tree. All of this forest is part of a delicate riparian ecosystem—with slow, seeping water meandering between mounds of higher ground where old-growth Douglas firs are perched above the high water mark. Moss, lichen, shrubs and ferns abound.

In 1997, a massive hurricane wind known as "the Qualicum" blew through the Cameron Valley and laid the forest down in Cathedral Grove. MacMillan Bloedel was quick to "salvage log," taking out roughly 60 percent of the old-growth Douglas fir trees. This wind tunnel is now the site for the proposed parking lot, which will cause a new edge effect and result in more wind throw. The fallen trees left inside the park have at this point become nurse logs, with millions of seedling trees, shrubs and moss colonies. These logs act as a sponge for the drought season and provide habitat for rare amphibians.

The proposed trail system would cut through hundreds of such logs.

People have been occupying the area ever since loggers first arrived on February 9, and so far they have prevented any logging. According to the Worker's Compensation Act, loggers are not allowed to fell trees within two tree lengths of the public.

Civil disobedience will be what actually protects the forest while the general public puts pressure on the government. Today, two treesit platforms are secured in the old-growth trees where the government plans to log. People are camped in the area to ensure that these sites are occupied when the logging crew returns,

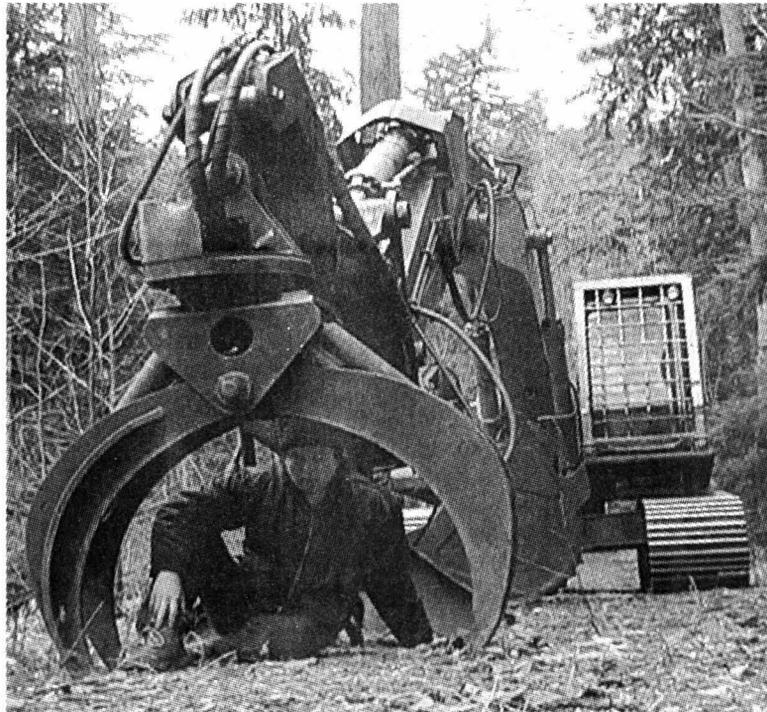
likely with the support of the police. Concerned citizens occupy the entrance to the proposed construction site, and people will be arrested when the government makes its move.

This is an opportunity for the public to stand up for the planet that gives us life. Cathedral Grove may be small, but it is well-supported by an international public, and this may help to galvanize support for the old-growth forests that are being destroyed throughout Vancouver Island—places like the Walbran Valley, East Creek and Clayquot Sound.

The real question for Cathedral Grove is, what will the public allow? We have no choice but to stand in the road, sit on the tree platforms and call out to the world: no more logging of old-growth forests!

