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Monkeywrench Hope · Nanotech Nightmare · Resistance in the Tropics · Razing Dams

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Samhain/Yule November-December 2004



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*On behalf of the lynx,
five buildings and four ski lifts
at Vail were reduced to ashes
on the night of
Sunday, October 18, 1999.*

five years later... what are you doing tonight?

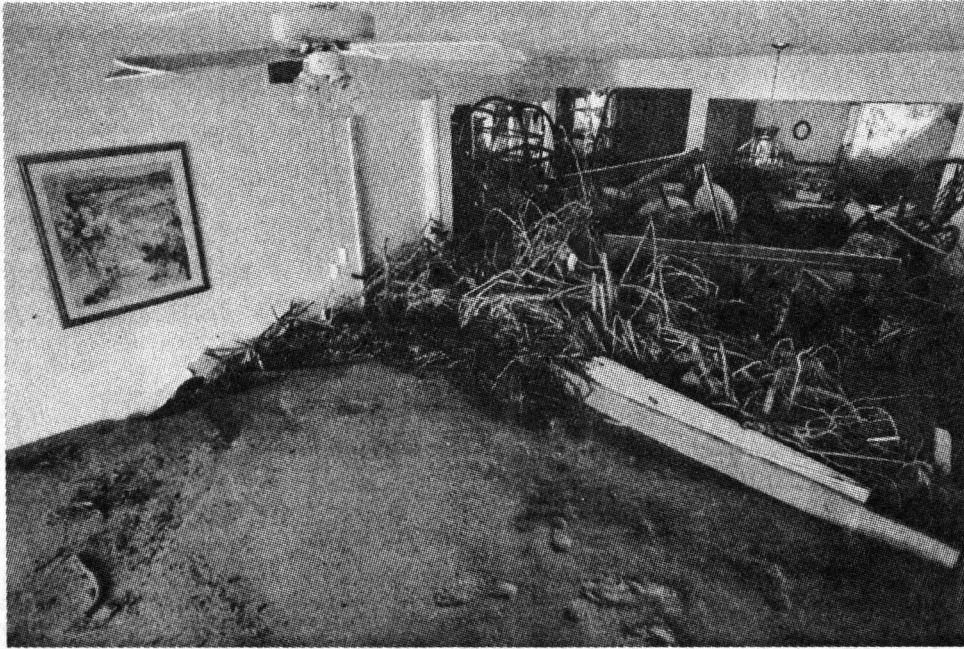
Earth



First!

Samhain/Yule November-December 2004

The Radical Environmental Journal



Nature Bites Back in southern Florida: Beach turned condo turned beach again!

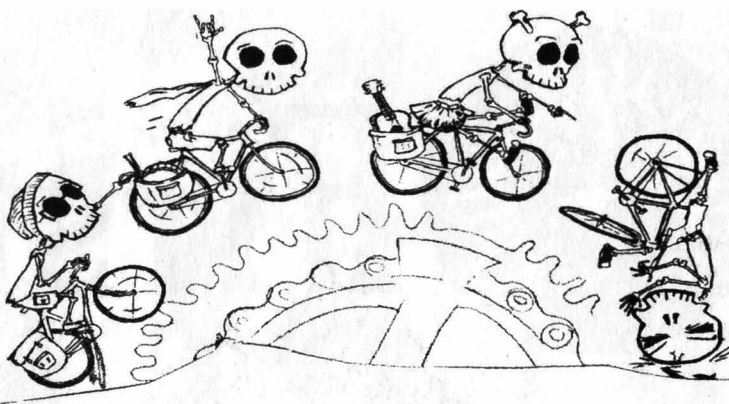
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Git 'Er Done

The idea of working for the *Earth First! Journal* had not crossed my mind before. The written word has only been a small part of my life, whether as a means to express my feelings and thoughts (mostly for my own benefit), or as a way to familiarize myself with major social and political issues, or for simple entertainment.

Oftentimes I've marched, partied, gone on bike rides, sat in meetings and even juggled with EF'ers. So it wasn't completely out of the realm of imagination when asked to help with this issue, but it was a shock nonetheless.

Apprehensively, I agreed in mid-September to fill an open short-termer position. My thoughts were: a little reading, a little editing and even a little money! I quickly learned how unfamiliar I was with the process of production at the *EF! Journal*.

With the *Journal* scheduled to be dropped off at the printer the first week of October, we were already on a tight schedule. Three out of the four people on the editorial collective this issue had been in New York to protest the Republican National Convention and just returned with a month to git 'er done.

After reading through a mound of articles, letters and press releases the first day, I realized that there were unlimited stories to tell. Corporate greed abounds. We all know the results. The

stories are omnipresent. Unfortunately, there isn't enough time, space or energy to print them all.

What has made being a part of this collective so important to me is the accounts I've read from around the world. They are the same that I have witnessed here at home, and as we traveled from Tucson to New York City in late August.

Less than one mile from my house sits the University of Arizona, which desecrates Mt. Graham, sacred Apache land, for an observatory. Two hundred miles north, Peabody Coal operates the largest strip mine in the US on Black Mesa, where more than 14,000 indigenous people have been forcibly relocated. These examples—coupled with overgrazing in eastern Colorado; the penned bison in western Kansas; the genetically engineered crops that link the post-industrial, poverty-ridden cities throughout the Midwest; and finally, the oppression from the State, witnessed recently on the island of Manhattan—reaffirm my decision to be a part of this collective.

The *Journal* is a gift. It has been given to us from people all around the world who struggle to demand justice. It has given me a record to remember the past, knowledge to prepare in the present and inspiration to defend the future.

—ERIC

Errata

On page 21 of the Mabon 2004 issue, one of the websites for protesting fee demo was listed incorrectly. Wild Wilderness can be contacted at www.wildwilderness.org. On page 33, the Greenpeace Banner and Fish Pens in Canada photograph should have been credited to Greenpeace/Beltra. The editorial collective regrets these errors.

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Earth First! Samhain/Yule

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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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Want to Be on Our Collective?

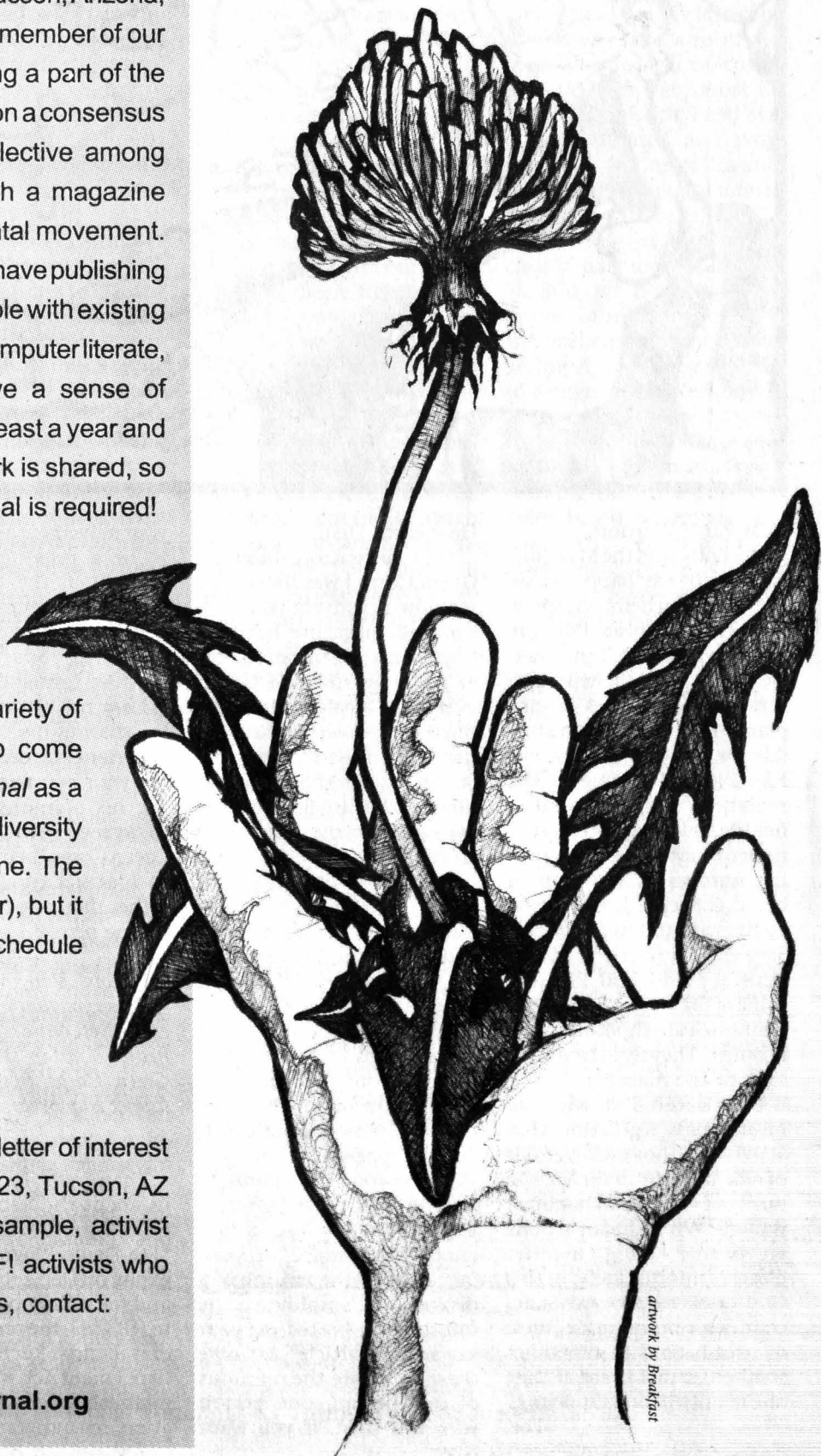
The *Earth First! Journal*, located in Tucson, Arizona, currently has an opening for a new member of our editorial staff. It could be you. Being a part of the *Journal* is full of rewards—working on a consensus basis with a tight four-person collective among a supportive community to publish a magazine essential to the radical environmental movement. Our new long-term editor ideally will have publishing experience, be personally compatible with existing staff, have pounds of patience, be computer literate, have excellent editing skills, have a sense of humor and be able to commit to at least a year and a half. As a collective, all of the work is shared, so a motivated, hard-working individual is required!

We also welcome people with a variety of talents and activist experience to come and work for one issue of the *Journal* as a “short-term” editor. This adds to the diversity of voices and energy in the magazine. The waiting list can be long (up to a year), but it also depends on how flexible your schedule is and when you will be available.

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

(520) 620-6900

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artwork by Breakfast

Dear Earth Warriors,

I recently read the May/June issue, and was happy to see something on herbicide spraying ("The Disappeared" by Kim Antieau). Here in Tennessee, we are besieged by helicopter spraying of herbicides, on pine plantations (they are cutting 3,000 acres next door to where I live, most I assume will be replanted in pine), cotton fields, and power company right of ways. There is a growing number of testimonials being collected from poison victims around here by local Save Our Cumberland Mountains activists, and I'm told some of the "Ol' boys" in West Tennessee are shooting at helicopters. They fly in from Mississippi and Alabama.

The watered down and meaningless legislation that activists cannot even get out of a committee in the legislature is all we have. What hope is there? What kind of actions are people taking in other places? Unfortunately, in this God forsaken backwards State, counties cannot make their own regulations. In some other southern state I heard at least one county banned spraying.

—Lois

Dear Earth First!

As a current organizer for Green Corps I was shocked to see how negatively your web site and magazine has portrayed this organization (see *EF!* July-August 2004). Is your evaluation a balanced view of the organization? Has any effort been made to check the factual basis of Miller's accusations? Is the "article" correctly placed under the heading of an editorial or opinion page?

I think not, since the main source of criticism is Nathaniel Miller, who was terminated and is apparently upset over his termination. Has your magazine made any effort to provide a balanced view of Green Corps by soliciting responses from the leadership or one of the hundreds of past Green Corps graduates? It doesn't appear so.

While your site claims to put the "earth first," it seems you have devoted much energy and space in your magazine to the ranting of a disgruntled employee. The information posted on your site in the "article" *Exposing Green Corps* are the opinions of one person, one person who was fired. If you want

your movement and magazine to be a respected source of news then the information posted on your site should consist of more than just a sounding board for disgruntled former employees.

I am not criticizing Miller for sharing his opinion and experiences, nor am I criticizing your magazine for printing his opinions. Yet, I do disagree with "Exposing Green Corps" being presented as a factual article or exposé rather than as what it rightly is, one person's opinion.

—MEGHAN SHAW

Editors' Note: We'd like to reassure you that we did not rely exclusively on one source. We've heard similar stories about Green Corps from plenty of former employees.

Dear SFB,

Thank you for reminding us about the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program (the "Fee-Demo Program"), set to expire on December 31, 2005, and for calling our attention to HR3283, the proposed Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which would establish a permanent recreation fee program (see *EF!*

September-October 2004). Because we already support our public lands through federal taxes, the Fee-Demo Program functions as a form of double taxation. But what is perhaps more troubling about the Fee-Demo Program is that it perpetuates the disturbing sentiment that hiking, camping and other types of wilderness recreation are activities restricted to white affluent nature-lovers.

As we well know, different socio-economic classes have different conceptions of "nature" and "environment" and as a result, different priorities regarding what should be protected and preserved. The Fee-Demo Program furthers the divide between these classes by placing public lands off-limits to those who cannot pay the fee. This greatly reduces our efforts to form a unified front to combat the vast intertwined problems that we face, including, but certainly not limited to classism, environmental destruction, (environmental) racism and xenophobia.

If public lands are indeed "public," then they must be accessible to all. They cannot be the province of only those who can afford entrance.

Sincerely,

—AVI BRISMAN

Dear Puck,

I read your article "Facing Off the Radical Environmental Lynch Mob" (see *EF!* September-October 2004).

I heard your anger, pain and frustration. It does seem that we're fucked when some of the most ardent and progressive voices in Amerika are oblivious to issues of racism, sexism, classism and homophobia.

White guys like me can fuck up a hot lunch... and we have for 10,000 years. I was at a peace conference in NH last year. We tried to do some "inclusiveness" training—our efforts were so fumbling I left the conference feeling shocked and very afraid for us all. When we talked about homophobia, we used classist

language, when we talked about racism, white guys dominated the discussion, when we talked about classism, we did so from the cozy interior of a private retreat center.

But your experience at the Maine RRR could contain a set of mini-revelations about white men, and white society, that you could use to really get yourself empowered.

You can either take it personally (as in refusing to be an object lesson) or you can take a moment (or a month) to stand back from it all and truly get your mind around just how massively fucked up white guys are. Maybe then you won't be so injured by the specific ignorance, or individual. Maybe then you can come back at us with some love.

I remember when I was in rehab in early recovery. I was so fucking unlovable. I was arrogant, supremely selfish. Nobody could tell me shit. But people did love me. Some people did stick with me. They didn't take my shit personally because they knew I was really sick.

Come back to us Sister. We are really sick. We are so fucking damaged we need all the help we can get. Help us. Make us worthy of your love.

—C

Dear SFB,

Don't believe the hype, question "radical" environmental advertising:

In "Facing Off the Radical Environmental Lynch Mob," Puck goes a long way into debunking radical environmentalism that masquerades as anti-racist by compiling political laundry lists or wearing patches with caricatures of people of color while having little relationships or expressing scarce respect for communities of color or working class people.

Puck bravely confronts and exposes a narrow version of white middle class radical environmentalism which monopolizes resources, campaigns

and spaces. It is important to challenge those who promote an idyllic version of Earth First! to comprehend limitations, gaps and problems within radical environmental activism. It may be hard for some to hear criticism, after passionately dedicating time to struggles deemed as righteous. However, if we are to grow or bring to fruition our radical rhetoric, we need to honestly grasp the contradictions in the work that is being promoted as militant.

Puck offers a constructive critique for those who are listening and willing to face the music. We should admit that some may be too invested in their roles as dominators of radical cliques to concede to the truth that is evident to people of color and working class communities who have dealt with elitism and patronizing behavior from activists who preach liberation while viewing most ordinary people as collaborators with the enemy. Radicals can't honestly say they are serious about achieving professed objectives when they promote defeatist strategies that celebrate self-marginalization while mocking the majority of people who are exploited by the same corporations who are degrading the earth.

Making the shift that is necessary to change the praxis of Earth First! will require leaving behind some of those who have become accustomed to hoarding power and smugly announcing themselves as the spokespersons for all creatures. There is a common saying among community organizers to be wary of outspoken leaders. Those who speak loudest and position themselves for attention and notoriety, often have the weakest credibility in the community and are usually unable to organize communities deeply or for the long haul. The skills of listening to others and understanding our roles while realizing our weaknesses are more important than posturing. We are challenging systems that

will not crumble from a few egotistical individuals or a handful of self-proclaimed saviors of the earth.

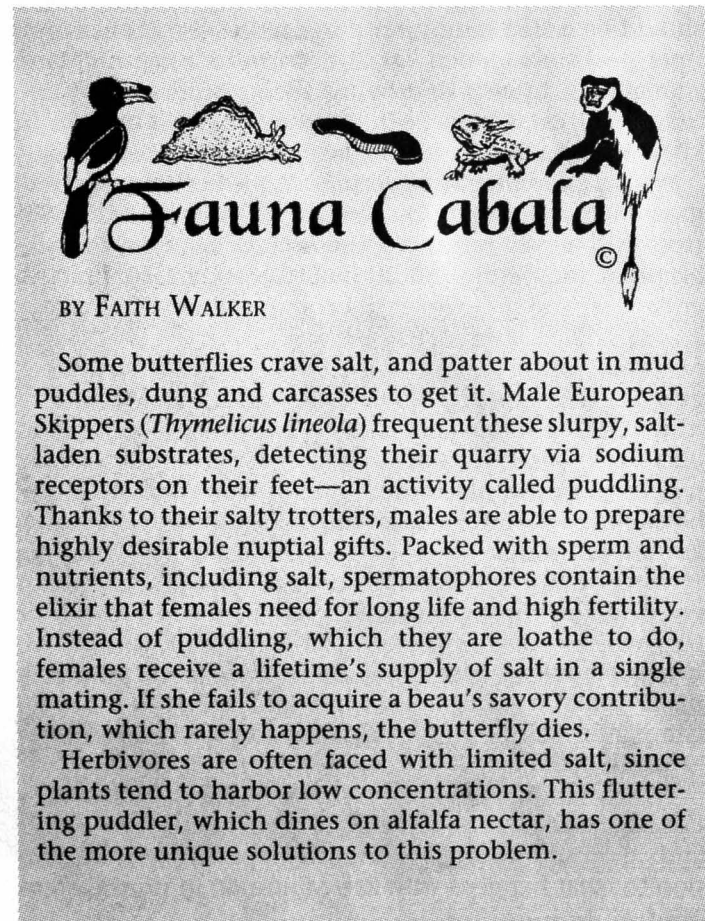
Sometimes while organizing we have to displace false leaders, who are in it more for their own ego than for anything else. A measurement of radicalism should be our willingness to acknowledge where we are at now and the fact that we can not reach our goals through the present level of resistance.

Earth Firsters! need be conscious that people of color and working class communities have been fighting for the land way before Dave Foreman joined the Republican Party. Our resistance will continue with or without the arrogant voices of earth messiahs or self-righteous consultants. Our existence is a radical act and we do not need privileged activists to teach us about resistance. We sincerely hope that EFirsters! will learn to become better allies to oppressed communities.

Although some distort radical ecology into a self-styled religion that rationalizes their pretentious attitude toward any non-followers, the truth is that people of color and environmental justice movements in working class communities have mobilized more people against corporate interests than most Earth First! campaigns. Earth First! will remain isolated and weak until it is willing to learn to build relationships of mutual solidarity with others.

For those of us who see clearly that our work needs to expand, we don't have the option of tolerating the elitism or alienating power mongering of scenersters. We need to recognize our weakness in numbers and that will lead us to the realization that we need to build relationships with working class and people of color based on respect not tokenistic recruitment or symbolic appropriation.

—MASS DIRECT ACTION
MASSDIRECTACTION@RISEUP.NET



Some butterflies crave salt, and patter about in mud puddles, dung and carcasses to get it. Male European Skippers (*Thymelicus lineola*) frequent these slurry, salt-laden substrates, detecting their quarry via sodium receptors on their feet—an activity called puddling. Thanks to their salty trotters, males are able to prepare highly desirable nuptial gifts. Packed with sperm and nutrients, including salt, spermatophores contain the elixir that females need for long life and high fertility. Instead of puddling, which they are loathe to do, females receive a lifetime's supply of salt in a single mating. If she fails to acquire a beau's savory contribution, which rarely happens, the butterfly dies.

Herbivores are often faced with limited salt, since plants tend to harbor low concentrations. This fluttering puddler, which dines on alfalfa nectar, has one of the more unique solutions to this problem.

See You in the Mountains

Katúah Earth First! Confronts Mountaintop Removal



The Zeb Mountain mine in September.

BY JOHN CONNER

Mountaintop removal is the mining practice that literally blows the tops off of mountains, dumps them into an adjacent valley, then scrapes off the coal underneath. It is the final solution for our forests and mountains. It really should be called mountain range removal, because multiple peaks are blown off and dumped onto highland watersheds, utterly destroying them. More than 1,000 miles of streams have been destroyed by this practice in West Virginia alone (see *EF!* September-October 2003).

With a clearcut, you have some hope that the trees will grow back—mountaintop removal is forever. Hardwood trees will never return to these sites, because the soil becomes too acidic. Additionally, this mining practice endangers and destroys entire communities with massive sediment dams and non-stop blasting. It is the death knell for deep mining and mining unions, because dynamite is cheaper than people. As bad as you might imagine it, mountaintop removal is much worse. It is now trying to break its way into the state of Tennessee. We are at a critical juncture of time, place and power at which we can either break the back of this mountain-leveling practice or watch as mountains die.

Ninety-three new coal plants are being planned for construction throughout the US right now. Demand for coal will increase as these new facilities are completed. When the oil starts to run out and there are no concrete plans for a transition to wind and solar power, coal companies will be well-positioned to capitalize on their growing market.

The coal industry estimates that we have enough coal to last 230 years—if we don't mind leveling our mountains and slowly suffocating. The industry is paying careful attention to what happens with Zeb Mountain in northeastern

Tennessee. The coal companies want Zeb Mountain to die with no protest, so they can move on to kill other mountains. The time to halt mountaintop removal is now.

In the 1990s, Katúah Earth First! (KEF!) fought the mechanized logging facilities called chip mills, which we then believed were the final solution for our forests. The mills were migrating north from Alabama, grinding up forests along the way—until they came to our region. We made their lives a living hell and stopped a number of them from opening. Now, coal companies are migrating south along the Cumberland coal seams, starting with Zeb Mountain.

During the Environmental Assessment hearings for the Zeb Mountain project, the Robert Clear Coal Company stated point-blank that this is the “icebreaker project” for the Cumberland Plateau. If we can maintain and increase the pressure here, we can affect the entire industry.

We are already close to bringing Tennessee's first massive mountaintop removal project to its knees. Coal mining does not have the stranglehold on our economy that it does in the other states that mountaintop removal has devastated. Additionally, most states are responsible for permitting and regulating mining operations under the Surface Mining Control Act. Tennessee did such a bad job of it in the '70s that the state renounced control, and all mining is now regulated under the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM). This makes Tennessee unique in that we have recourse in the federal courts to stop mountaintop removal.

The KEF! River Faction is based in Knoxville, 40 miles from Zeb Mountain. By throwing every grassroots action in the book at mountaintop removal, we can win—if enough people join us on the frontlines. Knoxville also hosts the headquarters of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the largest buyer of coal in North America, and OSM, which grants mining permits in Tennessee. Think of TVA as the coal addict and OSM as the pusher.

The coal that is ripped from Zeb Mountain is being burnt by TVA. TVA recently put new scrubbers on its coal stacks, but instead of giving us cleaner air, TVA is burning dirtier coal. Given that Knoxville has the highest rate of children's asthma in the country, a lot of people throughout the region are very angry at TVA for its role in polluting our air. KEF! is pushing TVA to stop buying coal from mountaintop removal sites.

Often the environmental campaigns of the West Coast have centered in the public mind on the old-growth redwoods—these forests serve as an icon for people's cultural identity there. Here, the same is true of our mountains. The people who migrated to southern Appalachia from Scotland and Ireland settled here because of the mountains—we are a mountain people. TVA, OSM and these thieving mining companies are praying that public awareness of their activities stays low until it is too late. They recognize that if a critical mass of the mountain people who hunt, fish, live in and love these mountains find out what the coal companies are trying to do, mountaintop removal will be destroyed by the anger it generates. Our job is to raise awareness and direct the anger at the real perpetrators of this crime of geologic proportions—TVA and OSM.

KEF! has done this by occupying several billboards on major highways and dropping banners off of them. In August 2003, KEF! occupied a billboard while blockading the Zeb Mountain mine for four hours. The blockade, which consisted of two 50-gallon cargo drums with people locked to them, cost the company \$35,000 in down time (see *EF!* November-December 2003).

This Summer, we spent three Tuesdays in August holding demonstrations outside the offices of TVA and OSM, utilizing guerrilla theater, puppet shows and other tactics to raise public awareness and pressure the agencies responsible for the destruction of the Appalachian mountains. KEF! has also driven the back roads around Zeb Mountain, spoken with hunters and folks on ATVs and canvassed local farmers.

In September, Robert Clear Coal Company sold the Zeb Mountain mining rights to National Coal Corporation, after KEF!'s actions and three federal lawsuits made the project a liability for them.

We will fight these mining companies for every mile, every foot—indeed every inch of our mountains—but we must have your help. We need money for bail, for barrels, for concrete, for old cars, for banners, for rope, for guerrilla theater props, for everything including the kitchen sink that we can throw at this mine and at mountaintop removal. We need you. Timing is crucial. Five years from now, when there are 20 mountain range removal projects in Tennessee, it will be too late. We must save Zeb Mountain; we must stop TVA before it destroys our very home. Help us.

For more information, contact KEF!, 2131 Riverside Dr, Knoxville, TN 37915; zorgonus@yahoo.com.

John Conner is the child of Sarah Conner, who trained him in resistance. He now lives in Katúah, where KEF! periodically helps him "dispose" of terminator units sent back in time to eliminate him.

Direct Action Comes to Appalachia

BY KATÚAH EARTH FIRST!

The protest was a response to the death of a three-year-old child, Jeremy Davidson, in the small town of Appalachia, Virginia. On September 25, more than 100 local residents and Katúah Earth First!ers took to the streets in protest of A&G Coal Company and mountaintop removal.

Davidson was killed in August when a 600-pound boulder from the mine site behind his house came crashing through his bedroom window as he slept. The paramedics spent more than an hour trying to resuscitate him. A&G Coal was fined a mere \$15,000.

