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Biscuit Heats Up · ELF Hits Sacramento · Liberators in Trouble · Gateway to Hell

Earth First!

The Radical Environmental Journal
Beltane May-June 2005



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DEFEND OUR MOUNTAINS! NO TOWERS!



ON JULY 8, 2001 FIVE INCHES OF HEAVY RAINS HIT SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA AND SIX PEOPLE DIED IN THE FLOODS. 1500 HOMES WERE DESTROYED. MANY FLOOD VICTIMS POINT THE FINGER AT MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL AS THE CAUSE OF THIS DEVASTATING FLOOD. FEDERAL STUDIES SUPPORT THESE CLAIMS.



SUMMER
2005

BEFORE THIS HAPPENS
AGAIN!

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SUMMER

Earth



First!

Beltane May-June 2005

The Radical Environmental Journal

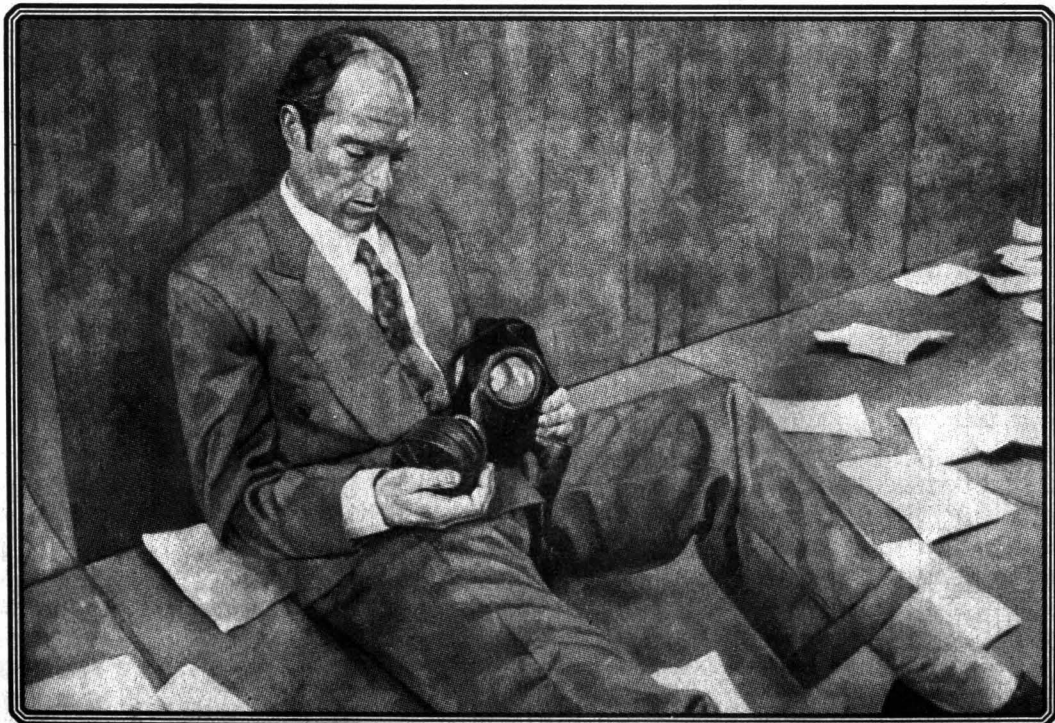
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THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.....	3
RESISTANCE HEATS UP IN THE BISCUIT.....	6
WHY I AM A FOREST DEFENDER.....	7
ELF ARSON AGAINST SACRAMENTO SPRAWL.....	9
COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE ELF.....	9
PETER YOUNG ARRESTED AFTER SEVEN YEARS.....	10
ALF RAID IN HONOR OF PETER YOUNG.....	10
ARIZONA WILDLIFE AND CEF! UNDER ATTACK.....	11
THE BULLSHIT THAT MUST END: TWO RESPONSES.....	12
GATEWAY TO HELL.....	16
MOST WANTED ECOTERRORISTS: CHIMERAS.....	18
DEFENDING HEALTHY FORESTS.....	20
HIT 'EM WHERE IT HURTS: COUNTER-RECRUITMENT.....	22
ORGANIZERS' CONFERENCE RECAP.....	24
2005 ROUND RIVER RENDEVOUS SPECIAL INSTERT.....	25
MURDER AND LAND IN BRAZIL.....	34
MASSACRE IN BRAZIL.....	36
BIODIESEL: SALVATION OR DISASTER?.....	40
MAXXAM EXTORTS MORE LOGGING.....	42
THE FOREST FOR THE TREES REVIEW.....	43