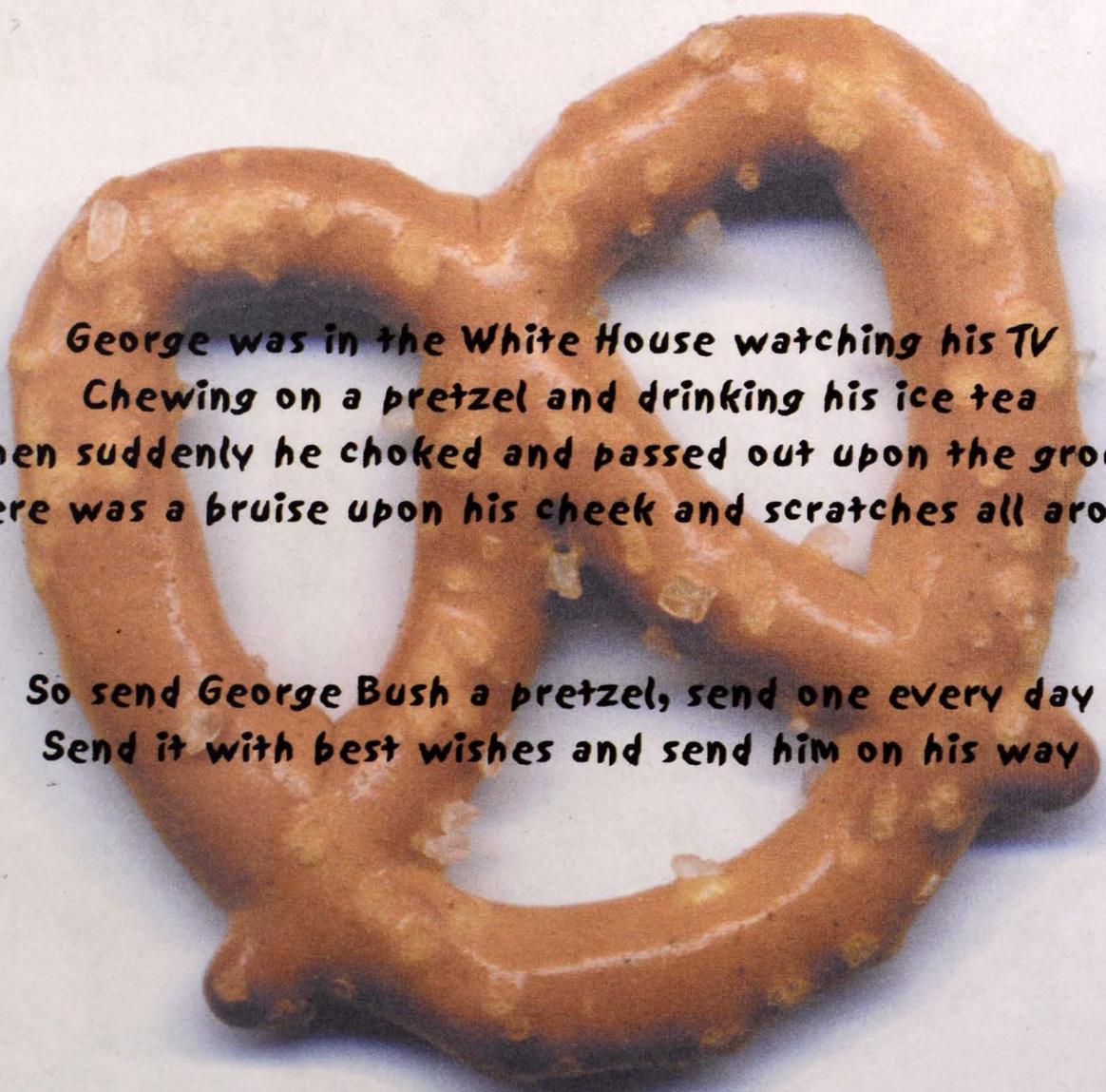
For more information, visit www.cathedralgrove.com.

Richard Boyce is a documentary filmmaker who has lived most of his life on Vancouver Island. His work can be found at www.wemakevideo.com.



People are taking direct action—including treesitting and blockading—to stop the Canadian government's plans to build a parking lot and trails through British Columbia's cherished Cathedral Grove.

Photo by Richard Boyce



George was in the White House watching his TV
Chewing on a pretzel and drinking his ice tea
When suddenly he choked and passed out upon the ground
There was a bruise upon his cheek and scratches all around

So send George Bush a pretzel, send one every day
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