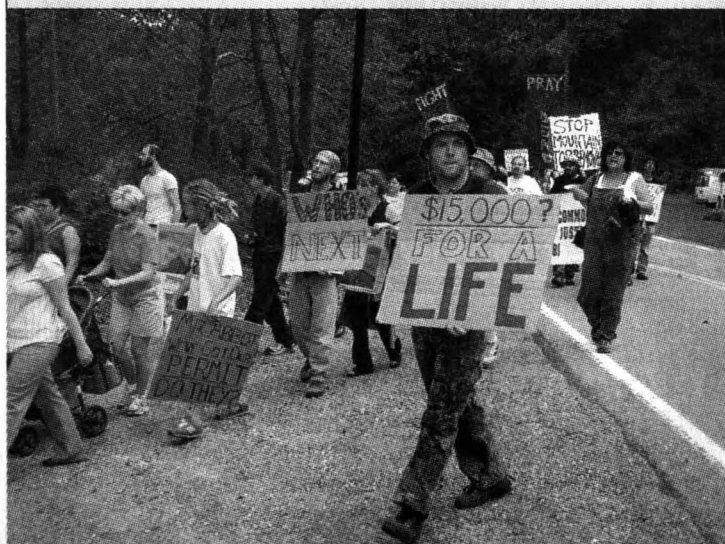
At a rally near the Davidsons' home, many people spoke about the horrors of mountaintop removal. Direct-action politics were well received by local folks, who are fed up with government agencies turning a blind eye to their communities.

"We're through with being polite," proclaimed grassroots organizer Judy Bonds from West Virginia. "I got 70-year-old ladies ready to lay down in front of bulldozers to stop this destruction!" Folks across coal country are ready for action; it is obvious to them that the coal companies view their lives as expendable in the name of profit.

During the march, Earth First!ers spoke with locals who described respiratory problems resulting from the mine dust and pointed out polluted rivers where they used to go fishing.

A spokeswoman for Kentuckians for the Commonwealth compared the residents of coal fields to the canaries once used in coal mines as indicators of toxic working conditions. "We are tired of being the nation's sacrifice zone!" she said.

The same week, Earth First!ers took action by placing locks on all of the gates to the A&G parking lot and by gluing the locks on the front doors of its office building. They left behind a sign reading, "We won't stop until you do. See you in the mountains... Earth First!."

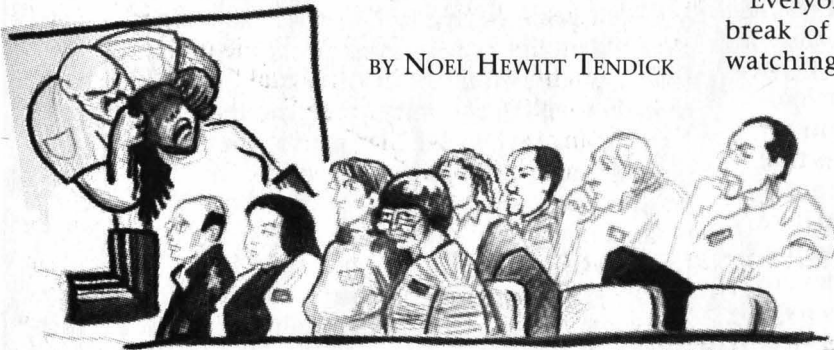


To the coal companies, life is cheap.

photo by Lemmy Kohn

pepper spray 8 gain momentum

BY NOEL HEWITT TENDICK



artwork by K. Rudin

Seven years ago, sheriff's deputies in Humboldt County, California, used Q-tips to apply pepper spray to the eyes of eight peaceful protesters and delivered full sprays to some of our faces. Seven years ago, we filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on the claim that our First and Fourth amendment rights had been violated.

This September, after seven years of appellate court victories, including three US Supreme Court rulings and one trial that ended in a 4-4 hung jury, we got our retrial. With a new judge, a new jury selection process and the FBI-trouncing Judi Bari legal team on our side, we had tremendous hope.

And the jury hung again.

While it's tempting to rend our garments and gnash our teeth, consider this: six of the eight jurors voted our way. Some were so upset with the mistrial that they left the court in tears. Furthermore, another trial gives us another opportunity to make our voices heard. We will sharpen our case and drive home the point that the police were acting as thugs for Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL), trying to smash our forest defense campaign with torture.

We have always known that this case reverberates far beyond the Pepper Spray 8. Though centered in the ancient Headwaters Forest, the ripples from these acts touch the lives of people across the country.

letter from juror in pepper spray q-tip trial

I'm pleased to have found your website and to know your coverage of the trial was very well presented. Below is an email message I sent tonight to a friend. It expresses my sentiments of the events. I was one of the jurors. I sincerely regret that we could not reason with the two people who were in favor of the sheriff's/police actions....

The trial ended today as a hung jury. We deadlocked (6-2). I am greatly troubled and disappointed about the outcome. We spent a total of three weeks at the courthouse, which turned out to be a waste of time and taxpayer dollars and created an underlying current that it's okay to use excessive force on peaceful protesters. I am appalled and dismayed that this happened.

I do hope that there is a third trial and that the plaintiffs win.

—H. Moyer

Everyone in the activist community knows the heart-break of throwing your life into something and then watching it get eaten by the system. We've watched so many trees fall, and we have given an exhausting amount of energy to this case, but all of us—plaintiffs and lawyers—are committed to taking it to another trial.

This one case isn't going to save the Bill of Rights, nor is it going to stop police from stomping on dissent. But it is one strand in our web.

So what was this trial all about? Well, if you followed the logic of defense attorney Nancy Delaney, it was about how the use of pepper spray is benign compared with the potential catastrophe of using grinders to access lockboxes, the metal sleeves that we locked down with in each incident. The defendants claimed that they wanted to prevent a grinder injury by pepper spraying us. To conjure the horror of the grinding process, Delaney said in her opening arguments, "What if your child put their arm in the turkey to grab some stuffing while you were carving it with an electric knife?!"

Using the Orange Alert principle, fear of the possible was used to numb the mind to the horror of the actual. While police testified that they had no problems cutting people out of lockboxes 300 times before, they still apparently feared that the grinding wheel would fly apart, traveling up to "two miles away" and resulting in untold harm.

Indeed, all of the cops who testified sang the harmlessness of pepper spray while contradicting themselves about whether it actually caused pain or was just uncomfortable. A disturbing moment was when we learned that Marvin Kirkpatrick, the deputy who applied the pepper spray in each case, is now a statewide police trainer in the chemical's use. None of the cops considered the American Civil Liberties Union study in which pepper spray was implicated in the deaths of 26 people.

Just when you were going to burst from being fed piles of bullshit, the plaintiffs took the stand. I'm honored to be part of such an amazing group of people, who were not only willing to hold on through the worst physical pain of their lives, but who were willing to



video still from Fire in the Eyes

open themselves up and share that in a courtroom. Everyone spoke beautifully about the forest we work to protect and the damage that we suffered—and continue to suffer—from police crossing the line.

I watched repeatedly as Delaney and William Bragg—the attorney who represented the PL logger who killed David “Gypsy” Chain in 1998—tried to cut into us with all sorts of distortions and ended up spinning themselves into the ground.

After the police and plaintiffs had their say, it was time for closing arguments. Delaney’s recurring theme was, “I submit to you that it makes no sense whatsoever.” For instance, “If we’re going to do nothing when protesters are nonviolent, are we going to allow them to lock down to the emergency room of a hospital? Does that make sense?” I would submit, no.

She attacked with, “But I also think of environmentalism as being something that is the antithesis of the conspicuous consumer. Ask yourself whether you’ve seen the most conspicuous consumption of law enforcement services ever.” Take that, hippies!

Actually, most conspicuous was Delaney’s profiting from the situation. Not only has she dragged this case out by filing endless appeals and stonewalling settlement negotiations, she also represents PL in its SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against North Coast Earth First! activists. This is one of the clearer examples of the collusion between police violence and corporate profit.

We’ve watched so many trees fall, and we have given an exhausting amount of energy to this case, but all of us—plaintiffs and lawyers—are committed to taking it to another trial.

Our attorneys urged the jurors to drag the police back across the line they crossed when they used violence against nonviolent individuals. The legal team spoke of the damage that is done to everyone when such behavior is allowed.

As one of our lawyers, J. Tony Serra, said, “There are certain aspects of the case you are *never* going to forget. In your dream life and in your future, the images that have been brought forward during this trial will persist, echoing in your imagination. They are so horrific that no civilized society can accept this behavior as legal, moral or ethical.”

For John or Jane Q. Public to decide against the police, they have to give something up. Six of the eight jurors were willing to do this. For the other two—who refused to examine clear evidence, who felt we weren’t reaching them—it was too much to handle. I have no doubt that at some moment in the future, they will realize what they’ve done, and it will echo in their imaginations.

In the meantime, we go on to pursue another trial. We go on so that a jury can deliver the consequences of corporate-directed brutality to the police. We go on because when trees were falling and pepper spray was used on us, we didn’t unlock. We go on because we continue to believe in healthy ecosystems and the right of everyone to speak their beliefs, and because these things are burning.

For more information about our case and how to contribute to it, visit www.nopepperspray.org.

Noel is a writer, massage therapist and activist in Santa Cruz, California.

Pacific Lumber Raids Gypsy Mountain and Logs Aradia

On September 25, three treesitters were forcibly removed from their perches high above Grizzly Creek in northern California’s Van Duzen watershed. They were removed by Eric Schatz Tree Service, which extracted more than a dozen activists from old-growth redwoods in the Freshwater area last year (see *EFJ* May-June 2003). Schatz and four other extractors are facing civil lawsuits stemming from those incidents.

After being lowered 150 feet to the ground, the treesitters were placed under citizen’s arrest by Maxxam/Pacific Lumber (PL) employees. A fourth activist on the ground was also arrested.

Almost immediately, the grove of five old-growth redwoods, including the massive giant known as “Aradia,” was cut down. Aradia had been occupied for nearly three years by activists who had hoped to keep the trees standing until the timber harvest plan ran out next January. The grove came to be known as “Gypsy Mountain,” named in memory of David “Gypsy” Chain.

North Coast Earth First!er Shunka Wakan said, “We grieve the loss of a friend on Gypsy Mountain once again—this time, an ancient redwood tree.”

For more information, contact North Coast EF!, POB 219, Bayside, CA 95524; (707) 825-6598; www.northcoastearthfirst.org.



photo courtesy EFl archives

Take Back the Airwaves!

Community Radio Under Attack in Tennessee

BY VIC

On September 15, just after 10 a.m., three Federal Communications Commission (FCC) agents, accompanied by three federal marshals, broke into the studio of Knoxville First Amendment Radio (KFAR) and confiscated nearly all of the station's equipment. They were unable to seize KFAR's antenna, which was perched atop a 100-foot-high tower that doubles as a flagpole for the Jolly Roger.

The agents struck when the station was unoccupied, and they kept supporters and neighbors from observing the seizure, citing that no one was willing to declare themselves a "resident" or "manager" of the building. There is some evidence that the FBI and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) acted in coordination with the FCC to shut KFAR down.

The station, located in a graffiti-festooned, squatted, double-wide trailer in south Knoxville, had been broadcasting at 90.9 FM for almost three years. The Tennessee River Faction of Katúah Earth First! originally squatted the trailer, converting it from a crackhouse. Eventually, it evolved into the home of KFAR with the help of the local hip-hop community, the Prometheus Radio Project and other aspiring pirates. The dwelling was named "the Trailer for Global Sustainability, Justice and Peace," or "the trailer" for short.

The founders of KFAR wanted Knoxville to have a real community radio station, where decisions were made by consensus, hierarchical management was absent, and a voice was given to the voiceless—a station where anyone could be a DJ. They also decided to obtain the highest quality transmitter they could afford, one that exceeded all FCC specifications, in order to avoid interference with established stations.

From the beginning, KFAR only had two rules: "No sexist, racist or homophobic content, and don't offend community standards before 10 p.m." Financial support for the station was generated mostly from the \$10 dues paid by each DJ every month, with some support from donations and benefit concerts. There was never any commercial advertising or underwriting on KFAR.

At the project's inception, KFARians considered applying for a Low Power

are Knoxville's beating heart. We are its only source of local music and alternative news, and the only way that Knoxvilleians can get access to the airwaves," said DJ John Conner following the raid.

KFAR lives on. DJs continue to broadcast their shows via the Internet, and they're banding together in solidarity against the corporate media machine. Members of the community are showing overwhelming support for the downed station, and they are powerfully vocal against the FCC. KFAR is urging supporters to call, write and email complaints to the FCC's Atlanta office. The FCC is a complaint-driven agency that is sensitive to public pressure, so this can have a massive effect on them. When the FCC paid KFAR a visit in March and delivered a "cease and desist" order, supporters let the FCC know how they felt. KFAR returned to the airwaves, despite the order, and stayed there until the recent raid.

KFARians are organizing a benefit concert to replace the stolen equipment, public demonstrations, a public education campaign, and they're circulating a petition to introduce a resolution to the Knoxville City Council that will allow KFAR to return to the air—and stay on. This last tactic was used by Freak Radio Santa Cruz with 10 years of success.

"We're definitely going back on the air," says Dirtee D, radio pirate and Katúah Earth First!er.

Conner adds, "We're thinking about starting a few more stations."

To complain, contact the FCC's Atlanta office, Massell Building Room 440, 1365 Peachtree St NE, Atlanta, GA 30309; (404) 347-3084; erice@fcc.gov. For more information, listen online at www.kfar.org.

Vic is a wandering Katúah Earth First!er and KFARian, among other things.



FM FCC license. However, they learned that due to a law that prohibits "third channel adjacency," they could not obtain a license in Knoxville. These pirates believed, and still believe, that the airwaves belong to the people, not huge corporations like Citadel and Clear Channel. They decided to go ahead and broadcast without a license.

Since then, KFAR has grown to include more than 50 DJs who broadcast a great diversity of content. From lounge music to anarcho-hip-hop and deep ecology, KFAR plays it all. "We

A Woman Who Puts the Earth First!

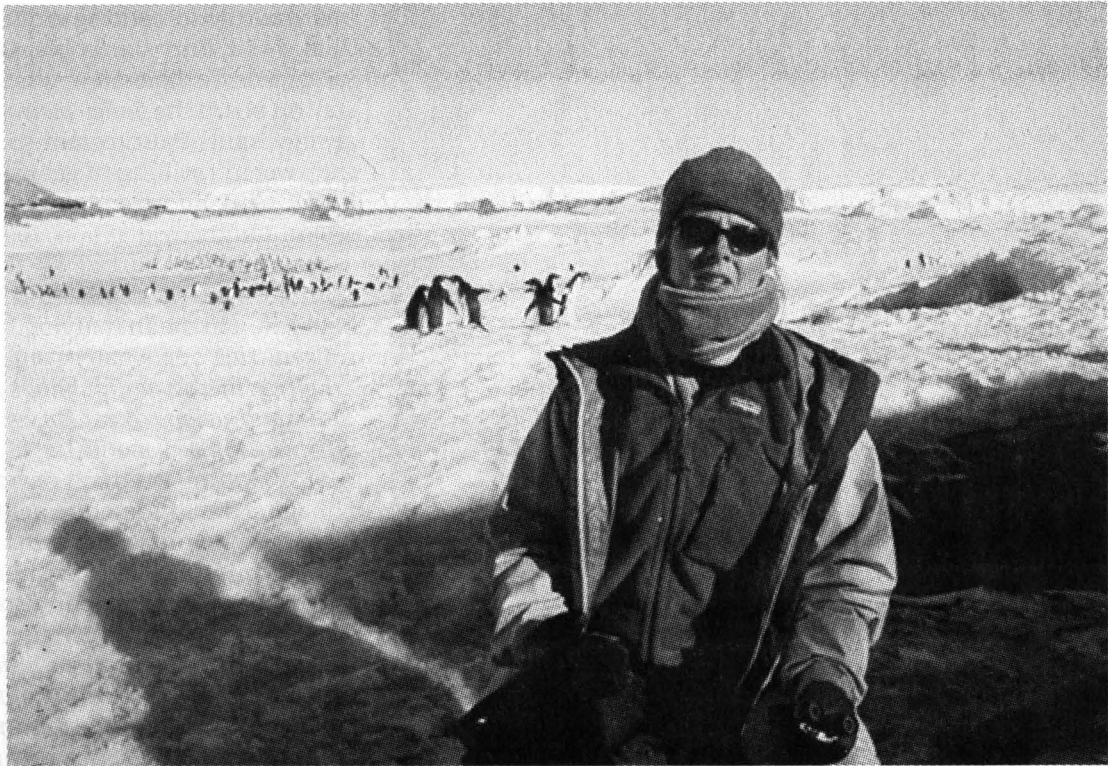


photo courtesy Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Antartica 2003

An Interview with Allison Lance Watson

BY SPRIG

It's become a personal quest for me to unearth what it takes to engage more of "us" humans in the long-term struggle. Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's Allison Lance Watson drew my attention because she was a person willing to dive into Japan's Taiji Bay in the wintertime to rescue dolphins and Mellon-headed whales from slaughter. Run over twice by a fishermen's boat, escaping from an attempted strangulation with a rope net, she was undeterred and carried out that action with Alex Cornelissen until all the dolphins were freed (see EF!J January-February 2004).

EF!J: There's a mental shift that occurs for most activists that spurs them into action. Do you remember when that happened for you?

ALW: It was back in the '80s. I was watching television late at night, and a commercial came on against vivisection. I called the number that was on the screen, and I got a hold of a group called People for Reason and Science in Medicine. They got me into animal rights and from there I started going to protests. I still think vivisection is the most horrifying of all.

EF!J: How old were you at the time?

ALW: It must have been back in '88, and I'm 46 now, so around 30. That's when I really made the connection.

EF!J: Where did you go from there?

ALW: I bounced around to different groups. Then I remember going to a hunt sab to disrupt a bighorn sheep

hunt in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. That's actually where I met my best friend, Gina Lynn.

EF!J: After your first protest, was it the people you met who inspired you to keep with it, or was it your love for animals?

ALW: It wasn't so much the people. I think right off the bat I wanted to do more direct action. My eyes had been opened. I knew that letter writing wasn't it for me, but locking down and making the news to show the world what was going on behind closed doors seemed like the way to approach the abuse of animals.

EF!J: Have you mainly focused on animal rights campaigns?

ALW: Yes, all animal rights. Once you understand animal rights, you can understand human rights, and you can understand the right for a tree and the right for a river. It's all connected, but people just don't get it.

EF!J: What was your first Sea Shepherd campaign?

ALW: Neah Bay, opposing the Makah whalers.

EF!J: My attention was first drawn to you a year ago when you jumped into the freezing water to rescue the dolphins from the Japanese nets. Do you remember what was going through your mind when you jumped in?

ALW: Once you see the dolphins, it's not a pretty sight. Their comrades have been hurt; they no longer have the radar they had before; and they are being driven into the bay. It's basically like herding cattle.

I had full presence of mind. I knew what I was going to do. The only thing I didn't know was how much time I was going to serve. But it didn't matter, especially once you see

continued on next page



Photo courtesy: Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

Galapagos 2001

continued from previous page

that the dolphins have been penned in. Once we opened the nets, we didn't really have time to say goodbye to them.

EF!J: Do you know any other women of your age or peer group who would do that?

ALW: I'm the only one my age that I know. Actually, I got into it kind of late. That's why I'm always amazed at these kids that not only fight for the rights of animals, but they also fight for the rights of humans. They get it at 16, and they are there—heart, mind and soul.

I'm kind of ashamed of myself, because time is running out for this planet. The planet will be here, but not the critters on it.... There is so much to do while I can still run and jump. I'll have plenty of time later on to sit in an office and work on computers, stamp envelopes or whatever. But now is the time while I am physically able to do things, I'm going to do them.

Here's a good example: Sea Shepherd went up against the Japanese in Antarctica a couple of years ago. Out of 43 crew members, there were only six of us willing to get off of the *Farley Mowat* and board the Japanese killing vessels. In this

instance, it was me, another woman in her 30s and four men. That meant we would board a Zodiac, go up next to the killing vessel that was going 12 knots, climb on board and do something to disable the ships. That was it, only six people, and that really saddened me. The crew was all willing to stay on board the *Farley Mowat*, as everyone always wants Paul to ram something, but they weren't willing to get off the ship—to leave the comfort and safety of the *Farley Mowat* to do direct action, to save a whale.

People only go part way—they don't carry their activism to death. And I think what better way to die than dying to save a magnificent tree or a whale, even a fish.

EF!J: Why do you think that lapse between caring and action occurs? Do you think it's just differences in personality?

ALW: I think it's that I don't care if I die. I imagine that if someone held a gun to my head, I would not want them to kill me. But I also think there is no greater honor than to lose your life protecting something beyond the materialistic.

EF!J: I did want to talk a little about Paul. One, because you can't talk about Sea Shepherd without Paul, and also because he has a rather controversial public persona. Is it difficult for you being married to the "Captain?" How does your relationship affect your activism?

ALW: Well, definitely on board there is no democracy. It's Paul's way—because ultimately he's the one responsible. And you've got to give the man credit; he's been doing it for 26 years. People come in and want to change Sea Shepherd, thinking they can run it better. But Paul is a mix of a lot of different people all in one—a writer, captain and a strategist. He's also a human being. On the ship it's one thing, at home it's equal. Actu-

ally, the dogs rule the home, then it's me and Paul.

EF!J: Paul is outspoken about his views on the human condition. Do you share similar beliefs?

ALW: I think I share the same beliefs as he does. I don't have much respect for people. If you are my friend and I know what you do, then I have respect for you and would lay down my life for you. But any Joe Blow off the street, I can't say that I feel one way or another for the person, unless they are there to protect something beyond the materialistic, like we spoke about earlier. After I've seen what humans do, even to each other....

My mom always says to me, "Oh, Allison, you should have had a baby. You missed out on so much." And I think, well, the Earth is my baby. Why can't people have just as much respect for me, since I have taken on the Earth as my child? Seven billion people lie down and have a kid, which is an easy thing to do. My respect comes for those who push their selfishness off to the side and go for something that is kind of foreign to most other people—the protection of species other than our own.

I don't understand why it's not okay to say, "No, I don't care about that person. I care more for a tree or for that dog, because that tree and dog are more respectful to this planet and to me, so therefore they deserve my respect." And yes, Paul is very outspoken, and he is very blunt. But it comes from years of him living on this planet and seeing what this planet is actually made up of: anthropocentric hominids. Not a pretty picture.

You're right—some people love him, some people hate him, but he doesn't really care. He will tell you straight-away that his clients aren't people, they are whales and dolphins. You have such a short time on this Earth, say what you have to say. When he gets fired up about something, that's when I am most in love with him.

EF!: I guess I feel that if we can show people the connections and empower them with the skills and knowledge, that the shift will occur for them. Do you think that's possible?

ALW: I think you are either going to have it in you or you're not. Once I learned, oh, my gosh, I could never go back to my meat-eating ways, wearing leather and being comfortable. When I'm comfortable it saddens me, because I know at the same time a beagle is being punched in the face—like the SHAC kids proved—or a veal calf can't turn around. So I don't understand why more activists don't spring up that are into direct action. They should be busting into places and doing things that really need to happen. There are a lot of good people out there. The Animal Liberation Front and Earth Liberation Front are doing what needs to be done. Just not enough!

People need to get away from thinking about themselves, but I can't make anybody do that. I can be excited as I can be about something on the ship, like when we see a longline to pull out. And, oh, no, there's a shark caught on one. Some people are right in there with bolt cutters trying to get it free, and others are just standing back. It just seems like it's in you or it's not.

If you can't walk outside and feel moved to protect a bird that is flying across the sky in a free fashion, knowing there is a possibility that bird may be shot or poisoned or have his or her airspace taken away, then I don't know what to say. I'm hoping this generation will spring into action, take up arms and go for it. Why not fight until you no longer can?

Sprig worked on the EF! Journal collective for the last two-and-a-half years. She'll see y'all at the February 2005 EF! Organizers' Conference.

Grand Jury Resister Released from Custody

On August 26, a federal grand jury in Seattle, Washington, sent a long-time animal activist from southern California to jail. Gina Lynn was jailed on contempt charges after asserting her right to not answer questions.

This grand jury was convened to investigate the animal rights and environmental movements in the Seattle area, specifically the "theft" of more than 200 chickens from an egg farm and an arson at a logging company.

"It has never been my intention to cooperate with this political witch hunt, and I remain firm in my principled resistance to these secretive probes," stated Lynn. "I will never participate in the prosecution of a cause to which I have devoted my life."

On her 23rd day of imprisonment, Lynn was granted a hearing before Judge Thomas S. Zilly. Prior to the hearing, supporters sent letters to the judge, and protests were held outside the jail on a weekly basis.

US Attorney Andrew Friedman tried to argue that releasing Lynn would set a bad example and that three weeks in jail was simply not long enough to know whether she could be compelled to talk.

After listening to arguments, Zilly ordered Lynn released, concluding that she would never cooperate.

During her time in custody, Lynn maintained that the foremost way for people on the outside to support her was by keeping the struggle for animal liberation alive. "Please do everything you can to free animals," Lynn urged. "They deserve nothing less."



Gina Lynn with her friend Jude

photo courtesy No Compromise

The perjury charges against me have been dropped....

BY ALLISON LANCE WATSON

When I was compelled to appear before the grand jury, I pleaded the First Amendment, citing that the government had no right to question me about my association with other persons (see *EF!* March-April 2004). The judge ordered me to answer the grand jury's questions, and eventually I did. But as the transcript of my hearing reveals, the prosecutors bullied and

tricked me into a position where they could bring perjury charges against me. Ultimately, the government dropped these charges because I intended to prove how unfairly I had been treated.

Having failed to prosecute me for perjury and having failed to intimidate me into cooperation, the federal prosecutor's office turned its attention on animal right activist Gina Lynn, my best friend. Gina Lynn is a very outspoken activist, but she is not a criminal.

I was charged with contempt and pleaded guilty on the understanding that it would be a misdemeanor conviction, and I would not have a probationary period. I was ordered to appear for sentencing on November 17. The maximum sentence is six months. Letters of support would be very helpful. Please write to the Honorable Monica Benton, c/o Angelo J. Calfo, Yarmuth Wilsdon Calfo, 2500 IDX Tower, Seattle, WA 98104.

The Winnemem Wintu: Waging War on Shasta Dam

BY CLAIRE HOPE CUMMINGS

Just before dusk on September 12, on a grassy area overlooking the massive gray presence of Shasta dam and the blue waters of the sprawling reservoir behind it, a small group of dancers and singers dressed in traditional regalia lit a sacred fire. A wooden drum began a slow, steady beat, and the singers started a rhythmic, wailing song. An ancient ceremonial war dance began. For four days and nights, the Winnemem Wintu fasted, danced, sang and prayed. As each man stepped toward the fire, he shouted a throaty *Hup!*—the Wintu word for “war”—raised his bow, arrow and dance stick and thrust them toward the dam.

The Winnemem Wintu are called the “middle water” people. They are a small, traditional band of the once-mighty Wintu language group that lived between the Oregon border and northern California. For more than 1,000 years, the Winnemem lived along the McCloud River, known as the middle river because it runs between the Sacramento and the Pitt Rivers. All three rivers now flow into the man-made Shasta Lake.

When Shasta dam was constructed in the late 1930s, the Winnemem’s villages and burial grounds were inundated. Now, they are under assault again. Their sacred sites and traditional ways of life are being threatened by the US Bureau of Reclamation’s (BuRec) proposal to raise Shasta dam in order to create more water storage and to generate more power for California’s growing population. After losing much of their homeland to the dam, to wealthy Californians who favor the fishing grounds along the McCloud, and to the national forests, the Winnemem are desperate to save what remains.

The last time the Winnemem invoked the War Dance was in 1887, when a fish hatchery on the McCloud River was the enemy and protecting the salmon and the Wintu

way of life was the focus. More than 100 years later, the shadow of Shasta dam, already an implement of destruction to the Winnemem, looms large. The tribe tires of meeting endlessly with government agencies while never getting its needs met. When the Winnemem heard about plans to raise the dam, they were not sure what to do. “We prayed on it, and we were told to hold a War Dance,” said Caleen Sisk-Franco, Winnemem spiritual and tribal leader. “Our ancestors showed us the way with the dance against the fish hatchery. We gave up a lot of our homeland for the sake of the California people and got nothing in return.

Now you want to take our sacred places, and again we get nothing. How is this fair, over and over again? This is too much to ask of a people.”

The dance was held under a permit issued by BuRec. Just getting the permit was a struggle; BuRec did not want something called a War Dance anywhere near the dam, citing security concerns. Then the local newspaper accused BuRec of not being able to distinguish between a small group of local Indians and terrorists. So BuRec told the tribe that it could have a permit, but there could be no fire or traditional weapons. The Winnemem answered back, with their characteristic good humor, “Gee, does that mean we can bring modern weapons?” Eventually, BuRec relented and permitted the fire, the spears and the traditional ceremony as the Winnemem

wanted to do it.

Still, there is a long and troubled history between the tribe and the agency. When Shasta dam was first constructed, Congress promised the Winnemem people compensation, like lands and a cemetery where their dead would be reburied. It promised to hold that cemetery land in trust forever, but those promises have not been kept.

Recently, the tribe held several meetings with BuRec. The tribe questioned BuRec’s plan to raise the dam and the impacts the plan will have. Mark Franco, headman for the village where many members of the tribe now live,



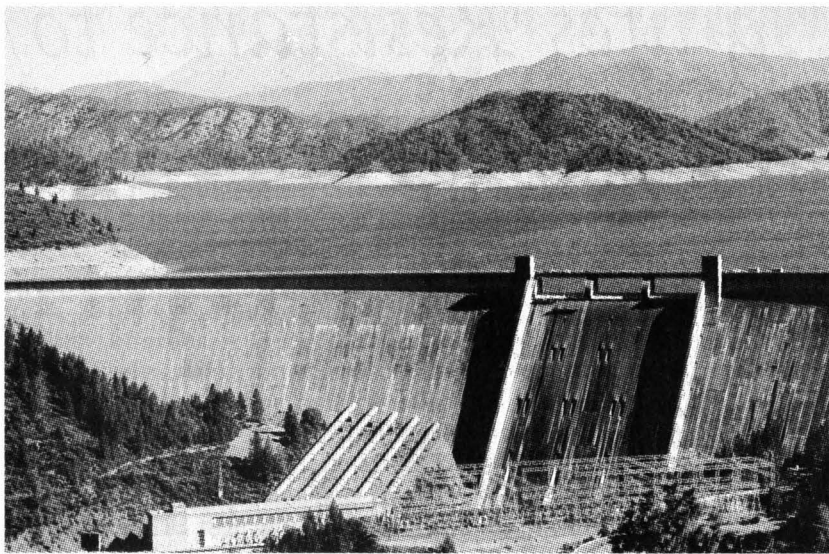


photo by Christopher McLeod

Shasta dam: the enemy

speculated that BuRec only wants to know about the sacred sites so that it can flood the area. "The government has no intention of preserving those sites, or our way of life," he said. Indeed, so far BuRec has had the same effect on the Winnemem that it has had on endangered California salmon—both are just about wiped out.

The Winnemem want their issues addressed now, before BuRec does new studies and considers new plans for the dam. BuRec is currently spending \$15 million to study the raising of Shasta dam. This study only considers whether or not the dam should be raised and by how much. It is not considering other options.

The tribe is asking the environmental community to help them articulate the best alternatives to raising the dam. They say that better management and conservation practices for the existing reservoir could supply as much water as raising the dam—and do so more sustainably and at less cost.

At the War Dance, visitors from other Native nations and members of the environmental community came to support the Winnemem. Julia "Butterfly" Hill stayed for several days and told the media that she supports the Winnemem as a matter of conscience. She said that "the sacred" is in peril at this time, in this place, and that coming together and making connections—between groups, with each other, to the water, the fish and to place—is what the environmental movement is all about. Brock Dolman, from the Water Institute at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, spoke about the need to study alternatives to raising the dam. He said that there has been enough damage from the Dam Age, and we should be thinking about razing the dam instead.

As the days wore on, still the fire burned. Day and night, the drum would sound, calling the dancers back into the arbor of Douglas fir that they had built. The singers would start and the dancers would line up, their deer toe rattles jangling. They would dance their prayers into the ground and cry out against the dam. Every day an osprey circled above, once dropping a feather into the arbor. A bald eagle angled in to get a view. Back and forth, it was a call and response. As the prayers were carried out over the water, the physical world answered.

By the fourth day, some of the older dancers were weary. But as the ceremony came to a close, a resurgence of power and energy seemed to take over. Voices were strong, the dancing was robust, and the prayers were fervent. Anyone who witnessed this historic event was impressed and deeply moved. It was a moment in time when the sacred was clear and present.

This small, traditional tribe had worked hard to do this dance. For days and weeks beforehand, a handful of people worked on the complicated regalia. Each bead, each feather and each shell was lovingly sewn or glued; the eagle bone whistles were carved; the traditional weapons were strung. The dances and songs were practiced. Then, finally, after it was all over, the moment came when the women put down their wooden clappers and took off their fur headdresses. The men stripped down and dove into the cool waters of the reservoir to seal in their newfound power. The fire was extinguished. The entire tribe let out a shout. They hugged and cried. They were warriors now. They were exhilarated and energized, ready to go forward, confident and clear about their goals. BuRec has never seen the likes of this.

For more information, visit www.winnememwintu.us.

Claire Hope Cummings has been the tribal lawyer for the Winnemem for the last 15 years. She is committed to protecting the McCloud River through her work as a lawyer and a writer, which she does without pay, saying she doesn't mind working for "Winnemem wage."

Take 'em Down

Sixty dams in the US are scheduled to be decommissioned by the end of the year. With many communities yearning for the ecological benefits of free-flowing streams and rivers, dozens of obsolete dams are being disposed of.

A good number of the smaller dams simply are not being used anymore. Dams are also considered safety hazards as the older ones fall into disrepair, causing financial burdens and maintenance costs that far outweigh many of the dams' worth.

Ecological habitats are already reaping the rewards. Five years after the removal of Edwards dam on Maine's Kennebec River, biologists are stunned by the large numbers of fish and wildlife that have returned.

With studies around the world proving that dams are more detrimental than useful, the call to decommission is becoming increasingly widespread.

Mexican Dam Ignites Resistance to

BY LENNY

In southern Mexico, a proposed hydroelectric dam and an integral part of the free-trade expansion Plan Puebla Panama (PPP) has been the target of fierce local resistance. As a blockade of the dam's construction site neared its one-year anniversary in July, the government responded by arresting anti-dam activists on false charges. The battle between corporate expansion and the survival of Mexico's ecosystems and people rages on.

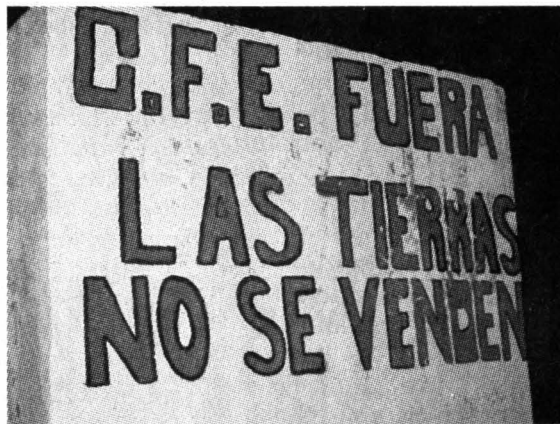
La Parota dam, to be built in the Papayago River watershed in the southern province of Guerrero, is the most advanced dam proposed under Mexican President Vicente Fox's PPP—a megaproject intended to lay the structural groundwork to open up southern Mexico and Central America to foreign investment and the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The 532-foot, 765-megawatt dam will be located approximately 30 miles from the Acapulco airport. At first, it will supply electricity to the tourist resort city. Eventually, it will be incorporated into a grid intended to sell energy to the southern US. At no point is it intended to supply electricity to local residents.

La Parota will submerge 34,000 acres of forest and farmland, requiring the evacuation of 25,000 subsistence farmers (*campesinos*) from more than 20 communities. According to the Mexico City-based Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center (PRODH), 44 neighboring communities will also suffer from the dam's construction—an estimated 50,000 people. PRODH believes that the communities will be plagued by lack of water and increased salinity of their soil, “gravely affecting their rights to food, health and their environment.”

Exacerbating local fears, Mexican dams have frequently been known to flood out communities downstream. In 2002, El Capulin dam burst and displaced 3,000 residents, with 28 dead

or missing. In 2003, 5,000 people were evacuated from the state of Nayarit when a dam threatened to overflow, and in Michoacan, the Solis dam washed away more than 200 homes when its floodgates were opened to avoid overflow. Compounding the foolishness of the project, La Parota is to be built in a region with high seismic activity—along the San Andreas fault.

On July 28, 2003, fed up with being ignored by both the government and the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE), outraged community members blockaded two entrances to the construction site, demanding the immediate cancellation of the project. Two more blockades were



"CFE Out—The Land is Not for Sale," reads a wall in one of the communities that La Parota would destroy.

added later, and the community members have made it clear that the nonviolent human barriers to construction will remain indefinitely. On multiple occasions, roadmaking equipment has been detained and turned back.

In October 2003, 3,000 *campesinos* staged a protest against the dam, with slogans such as: "We are ready to die for the land." A few weeks later, 30,000 marched against La Parota in the state capital. On March 14—the International Day of Action Against Dams—3,000 people marched in Acapulco, demanding La Parota's cancellation.

The resistance to La Parota has inevitably drawn government repression. CFE

managed to introduce nine pieces of construction equipment onto the La Parota site by force, and engineers and laborers began entering under the protection of police. On June 27, two military trucks parked a few yards away from one of the blockades and watched for more than four hours. In July, undercover soldiers and police were spotted patrolling the same blockade. Their identity was confirmed when, on July 27, they participated in the arrest of a leader in the struggle against La Parota.

Police in an unmarked car stopped Marco Antonio Suástegi Muñoz while he was out driving with his family and forced him into their car. According to his family, Suástegi Muñoz and his sister were beaten during the arrest. The

next day, Francisco Hernández Valeriano, another leader in the struggle, was arrested by non-uniformed officers. Both men are active members of the Council of *Ejid*os and Communities against La Parota Dam (CECOP). They have been charged with kidnapping a CFE engineer and forcing him to sign a document promising to withdraw construction machinery from the dam site. According to PRODH, however, the engineer was never kidnapped at all. On the contrary, he agreed to meet with concerned villagers, spoke with his superiors at CFE, then decided to withdraw the equipment.

The arrests are widely interpreted as a pattern of harassment intended to break the back of the resistance to La Parota. According to the Mexico Solidarity Network, "In recent years, the Mexican government has relied increasingly on a strategy of fabricating crimes against key leaders of community organizations in order to jail them and thereby destabilize the social movements they represent." On the same day that Suástegi Muñoz was arrested, three other CECOP activists were detained, fined and released without charges. This followed only days after CFE's president of social affairs threatened that opponents of the dam would be detained.

At stake in the battle over La Parota is more than just the survival of the

photo by Adolfo Chiquas Indymedia

Plan Puebla Panama

Papayago basin and 75,000 human beings, and more than a single hydroelectric dam. La Parota is part of the Central American Energy Interconnection System of PPP, a plan to create a regional electric grid that will allow energy to be sold for profit to regions with higher demand. Demand will be defined, of course, by who can pay the most.

PPP is funded and organized primarily by the Inter-American Development Bank, with loans and technical assistance provided by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It aims to create an infrastructure of ports, airports, highways and railways to connect the industries that PPP will encourage—energy development, timber, mining, agribusiness and *maquiladoras*.

In essence, PPP aims to exploit the region's cheap labor and abundant biodiversity in order to attract foreign investment. *Maquiladoras*—sweatshop factories where workers assemble products for export—are to be strategically placed throughout the area to attract impoverished locals, especially those *campesinos* who will be dislocated by big agribusiness and flooding from dams. Southern Mexico is home to 714 of the nation's 850 poorest townships, an "advantage" Fox hopes to use to compete with the sweatshops of Asia.

A crucial component of the plan to turn Central America into a massive, free-trade export zone is the conversion of its biodiversity into money. In addition to encouraging foreign extractive companies to tear apart the forests and mountains of Central America, PPP will accelerate the privatization of nature. PPP's Mesoamerican Biological Corridor aims to "manage biodiversity" by privatizing water and inviting biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to pillage the region's biodiversity at will, down to the very genes. Of course, destroying the ecosystem of the region requires the removal or destruction of the cultures that depend on the land for survival—in other words, *campesinos* and indigenous nations. The flooding and massive dislocation that will be caused by La Parota and other dams is, in this context, a benefit for the government.

Official construction on La Parota has not yet begun. On September 30, CFE employees attempted to introduce more equipment to continue their ongoing pre-construction work, but they were unable to break through the blockades and had to turn back. The resistance continues.

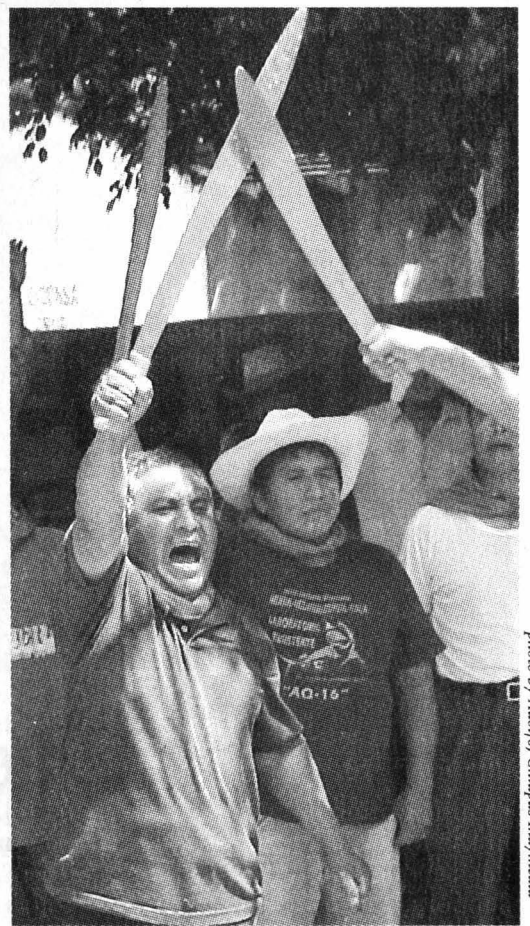


photo by Adolfo, Chiapas Independentia

Brandishing machetes, Mexican *campesinos* vow to defeat La Parota dam.

In a communiqué released on the anniversary of the blockade's launch, the affected communities announced a demonstration to demand the release of their imprisoned comrades and defiantly declared, "This wave of repression will not stop our fight in the defense of rivers and our Mother Earth."

Paraguayans Protest Dam Expansion

Twenty thousand citizens marched through the streets of Encarnación, Paraguay, in May to protest plans to raise the reservoir of the Yacyretá dam, which is shared between Paraguay and Argentina. The protesters, numbering one-third of the city's population, demanded compensation for the havoc the dam has already wreaked on their lives.

A lawsuit filed by a coalition of nonprofit organizations has secured an injunction against the raising of the reservoir for now, and a recent report from the Independent Investigation Mechanism of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) concluded that the IADB has failed to resolve problems caused by the dam. According to the report, the Yacyretá dam has led to creek and groundwater pollution, sickness, flooding and unemployment.

Because refugees from the area that Yacyretá flooded migrated to Encarnación, the city's storm system has been unable to handle the increased population, and every rain causes homes along creeksides to flood. Refugees are living in crowded conditions without adequate health care, schools, plumbing, water or land on which to grow food.

According to Omar Arach, campaigns director of Sobrevivencia/Friends of the Earth Paraguay, "Other very serious problems associated with the dam were not explored [in the report], including seepage to the Iberá wetlands and the collapse of fish stocks in the reservoir. Still, it is sufficient in transmitting an image of the destructive effect this project has had."

fighting
the same
battle...



photo by Hunter Farrell

Angélica's mother wonders how much lead exposure her daughter has had.

Protecting Children's Health in a Globalized World

BY HUNTER FARRELL

Researchers have discovered that nearly all of the 12,000 children in a Peruvian city of 35,000 have lead poisoning, and the surrounding pasturelands of poverty-stricken indigenous communities have been destroyed by acid rain. A Peruvian government official, José Mogrovejo, renegotiates a "pollution license" in terms more favorable to a US-owned mineral smelter, and then he illegally jumps ship to join the polluting company as its vice president for environmental affairs. Meanwhile, the owner of the smelter builds a \$170 million mansion in the Hamptons on Long Island—complete with three swimming pools, 39 bathrooms and a \$150,000 hot tub. Welcome to La Oroya, Perú.

"We deserve to live with dignity. It is a violation of our rights not to enjoy a healthy environment," maintains Yolanda Zurita, a representative of La Oroya's Catholic parish and a leader of the Movement for Health of La Oroya (MOSAO).

But as environmentalists know, rapid globalization can unleash unrestrained corporate power with devastating results. In 1997, under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, a financially strapped Peruvian government privatized its antiquated mineral

smelter in this Andean highland city, selling it to the St. Louis, Missouri-based Doe Run Company. Doe Run's owner is multi-millionaire Ira Rennert, whose companies are the subject of financial and environmental scandals in the US. In the years since Doe Run took over the La Oroya smelter, both metal production and emissions of toxins such as arsenic, lead and cadmium have increased.

By the company's own admission, Doe Run now pumps more than 1,000 tons of lead, arsenic, cadmium and sulphur dioxide into the valley each day. A local nurse observed, "We're not stupid. We know what the chimneys put out. I've lived here all of my life, and the impact of the pollution has never been greater: discoloration and lesions of the skins, respiratory infections and miscarriages. Not to mention the children..."

Yes, the children—a 1999 Peruvian Health Ministry study found that 67 percent of La Oroya's children had blood lead levels two to four times the internationally recognized maximum limit, while 18 percent had levels so high that they should receive immediate treatment. A more recent study performed by US health professionals found that some kids' lead levels were so high that the measuring device couldn't even read them.

Exposure to lead impairs children's mental and physical development and can cause brain damage, learning disabilities, hyperactivity, aggressiveness, kidney and liver damage, and a host of other problems that are the nightmares of parents anywhere. With the alarmingly high levels found in La Oroya, 99 percent of the children should have received follow-up attention. Doe Run Vice President Barbara Shepard insists that the company will provide free medical treatment for any child in La Oroya with lead poisoning. Yet she acknowledged that no one has requested the treatment. Instead, there's a disturbing silence. Why?

Local health advocates claim that they are routinely threatened and harassed by company employees. When a group of MOSAO members was invited to testify before the National Congress Commission on Ecology and the Environment, company employees pelted them with rocks. "No one ever died of lead," goes the oft-repeated company mantra.

In a company town like La Oroya, where Doe Run virtually controls the local economy, many people remain silent for fear of losing their jobs. In addition to bringing disastrous environmental consequences, globalization in Perú has also eroded workers' rights. With the country's massive level of

unemployment, many workers are afraid to speak out.

Yet in the face of such disinformation and threats, a remarkable story is unfolding—a story of David-like courage confronting a Goliath of corporate greed. When MOSAO first formed, it quickly realized that the power dynamics in La Oroya were such that MOSAO didn't stand a chance unless it could work with other groups to leverage technical and political know-how. A few Peruvian and international non-governmental organizations joined with MOSAO, each contributing what it could.

Through the Joining Hands Against Hunger Network of Perú, La Oroya's activists forged an important link with a US group that was walking the very same path: a group of parents and environmental activists in Herculaneum, Missouri, where in 2001, a Doe Run-operated lead smelter spewed more than two million pounds of lead dust into the air—right over the city. La Oroya's stories of intimidation, disinformation and “blaming the victim” were sadly familiar to the Herculaneum activists. The

impact was immediate: eight Peruvian newspapers, six radio stations and three television stations have reported on the crisis so far. KMOV-TV of St. Louis aired a special 10-minute feature on La Oroya and Herculaneum, and even *Vanity Fair* has covered the crisis. Legislation has been proposed in Perú to declare La Oroya a national health disaster area and to develop an urgent plan of medical treatment, reduced emissions and environmental remediation. One of the Missouri activists later said, “When we met MOSAO, we all felt an immediate bonding of the heart. We have been fighting the same battle for years—we just didn't know each other before!”

Even as I write, indigenous leaders in Cajamarca, Perú, and Oruro, Bolivia, are looking to network with North American colleagues who know the work of the world's largest gold producer, the Newmont Mining Company of Denver, Colorado. Activists in the Tambogrande community of northern Perú want to coordinate with Canadian environmentalists familiar with the Manhattan Mining Company. People living in the shadow

By the company's own admission, Doe Run now pumps more than 1,000 tons of lead, arsenic, cadmium and sulphur dioxide into La Oroya's valley each day.

Herculaneum and Oroya leaders decided to coordinate their efforts, and in April 2003, the Missouri group was invited to send two members to Perú to see the situation with their own eyes and to testify at a congressional hearing.

Before a packed hall in Perú's National Congress, the Herculaneum activists revealed Doe Run's disturbing environmental record in Missouri—fines, lawsuits and six of the seven worst pollution sites in the state. They addressed each of the company-generated myths. So powerful was their testimony that the company's vice president had little to say when it was his turn to speak.

The Missouri activists had no idea that simply telling their story could make such a difference in Perú. But the

of a massive oil pipeline in Cameroon are searching for communities who have struggled with Exxon's corporate tactics. The examples are innumerable.

Globalization and its destructive impact on the Earth are disturbing realities, but we're not powerless. The links forged between La Oroya and Herculaneum show that by “globalizing our solidarity,” we can increase the impact of our efforts to protect the Earth and all its children. After all, we have been fighting the same battle for years—we just didn't know each other before!

For more information on working with groups in Perú, contact Rocío Avila, MUQUI Network, rocio@ceas.org.pe.

Hunter Farrell is an anthropologist and Presbyterian minister who works with the Joining Hands Against Poverty Network of Perú.

BARE BONES

Court Orders Trinity River Restoration

Native tribes along northern California's Trinity River won a monumental court battle this Summer that could send ripples throughout the West. Despite the influence of farmers in the largest region of irrigated fields in the US—the San Joaquin Valley—the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trinity River be restored to nearly half its historic flows.

The ruling puts precedence on the health of the river, overturning years of focus on agriculture and hydro power.

Hoopa Valley and Yurok tribes led the battle to restore not just a wounded watershed but also the dwindling salmon runs (see *EF!* September-October 2004). The tribes hope that re-establishing a sustainable fishery will bring tourism and businesses back to the river, while also allowing the Natives to restore their traditional ways of life.

Pickles Pick a Union

Eight thousand farm workers in North Carolina achieved an historic victory in September when they unionized and became able to receive contracts. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee pulled off the victory after five years of organizing and action, including a long-standing boycott of the Mt. Olive Pickle Company—a grower notorious for low wages, unsanitary housing and pesticide use.

Katúah Earth First!'s Tennessee Valley faction had been a major supporter of the Mt. Olive boycott and was able to bring the issue to the Chattanooga area, leading pickets and organizing informational events there. Actions fostered multi-state solidarity that the farm workers needed to win this victory.

Planting Roots of Autogestion and Sustainability in Catalunya

BY SACHI

Self-determination within a community opens up space for the thoughts, ideas and inventions that are suppressed in more mainstream, corporate-controlled societies. *Autogestion*, a Spanish word that translates roughly into "self-government," involves retaking control of our food supply, education, work and play. As *autogestion* offers new ways of thinking and working together, it requires us to embrace the creativity and intelligence inherent in each other and in our natural environment.

In the US and Europe, principles of *autogestion* are often based around the ideologies of activist subcultures, and it can be difficult to find ways to network outside of these circles. However, issues of *autogestion* and urban sustainability can offer a point of common ground to bring diverse groups of people together.

In Spain, a social center in Barcelona offers one example of community organizing that is mixed with radical politics and a dedication to principles of sustainability, involving hundreds of people from a variety of backgrounds.

Can Masdeu—located on the edge of Barcelona in the Valley of Sant Genis—is termed by its occupants as "rurban," a mixture of rural and urban. Once a leper hospital run by nuns, Can Masdeu stood abandoned for 50 years before it was reclaimed in December 2001. Local Catalunyans and activists from across Europe initially occupied the vacant hospital to create a meeting space for the European Youth for Action international conference that was being held a few months later. Today, the project continues to grow,

interacting with the neighborhood and participating in local and international social movements.

Despite the precarious nature of squatted spaces, Can Masdeu was occupied with long-term objectives in mind: to rehabilitate the hospital as a living space with a philosophy of self-sufficiency and respect for the natural environment; to create a social center for the community to meet and exchange information; and to act as a place for city dwellers to reconnect with rural perspectives using an agro-ecological model.

Can Masdeu is surrounded by more

out to start a community garden project, and today the gardens incorporate more than 70 people, with monthly meetings and festivals celebrating the bounty of the Earth.

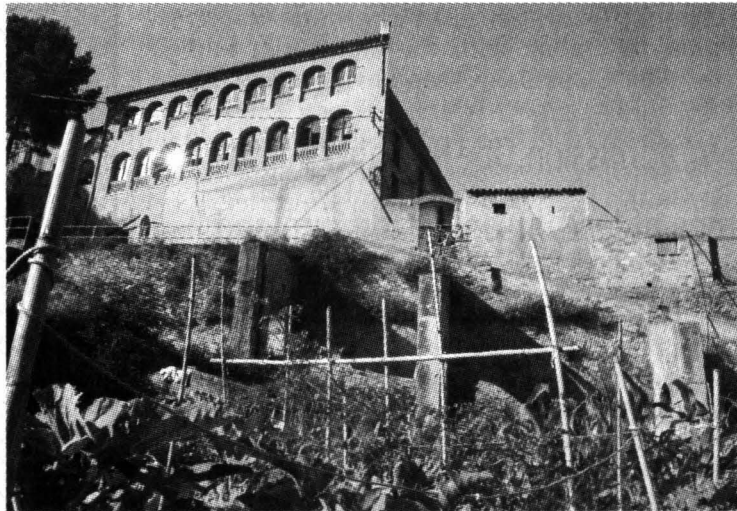
Since Can Masdeu lies in Barcelona's last undeveloped valley and serves as a bridge to the Collserola National Park, it is under constant threat from developers. Such pressure has served to formalize a number of Can Masdeu's projects, which has helped in establishing the social value of the space. One of these projects is the *Punt d'Interaccio de Collserola* (Point of

Interaction with the Collserola, PIC), a center for popular education and documentation about self-determination, social struggles and ecological agriculture. PIC was inaugurated with a day of reforestation work in the valley, a community meal, theater, music and a debate about transgenics.

Open every Sunday, PIC offers tours of Can Masdeu and workshops ranging from bread making, sewing and medicinal plant identification to teach-ins on the political

situation in Venezuela and how to use Linux. The workshops reflect the variety of people who are connected with the project and can be as wide and spontaneous as these peoples' knowledge and curiosities. Members also organize days for kids to come and get their first experiences with composting toilets, gardening, collecting wood from the forest and learning about other ways of life.

Members of Can Masdeu do not accept payment; they believe that no price can be placed on environmental education. Instead, they fund Can Masdeu's projects by throwing parties



Can Masdeu, on the edge of Barcelona, embraces issues of sustainability.

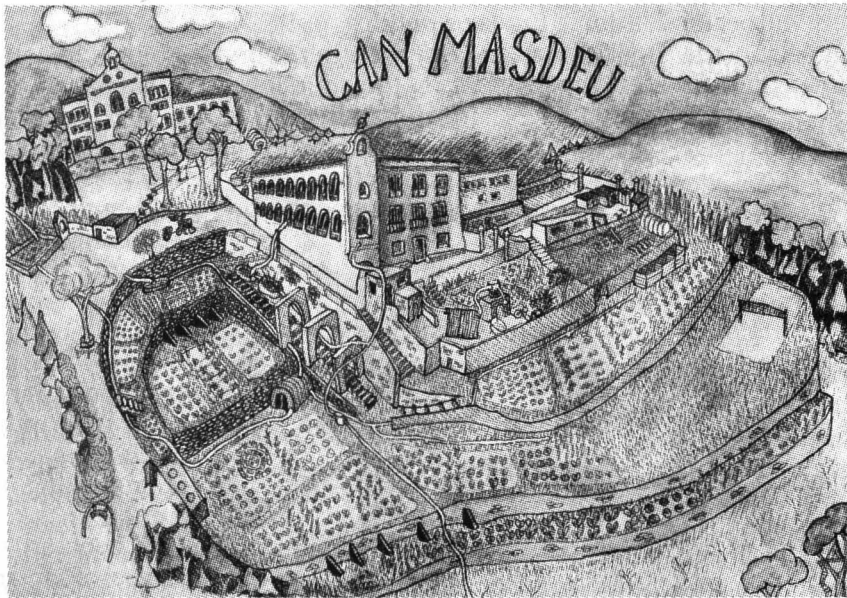
photo courtesy Can Masdeu

than three acres of terraced land with an extensive, refurbished irrigation system. One of the first projects was to clear the years of overgrown vegetation, which blocked access to the building and gardens and clogged the irrigation network. Residents also re-established the use of the centuries-old water mine located up the hill.

Occupants of the house began using the terraces to grow organic food and almost immediately, neighbors (mostly poor Andalusian immigrants with agricultural backgrounds) came to give advice and lend a hand in the gardening. Soon after, a call was sent

and fundraisers, as well as by selling vegan meals, recycling junk and finding ways to be more self-sufficient. Residents recently built an oven to produce and sell ceramics, and there are plans to market homemade beer and bread. Almost all of Can Masdeu's food is grown on the terraces, dumpstered or donated.

mutually dependent. Finding successful ways to bring them together relies on a network of support from a variety of movements. Some of this support comes from the more than 200 urban squats within the Barcelona city limits. Occupied spaces range from apartments to warehouses, social centers, vegan



artwork by cycdetrus.org comics

There is of course no rent, as Can Masdeu is squatted.

Can Masdeu exists in a region with a long history of self-determination, anarchism and popular movements, which have not been quelled despite 40 years of fascism under Francisco Franco's rule. The fierce sense of autonomy and regional pride that exists in Catalunya has created an environment that is more open to experimentation and the principles of *autogestion* than many parts of the US and Europe.

Marginalized mountainous areas of Catalunya were abandoned in the 1950s because of the difficulty of adapting them to industrialized agriculture. These places remained abandoned until a slow reoccupation movement began in the 1970s. In the 1990s, the rural squat movement gained new momentum, and national meetings were held to exchange experiences and philosophies. Today, a journal, *La Llamada del Cuerno*, is used to maintain contact between rural projects and to bring ideas about rural living and sustainability to those within the concrete jungle.

The political and social issues that come with urban and rural lifestyles are distinct, yet these lifestyles are also

cafés, bakeries, cultural centers and places open to free expression. However, steps taken toward sustainability are not all based around squatted spaces, nor are most squats organized social centers with composting toilets and gardens. There is a wide range of variation, and the common threads of activism and social values that connect the various squats and movements form an important base of mutual support.

The projects of Can Masdeu offer examples of the many ways that ideas of global justice and anarchy can be put into action to create *autogestion*. As roots within the community grow deeper and wider, the force needed to uproot them becomes greater. In the midst of corporate media monopolies and trends toward privatizing resources, the importance of spaces like Can Masdeu as autonomous and non-commercial centers for popular culture and education is more apparent than ever.

Sachi lived in Spain and Italy from January 2002 until April 2003, with a break in the middle to work with Bikes Across Borders in Austin, Texas, and to travel in Mexico with the "Migration of the Monarch Butterflies" show. She currently works with Bikes Across Borders in Austin.

BARE BONES

Direct Action Pays Off

The Montpellier Group, the contractor in charge of constructing an animal testing laboratory at England's Oxford University, abandoned the project in August after investors received letters telling them to pull out or face "prompt activity by the animal rights movement." The concrete company associated with the project also quit after being targeted by the Animal Liberation Front.

The UK's Construction Confederation said that contractors would only work on such projects if they could be indemnified against losses incurred from animal rights actions. The National Association of Pension Funds is labeling activists' actions as "investment terrorism."

Oxford University insists that its animal laboratory will be finished next year.

US Air Base to Destroy Coral Reef

On September 7, more than 400 organizations sent a letter to President Bush and Japan's Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, demanding that plans for a US military base atop the Okinawa reefs be trashed. The reefs are referred to as the "Galapagos of the East," and are the feeding ground of the last remaining Okinawa dugong. The dugong, a docile mammal related to the manatee, is a cultural icon for the Japanese.

"This vanishing species deserves the same protection and respect that we give to the Washington Monument or bald eagle," said Martin Wagner of Earthjustice.

The letter also lists three types of endangered sea turtles—the hawksbill, loggerhead and green—that also depend on the fragile reef ecosystem. The dugong and all three turtles are listed under the US Endangered Species Act.

Low-Tech Bioremediation

Microbiology for the Myriad

BY SCOTT KELLOGG AND STACY PETTIGREW

The longest lasting legacy of industrial society will be the tons of toxic metals, chemicals and poisons left in the environment. While some pollutants break down on their own, others persist for decades.

Many vegetables and plants absorb toxins into their edible parts, making soil contamination the largest obstacle to urban food production after gaining access to land. Metals, including lead, mercury and cadmium, are nearly ubiquitous in urban soils from the combined effects of smelters, lead paint, leaded gasoline and coal burning. Petroleum spills are common, as are the residues left from PCBs, dioxin, chlorinated compounds and other nasties.

Most polluted sites are never cleaned up. Instead, local residents are left to deal with the consequences. When governments do choose to remediate, cleanup typically involves giant environmental engineering firms with huge budgets. First, extensive soil samples are taken and tested. Next, energy-intensive excavations take tons of earth from the site and truck it to facilities where it is cleansed using high-tech procedures. This process, called *ex-situ* (off-site) treatment, is quite effective in determining what contaminants are present and

Experiments conducted with oyster mushrooms have demonstrated their amazing ability to break down petroleum. Piles of earth contaminated with diesel fuel were inoculated with the fungi, which then grew through them.

then removing them. However, aside from causing considerable damage to the

land in question, the entire operation can cost millions of dollars—not a choice for people and communities lacking in huge funds or political pull.

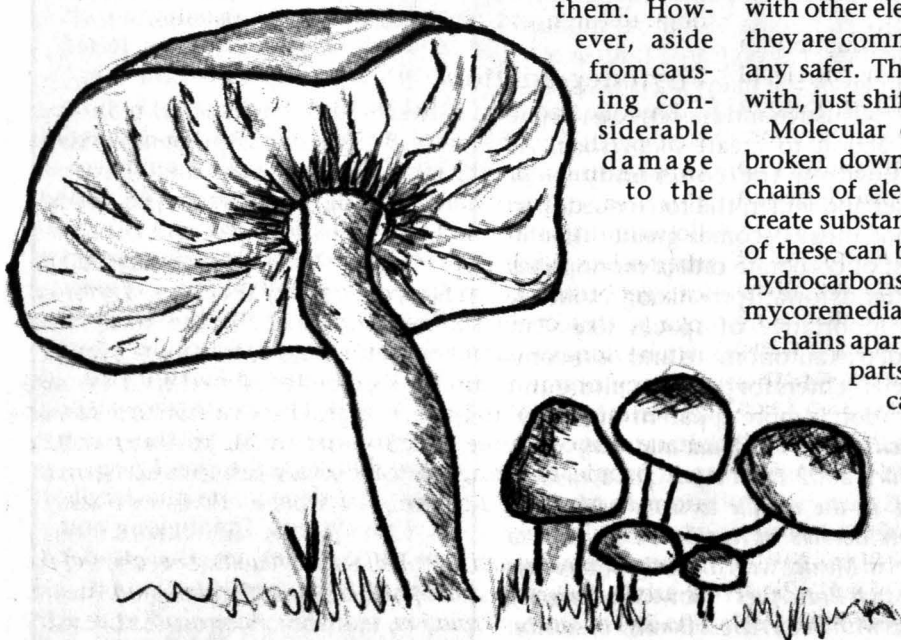
Fortunately, there are other options. Bioremediation is a less invasive, *in-situ* (on-site), lower-cost approach using naturally occurring organisms like bacteria, fungi and plants to break down or absorb toxins in soils. Having knowledge of these techniques can empower people to begin cleaning up their neighborhoods without needing a degree in chemical engineering or a massive budget. While many of these methods are experimental and cannot be guaranteed to work, many test cases have had positive results. As these methods are improved upon and made simpler, they will be used to improve the quality of our world's soils and reduce health risks.

Before proceeding, it is important to make the distinction between two different types of contamination: elemental and molecular. Elemental contaminants include what are commonly called heavy

metals, and can be found on a Periodic Table: lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, arsenic, all of the radioactive elements and others. Elements are the basic building blocks of molecules and cannot be broken down any further through natural processes. One cleanup strategy is to concentrate the metal(s) into a small area, where they can be easily removed. Another is to turn them into less dangerous compounds with other elements. When metals are removed from a site, they are commonly sent to landfills, as they cannot be made any safer. The problem has not been permanently dealt with, just shifted to another location.

Molecular contaminants, on the other hand, can be broken down into safer, elemental parts. Molecules are chains of elements strung together in different ways to create substances with different chemical properties. Some of these can be quite dangerous—PCBs, dioxin, benzenes, hydrocarbons, etc. Certain bioremediative processes, like mycoremediation, are capable of literally ripping molecular chains apart, reducing them to their less harmful, smaller parts. Bacteria are capable of eating away at hydrocarbons, breaking them down into their benign carbon and hydrogen components, which are harmless on their own. Molecular contaminants have the possibility of being permanently rendered harmless, while elemental ones do not.

Before you consider doing any type of bioremediation on a planned or existing garden site, you may want to consider



having your soil tested. You may be relieved to find no dangerous levels of toxins. However, if there are, soil testing will give you an idea of the contamination level. On the downside, soil tests are expensive, and there is no single comprehensive test that can tell you everything that's bad in your soil. Each suspected contaminant must be tested for individually. Towns often keep historical records and aerial photographs of a location that can help in identifying potential hazards. Sometimes universities or agricultural extensions conduct tests for cheap or free.

The easiest method of treating contaminated soil is to simply add organic matter to it. Many toxic metals will readily form compounds with the organic particles found in compost. When they do this, the metals essentially get "locked up" and are less likely to be absorbed into the bodies of plants. The microbes living in compost will also act to break down chemical pollutants.

But, while this may provide some protection, organic matter will not safeguard you from polluted soils. The best defense is to grow food in containers, like old bathtubs or pots, filled with soil that is known to be clean.

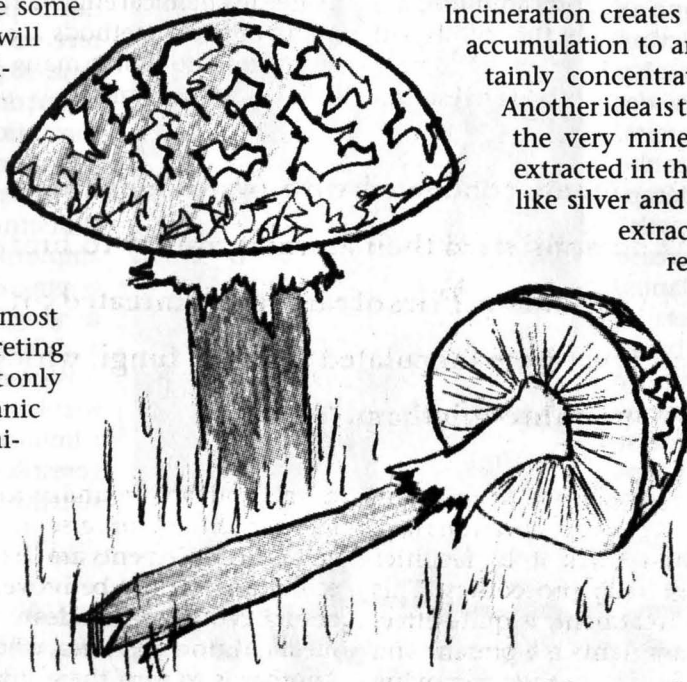
Mycoremediation

Fungi are among nature's most powerful decomposers. Secreting strong enzymes, fungi can not only break down wood and organic matter but eliminate chemicals and bacteria as well.

Experiments conducted with oyster mushrooms have demonstrated their amazing ability to break down petroleum. Piles of earth contaminated with diesel fuel were inoculated with the fungi, which then grew through them. Later testing revealed a 90 percent reduction in contaminant levels! The powerful enzymes in the fungi had effectively broken down the diesel's complex hydrocarbon chains into simpler, harmless parts of hydrogen and carbon. The mushrooms that grew out of the toxic pile showed no residual traces of diesel, yet had plants been grown in such soil, they might have become contaminated.

In coffee production, the coffee berry is the waste product. Rivers in coffee-producing regions are often polluted by caffeine that leaches from piles of discarded berries. Oyster mushrooms have been grown on these piles, successfully destroying the pollutant while creating a secondary crop. Oyster mushrooms have also been found to break down PCBs. Turkeytails, another common fungi, can degrade dioxin, pentachlorophenol and chromated copper arsenate.

It's important to understand that what is called a mushroom is only the reproductive stage of a larger organism. Most of a fungi's life occurs below ground and is visible as white, ropy threads, called mycelium. The enzymes of the mycelium are the primary decomposers.



Phytoremediation

Phytoremediation (*phyto* is Greek for plant) is the process of using plants to uptake toxins from contaminated soil or water. This method is used on land contaminated with heavy metals. After the plants have absorbed the metals from the ground, they are harvested and disposed of. While very much a new technology in an experimental phase, phytoremediation shows the potential of being a low-tech, low-cost method of soil cleanup that could be accessible to urban communities. In one study, two crops of Indian brassica grown on a test plot in Boston, Massachusetts reduced lead levels in the soil by 63 percent.

However, one problematic aspect of phytoremediation is the disposal of the harvested plants, which must be treated as hazardous waste due to their high levels of toxic metals. Currently, the most common methods of plant disposal are either to incinerate them or to dump them in a landfill.

Incineration creates a toxic ash, bringing the risk of accumulation to another area, and landfilling certainly concentrates toxins in another location.

Another idea is to return the harvested biomass to the very mines from which the metals were extracted in the first place. For precious metals like silver and gold, it can be cost-effective to extract the metals from the plants for reuse by smelting.

Many factors contribute to the success or failure of a phytoremediation project. The most basic are contaminant and plant type. The acidity of the soil also factors in: Lead is more soluble in acidic soils, and therefore it is absorbed easier into plants.

Phytoremediation projects can be dangerous and require significant scientific monitoring and frequent soil tests.

We strongly recommend conducting thorough research and small, controlled test patches.

Phytodegradation

Phytodegradation is the rapid degradation of pollutants that occurs in the area of high microbiological activity surrounding a plant's roots, known as the rhizosphere. In this area, nutrients are taken up and exchanged quickly between the many soil critters living there and the plants themselves. The increased metabolic levels mean that chemicals get broken down far more quickly than in soil without plants. One of the simplest and most effective things that can be done to combat pollution is to grow more plants.

Many of the techniques described above are new and experimental. With hope, trial and innovation, they can be made simpler, more effective and usable to communities and people, reducing the toxic legacy left to future generations and leaving a cleaner, healthier world in its place.

For more information, visit www.fungiperfecti.com.

Stacy Pettigrew and Scott Kellogg are founding members of the Rhizome Collective, a nonprofit organization based in Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.rhizomecollective.org.

Back to Back Actions for Cascadia's Forests:

BY SOLEDAD

In mid-August, Cascadian forest defenders united to expose the greenwash of the politicians and corporations that profit from the destruction of US public lands. On August 17, 40 Cascadians occupied US Senator Ron Wyden's office. The following day, a protester dressed as a spotted owl locked to a 250-pound stump at Umpqua Bank's flagship branch in downtown Portland, Oregon, shutting down the bank for several hours.

Both Wyden and Umpqua greenwash their images, depicting themselves as environmentally friendly while profiting from the destruction of Oregon's native forests. Wyden shields his connections to the timber industry by sponsoring deceptive "wilderness" and "old growth" protection bills that actually increase commercial logging on public lands. Similarly, Umpqua Bank markets itself as a hip, new eco-conscious bank, but in reality, "stUmpqua" is run by some of the most destructive members of Oregon's old-growth forest logging industry (see *EF!* August-September 2002).

Forest defenders surprised the staff at Wyden's office, filling the lobby and overflowing into the hallway. With banners, costumes and songs, the protesters nonviolently demanded that Wyden stop selling out Oregon's public lands.



photo by Wachingshem

Protesters brought in a slideshow of threatened areas to educate the office staff about the on-the-ground destruction caused by their pro-logging policies. The senator's aide, Mary Gautreaux, immediately snuck out the back, refusing to view the show. The forest defenders remained for more than 30 minutes, then escaped without any arrests. Before leaving, they dumped piles of sawdust on the floor.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Wyden is the fifth-highest congressional recipient of logging industry political contributions. Wyden receives more timber contributions than 98 percent of all Republicans and all but one Democrat in Congress. He is the third-highest recipient of timber donations in the Senate.

Wyden's Lewis and Clark Mt. Hood Wilderness Act is the most recent example of what these contributions are buying. The act opens the forest up for logging in the name of forest health and fire prevention.

Wyden was the most influential senator in the passage of the Bush administration's controversial Healthy Forest Restoration Act, and he has firmly stated his support for logging in Late

Frontlines

Guatemalans Occupy Hydro-Dam

Three thousand Maya-Achi Guatemalan *campesinos* occupied the hydroelectric facilities of the Chixoy dam on September 7. The dam was built in the '70s and '80s with funding from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. During the dam's construction, hundreds of people from villages along the river were massacred for opposing the project.

The nonviolent occupation lasted 40 hours. Community leader Carlos Chen summed up the people's demands: "We demand the provision of fertile lands, appropriate housing, sustainable economic projects and educational grants for our children and grandchildren who live in extreme poverty," then added, "and free electricity."

The Guatemalan government feels it no longer has any obligation to improve the locals' living conditions. Chen stated, "The government took [the bank's] money to build the dam and used it to kill my people."

French Sabotage Car-Loving Greens

When the Green-Socialist leaders of Lyon, France, organized a Formula One race car exhibition in the city's center, car-free activists took matters into their own hands. On September 5, five locals jumped over the security barriers onto the racetrack and sprinted toward the starting line. The stunt caused a one-hour delay, which forced organizers to cancel one of the planned events. The protesters were jailed until that evening.

Citizens of Lyon have been puzzled by Green Party city leaders, who are calling for 5,000 new parking spaces downtown. Oddly, the former right-wing leadership installed trams and bike lanes, and it refused to build more than 1,000 downtown parking spaces.

Activist Traps Self to Save Bears

To keep black bears out of the hands of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, activist Angi Metler locked herself inside a baited barrel trap on August 23. The trap

Exposing the Greenwashed Agents of Forest Destruction

Successional Reserves in the Biscuit Fire Area (see *EF!*/September-October 2004). In 2003, Wyden's initial "healthy forests" bill included a salvage logging "pilot project" carved out of the Biscuit. It was the only "healthy forests" bill that year that included anything about post-fire logging.

The day after taking over Wyden's office, Cascadians turned their attention to stUmpqua. Costumed protesters rallied around the owl and the stump, and the lobby of the bank was quickly closed. More sawdust was dumped on the bank's sign.

There were no arrests at the stUmpqua lockdown. Protesters overheard a bank official tell the police that Umpqua did not want to press any charges. No arrests meant less media, and less of an impact on stUmpqua's image as the hip, alternative community bank. It is clear that this image is working—one customer the protesters encountered declared that she used to sit in trees, but now she would much rather bank at Umpqua than a global conglomerate such as Citibank.

During the last four years, activists have increasingly targeted stUmpqua

for its tight connections to the destruction of Oregon's old-growth forests.

The chairman of Umpqua Bank's board of directors, Allyn Ford, is sole owner of Roseburg Forest Products, which owns the contracts to some of Oregon's most controversial timber

sales such as East Devil and Pryor in the Willamette National Forest. Also on Umpqua's board of directors is Lynn Herbert, the general manager and owner of Herbert Lumber. Lynn and Milton Herbert are Umpqua Holding Co.'s largest shareholders, owning 20 percent of the company's stock. A local example of Herbert Lumber's destructive practices is the soon-to-be-cut Bear II Timber Sale, an old-growth stand of prime spotted owl habitat in the Mt. Hood National Forest.

Protesters demanded that either Herbert Lumber and Roseburg Forest Products immediately stop commercially logging Oregon's public lands, or that stUmpqua remove both Ford and Herbert from its board of directors.

After successfully shutting down the bank all morning, the spotted owl decided that he had gotten his message across. The protesters departed, but they and their 250-pound stump promised to return.

For more information, contact Cascadia Rising, (503) 493-7495; www.cascadiarising.org.

Soledad hopes to see you in Cascadia at the 2005 RRR in the Mt. Hood National Forest.



photo by Wachigthen

had been placed outside a home in Highland Lakes that was improperly storing animal feed on its back porch. Metler, director of the New Jersey Animal Right Alliance, was retrapped by the police and charged with obstruction, trespassing, criminal mischief and hunter harassment.

The trap was removed two weeks later with no bears captured.

In December 2003, 333 black bears were slaughtered in New Jersey's first bear hunt in 33 years. One morning, horrified commuters watched as a mortally wounded bear cub crawled out of the woods, collapsed on Route 23 and died. "He was just a little guy and looked so lonely, lying there with snow on his paws," said a fourth grade teacher who witnessed the scene.

Smashed-Wall Mart Surprises Asheville

An under-construction Wal-Mart Super Center suffered nearly one million dollars in damage on August 28, from unknown activists in Asheville, North Carolina. The individuals responsible commandeered two Volvo dump trucks and crashed them into several areas of the building multiple times. One dump truck was found idling the following morning.

No arrests were made, and investigators reportedly have no leads. "We don't have anything to lead us to

believe that this is the work of eco-terrorists," said Asheville Police Lieutenant David Rutledge.

The 220-thousand-square-foot super store construction site is located on an environmentally sensitive bend in the Swannanoa River.

Lewis & Clark Re-Enactors Told to Go Home

Natives in South Dakota planned a not-so-warm welcome in September for a re-enactment group retracing the trail that Lewis and Clark traveled 200 years ago.

The Lewis and Clark expedition, chartered by President Thomas Jefferson to document the Louisiana Purchase, "was a blueprint for the genocide of my people," said Carter Camp, an American Indian Movement activist from the Ponca Nation. "Ask the Buffalo, the Grizzly, Eagle or Elk Nations if they are prepared to celebrate what came up the river two centuries ago."

"We are the descendants of Red Cloud and Crazy Horse... I did not come here in peace," said Lakota elder Floyd Hand.

The re-enactors pressed on from Chamberlain with a police escort after being confronted. A spokesperson for the group said that they seriously considered the request to go home.

A cows-with-guns wolf to Liberty the cow for bolting from certain death at a slaughterhouse in Newark, New Jersey, in May. The brave young bull found sanctuary at a nearby towing service, whose owner, Judy Borsellino, refused to betray her new bovine friend to the meat-packing plant. Borsellino called Farm Sanctuary, which negotiated for Liberty to live free at its farm. Also, a

posthumous, run-free-with-the-buffalo-or-die wolf to four cows who escaped from a slaughterhouse in

southern New York in August. A deal was made that Farm Sanctuary would adopt the cows, but the owner of Circle A Meats (seriously) asked farmers to kill them before Farm Sanctuary could take custody. Two of the cows were shot, and the remaining two were hit by a truck.

An avenging-his-fallen-siblings, indefatigably-clinging-to-life wolf to a three-month-old puppy in Pensacola, Florida, who shot his would-be murderer in September. The puppy fired a bullet into his assailant's wrist by putting his paw on the trigger of the .38 caliber revolver that Jerry Allen Bradford had used to shoot three of the pup's siblings. The four surviving puppies in the litter were put up for adoption, and Bradford was charged with felony animal cruelty.

A deductive, fastidious wolf amputating the gangrenous limb of a fever-crazed dog to animal rights activist and trauma surgeon Dr. Jerry Vlasak, who was barred from England after he recognized that millions of animals could be saved if a handful of vivisectionists were killed.

Wolves and Poodles



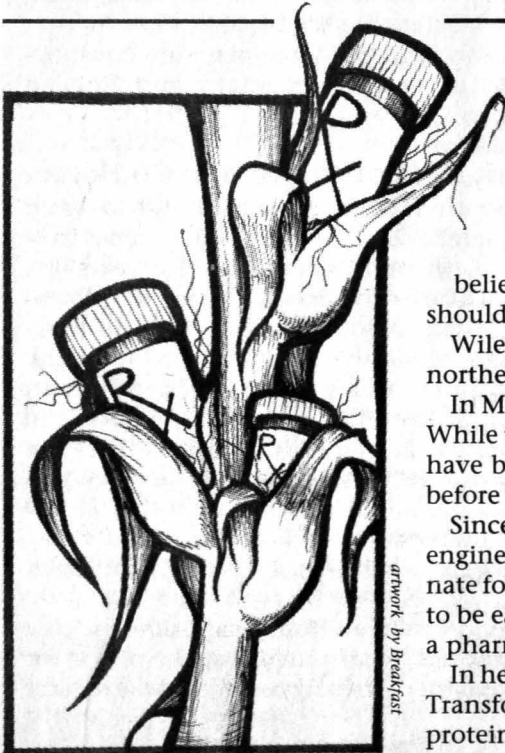
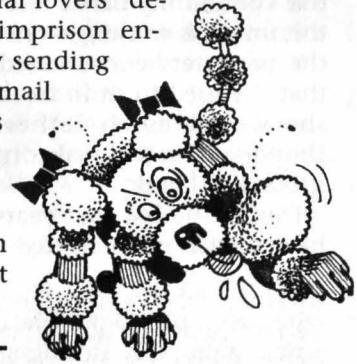
Vlasak was scheduled to attend an animal rights gathering in September, but ended up delivering his speech to the conference on video instead.

A supercilious, gasoline-soaked poodle to Representative Henry Brown of South Carolina for starting a forest fire in the Francis Marion National Forest, and to the US Forest Service (USFS) for only fining him \$250. The

congressman allowed a controlled burn on his property to get out of hand, and then the USFS stalled for six

months before serving Brown a notice of violation. "If Henry Brown was not a member of Congress, he would have had the book thrown at him," said Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.

A vine-swinging, de-clawed, traveling-circus-troupe of poodles to former Tarzan actor Steve Sipek, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and a group of "animal lovers" in Miami, Florida, for a fiasco that left Bobo, the actor's pet Bengal tiger, dead and the FFWCC running scared. Bobo escaped from his captor in July, and was on the run for 24 hours before being gunned down by an FFWCC officer. A contingent of "animal lovers" defended "Tarzan's" right to imprison endangered, exotic animals by sending a barrage of phone calls, email messages and death threats to the commission. The commission responded by advising all of its biologists and field workers to wear plain clothes in order to protect themselves from attack.



artwork by Breakfast

Tornadoes Spread GMOs in Colorado

Wind, bees and rain can carry pollen from genetically engineered plants for miles. Yet hurricanes and tornadoes, though rare, have the potential to carry genetically modified organisms much further than usual pollen-drift distances.

Doug Wiley, president of the Colorado Organic Producers Association, believes that "extreme weather events bring home the fact that food crops shouldn't be used for experiments."

Wiley's comments are in response to a tornado that hit the town of Sterling, in northeastern Colorado, on June 9.

In May, permission was granted for Colorado's first field trial of a biopharm crop. While the exact location of the test plot was hidden from the public, it is known to have been near Sterling. The experimental plot was planted on June 4, five days before the tornado struck.

Since the storm, organic farmers have been raising concerns that genetically engineered corn seed may have been scattered by high winds and could contaminate food crops in the area. The corn looks like ordinary corn, yet it was never meant to be eaten. Infused into each seed are bacterial genes of DNA designed to produce a pharmaceutical protein used as an edible vaccine for livestock.

In her permit application for the field trial, Dr. Kan Wang, the director of the Plant Transformation Facility at Iowa State University, stated that the experimental protein found in the corn could be biologically active in the human immune system.

Resistance from the Tropics

Igniting Eco-Rebellion in the Hottest of Hot Spots

In the 1500s, civilization's progress expanded across the Atlantic Ocean like a slow-spreading bio-terror attack, with some of the first spores landing on this wild peninsula....

Before missionaries, conquistadors and real estate speculators got to what is now called Florida in 1513, there had been several thousand years of Native people living throughout the area. In the Miami area lived the "Tekesta," around Jupiter, the "Ais," and in the central Palm Beach County areas, the "Jeaga." We know that they survived by fishing, gathering and hunting, but what they did with the vast majority of their time might be what we now call "leisure." You know, that time we try to crunch into the schedule one day a week, maybe twice a month, to spend with friends, family, neighbors or by ourselves—luxuries even the richest often can't afford.

In exchange for the generosity of local populations, the civilized settlers offered disease and brutality. In less than 200 years, nearly all of the Tekesta population was wiped out, assimilated or forced to relocate. In the 1700s, Muscogee ("Creek") tribes migrated from Georgia and Alabama into Florida and were continually pushed south by white expansion. Seminoles, a word the Spanish used to mean "wild," "free" and "untamed," were a collection of various renegade southeast tribes who joined with African ex-slaves. Thus began the Seminole Wars of the early-to-mid 1800s, where General William Jenkins Worth earned the honor that got a lake (soon turned lagoon, for commercial purposes) and eventually a small coastal city named after him.

By the end of the Seminole Wars in 1842, more than \$20 million had been spent, 1,500 American soldiers had died and still no formal peace treaty had been signed. Eventually, reservations were established around the Seminoles. Worth had cleared the way for land speculators—nothing could make a white man more proud. The vast majority of the Everglades were drained for industrial agriculture and real estate; the coasts were thoroughly pillaged by condo developments. And there the Seminoles remain, unconquered yet trying to subsist off a literal bingo/casino economy.

Meanwhile, our global casino economy is hitting jackpot. South Florida has some of the highest concentrations of wealth in the world—but where exactly is our quest for luxury taking us? Europeans have been in Florida for about 492 years, and look what we have to show: fancy condos are forcing inner-city displacement and overdevelopment everywhere you look, sprawling suburbs are eating away at the quiet countryside and wild swamps, Free Trade now has us shipping in oranges from Brazil and mangos from Somalia. South Florida is seen around the world as a bastion of progress and prosperity—but is there really such a thing as luxury in towns without trees, oceans without fish and neighborhoods that no one can even afford to live in? What good is all the wealth in the world without drinkable water or breathable air? Is there any hope of us changing the direction—and the entire definition—of *progress*? Can the humans dwelling in this global hotspot help the planet find a remedy for the still-spreading plague of civilization? These crucial questions can't be answered with research or theorizing.

Only our action can offer the answers we're looking for.

The following articles are overviews of the history and crucial issues in south Florida. It's far past time that a radical, direct action-oriented ecological perspective takes root here—but it's not too late. This collection of writing is also an invitation to those wanting a tropical retreat from the cold Winter. All those folks with retired grandparents in Florida—this is the motivation you've been looking for. Beaches, swamps, obligatory family trips to a theme park or two and enough direct action opportunities to fill the season! For more info., visit www.downwardmobilitylw.org.



Bringing the Heat!

**South Florida Action Camp
December 27 – January 2**

Come participate in workshops/passion groups, action trainings, music making, skill sharing, festivities, networking, protests, hiking, hunting/gathering, karaoke and a New Year's party that you won't forget!

Most of the camp activities will be in or around the Corbett Wildlife Preserve, but there will also be in-town events. Some communal resources will be available, but self-sufficiency is strongly encouraged. For those who can, bring a bike, food, water, camping gear, etc.

If you have extra gear for camp infrastructure (kitchen, medical, childcare) or are in need of any special accommodations, please get in touch as soon as possible. Can you come early and/or stick around for a while? Let us know!

For more information, contact Jeaga EF!, POB 961, Lake Worth, FL 33460; (561) 547-6686; jeagearthfirst@riseup.net.

Waking the World Up from the Biotech Nightmare

Icing a Hotspot with Sprawl

The J.W. Corbett Wildlife Preserve is a beautiful 60,000 acres of intact Everglades ecosystem, surrounded by rural communities and agricultural land. It is here that Governor Jeb Bush invited Scripps Research Institute to build a "Biotech Research Park." The park would be a 2,000-acre mini-city, to be followed by several thousand acres of adjacent homes—already under contract in conjunction with the Scripps plan.

The Scripps development will open up the floodgates for sprawling, upscale, gated communities in an area crucially in need of ecological protection, potentially undoing more than 20 years of Everglades preservation work. With these massive sprawl projects come new infrastructure demands, beckoning road expansion and new gas pipelines from offshore.

Environmental organizations opposed the site that Scripps wanted, an orange grove known as Mecca Farms. Local residents and activists spoke out against the location, but the county still bowed down to Bush and Scripps. County officials are now clearing the way for development, granting every permit requested in an attempt to make a January contract deadline. Mecca Farms could be restored to wetlands, except no one in an official position wants to risk losing their job by fighting the governor and his big-money friends. But at least we'll find a cure for Alzheimer's, right? *Right!*

The Biotech Nightmare: Brave New World in Our Backyard

Although two real estate developers, Lennar and Centex, have put in \$300,000 toward a pro-Scripps public relations campaign, focusing on the nonprofit group's work with terminal illnesses, it is tough to hide the fact that Scripps has been involved in some terrifying, Brave New World-type shit. It works with some of the shadiest characters in the business, offering its ludicrous research the protection of its nonprofit status. Scripps partners include: Xenova, currently involved in shooting cocaine up the nostrils of mice to develop an anti-drug vaccine that would block the euphoric effects of drugs such as heroin and nicotine to quell addiction later in life. Ironically, Scripps was directly linked to backing up Phillip Morris several years ago, using countless animals in brutal tests trying to prove smoking

non-cancerous. Scripps works closely with Novartis, which among other awful things, created a drug to dry up breast milk that also causes strokes and seizures in lactating women. Novartis, which has also been involved in agricultural biotech research, pays \$20 million a year to Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California (Scripps' current location).

Life Trademarked

Biopiracy is the increasingly popular practice of patenting genes, seeds and plants—stealing and exploiting traditional knowledge for private profit. Working with a now-defunct biotech company, Epicyte, Scripps patented the production of antibodies in plants in 2002. This patent allegedly covers any kind of antibody produced by any kind of plant. Scripps chemists also isolated a chemical from a rare species of coral, now patented to Bristol-Myers Squibb. Scripps partner Xenova has been negotiating terms with the Mexican government to gain access to Chiapas in search of patentable plants and medicines.

Curing Terminal Illness or Creating Bio-Weapons of Mass Destruction?

Scripps will be working with prions such as mad-cow disease, scrapie and anthrax. The US Department of Health has expressed concern about the safety of this (since prions can be incredibly difficult to control, especially if they reach a water supply), but none of the decisionmakers on the Palm Beach County Commission seem to want to talk about it. Testing

with anthrax has nothing to do with curing Alzheimer's, but it would sure qualify as dealing in weapons of mass of destruction. A research institute that backed up the smoking industry cannot be trusted to do this work—that should be terrifyingly obvious to anyone.

SHAC Attack, Anyone?

Vivisection is a brutal and fraudulent field of science. Scripps has ties to Huntingdon Life Sciences, mainly through Novartis' tests to genetically alter animal organs for human use. This has involved research on wild primates from Africa, many of whom die en route. The tests have offered very few successful results. An almost painfully simple logic tells us that a focus on preventative medicine and natural health techniques would be



saving lives, whereas their multi-million dollar research amounts to little more than wasted tax money and the piled up corpses of our closest animal relations.

The local animal rights community stood up to the county's plan with Scripps initially, but they disappeared quickly and quietly. What would be effective is participation from the more militant and broad-visioned animal liberation movement, such as the Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) campaign. If you haven't heard of SHAC, look into it. If you are involved in SHAC efforts, please consider putting Scripps high up on the target list.

Scripps is nasty on so many levels and getting scarier every day.

At the time of this writing, Scripps has already begun clearing the Mecca orange groves; we are also seeing a new battle shaping up against natural gas pipelines that will destroy offshore coral reefs in order to provide power for the Scripps development projects. This is an amazing chance for people to come together across single-issue barriers and expose some of the fundamental problems with corporate greed, political corruption and industrial civilization, on a global scale.

The Word on Hotspot Theory

Civilization's war on the wild and on land-based communities has taken a toll that is quite possibly beyond our comprehension. But in the last 15 years, British ecologist Norman Myer has made the task of defending biodiversity, and thus planetary survival, more "approachable" by demonstrating that we can conserve a major share of terrestrial biodiversity in a relatively small portion of the planet.

An analysis carried out between 1996 and 1998 resulted in a list of 25 "hotspots." South Florida falls in the top three, as part of the Caribbean region. Perhaps the hotspot theory is too rigid for some, but if we are to take the global ecological crisis seriously, having a real strategy makes sense. Yes, Florida has lost much, but there are still a lot of wild areas left.

And yet we are not solely dedicated to protecting wild places. That is because social revolution and ecological defense have to go hand-in-hand or neither is worth a damn. South Florida is not only an ecological hotspot, it is a social hotspot as well. It is home to some of the greatest disparities of wealth within the US Empire, as well as one of the most culturally diverse places on this planet. It was a place of strong Native resistance, a place of numerous past uprisings against police abuse, and most recently, the site of one of the largest preemptive police attacks in US history. South Florida is ripe for rebellion and renewal.

Let's help bring it on....

Gentrification

Condo Conquistadors and the Recolonization of the Coast

In recent history, the black communities in south Florida maintained a high level of autonomy in many areas, along with the Black Seminole tribes and the "Maroon" outlaw settlements of runaway Spanish slaves (the name Maroon is probably derived from the Spanish *cimarron*, meaning "wild" or "untamed"). That quickly changed, as the power of white supremacy and capitalist greed set its sights on the prime real estate of the coasts.

Much of the rural and small-town way of life caved in to the incessant demands of urbanization. As big money came rolling in 90 years ago, black neighborhoods were increasingly walled off into ghettos and cut off from public resources in order to make room for wealthy, racist white settlers.

In the 1980s, indigenous and Latin@ immigrants began coming to south Florida en masse—some seeking refuge and survival from brutal, CIA-backed regimes, others chasing the shimmering illusions of prosperity offered by the US Empire. Many of the immigrants left the rural life of their home countries, and within one generation, their connection to the land as a source of food, water and life has been severed. Overworked parents watch families fall apart in neglected neighborhoods as kids search out toys, television, video games and eventually inner-city gangs to offer some sense of community and security. Gang violence along the coast has been steadily increasing, even in small towns.

But the real estate industry sits drooling, building more luxury condos and town homes wherever it can get away with squeezing them in on the outskirts of low-income areas, watching neighborhoods slip into disrepair so they can buy them up cheap and turn them over for massive profits. Developers demolish public housing units and functional historic buildings—evicting families, small businesses and social services, paving green space and public parks and knocking down the largest urban trees for high-density, massive upscale development. This often happens under the guise of renewal and revitalization, but some of us are putting up a fight.



June protest in front of Lake Worth City Hall: Urban renewal not removal—no luxury condos!

FTAA:

The Tropics vs. the Americas

Ever since the global free trade-pushers chose Miami as their desired Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) headquarters, the phrase "Gateway to the Americas" has gained significant popularity among the elite. Seventy miles north of that gateway, there is a small coastal town that has become a pocket of resistance, marked by a sign that reads "Where the Tropics Begin." Somewhere in between these two slogans is a collision waiting to happen.

On one side is the lush image of vibrant flora and fauna, oceans, rivers and swamps, forests of fruit, the last of undomesticated tribal societies hunting small game, rural subsistence farmers cultivating bananas and varieties of maize, a sizable portion of the world's intact ecosystems and biodiversity, not yet pillaged by industrialism.

On the other, the pillager: Amerigo Vespucci, Cristobal Colon, General William J. Worth, Andrew Jackson, Jeb Bush, John Timoney. The fucking "Americas"—the manifest destiny fantasy that someone should have closed

the gate on. But instead, a Pandora's Box of exploitation: sweatshops, modern slavery, deforestation, immigrant detention, genetic engineering, biopiracy, overconsumption, yuppie tourism.

Here in south Florida, retired dictators, genocidal generals and corporate criminal executives (such as Coca-Cola's Richard Kirby, who was brought to trial for his connection to Colombian paramilitary death squads) hide out in their coastal luxury homes, expecting their actions to be forgotten or ignored.

Which side will win out?

For many participants, the November 2003 protests against the FTAA were like a nightmare come true. But for some of us who live here, it was like a gift in shitty wrapping paper. In the aftermath, there was a different look in people's eyes, a different priority on some agendas. Perhaps it's the kind of motivation that only comes from being shot at by



the police or going to visit new friends hospitalized after a protest. People watched us on Indymedia films, from Canada to Chiapas to Colombia. South Florida has not been the same since we got our asses kicked at the 2003 FTAA Ministerial Summit.

And the chance is coming back around. In June 2005, the Organization of American States is hosting the next hemispheric FTAA meeting in Broward County, between Miami/Dade and Palm Beach Counties, probably near Ft. Lauderdale. What have we learned from our past mobilizations? What's worthwhile and what's a waste of energy? Most importantly, who's ready to get busy!

A Glimpse at Who's Fighting from the Grassroots

- Palm Beach Global Justice Group (PBGJG), POB 961, Lake Worth, FL 33460; (561) 547-6686; sfglobaljustice@yahoo.com. PBGJG gained recent recognition for its work around the November 2003 FTAA protests, but the group has always been rooted in community-based organizing alongside global justice work. They have been fighting luxury development and gentrification with tactics ranging from door-to-door outreach to urban tripod blockades. This anarchist collective is also well connected to tons of local radical activist efforts: free food projects, community gardens, indigenous and immigrant solidarity, children's programs, anti-war folks, puppeteers, radical cheerleaders, etc.

- Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition, www.pbcenvironmentalcoalition.com. This coalition initiated much of the local opposition to the Scripps plan and is currently filing litigation against it.

- Save Our Waterfront and Town (SWAT), www.freelakeworth.com. A Lake Worth-based group

that has put up a spirited, resident-led battle against the dictatorship of the developers.

- Power U for Social Change, www.poweru.org. A community organizer's resource center that combats gentrification and brings attention to issues of environmental racism. They work in predominantly black and Latin@ neighborhoods.

- Low-Income Families Fighting Together and Miami Workers' Center, www.miamiworkerscenter.org. These two organizations fight for housing, childcare and adequate social services. They also do political education work, connecting local and global issues and hosting organizer trainings.

- Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), www.ciw-online.org. An organization of farmworkers in central south Florida, well-known for their boycott against Taco Bell, as well as their work exposing modern slavery in the fields. They are currently focused on student/youth organizing to raise awareness about the lives of immigrant farmworkers.

blast from the past

Samhain 1993 *Earth First! Journal*



Actions on Mt. Graham: Pope Scope Dedication Foiled!

BY PAUL ROLAND

On September 18, the telescope crusaders tried once again to bury the Mt. Graham issue and convince themselves that the international observatory project is really off and running. But the "dedication" of the nearly complete Vatican and Max Planck telescopes on Mt. Graham in southeastern Arizona turned into a public relations quagmire, as the five-year campaign of civil disobedience opposing the project continued undeterred. Creative blockade tactics delayed the ceremony for about three hours.

A festive weekend had been planned for funders and others associated with the embattled telescopes, to remove the lingering, uncomfortable taste of conflict. It began September 17 with what a counter-invitation called a "Genocide Dinner and Cocktail Party" at the posh Westin La Paloma Resort outside Tucson. Though confined by heavy security to a small corner removed from the event, about 30 people confronted arriving guests. Activists eventually pushed the police back in a peaceful march, accompanied by native drumming and singing—a powerful presence throughout the weekend.

The next morning, a bizarre, half-mile-long traffic jam built up behind three successive blockades and assorted road debris. Vehicles carrying University of Arizona astronomers and administrators, along with telescope supporters from as far away as Italy and Germany, were interspersed with truckloads of Earth First!ers and Greenpeacers, Native and student activists, VIP's from nearby Safford and hundreds of "invited guests."

The first delaying action was at the Coronado National Forest entrance, where two activists had U-locked themselves to a cattle guard. Arizona Department of "Public Safety" officers, accustomed to Mt. Graham protests, had a power cutter handy. An hour later, the slowly moving caravan neared the top of the steep and winding 30-mile Swift Trail road. With no one guarding the road's only gate, student activist Wendy Young was able to lock down to it by her neck.

"We are here to defend ancient wilderness and endangered species," she said, "especially when those who are building the project are breaking environmental laws."

The first vehicle to the gate contained a Hopi tribal official, who turned back when told of the protest.

After Young was cut loose 20 minutes later, the lumbering procession crept forward, but it moved only a couple hundred yards before grinding to a halt only half a mile shy of the US Forest Service Columbine Visitor Center, where food, drink and speakers were waiting. During the delay, a friend and I walked ahead, through the masses of cops and around an uphill curve. We were greeted by an uplifting sight—a 35-foot-high log tripod, protester on top, in the middle of the road, confounding the assembled cops, who commented on its ingenuity.

D'Ana Valenzuela, a high-spirited young Apache woman, had adopted the tactic used by the Penan of Sarawak to defend their ravaged forests (at least two Penan have been killed when their tripods were pulled down). For more than two hours, the police tried to figure out how to get her down safely. At one point, they raised the scoop of a front-end loader (not high enough), seemingly for intimidation. Valenzuela sang and hurled a steady stream of challenges to the defenders of the status quo. Finally, the cops decided to cut the three logs section-by-section to get her down, to the loud complaints of the few supporters able to approach the scene (and even they were repeatedly pushed back out of close observation range). Police wouldn't listen to advice that the safest method would be a cherry-picker, which also might happen to take a couple of hours longer. When the logs were short enough, police lowered Valenzuela the rest of the way in the scoop of the front-end loader.

D'Ana Valenzuela is both Apache and Earth First!er, exemplifying strong new currents flowing through EF! and the environmental movement: a unified struggle for ecosystem and cultural survival. "I was willing to get arrested," she said, "because it's Apache land and that mountain is very sacred to me, because of the life that's on it. I've had powerful experiences on the mountain. The waters and streams are still so pure you can drink them."

The actions continue... to find out what happens next, check out the Samhain 1993 issue of the Earth First! Journal.

Back issues of the EF! Journal are available for five dollars each. Order our near-complete, 24-year set for \$500.



Cops don't like "uninvited guests."

photo by Dwight Metzger

ARMED Clear as Cut Glass & Just as Dangerous WITH VISIONS

We speak, yes,

for buffalo,
wolverine,
prairie flower—
for salmon
and rivers;
yet eat meat
from subsidized farmers,
send emails to parents
in desert-eating condos.

Next door,
in the pretty little town
when the highway was widened,
did we stand with
the century-old trees?

—ELEANOR STEELE



GREAT BASIN

for my brother

Early morning darkness we said goodbye,
Take care, hope to get together soon.
"You'll see so much in the desert,"
Were your final words as I cranked up,
Drove away, and took a chance
Crossing Nevada on the summer solstice.

Dawn found me out past Reno, with
Longest day lurking and uncoiling beneath
The high bright teeth of the Snake Range.
Soon hot minutes dropped like venom. Noon
I was rolling in my little globe of grease
Over the griddle of the Pancake Mountains.

In my mind you rode beside me, describing
The plants that dotted the mesas. I saw far-off
Dust devils jump up and dance like our talking,
Back fifteen years and forward ten,
Scattering old bones—brushing sage, too,
Green and fragrant after all the years.

Like you said, the desert contained so much,
And you could have named it all.
To me it was endless range and endless basin,
Endless miles driving in white glare that died
When sunset fires were banked and I slept at last
In warm sand under a tortured juniper.

Now next day dawn, an elf owl calls me up,
I shake dead needles off my sleeping bag.
The sun's the width of a mesquite thorn south
Of where it was this same time yesterday.
A shade cooler, closer to capricorn.
Knowing us, bro, it'll be winter next time we meet.

—RICHARD ARNOLD

ON A PLANE FROM YELLOWSTONE

Maybe I didn't want to discover you as much
as anyone I have ever loved beyond snow-crested
mountains of cougar, forests of elk and moose,
river valleys of bison, bear, eagle.

We creep, a snail across a ceiling
of brilliant blue. Clouds like feathery geysers
convene fruitless questions:
Couldn't I love enough? Was I too selfish?

Had I met her a few years sooner,
the waterfall woman next to me
filling the vast void of your absence
with countless challenges,
canyons echoing rainbows in mist,

you would have seen
the roots of pine trees dancing
in the grass with purple wildflowers,
the Mammoth Hot Spring Terraces
like gothic glaciers,
their limestone frozen cataracts
melded over sienna,

focused binoculars on a trumpeter swan
embraced by arms of sunrise
streaming hazy trees.

Antlered with headsets,
homing in business agendas
and pastures of video,
our skin continues to watering places
of work, the refuge of parents.

Child I have never known,
all things are joined with light
flowing in words like blood.
I wanted to talk many times.

—BRUCE LADER

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SEND POEMS TO:
WARRIOR POETS SOCIETY
POB 14501, BERKELEY, CA 94712-5501



BUFFALO POEM

I have stood with the buffalo.
I have felt their spirit
Move through me like the wind.
Their presence I can feel

In the contours of these mountains,
In every tree,
In every bush,
In every willow,
Every track,
In my soul.

I have looked deep into their eyes
And felt their power
Run through me like
The river from which banks they have fed off,
And I too have been nurtured.
And in my hand, I have held their hair
Plucked from the side of a tree.
And I can see that it is no different from mine,
And I know that we are brothers.

I have seen the meaning of non-violent resistance,
In the face of hatred and ignorance,
In the face of oppression

I have been moved to tears
By the beauty of their gentle nature,
Their resilience—their determination.

And I am learning from them the meaning of patience,
Of love and of living the way they know is rightfully theirs,
Even if it means Death—
And I know I am only beginning to understand.

—ROMÁN SANCHEZ
BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER

Nanotechnology Nightmare:

"There isn't any human artifact that we manufacture that won't eventually be dependent on the kinds of discoveries being made in laboratories now.... The long-term consequences of [nanotechnology] are going to be truly transforming. The trouble is, you can't predict the details of what that world will be like."

—THOMAS THEIS, HEAD OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
AT IBM CORPORATION

From several different vantage points, nanotechnology—a set of techniques used to manipulate matter at the scale of atoms and molecules—looms as the highest, widest and most powerful technological wave the world has ever faced. The turbulence that will accompany the nano-wave has breathtaking societal implications, especially for poor and marginalized communities. It will upend markets for labor and raw materials, and it will change the way we live, eat, work, wage war and define life.

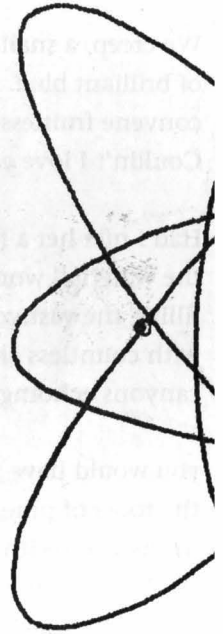
Some predict that nanotechnology will trigger a new economic and cultural utopia by combining material abundance, sustainable development and profit. But history suggests a different scenario. In recent decades, we have witnessed the privatization of science and a staggering concentration of corporate power that has undermined democracy and dissent throughout the world. Nano-scale manipulations offer unprecedented potential for sweeping monopoly control of the elements and processes fundamental to life. In short, nano-scale technologies are poised to become the operative strategy for corporate control of

industrial manufacturing, food, agriculture and health in the 21st century.

Investment in nanotechnology around the world—by both the private and public sectors—adds up to six billion dollars a year. Virtually all Fortune 500 companies are investing in nanotech research and development along with hundreds of small start-up companies. A well-worn statistic from the US National Science Foundation (NSF) forecasts that the global market for nanotech's processes and products will reach one trillion dollars by 2015. Because nanotech breakthroughs are coming even faster than predicted, the NSF recently revised its prediction to state that the one-trillion-dollar wave will come ashore sometime in 2011 or 2012.

What is a Nano, Anyway?

"Nano" is a measurement, not an object. Unlike "biotechnology," where the word itself lets you know that *bios* (life) is being manipulated by human art (*techne*), "nanotechnology" indicates only the scale of the art. A "nanometer" equals one billionth of a meter. The youngest and healthiest eyes can't see things much smaller than a



Surveillance in the Small

In its potential for creating circuits and computers on a previously unimaginably tiny level, nanotechnology provides many boons to the police state that will control it. Foremost among these is the increased capacity for surveillance.

Already, using only modern, macro-scale technology, tiny sensors are starting to infiltrate everyday life. Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are tiny circuits with an antenna attached that are implanted into consumer products. RFID tags have already been installed in Gillette shavers and Wal-Mart clothes, and they are slated to be in every Goodyear and Michelin tire and every Euro banknote within a year. Each RFID tag has a unique signature and uses the antenna to transmit information to a sensor, allowing any individual item to be tracked.

There are two types of RFID tags—active and passive. Passive tags can only be read by a sensor at close range. These do not require a battery and are the most common, with a range up to 40 feet. Active tags transmit much like cellular phones and require a tiny battery. They have a range of miles.

Proponents of RFID—which was invented by two former National Security Agency operatives—envision

it replacing the bar code and allowing the tracking of all items ever made.

If every shirt, car tire and dollar bill can be tracked at all times, of course, so can every person. Unsurprisingly, RFID research is heavily funded by the US Department of Defense. The US government will require RFID chips containing biometric information in all foreign passports by 2005, and all US passports by 2006.

Even more troubling than RFID is "smart dust," a collection of tiny, communicating sensors. Currently a third the size of a credit card, smart dust is able to sense temperature, humidity, vibration and other physical features like the presence of certain chemicals. According to Deborah Estrin, director of the Center for Embedded Network Sensing, the goal is to permeate the entire world with these tiny sensors: "in the car you drive to work and in the roads, embankments and traffic lights." Of course, people might not like the idea of computer dust monitoring them everywhere they go. Never fear, says Estrin, "The average person will be reliant upon these systems, but if we succeed, the systems will be relatively transparent or invisible."

The Next Industrial Revolution

millimeter in size, and a nanometer is a million times smaller than that. Even most microscopes can't see things on the nano-scale.

Nanotech's "raw materials" are not wood, rubber or steel. They are the diverse chemical elements of the Periodic Table—in other words, the stuff that makes up *everything*. Being able to make precise manipulations at the nano-scale—at the scale of atoms and molecules—opens up a world of possible applications across all sectors of the economy: computers can get smaller and faster; drugs can permeate the body more completely and can target specific cells; catalysts (used to speed up chemical reactions, including oil-refining processes) can be made more reactive; sensors can monitor everything—from crops to cows to crooks to chemical warfare agents to customers—with much greater precision; materials can be stronger, lighter and "smarter."

There are several problems with nanotechnology, and they're big ones.

Technological control at the nano-scale goes hand-in-hand with corporate control at the nano-scale. Remember that almost as soon as scientists figured out how to *manipulate* life through genetic engineering, corporations figured out how to *monopolize* it. In the same way, nano-scale patenting will accompany atom-level manipulations. A dangerous precedent was set back in the 1960s when Glenn Seaborg, the American who won a Nobel Prize for physics in 1951, "invented" the chemical element *Americium* and acquired US patent #3,156,523 for it. Yesterday's patents on genetically modified organisms will facilitate today's patents on atomically modified organisms and materials. In essence, patenting at the nano-scale could mean monopolizing the basic elements that are the building blocks of the entire natural world.

Nano-scale particles behave in ways that macro-scale particles of the same material don't. With only a reduction of size and no change in substance, materials may be stronger, lighter, more water-soluble, more heat-resistant or better conductors of electricity. A substance that is red when it is a meter wide may be green when its width is only a few nanometers; something that is soft and malleable on the macro-scale may be stronger than steel at the nano-scale.

In other words, just because we know how a micron-sized particle will behave in the environment doesn't mean that we have a clue as to how a nano-sized particle of the same substance will behave.

The potential impact of nanoparticles on the environment and human health is enormous. Toxicological data

on manufactured nanoparticles are scarce, even though commercial products are already on the market (including food, cosmetics and sunscreens).

Like earlier promises made by proponents of nuclear, chemical and biotechnologies, nanotech enthusiasts claim that it will solve problems of hunger and poverty, cure cancer and clean up the environment. But the simple truth is that new technologies cannot solve old injustices. Technology is not an alternative to sound social policies.

As some scientists have pointed out, nanotech could possibly bring better, cheaper disease diagnostics for people and crops, and it could improve water purification and the performance of solar cells. Further, nanotech could reduce raw material demands, increase recycling and slash transport and energy costs.

But even if we can diagnose diseases better, will the diseases of poor people be the focus of corporate research, and will the patented drugs be affordable? Globalization—in the form of today's trade, finance and patent systems—ensures that the control of new technologies will remain with the rich. Intellectual property regimes and marketplace oligopolies, along with government collusion, have usually managed to dictate what technologies come forward and whose interests they serve.

"Our 30-year goal is to have such exquisite control over the genetics of living systems that instead of growing a tree, cutting it down and building a table out of it, we will ultimately be able to grow the table."

—RODNEY BROOKS, DIRECTOR OF THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LABORATORY AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Excerpted from "The Little Big Down: A Small Introduction to Nano-scale Technologies" by the ETC Group, www.etcgroup.org.

Targeting Nanotech

At this point, we have the ability to take a different approach to the problem of nanotechnology by targeting research and development locations. The following list attempts to address some of the institutions that act as the greatest enablers of the coming nanotech world.

- **California NanoSystems Institute**, www.cnsi.ucsb.edu. A collaboration between the University of California-Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, two of the foremost universities in the field of nanotech research.

- **Center for Nanoscience Innovation for Defense**, University of California-Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9530. David Awschalom, founder, (805) 893-2121; awsch@physics.ucsb.edu. An organization "created to facilitate the rapid transition of research innovation in the nanosciences into applications for the defense sector."

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"Better Humans" and the Nanotech Future

BY DERRICK JENSEN AND GEORGE DRAFFAN
EXCERPTED BY LICHEN JUNE

We are all by now unfortunately familiar with biotechnology, the splicing of genes from one being into another. Nanotechnology goes far beyond biotech's manipulation of genes, it involves the manipulation of molecules and atoms. We can call it molecular engineering, we can call it the marriage of life and computers, we can call it the creation of green machines, or we can call it self-replicating biotech alchemy. It's been predicted to cure cancer, to end poverty by supplying the world with an infinite supply of energy and self-assembling materials, and to keep your pants stain-free.

Nanotechnology works with small materials. Really small. A nanometer is a billionth of a meter. Ten hydrogen atoms side by side make a line a nanometer long. A DNA molecule is about two-and-a-half nanometers wide. A red blood cell is one-twentieth the width of a human hair, but it's 5,000 nanometers in diameter. It gives me a headache just to think about it: The individual components of a silicon transistor are about 130 nanometers across, but Intel can fit 42 million of them on one of its Pentium-4 computer chips.

So, that's all great! We can all have fast computers to play more complex games (while the real world burns) because the geniuses at Intel have figured out how to get all those transistors onto a single computer chip. But those nasty atomtech critics, including ETC Group's Jim Thomas, tell us that "nanosized bits are so small that they can penetrate your skin, get into your lungs and travel through your body unmolested by the immune system."

The ultimate goal of nanotechnology, according to some of its proponents, is to meld humans and computers so that humans can at long last (insert mad scientist laugh here) live forever. As such, nanotechnology is motivated by a fear of death, and the consequent fear and hatred of the body, the natural. Here's how betterhumans.com puts it in an article entitled "Immortality:" "It is mortalist, deathist thinking that characterizes aging and dying as natural and good.... Today, immortality—and the lesser goal of indefinite lifespan—seems entirely possible. The

best way to think of it is that our 'soul' is to our bodies and brains what music is to a CD: an arrangement of information. The CD doesn't matter—it can be copied an indefinite number of times. So what could we do to achieve immortality? The same thing we would do to preserve the music on a rare, one-of-a-kind CD: make backup copies on a better medium.

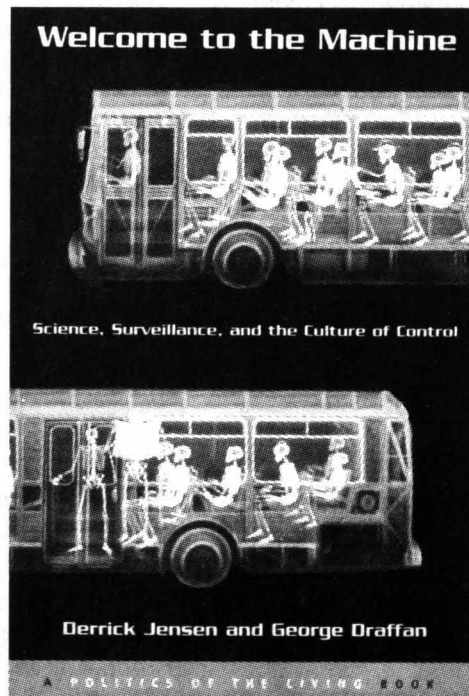
"While the technology to upload a mind doesn't exist yet, research in artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and cognitive science, as well as developments in computer hardware, are taking us in the right direction. Mind uploading is also a possible side-effect of improvements in human-computer interfaces, as direct links between the brain and computer hardware could lead to a gradual merging of biological and nonbiological components of the mind. At some point, enough information could exist in the nonbiological portion that destruction of the biological brain has no impact on personality or identity."

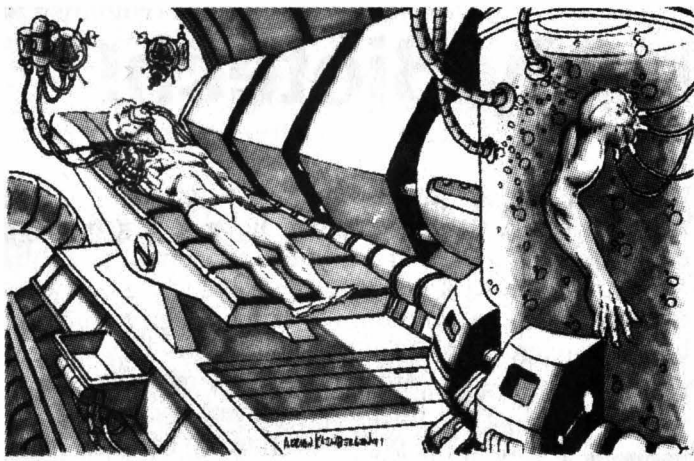
Destruction of the biological brain. Such a nice, clean way to say the killing of the animal.

Alexander Bolonkin, formerly of the US Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, writes, "An immortal person made of chips and supersolid materials will have incredible advantages in comparison with common people.

An 'E-man' will need no food, no dwelling, no air, no sleep, no rest, no ecologically pure environment [this latter is certain to come in handy, all things considered]. Such a being will be able to travel into space, or walk on the sea floor with no aqualungs. It will not be possible to destroy an artificial person with any kind of weapons, since it will be possible to copy the information of his mind and then keep it separately."

Bolonkin is, of course, describing the wet dream of those in charge of any police state. He believes that "such transition to immortality (E-creatures) will be possible in 10-20 years. The number of E-creatures will be growing and the number of people diminishing, until it gets to the minimum necessary for the zoos and small reservations. In all likelihood, the feelings that E-creatures may have toward humans as their ancestors will be fading away, until they become comparable to our own attitude toward apes or even bugs."





I cannot speak for his attitude toward apes, except to say that it seems to mirror the culture's attitude toward all of those it puts in zoos, in reservations, in the furnaces at Auschwitz, in the slash piles of clearcuts or back in the ocean dead as by-catch. Bolonkin continues, "There is a hope that the ability to keep souls alive will be achieved by highly civilized countries first. In this case, they will prohibit torturing sinners, as they prohibit torturing criminals nowadays. Furthermore, criminal investigations will be simplified a lot, judicial mistakes will be excluded. It will be possible to access a soul consciousness and see every little detail of this or that action."

A simple scan of your computer disk, and those in power know everything about you.

The federal government pumps \$700 million a year into the National Nanotechnology Initiative (one-third of which goes to the Pentagon)—making it one of the largest recipients of federal research money along with the "war on cancer" and the militarization of space.

When something (inevitably) goes haywire, nanotechnology could, even according to some of its strongest boosters, lead to covering the entire planet with self-replicating "gray goo," what experts call "global ecophagy"—the eating of the Earth. As K. Eric Drexler, author of *Engines of Creation: The Coming Era of Nanotechnology* and one of the most vociferous supporters of the nanotech vision, puts it, "Assembler-based replicators could beat the most advanced modern organisms. 'Plants' with 'leaves' no more efficient than today's solar cells could out-compete real plants, crowding the biosphere with an inedible foliage. Tough, omnivorous 'bacteria' could out-compete real bacteria: They could spread like blowing pollen, replicate swiftly and reduce the biosphere to dust in a matter of days. Dangerous replicators could easily be too tough, small and rapidly spreading to stop—

The ultimate goal of nanotechnology is to meld humans and computers so that humans can at long last (insert mad scientist laugh here) live forever. As such, nanotechnology is motivated by a fear and hatred of the body, the natural.

at least if we made no preparation. We have trouble enough containing viruses and fruit flies."

We don't have to conjure gray goo to make nanotech deadly: Rats exposed to 20-nanometer particles of polytetrafluoroethylene all died within four hours, while those exposed to larger particles of the same chemical all survived. This shouldn't be surprising: Researchers have long known the dangers of nanoparticles—although they don't call them that, instead referring to them as "fines" and "ultrafines." As long ago as 1991, scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that fine particles kill 60,000 Americans per year. Ultrafines are estimated to be 10 to 50 times more dangerous, causing lung and cardiovascular disease, and probably promoting Alzheimer's and other forms of brain deterioration.

You and I both know that these dangers won't stop those in power from pursuing this course. The proximate danger of the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans per year (and uncounted non-Americans, and uncounted nonhumans, both of whom matter even less than American humans to those in power) won't stop them, nor will the ultimate danger of gray goo eating the Earth.

What will stop them is the end of civilization. Nanotechnology and the marriage of computers and life will not fulfill their potentials for increases in industrial production and therefore decreases in the capacity of the planet to support life. This marriage will fail to take place not suddenly decide not to kill their

because governments own citizens, nor because activists suddenly become effective. Instead, the natural world will stop these possibilities. With any luck for the rest of the planet, civilization will crash long before humans are stored on hard drives or CDs.

Excerpt from Welcome to the Machine: Science, Surveillance and the Culture of Control by Derrick Jensen and George Draffan. For more information, visit derrickjensen.org.

Targeting Nanotech

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• **Institute for Nanoscience**, Naval Research Laboratory, 4555 Overlook Ave, Washington, DC; (202) 767-3200. Similar to the Los Alamos National Laboratories in New Mexico.

• **Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Building NE47, Fourth Floor, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139. Essential to the US government creating a (nearly) invincible soldier to carry out the next war.

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There's *Nano* in My Biotech!

Even as governments and industry belatedly accept that engineered nanoparticles may require regulation, they insist that more advanced stages of nanotech involving the convergence of nano- and biotechnology are too far over the horizon to consider regulating. They're wrong.

Scientists and governments in the US and Europe have a strategy to merge the sciences based on "material unity at the nano-scale."

Since all materials and processes operate from the bottom up, proponents of convergence believe that they can control events on the macro-scale by manipulating events at the nano-scale.

Convergence happens when nanotech merges with biotech (enabling the control of life through the manipulation of genes), information technology (enabling the control of knowledge through the manipulation of bits) and cognitive neuroscience (enabling the control of the mind through the manipulation of neurons). Controlling Bits, Atoms, Neurons and Genes adds up to a little BANG theory, enabling a godlike mastery over all knowledge, matter, mind and life.

According to the little BANG theory, neurons could be re-engineered so that our minds "talk" directly to computers or to artificial limbs; viruses can be engineered to act as machines; computer networks can be merged with biological networks to develop artificial intelligence or surveillance systems.

Nanobiotechnology and "Green Goo"

Nanobiotechnology is the current darling of nanotech investment. Since 1999, 52 percent of the \$900 million in government funding for nanotech has gone to nanobiotechnology startups.

The goals of nanobiotechnology are varied:

- Some researchers are incorporating non-living, nano-scale materials into living organisms (such as drug delivery systems or sensors).
- Other researchers are creating new synthetic materials that have biological components (such as proteins incorporated into plastics).
- Other researchers are creating new living material that is capable, theoretically, of performing industrial functions (such as micro-organisms that feed on industrial chemical spills).

While biotechnologists build new life from stripped-down microbes, nanotechnologists are busy building biological machines from the bottom-up. Products of nanobiotechnology that are living organisms may continue

to do what nature intended—procreate—but they may be more powerful by their boost from human technology: The emboldened *E. coli* bacteria will now take on oil spills; the nanobio polymer car door can use embedded proteins to repair itself after a collision. Plants too tough for bugs to bite? Fire-retardant fur? The possibilities are endless.

With nanobiotech, researchers have the power to create completely new organisms that have never existed on Earth. Will new lifeforms, especially those that are designed to function autonomously in the environment, open a Pandora's box of unforeseen and uncontrollable consequences? That's the specter of green goo. In a "green goo" scenario, a designer microbe has designs of its own.

Angela Belcher, professor of material science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, reported earlier this year that her research team had genetically engineered viruses to produce tiny, inorganic wires with magnetic and semiconducting properties. The wires could one day provide extremely small circuitry for high-speed electronics. "We programmed the virus to grow a particular material at a particular

length," Belcher said. "Then we burned off the virus and were left with single-crystal semiconductor wires."

Synthetic Biology

The goal of "synthetic biology" is to engineer and build machines that work inside cells. Biologists are already crafting libraries of interchangeable DNA parts—so-called "BioBricks"—and assembling them inside microbes to create programmable, living machines. Using BioBricks as raw materials, researchers can now custom design biological manufacturing systems.

Researchers can design a protein on a computer and then use software to construct the DNA sequence that would produce the protein inside a cell—even if the protein and DNA do not exist in nature.

The most high-profile practitioner of synthetic biology, perhaps, is Craig Venter of human genome-mapping fame. Since 2002, Venter, Nobel Laureate Hamilton Smith and the Institute for Biological Energy Alternatives have been awarded \$12 million from the Department of Energy to create new lifeforms that could be engineered to produce energy or clean up greenhouse gases. In November 2003, they announced that they had assembled a virus from synthetically produced, commercially available DNA. They are confident that because this virus infects bacteria and is

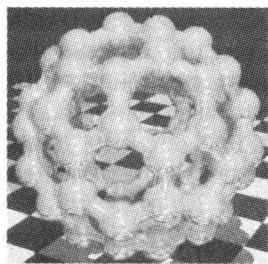


not harmful to humans, animals or plants, it “poses no health or ethical concerns.”

While “gray goo” has grabbed the headlines in the nano-media, the more likely scenario is that the merger of living and non-living matter will result in hybrid organisms and

products that behave in unpredictable ways. Industry hasn’t been able to control and contain genetically modified organisms. What will happen when a newly made organism—the product of nanobio—becomes “adventitiously present?”

Excerpted from writings by the ETC Group, www.etcgroup.org.



Buckyballs and Engineered Rice



Because common items exhibit unique properties at the nano-scale, nano-sized particles are already being employed in consumer products. For example, titanium dioxide, used in sunscreen, is transparent to light but still reflective to ultraviolet radiation at the nano-scale. Buckyballs—hollow combinations of carbon atoms arranged into perfect geodesic spheres, much like soccer balls—are among the strongest and most stable structures known. They are used to strengthen everything from tennis rackets to auto parts.

Yet warning signs are starting to appear. For the same reasons that nanoparticles are “useful,” they are also dangerous—their properties and effects on the human body cannot be predicted based on how they act at a larger scale. In the past seven years, the following alarm bells have sounded:

- 1997: Titanium dioxide nanoparticles are shown to damage the DNA of skin cells.
- March 2002: Engineered nanoparticles accumulate in the cells of lab animals during experiments.
- March 2003: Buckyball-based nanotubes are found to be more toxic to rat lungs than quartz dust, which is known to cause respiratory illness. Another study finds that nanoparticles can cross the blood-brain barrier.
- July 2003: Scientists discover that buckyballs travel smoothly through soil, thus gaining easy access to the food chain.
- January: Published research shows that nanoparticles travel easily from nasal passages into the brain. Evidence is also presented suggesting that gold nanoparticles can cross from mother to fetus.
- March: Fish exposed to buckyballs suffer severe damage to brain tissue within 48 hours, inducing an Alzheimer’s-like condition. The fish livers are found to be inflamed, suggesting a full-body reaction.

More than 140 companies are already manufacturing nanoparticles, and nano-scale versions of 64 elements of the Periodic Table are expected to be commercially available in the near future. Forty of these can already be purchased.

As companies continue to spew never-before-existing substances into the environment, nuclear physicists in Thailand have discovered a way to genetically modify rice using nanotechnology. The scientists are drilling nano-sized holes in rice cells and firing nitrogen atoms inside to modify the organism’s DNA. They have already succeeded in changing the color of a local rice variety from purple to green. Their next goal is to develop varieties of Jasmine rice that can be

grown year-round and have shorter stems and “improved” color. According to Thiraphat Vilaithong of the Fast Neutron Research Facility in Chiang Mai, the technique is being pursued because it does not require the insertion of genes from other organisms the way that more well-known biotechnology does. Thus, the researchers hope to avoid the controversy associated with genetically modified food.

“We don’t consider atomically modified rice any safer or more socially acceptable than genetically modified rice,” said Witoon Lianchamroon of Biodiversity Action Thailand. “It sounds like the same high-tech approach that does not address our needs and could cause severe hardships for Thai rice farmers.”

Researchers in Chiang Mai are also working on modifying the surface of silk in order to make it resistant to water and dirt. Their research is only the tip of the nanobiotech iceberg. Nearly 200 multinational food corporations are investing in nanotechnology. These include HJ Heinz, Campbell Soup, ConAgra, Kraft, Nestlé and Pepsi. In the future, companies like these hope to harness the atom to create interactive food that changes color, flavor or nutritional content at the consumer’s whim; ultrasound-activated vaccines; and more—a brave new world of nanotech conveniences.

For more information, visit www.etcgroup.org. By the end of the year, the ETC Group plans to release an in-depth report detailing the impacts that nanobiotechnology will have on food and agriculture. For a list of companies and products that are currently using nanoparticles, see “No Small Matter II,” a report available on the website.

Targeting Nanotech

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• **Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for Directed Assembly of Nanostructures**, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 110 Eighth St, Troy, NY 12180; www.rpi.edu/dept/nsec. Dr. Richard W. Siegel, director, (518) 276-8846. Top-notch scientific school with an advanced program focusing on how nanostructures will be assembled and what materials can be manipulated using nanotechnology.

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The Ultra-Capable Machine

The Threats of Military Nanotech

BY ZACH FREDELL

A few days ago, I was having a discussion with a friend about industrial collapse. So many activists I know have had it so many times that I feel like I can guess what anyone's going to say. I knew that what I was saying was nothing new. We've heard it all before. Conjecture on what may or may not be likely, or even plausible.

Some of us have begun to realize that a lot of our projected scenarios of industrial collapse are just manifestations of our hopes. A lot of it has to do with the simple fact that many of us are unaware of what the system is really up to.

Nanotechnology is the next industrial revolution. There's no doubt about that in the minds of those on the cutting edge of technological research and development. What is coming reflects what we have now, amplified to the power of 10. You heard me right, 10 times the firepower for any Texan, and the horse he rode in on. Yeehaw! If you didn't get the inference, what I'm saying is that new technologies are produced and used first for military applications.

The economy and the military have never really been separate entities. War is the health of the state and money is politics. The US military/industrial juggernaut is also, of course, one of the most environmentally destructive groups of people on the planet.

Eminent scientists and military theorists have been making a good deal of noise recently about the end of the era of Weapons of Mass Destruction, or chemical, nuclear and biological weaponry. For the future, they see the old type of Cold War standoff ending in favor of a new kind of war. GNR: Genetic, Nanotechnological and Robotic warfare. War based not on warheads but on proprietary research. The new warfare will center around the development of high technology, the race to find answers quicker than the "enemy" and the fight to keep third parties from gaining access to this information.

Spearheading the most important aspects of the changing US military is not the giant bureaucracy of the Department of Defense (DOD) itself but one of its subsidiaries. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is "the central

research and development organization for the DOD." DARPA was established in 1958, shortly following the surprise Soviet launch of Sputnik. Its goal is to make the US the most technologically enabled fighting force on the planet so as to "prevent technological surprise." DARPA's scientists are the standard-bearers of the new silent arms race.

The intermingling web of finance for emerging war technologies starts with DARPA, yet at the other end are, unfortunately, the nation's learning institutions. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of California-Berkeley, Duke and Columbia are the first universities on the dole from the US military. MIT, considered one of the most important centers for development of all things computer, has a flashy new program: the Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies (ISN). ISN is a program funded to the tune of \$50 million dollars, and its goal is to "create a 21st century battle suit that combines high-tech capabilities with light weight and comfort." Adding insult to injury, the program partners the university with three corporations, two of which are well known to most activists for their feats of chemical and military destruction: DuPont and Raytheon.

If you liked those pesky Marines before, you will love them

in version 2.0. The Berkeley Lower Extremity Exoskeleton can bear 70 pounds of weight for the soldier wearing it, enabling that soldier to carry more ammo, supplies and weapons further and to still arrive fresh and ready for combat. In a very obvious manner, the nation's learning institutions are being fully militarized, and the process is only bound to spread as the money gets bigger. The end is the amalgamation of industry and learning institutions into the military's massive power monopoly.

There are, of course, strong hints that nanotechnology will mean an even more insidious type of weaponry. If a molecular machine created by nanotechnological processes can reassemble molecules any way it wants, what's to say it couldn't do so to living tissue? Take for example the "Ecobot II." This small robot produces electricity by catching flies and digesting them in special fuel cells. Although in the infant stage of development, this technology suggests that in the future, non-human combatants in



The Berkeley Lower Extremity Exoskeleton is now ready for production. If you liked those pesky Marines before, you'll love version 2.0.

a war could have the ability to actually steal a being's "life energy" and use it.

While considering the possibility of "disassembling" the molecules of another human, we have to ask how such a weapon would be targeted. Luckily, we can depend on Israel's Institute for Biological Research. Through recent leaks to the media, we have learned that extensive programs exist in Israel and the US to create weapons capable of targeting specific races of people. This has stemmed from the decoding of the human genome, and research suggests that even amongst the largely intermingled human population, specific bloodlines can still be identified. Of course, the parties using such weapons probably wouldn't mind if a few of their people died as well; numbers don't count when you're talking about wiping out entire sections of the human population.

Let's not go too far into the doomsday scenarios before we get to the wider scope on nanotech within the US military. GNR technologies will first become obvious in the fields of extremely fast computers, capable robotics and massive increases in material strength.

DARPA is moving the US military toward employing a single operating system for its computer systems, interconnected with a network similar to the public Internet, pioneered as ARPAnet. Coupled with widespread global positioning systems, DARPA's plan is to create a realistic digital view of the battlefield (Earth) for the people or machines making decisions from a safe distance. This kind of computation not only massively aids the US in fighting a war with little casualties on its side, but it also makes possible quicker planning of massive operations. We know that the DOD was planning the latest Iraq invasion for more than a year before it happened. Computers could do it faster if they knew everything about the units available and the enemy forces.

Next in line is capable robotics. The best examples of this are coming in the area of aviation. The Predator, a DARPA creation, is a drone that flies at extreme altitudes to gather intelligence and bomb targets if necessary. Another example is Lockheed Martin's Project Falcon, an unmanned plane capable of flight in space, equipped to bomb any target on Earth within two hours of deployment. Instant gratification through fast food and fast bombs, that's the US motto. The predator technology has proven a massive "success" in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and it has moved forward the DOD's general directive to change approximately one-third of all military vehicles to unmanned navigation by 2015.

Former problems with creating super-strong materials will be surpassed with nanotech. Recent breakthroughs

at the University of North Carolina in creating three-dimensional structures point to some concrete results. Copper can be rearranged to exhibit the same strength capacity of today's steel, and ceramics will be strong enough to create superlight engines. The military-specific applications of strong materials are everywhere; vehicles of any kind could be stronger, lighter and have nearly impenetrable armor. Aviation will benefit massively from this research, especially in the area of space "exploration," or more likely space "conquering." Since the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has recently been taken over by the DOD, it is likely that we will see nanotech materials in space exploration/killing vehicles within the next few years. Space is not the final frontier, it's just the next place to expand war (see *EFJ* March-April 2004).

Every second there seems to be a new breakthrough in nanotechnology. The growth of our movement will be concurrent with our ability to formulate a strategy that assesses these developments quickly.

That means a massive change from the past, and thinking about what's going to happen before it does. The only guarantee in all of this is that the military will go forward with its plans; its only roadblock thus far has been the need for more funding. A new threat must be levied soon, or we can expect a worsening situation. Then the cops won't even have to arrest people—robots will be able to do it without their help.

Zach spends his days in the colder parts of the Rockies, watching the watchers. Waiting for the inevitable moment of their demise.

Eminent scientists and military theorists have been making a good deal of noise recently about the end of the era of Weapons of Mass Destruction in favor of a new kind of war: Genetic, Nanotechnological and Robotic warfare.

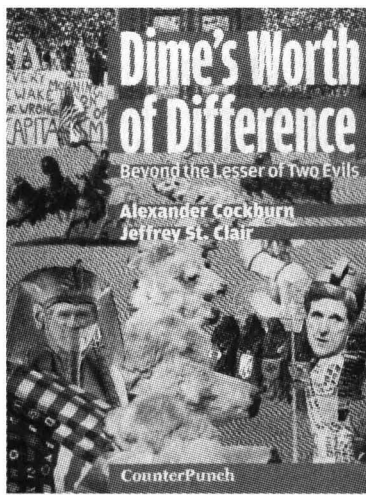
Targeting Nanotech

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• **Texas Institute for Intelligent Materials and Structures**, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Texas A&M University, 3141 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-3141; tims.tamu.edu. Dr. Dimitris C. Lagoudas, director, (979) 845-9409; lagoudas@tamu.edu. When NASA can't handle the load for the military, count on the nation's learning institutions.

• **University of Illinois Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology**. Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, 208 N Wright St, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 333-3097. Materials Research Laboratory, 104 S Goodwin Ave, MC-230, Urbana, IL 61801. Coordinated Science Laboratory, 1308 W Main St, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 333-2511. This college leads the field in many important aspects, and receives the most funding from the National Science Foundation.

For more information on the institutions that are pursuing nanotech research, visit www.nano.gov; www.nsti.org/outreach/organizations.html.



Monkeywrench Hope

An Interview with Jeffrey St. Clair

BY JOSHUA FRANK

Jeffrey St. Clair is the author of Been Brown So Long It Looked Like Green to Me: The Politics of Nature. He is the co-editor of the radical muckraking newsletter Counterpunch and the author of several new books, including Dime's Worth of Difference: Beyond the Lesser of Two Evils and Imperial Crusades: Iraq, Afghanistan and Yugoslavia. He resides in Oregon City, Oregon.

EFJ: Many progressives I've talked to—who admit that John Kerry offers no alternative to the Bush administration on almost every issue—often justify their support for the Kerry ticket by saying that there is at least a stark difference on the environmental front. They see Kerry as an environmental crusader who has received ringing endorsements from all of the major environmental groups. Having covered environmental politics since the early 1990s, do you agree that there are major differences between Bush and Kerry regarding the environment?

JSC: The actual environmental movement bears very little relationship to "major environmental groups." The big groups, a.k.a. "Gang Green," function politically as little more than a green front for the Democratic Party. They inflate Kerry as an environmental crusader. They would say the same thing about any Democratic nominee. That's their job. The Beltway Greens aren't really environmentalists anymore, not in the way we used to think of enviros 15 or 20 years ago. These aren't activists, but lawyers and lobbyists who could just as easily be lobbying on health care, abortion rights or trade policy. There's no driving commitment to wilderness, burning rage about cancer alley or passionate concern for the fate of the grizzly. It's all very congenial, nicely compensated, prefabricated and totally uninspired.

The irony, of course, is that the better this new breed of eco-lobbyist does its job, the less seriously most rational people take them. With good reason. Does Bush want to pursue corporate-driven, environmentally hostile policies? Of course. Is Kerry an environmental crusader? Of course not, and there's the lie.

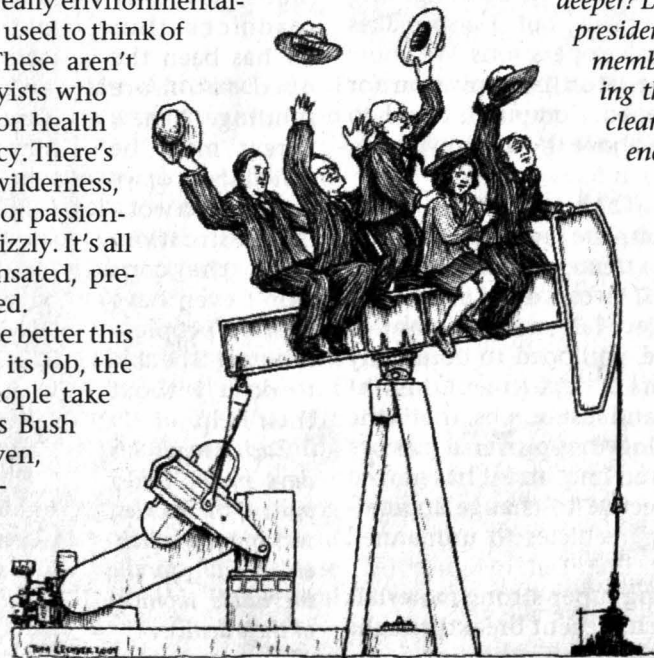
In their zeal to become Beltway players, the Big

Greens have ceased to be truth-tellers. For example, the Greens say that Bush has turned his back on the Kyoto protocols. True enough. But they neglect to say that Kerry turned his back first, voting against Kyoto while he was a senator and Clinton was president. They say that Bush was tight with Kenneth Lay and covered for Enron. Right on. But they overlook the fact that Lay and the Kerrys are also very good friends and frequent dining companions. Lay was recruited by Teresa Heinz Kerry for a seat on the board of directors of her environmental foundation, where he was assigned the role of heading the foundation's global warming task force.

They charge that Bush, fully marinated in crude oil, wants to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to drilling. Horrible, but true. They say that Kerry opposes this. And that's true, too. But they elide the fact that Kerry told Teamster President Jimmy Hoffa that while he won't drill in ANWR, he does plan to drill "everywhere else like never before." Kerry met with the American Gas Association and pledged his support for a Trans-Alaska-Canada Natural Gas Pipeline that will cut across some of the most incredible tundra and taiga on Earth—a project that will dwarf the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. No one among the Beltway Greens even squeaked.

EFJ: Does this perpetual hypocrisy of the Big Greens go any deeper? Larry Fahn, the Sierra Club's current president, said, "Thousands of Sierra Club members in every state will be volunteering their efforts to tell voters about the clear choice in this election. We are encouraging all Americans who care about the environment to vote for John Kerry in November." This is an enviro organization that boasts more than 700,000 members. What are the reasons that the Sierra Club blatantly turns its back on its radical John Muir roots, while becoming a "green front" for the Democratic Party as you say?

JSC: It goes much deeper than hypocrisy. It involves big money, an obscene craving for political access, ego enlargement and a kind of political paternalism that I find



revolting. I don't think the environment will play that much of a factor in the election. Nobody listens to environmentalists anymore, except their own captive members. The Big Greens have marginalized the environmental movement through their blatant partisanship. Essentially, Fahn and the others play the role of cattle drivers, keeping their own herd in line.

The Sierra Club has 700,000 members, but these aren't activists. The Sierra Club doesn't want activists, indeed they are run out of the organization. Activists have an unwelcome tendency to think and act for themselves. They aren't great at following marching orders, especially when it means marching over a cliff.

EF!J: David Cobb, the Green Party presidential candidate, was polling at zero percent in September. What do you think the ramifications will be for the Green Party which, like the Sierra Club, has apparently sidelined any radical tendencies and has opted to run a "smart-state" campaign that basically endorses Kerry for president?

JSC: I think the Green Party is kaput, a kind of group political suicide on the order of that strange cult in Rancho Santa Fe who neutered themselves, donned their black sweat suits and Nikes and poisoned each other while waiting for the Hale-Bopp comet. A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, the founding purpose of the Green Party was to be a party of resistance. It was never about party building, getting school board candidates elected or being anything but a monkeywrench against a corrupt political system. Once the Green Party decided to play nice, it ceased to exist as a force of opposition.

The only choice now is to not vote. Staying home on Election Day under these circumstances isn't apathy, laziness or political mopyery (as much as I admire all of those things), it is an act of supreme resistance—particularly against those hysterical Democrats who yelp that this is the most important election of our lifetime.

Politics is really about power. The only power the Left enjoys these days is the power of negation. We can't elect Ralph Nader, Peter Camejo or Jesse Jackson. But we can defeat bad Democrats until the Democrats bend in our direction or a new political party rises to challenge them. Until that happens, the Democratic Party will continue to move to the right, outpacing the Republicans on several issues.

EF!J: On what issues have the Democrats outpaced the Republicans?

JSC: It's a long list. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), welfare reform, evisceration of the Endangered Species Act, the drug war and logging the national forests (the *annual* cut under Clinton was three to four times the *total* cut under Bush in his first three years).

EF!J: It seemed that under the Bush administration, some of the green lobbyists were actually invigorated, whereas under Clinton, they seemed to sit back and watch the Salvage Rider clearcut old-growth forests while NAFTA blatantly undermined environmental regulations. Do you think that having Bush in office another four years will energize these big enviros to do some good?

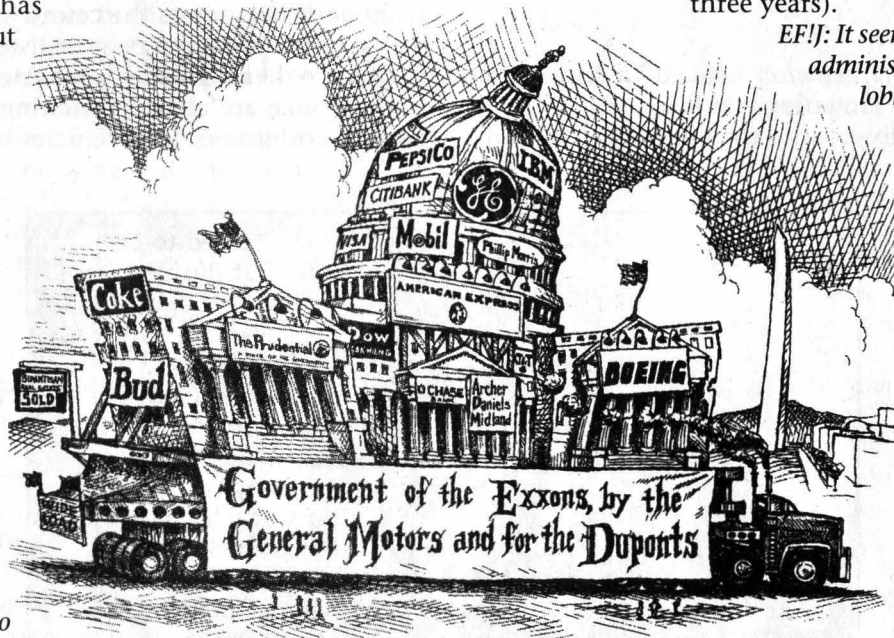
JSC: As a general rule, environmentalists, like other social

movements, are better playing defense than offense; better at organizing against something than for something; better at attacking enemies than holding purported allies accountable for their actions. What's missing, of course, is any admission that it's the political system that is aligned with the corporations against the environment; what's missing is any acknowledgment that Bush is openly pursuing policies that Clinton quietly established. And that's the fatal flaw of the Big Greens.

They have refused to act as honest brokers, as non-partisan defenders of the planet. Instead, they have seduced their own members into believing that a change in the White House will lead to a change of direction in environmental policy. That's the crucial lie, and it's a big and dangerous one.

On paper, Kerry is marginally better than Bush on the environment. But where a unified resistance has confounded many of Bush's plans, Kerry will face little resistance. In fact, the Big Greens are likely to be complicit, as they were during Clinton time. The press will play along, and then we will be left once again with that thin green line of defenders: Earth First! and people in neighborhoods who put the needs of the Earth and the lives of their children above the niceties of two-party politics. Cherish those people, for they are our only hope.

Joshua Frank is the author of the upcoming book, *Left Out: How Liberals Did Bush's Work for Him*, to be published by Common Courage Press.



It involves big money, an obscene craving for political access, ego enlargement and a kind of political paternalism that I find revolting.

A Taste of the Future in Occupied New York

BY ATLATL

It's Saturday morning, September 4, and I'm leaving New York after a week of protesting the Republican National Convention. We lost this round, and I'm ready to go home.

Sitting in the train station in Jersey City, I watch the television monitors flash picture after picture of the FBI's most wanted—all with Muslim names, all with brown faces. Vague accusations leap off the screen—"wanted in connection with possible terrorist attacks against the US." Bullshit. Fear mongering. Fear the foreign killer. On the train, New Jersey Transit tells me that I can "fight terrorism one cell at a time" by using my phone to call in any suspicious behavior. Fear. Spy. Become an agent of the state.

This is, in fact, the same way my week started, and it's a perfect parting shot from the militarized zone around New York City. Only a week earlier, the marquees on the train into the city urge me to report suspicious behavior. "If you see something, say something!" the New York subway posters scream.

Well, here's what I see during my stay in New York.

Throughout the week, there are police everywhere. Not just a cop here and there, but three or four on nearly every corner in Manhattan; at least one in every subway station. Barricades line the sides of the road. Cop cars race by at all hours, sirens blaring. Men with machine guns stand at the federal courthouse. Police helicopters tear through the skies overhead. A Fujifilm blimp contracts to surveil protesters. Whenever it drifts into sight above, we know that Big Brother is watching.

Manhattan is an occupied zone all week—like Iraq, like the border south of my home in Arizona, like poor

neighborhoods across the country. You don't even have to look for the armed men or listen for the choppers—they force themselves on your attention at all times.

The police are always watching us. Cop cars on the corner, and undercover vehicles behind them. A fabri-

cated bomb threat near a convergence space gives firemen an excuse to wander the crowd staring at protesters. Waiting for your friends to get out of jail? Police are photographing and videotaping you. Serving food in Tompkins Square Park? Cops are watching on foot or in cars, in uniforms or undercover.

August 29 is the first day of the convention and the day of the big march. Undercover police on scooters drive into a group of bike-riding protesters and try to knock them over. The disoriented bikers, still following all traffic laws, are herded into a net and arrested without warning. A policeman grabs a biker and throws him to the pavement, breaking his collarbone.

The scooter thugs, a

big success in their first operation, reappear throughout the week—until one protester gets fed up with an undercover's dangerous and deliberate ramming of innocent people and gives him a sound thrashing. More than a day later, a young black activist, Jamal Holiday, is accused of assaulting the officer and imprisoned on \$50,000 bail.

At the big march, a papier-mâché dragon float is set on fire. Police respond by arresting everyone who doesn't run fast enough, whether they are involved or not. One group of protesters, two blocks away, is attacked from behind with batons. No warnings, no demands. Police wield pepper spray and shout arbitrary commands at the crowd. Republican counter-demonstrators are almost run down by police horses.



photo by Emrys

Manhattan is an occupied zone all week—like Iraq, like the border south of my home in Arizona, like poor neighborhoods across the country.

Later that night, protesters converge on Times Square to give the delegates a piece of our minds. The delegates are watching Broadway shows, and several small, peaceful marches form on the sidewalks. Police respond by seizing the intersection, riding horses into the street and separating the marches. A clearly marked medic is spontaneously thrown to the ground, handcuffed and lifted into a paddy wagon. While protesters mill about in confusion, the police erect netting around each street corner, then arrest people one corner at a time. A few blocks down, a group of queer activists is similarly netted and arrested without warning. They are forced to their knees and threatened with pepper spray. The arrestees have done nothing but kiss in public and march down the sidewalk at a walking pace. People who stop to observe this bizarre display of police power are threatened with arrest for "blocking the sidewalk."

A few minutes after the protesters are loaded into police buses, the reason for these illegal tactics becomes clear. Delegates stream onto the nearly empty street, where only a handful of people retain the courage or inclination to confront them about their crimes. Mission accomplished.

The story repeats itself all week, and the police turn meaner. Entire peaceful, non-disruptive protests are arrested without warning, even after following police orders exactly. Show up, get arrested—it's as predictable as clockwork. Detainees are held at Pier 57, sleeping in a pile of toxic dust, metal shavings and diesel sludge. Minors are prevented from seeing their parents. By midweek, so many prisoners have gone unprocessed that the New York Supreme Court holds the city in contempt. An attorney from the National Lawyers Guild says, "If you are the parent of a minor who has been detained for two days and still has no arrest number, I would say that child has been disappeared." Thinking of political prisoners and the disappeared, I remember the activist I saw grabbed by police from where he was chatting with friends in front of St. Mark's Church. While the crowd demanded an explanation, the man was shoved into a car and driven away.

Inside the courtroom, I am threatened with expulsion when I make a silent gesture of support to a friend who is about to go before the judge. The district attorney and police concoct a story that "known anarchists" were the ones to set the dragon float on fire, that these "anarchists" resisted arrest and threw smoke grenades, and that a police officer was wrestled to the ground and burned his hand in the flames. All lies. Defense lawyers are repeatedly threatened with ejection for allegedly standing in the wrong place. I am thrown out for whispering softly, but the courtroom cops are allowed to stand by mouthing sarcastic replies to defense lawyer presentations. Bail for Josh Banno, one of the dragon defendants, is set at \$200,000, prompting cries of "fuck this court!" and more ejections.

\$200,000 bail for allegedly burning a paper dragon? What is going on here? Maybe it's that volatile term—"known anarchist." For months, the New York tabloids have been screaming about the impending anarchist threat. Anarchists are going to descend and destroy New York! Never mind that anarchism just means cooperation without the

continued on next page

In Every Place, We've Left a Garden

BY STARHAWK

When in New York, I was faced with a painful choice between the women's march across the Brooklyn Bridge and the garden actions in the Bronx. I went up to the Bronx, just in case the Green Bloc needed support from someone with experience organizing garden work parties.

They were transforming a small, overgrown lot owned by a church, cutting trees and vines to open it to the sun, laying out curving beds and sheet mulching with cardboard to create a garden. A few blocks away, people were sheet mulching a vacant lot that will become another garden. In a third lot, which is already planted and graced with a giant treehouse, Mia from Sebastopol, California, and Scotty from Austin, Texas, were leading a workshop on bioremediation with mushrooms. It was sweet.

I spent an hour or two pruning trees, not thinking about cops, solidarity demands, action logistics or even magic, just about what branch should come off and where to make the cut, how each cut affects the flow of energy through the tree.

In every large action since Sacramento, we've left a garden behind. The media never covers it, and most people don't know it, but I feel good about it. I feel good about supporting the struggles of people in the South Bronx and Lower East Side to keep some green spaces in their neighborhood, some possibility of growing food and flowers and self-reliance. Each tiny garden amidst the concrete is like a glimpse of a beautiful otherworld, a more relaxed place where people sit among trees, visit, barbecue food and eat together in the open air.

For more information on urban gardening in New York City, contact the More Gardens! Coalition, (718) 585-2109; www.moregardens.org.



Do you feel safe yet? NYPD patrols Tompkins Square Park.

continued from previous page

need for laws and police threats—that across the country, anarchists tend gardens, feed the homeless and rebuild run-down neighborhoods. “A Taste of Anarchy,” one tabloid proclaims after a day with 1,200 arrests. Anarchy? Try police state! The day before, police proudly declared that they had a list of 35 anarchist “leaders”—who, they implied, they meant to arrest on sight.

And here lies the danger. Between the tabloids and the government rhetoric, anarchists are being painted as the new domestic threat. While the television in Jersey City flashes pictures of brown Muslims, the prosecutor in New York singles out brown activists, calls them anarchists and asks for their heads. The city sits by as 2,000 “anarchists” are arrested in the name of security. Protect us from the anarchists! They set things on fire! Save us, noble police!

The crackdown is coming.

We lost this battle, and we’ve been losing them for a long time. Without Miami-style scenes of violence, the New York police were able to preempt effective protest by arresting the most radical activists, then piling on bogus charges or holding people in jail until the convention was over. My friend Josh of the \$200,000 bail—innocent of all charges—got his bail reduced and is free for now, but excuse me if I don’t celebrate the week as a victory. Sure, most of us are out, but the Republicans still managed to have their party and go home. With a few notable exceptions, we largely failed to hold the delegates accountable for their crimes. And as for Josh, he’s still facing five trumped-up felony charges.

The police state is not playing around anymore. Protest—especially radical protest—will not be tolerated. You can keep going to mass mobilizations, getting arrested and accomplishing nothing if you want—but at what point will they just disappear you? The crackdown on foreigners is already here, and immigrants are being disappeared. The crackdown on anarchists is coming.

Between the tabloids and the government rhetoric, anarchists are being painted as the new domestic threat.

Then it will be the unions, then the liberals.

Let me tell you what it felt like to be in New York this week. I was afraid constantly. I was fearful and tense as I walked by uniformed thugs, wondering if I would be grabbed because they had my picture. I was on edge from the constant rattle of surveillance helicopters. I felt furious and impotent at the threats and humiliation doled out in liberal heaps by the courthouse cops. I felt like a prisoner. Like an occupied subject in my own homeland.

Of course, there has always been repression against radicals in this country. But it is escalating, and the overt-ness of Police State New York this week was appalling. I stress that I am not exaggerating this account. Show up for a protest, get arrested. It was that simple.

So how do we respond? First, we need to give up on our denial—on the illusion that we live in a free country.

We need to realize that mass mobilizations in this country are useless as a form of direct action, and they will continue to be until we work up the guts to actually fight back against police aggression, even riot. We need to recognize that fascist-style repression is escalating—from the seven Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty activists accused of terrorism to targeted roundups in the streets of New York—and it will only keep getting worse. And before all you liberals start to fantasize about a Kerry victory making everything better, let me remind you of a few things. Kerry not only voted for the USA PATRIOT act, he wrote part of it. He wants to double the CIA’s covert operations budget and institute a national spy chief. Just listen to the man speak—does he talk about participatory democracy, or does he talk about winning the “war on terror?” What does that tell you?

There is no easy solution, because the times are truly dire. But we will continue to lose ground until we stop showing up for these ineffective, arrest-certain actions—until we kill denial. The time has come to shift our emphasis to underground direct action or, at the very least, to step up our support for those who do. The creeping fascist state will not be defeated by ballot boxes or polite marches.

I saw fascism in New York this week, and I’ve said something. Now let’s go do something.

Atlatl is an anarchist, and he will not be disappeared without a fight.

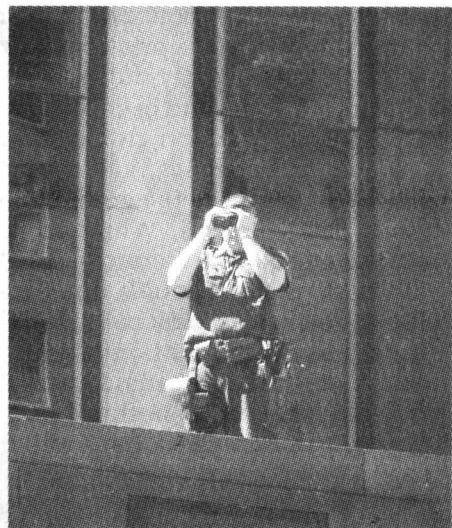


photo by Jessica Lee

A cop watches protesters from atop Madison Square Garden.



photo by Jessica Lee

A papier-mâché dragon burns in front of Madison Square Garden.

By Reason or Force

Chile Cracks Down on Mapuche Leaders, Anti-Plantation Activists

BY JASON TOCKMAN

Four indigenous activists in Chile and a supporter have each been sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of terrorism in relation to the Mapuche's struggle to reclaim lands seized by the Chilean state and by forestry companies, notably Arauco and Mininco (see *EF!* March-April 2004). They will join the growing list of Mapuche prisoners in Chilean jails, including community leaders—"Lonkos" in the Native language. While a dozen more Mapuche still await trial, some have gone into hiding to avoid facing a judicial system that they say "criminalizes the indigenous cause and has a racist bias against the Mapuche."

The five defendants were charged with "terrorist arson" under Pinochet-era anti-terrorist laws for allegedly setting fire to a Mininco pine plantation near the town of Ercilla in 2001. Once invoked, the laws allow the government to double jail sentences, conceal the identity of witnesses and withhold evidence from the defense. Punishment does not yield when the prison sentence is complete: The "terrorist" is then restricted from participating in trade unions, business ownership, public office, journalism and teaching.

"They say that we are 'terrorists' for defending our rights," said Pascual Pichún, 52, from a prison in Traiguén, where he

and fellow Lonko Aniceto Norín, 47, are being held for five years. "The plantations have greatly impacted the community. We have lost medicinal herbs, native forests and water. The fumigation of the tree plantations has polluted the water and contaminated the lands and animals."

After surveying the situation, a UN Special Rapporteur recommended that the state de-escalate its criminalization of the Mapuche, seek negotiated solutions and respect the rights of indigenous people. Chile has refused to comply.

Mapuche activists have killed no one in their contemporary, non-passive resistance to the incursions onto their lands. But Chile, dutifully following its national motto, "By Reason or Force," has been accelerating its efforts to crush the indigenous

movement. Two years ago, a police officer shot and killed 17-year-old Alex Lemun during a protest on a plantation near his community. No charges have been brought against the officer.

To express support for the Mapuche people, please write to Ricardo Lagos, president of Chile, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago, Chile. For more information, visit www.mapuchenation.org; www.mapuexpress.net.

Jason Tockman is a global justice activist living in Athens, Ohio. He can be contacted at tockman@riseup.net.



photo by Jason Tockman

Agents of repression on the march in Chile

FBI Interrogates Australian Journalist

BY EARTH LIBERATION PRISONERS

In June, an Australian radio broadcaster and human rights activist, who happens to be blind, flew to California to visit friends. Days after her arrival, she heard that a young man's home had been raided by 20 FBI agents, who questioned him about his activist activities and proceeded to make arrangements to have him go before a grand jury. It was alleged that the man was involved in the burning down of an apartment complex in San Diego, California (see *EF!* September-October 2003). The journalist tried to contact him, but she was told that he was so traumatized by the event that he could not appear on radio.

Having made her request to do the interview, the journalist herself became an FBI target. On July 19, she made preparations to leave California. Upon arriving at the airport, she had an eerie feeling that proved accurate when she attempted to board her plane and was stopped by a customs officer.

The officer took her passport and questioned its validity. Four FBI agents appeared and questioned the journalist

closely about her activist activities in Australia, asking if she was involved with any anarchist groups there. They asked if she was involved with the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). They also asked her about a number of people suspected of being ELF activists. She didn't know any of the people named. Her belongings were searched, but all the FBI found was a white cane, a studded belt, punk music and a heap of braille books. The agents said that they were searching her bags for bombs.

The journalist explained to them that this was harassment, and that it was ridiculous that they were asking her these questions. However, they tried to link her with the burning down of the San Diego apartment complex. Then they said that she should encourage others to come forward and "tell the truth." She was interrogated for at least 15 minutes, after which they let her go. The FBI agents informed her that such interviews are part of the preventative work the agency has focused on following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

I've noticed that above-ground activists with no connections to the Animal Liberation Front or the Earth Liberation Front are being harassed. Under the USA PATRIOT Act, can people who are vocally supportive of such groups be prosecuted?

—IS FREE SPEECH DEAD?

Dear Free Speech,

The primary weapon activists have against the government to maintain our right to vocally support whom we wish is the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which states, "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech." The First Amendment applies to each of the 50 state governments and clearly creates your right to state your support for the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). If a law conflicts with the First Amendment, that law—including the USA PATRIOT Act (UPA)—must give way and the reviewing court may strike that law out of existence.

Let's say you were at a protest and yelled, "I support the ELF!" within earshot of agents from the Department of Homeland Security, FBI or Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) or local police. Say that statement triggered an all-out government effort to persecute you using the UPA. The government can mess up your life through constant surveillance and repeated grand jury subpoenas and appearances if you are an effective communicator, but it will not be able to successfully convict you for your statements.

Here are seven UPA sections that the government might use in a desperate and futile attempt to intimidate you, the brave activist who will never be cowed. Before UPA Section 215, the FBI needed to describe to a judge how your library, bank, airline, video rental store, phone company, doctor or church (for example) contained evidence in its records that a federal crime had probably been committed. That library, etc. could tell you about the search. Under UPA Section 215, the FBI may conduct secret searches of your business records held by someone else by merely stating that its search is designed to protect against terrorism—you do not even need to be accused of being a criminal or a terrorist! This section sunsets in 2005.

Under UPA Section 505, any FBI field office may issue a National Security Letter (NSL) to any US citizen and require you to turn over any and all records, so long as the information is relevant to an ongoing terrorism investigation (even if you are not involved). You would not be allowed to let others know of the NSL, which no judge need approve. New York Federal District Court Judge Victor Marreo struck this section down on September 29, but has delayed enforcement pending an expected appeal from the government.

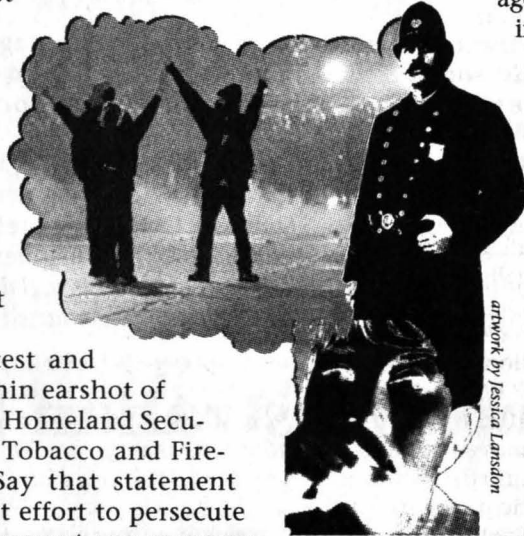
Before UPA Section 218, the federal government could conduct searches only in a very tiny number of cases, if it could convince a special secret court that foreign intelligence was the primary basis for the search and that the person whose records were searched was a foreign government agent. Information gained could be used for intelligence only. Under Section 218, there only has to be some "foreign intelligence reason" for the search (e.g., "drugs fund terrorism"), and anyone can be the subject. Information gained under Section 218 can be used to prosecute anyone, eliminating the barrier between intelligence and law enforcement.

Under UPA Section 213, the FBI/BATF may conduct secret searches in any situation, terrorism-related or not. UPA Section 216 allows the government to secretly monitor your Internet activities to learn who you are communicating with and visa versa. Section 216 broadens the scope of this monitoring to "any criminal investigation" and permits no judicial oversight. Before UPA Section 206, all wiretaps

had to be authorized for each specific phone or computer. After Section 206, the FBI can obtain secret "roving" wiretaps to spy on all phones, computers, etc. used by a particular person or entity, such as a library's public-use computers. This section sunsets in 2005. UPA Section 802 created the crime of "domestic terrorism," which is defined as any act that is "dangerous to human life" and that violates this country's criminal laws, if the actor intends to "influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion." This section sunsets in 2005.

Please work to kill the UPA by letting your congressperson know that the sunset provisions should actually sunset, by resisting grand juries and by proclaiming far and wide, "I SUPPORT THE ELF!"

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.



artwork by Jessica Lamsdon

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 Updates

• José Vélez Acosta, #23883-069, Federal Correctional Complex, US Penitentiary, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521-1033, USA. Serving two years and nine months for actions taken during a celebration of the end to the US Navy bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Acosta has been moved to the above address.

• William Frediani, Carcere Don Bosco, Via Don Bosco 43, 56100 Pisa, Italy. Frediani is a member of the eco-anarchist group *Il Silvestre*, which has recently come under intense government repression (see *EF!* September-October 2004). On July 30, 10 people associated with *Il Silvestre* had their houses raided; three were arrested. Two were placed under house arrest, and one of these, Francesco, escaped and is currently on the run. Frediani is now awaiting trial for promoting sabotage, participating in direct action and using firebombs.

• José Perez Gonzalez, #21519-069, Atlanta USP, POB 150160, Atlanta, GA 30315, USA. Serving five years for actions taken during a celebration of the end to the US Navy bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Gonzalez has been repeatedly placed in solitary confinement and transferred between prisons without the knowledge of his lawyer. He has been moved to the above address.

• Paul Holliday was released in July after serving four months for making phone calls to animal abusers, including Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

• Jemima Lamb, of North Coast Earth First!, was sentenced to 30 days in jail on August 17. She had locked herself to a school bus in order to blockade roads being used by Maxxam/Pacific Lumber, the company logging the Mattole watershed.

• 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. The oral arguments on Free's appeal have been postponed due to a recent US Supreme Court ruling that judges may not give sentences exceeding state guidelines. This ruling may imply that Free's sentence is not only excessive, but illegal.

• 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. He and another prisoner have filed a lawsuit against several government officials and agencies, alleging that their sentences were illegally extended and their parole denied for more than 10 years after it should have been granted. For more information, visit www.leonardpeltier.org.

• Alessio Perondi, Via Pianezza 300, 10151 Torino, Italy. Perondi has been moved to the above address. He is awaiting trial for promoting sabotage and participating in direct action. Like William Frediani, he is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

• Tre Arrow, c/o Rudy Kischer, Embarkation Law Group, 609 W Hastings St, Sixth Floor, Vancouver, BC V6B 4W4, Canada. Awaiting hearing on possible extradition to the US to stand trial for alleged involvement in arsons on logging trucks and an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson on vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. Arrow is also awaiting trial for charges of shoplifting and providing a false name in Canada. He has applied for refugee status to prevent his extradition. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

• William "Billy" Cottrell, #29526112, Metropolitan Detention Center, POB 1500,

Los Angeles, CA 90053, USA. Awaiting trial for alleged involvement in a series of ELF actions that damaged approximately 125 SUVs. His trial is scheduled to begin October 26. For more information, visit www.freebillycottrell.org.

• Ibai Ederra, Carcel de Pamplona, C/ San Roque Apdo 250, 31080-Iruñez Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Awaiting sentencing for sabotaging a dam construction site.

• Manase Furima, Lembaga Pemasarakatan Manokwari, Jl. Sabang No 4, Manokwari, Papua, Indonesia. Awaiting trial for taking part in a road blockade to prevent illegal logging.

• Matius Nasira, Lembaga Pemasarakatan Manokwari, Jl. Sabang No 4, Manokwari, Papua, Indonesia. Awaiting trial for taking part in a road

blockade to prevent illegal logging.

• Sergio Maria Stefani, c.c. Regina Coeli, via della Lungara 29, 00165 Roma, Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly damaging fur stores and butcher shops and for involvement in the planting of an incendiary device outside a butcher shop. Also accused of involvement in a letter-bombing campaign.

• Helen Woodson, #03231-045, c/o Bates County Jail, POB 60, Butler, MO 64730, USA. Awaiting sentencing for parole violations, including dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. Woodson recently completed 20 years for disarming a Minuteman II missile silo with a jackhammer, mailing warning letters to officials with bullets inside, robbing a bank and burning the money.

Animal Liberation

• Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Bullingdon, Oxfordshire OX6 0PZ, UK. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab supplier and

continued on next page



continued from previous page

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 Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Hull, Hedon Rd, Hull HU9 5LS, UK. Serving 2.5 years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

Ecodefense

•Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky, Valiuk for Bandazhevsky Y.I., 231318 Grodnenskaya oblast, Lidski raion, Peskovtsy ul. Oktiabrskaya, 2, Belarus. Currently at a penal colony after serving 3.5 years for telling the world that the nuclear radiation around Chernobyl was worse than the Belarus government reported. His sentence is eight years, but he is expected to be paroled in December.

•Marco Camenisch, Postfach 3143, CH-8105 Regensdorf, Switzerland. Serving 27 years for using explosives to target nuclear facility powerlines and for the alleged murder of a Swiss border guard, which he denies. He reads French, German, Spanish and Italian.

•Angela Marie Cesario, #66522-065, Federal Prison Camp Dublin, 5675 8th St, Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA. Serving three years and five months for arson of logging trucks in Oregon.

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

•Craig "Critter" Marshall, #13797662, SRCI, 777 Stanton Blvd, Ontario, OR 97914, USA. Serving 5.5 years for conspiracy to commit arson and possession of incendiary devices to destroy SUVs.

•Jeremy Rosenbloom, #66521-065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Serving three years and five months for arson of logging trucks in Oregon.

•John Wade, #38548-083, FCI Petersburg Low, POB 1000, Petersburg, VA 23804, USA. Serving three years for a series of ELF actions against McDonald's, Burger King, urban sprawl, the construction industry and an SUV dealership.

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.

MOVE

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

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

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

•Edward Goodman Africa, #AM4974, SCI Mahanoy, 301 Morea Rd, Frackville, PA 17931, USA.



artwork courtesy www.crit-f.org

•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, #T90251/D3-140, 44750 W 60th St, Lancaster, CA 93536, USA. Lamont, an Earth First!er, is serving three years for possession of an incendiary device.

•Robert Thaxton, #12112716, MCCF, 4005 Aumsville Hwy, Salem, OR 97301, USA. Thaxton, aka Rob Los Ricos, is 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.

•Néstor de Jesús Guishard, #21716-069, MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147. Serving one year and two months.

•José Montañez Sanes, #26317-069, MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147. Serving one year and six months.

•Jorge Cruz, #26318-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving one year and six 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.

announcements

Feral Visions Fall Tour

November 2004 • Eastern/Midwest US

The goal of the Feral Visions tour is to inspire and empower participants to break down the layers of alienation at work in our lives that keep us dependent on complex industrial and social systems. By showing examples of people attempting to live outside of these systems, including a slideshow on rewilding, radical homesteading and realizing our wildest dreams, Feral Visions hopes to plant seeds of rebellious renewal.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, contact Feral Visions, (866) 460-2945; crazgnat@yahoo.com; www.wildroots.org.

Demand Liberation: Student Animal Rights Conferences

November and February

Ready to take action with other young activists in your region? Want to find out more about how to build up your group at school? The Student Animal Rights Alliance is inviting you to attend Demand Liberation: Regional Student Animal Rights Action Conferences. Registration is \$10 in advance, \$20 at the door. Yummy vegan lunches and snacks are included.

November 6-7—Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; November 13-14—Boston, Massachusetts;

February 5-6—Gainesville, Florida; February 12-13—Austin, Texas; February 19-20—Minneapolis, Minnesota.

For more information, visit www.defendanimals.org.

Fossil Creek Flows Again!

December 31 • Northern Arizona

You're invited to a special New Year's celebration—the return of full flows to Fossil Creek. On September 15, 2000, an historic agreement was signed between Arizona Public Service, American Rivers, the Center for Biological Diversity, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Northern Arizona Audubon Society, Arizona Riparian Council, Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy that declared: "Arizona Public Service shall cease generating power and restore full

flows to Fossil Creek not later than December 31, 2004." Come witness and enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event! Buses will be departing from Flagstaff, Phoenix and Tucson. For more information, contact the Center for Biological Diversity, (602) 628-9909.

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival

February 17-23 • Missoula, Montana

The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival is the principal venue for nonfiction film

bigsky@highplainsfilms.org;
www.bigskyfilmfest.org.

Rebel Folk Press

Rebel Folk Press is a group of rascals aiming to create and distribute agitation-art far and wide—including radical music, books, zines, movement(s), herstory, feelings, ideas and infectious laughter.

Rebel Folk is a work-in-progress publishing project of music, printed matter and more, to scatter seeds of resistance

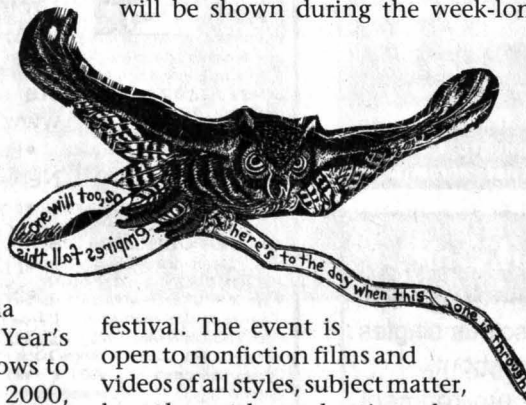
Earth First! Organizers' Conference/Winter Rendezvous



Juniper Highlands, Chuk'shon and Phoenix EF! invite you for a weekend of strategizing and organizing in the warm Southwest! The main goal of this Winter gathering will be for EF!ers to evaluate our organizing, our action styles and the character and culture of our collectives to see where we can improve in creating an inclusive, welcoming culture that sustains activism for all of us in the long term. For more information, contact (520) 792-6472; az_earth_first@hotmail.com.

February 19-22 • Southern Arizona

in the American West. More than 75 films, including world and US premiers, classics, and rare and experimental works will be shown during the week-long



festival. The event is open to nonfiction films and videos of all styles, subject matter, lengths and production dates. Awards will be given for best feature documentary, best short documentary and best documentary about the American West.

For more information, contact Doug Hawes-Davis, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, 131 S Higgins Ave, Ste 201, Missoula, MT 59802; (406) 728-0753;

and see that they take root. In 2001, Rebel Folk published *Hootenanny*, a songbook of radical campfire songs. The Biotic Baking Brigade's edible manifesto *Pie Any Means Necessary* was recently co-published with AK Press.

For more information, contact Rebel Folk Press, POB 40130, San Francisco, CA 94140; whatup@rebelfolk.org; www.rebelfolk.org.

Break the Chains #19 Now Available

This issue includes: Reports on the June 12th Day of Action in Solidarity with Jeff "Free" Luers; "Black, Gay, Bi and Transgender" by Eric Johnson; "The Mexican Role in Imperial Conquest" by Benny Tapia; "It's Time for Change" by anarchist political prisoner Matthew Lamont, plus lots of news and analysis about political prisoners and the struggle against the prison system. To order, send three dollars to Break the Chains, POB 12122, Eugene, OR 97440 (free for prisoners in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington).



Wildroots

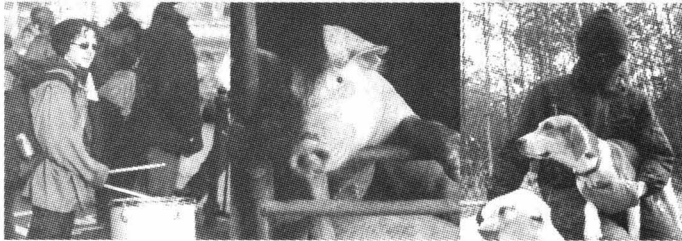
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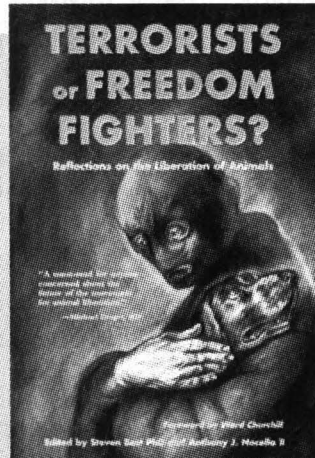
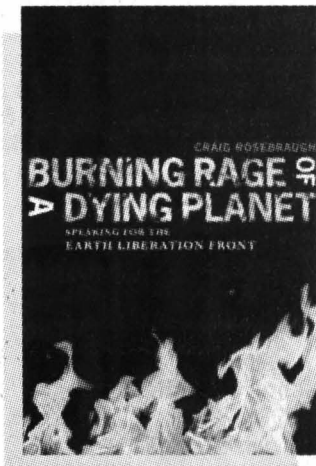
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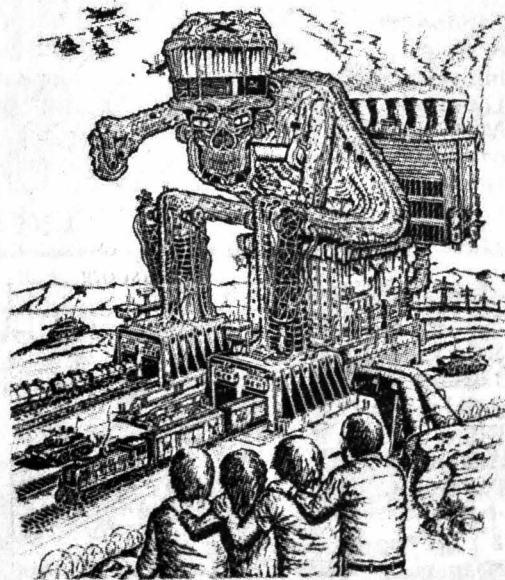
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Terrorism, the Law and Guilt by Association

BY HELEN WOODSON

In March, after 20 years in prison, I immediately did several actions highlighting deadly connections, including those between war and the destruction of the natural world. I am now awaiting sentencing for destruction of government property, threatening communications and violations of the terms of my release (see *EF!* May-June 2004).

Recently, I received my Presentence Investigation Report (PSI). A section of the PSI devoted to my "group and associate affiliations" says that I am considered an "imprisoned terrorist." Three of my alleged affiliations are grouped together—Earth First!, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF)—all believed to be dangerous. The ELF is singled out as "one of the nation's most prolific domestic terrorist organizations."

Until recently, both state and federal courts could use such information as an "aggravating factor" warranting "upward departure" in sentencing. However, in June, the US Supreme Court ruled in *Blakely v. Washington* (124 S. Ct. 2531) that only factors proved in court can be considered. Allegations of "terrorist group affiliation" or "federal crime of terrorism" will have to be made in the indictment or plea agreement, as will the many other factors previously introduced at the last minute in a variety of cases.

Everyone in legal jeopardy should be aware of *Blakely* and two related cases that the Supreme Court will hear in October. The government has reasons for alleging a "terrorist group association" that potentially affect others as well.

The PSI does not say that I claimed responsibility for my actions in the name of the ELF. It is "guilt by association" like that used in the 1950s to target communists and, post 9/11, to go after Muslim individuals and Islamic groups. Often, the victims are just people interested in, concerned with or supportive of causes or movements. Sometimes, it's complete happenstance.

In the 1950s, people were targeted as "communist sympathizers" because they

had attended a meeting, subscribed to a periodical or socialized with a suspect person. As a 17-year-old college freshman with no political connections, I signed a petition only to later learn that all of us were being investigated because it was alleged that the Communist Party had supplied the paper that the student group had printed its petition on. My photo was taken at a state legislature session because the man seated in front of me in the gallery was allegedly a communist, and I had briefly conversed with him.

I think it's safe to assume that there is even more paranoia now in the hunt for "terrorists." Surveillance techniques are far more sophisticated, and the consequences of even the most innocent connection can be dire. As always, the goal is to frighten and divide people, weaken movements and encourage denunciation and betrayal. Historically, it has worked.

I am expected to appeal the PSI "terrorist group affiliation." If it goes unchallenged, I am considered to have acceded to it, and it could be used against me in the future. Even more, I am expected to want it off of my record because my actions have a religious foundation, and this association

could "tarnish my image." I suggest that the best response is to do just the opposite, not with a meaningless display of unanimity, but with a respectful acknowledgement and acceptance of differences in orientation and approach.

The real terrorism is the destruction wreaked by US government, military, corporate and economic power. It is what the writer Arundhati Roy calls "the arrogance of the human race toward other living things, which will probably be the ultimate undoing of the human species."

It is those opposing that arrogant power who are acting responsibly and with integrity. It is a richly varied community of conscience, and for my part, affiliation with EF!, the ALF and the ELF is one that I am happy to embrace, clearly and publicly.

Write to Helen Woodson, #03231-045, Bates County Jail, POB 60, Butler, MO 64730.





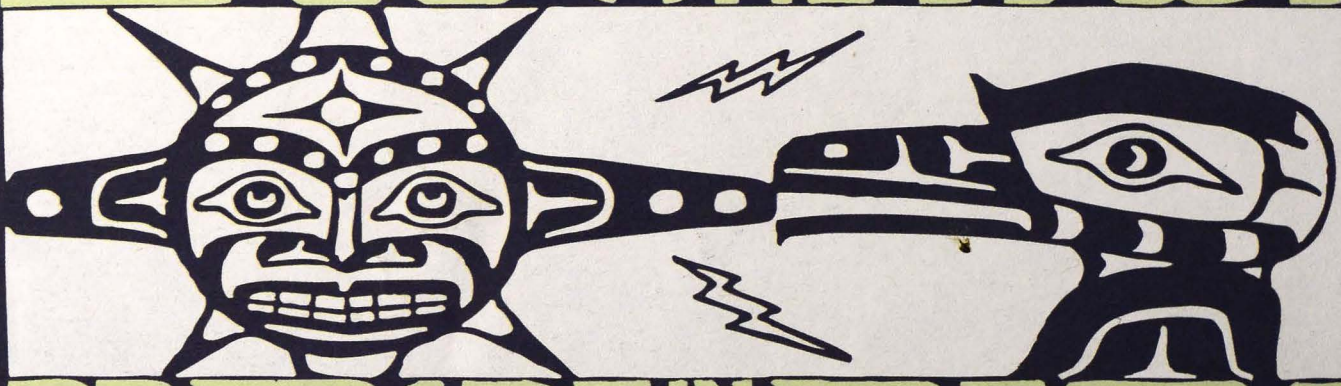
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