CONFESSIONS OF AN ECONOMIC HITMAN REVIEW.....	44
STATE OF FEAR REVIEW.....	44
PRISONER SUPPORT WORKS: JOSH DEMMIT SUPPORT GROUP.....	46
FREE FELIPE ARREAGA SÁNCHEZ.....	47
JEFF 'FREE' LUERS WEEKEND OF RESISTANCE.....	56

Sections

DEAR SFB: LETTERS TO THE EDITORS.....	4
FAUNA CABALA.....	5
BARE BONES.....	17
FRONTLINES.....	20
ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD.....	33
ARMED WITH VISIONS.....	38
ASK AN EF! LAWYER.....	45
PRISONERS IN THE STRUGGLE.....	48
ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	50
SUBSCRIPTION FORM.....	53
EF! DIRECTORY.....	54



Front & Back Covers: EFlers block access to the Fiddler Timber Sale in Oregon. See story page 6.

The Trials We Endure

For the past few months, the impending trials of three of our close friends have been dominating our lives. Two of them are charged with state and federal offenses for defending mountain lions from hunters, while another faces fabricated felonies for marching in the streets of New York during the Republican National Convention.

Neither of us has ever had to deal with this kind of risk to a friend before, or the roller coaster of worry, anger, helplessness and desperate hope that goes along with it. Now we, and they, have had to face consistently changing court dates, new charges, travel restrictions and having to say goodbye for an out-of-state trial. It's been hard for us to wrap our minds around the possibility that we could actually lose people who are such an intricate part of our daily lives. These are the people who we care for, give and receive support with, laugh and cry with.

The only thing that has ever made us feel this powerless is having loved ones in the grip of an incurable disease. But while we could never put a face on the source of our loved ones' sickness, in this case the faces are all too clear. Legions of prosecutors and feds want to take our friends away from us, and there is little we can do to stop it.

Working on this issue of the *Journal* has reminded us that we're not the only ones losing loved ones. Peter Young, Ryan Lewis, Josh Demmitt and Felipe Arreaga Sánchez are all imprisoned for actions that harmed no one. Meanwhile, people in Brazil struggling for a place to live and grow food have been massacred by military police.



What is the point at which we stop putting up with this?

This experience has made it clear to us that the system has no restraint. It has no interest in compromise or dialogue. It will fabricate testimony, distort the truth beyond recognition and then demand that we call it "your honor."

Now, we are not violent people. We do not seek out enemies or struggle. But we know of only one way to respond to something that declares war on the ones that we love, and that is to acknowledge it as an enemy and to treat it as such.

Imagine that a friend of yours is in the hospital, succumbing to a seemingly unstoppable disease; imagine now that you could actually get your hands on the source of their sickness. What would you do?

—LENNY AND OSKAR

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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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THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

In a small but committed movement like ours, it is critical that we support each other. Many times, at Rendezvous and in the pages of the *Earth First! Journal*, EF!ers have discussed the importance of supporting our prisoners, looking out for friends and assisting allies who may, at times, differ from us in philosophy. It is in this spirit that we are proud to produce the *Journal* as a resource for your groups.

We aim to provide a forum where you can read about pressing issues and inspiring direct actions, and can discuss philosophy, strategy and tactics. The *Journal* is also committed to providing discounted subscriptions to prisoners and EF! groups.

But we need your support.

We run the *Journal* on a very low budget, cutting as many corners as we can without compromising the quality you have come to expect. In the past, members of the editorial collective have even lent their monthly stipends to help the *Journal* make ends meet; some former editors are now owed as many as seven back paychecks. This carried us along for a while, but now our

financial situation is rapidly becoming unsustainable. In the past several months, we actually managed to break even, in part because we have been operating without a full collective—meaning increasing responsibilities and strain for our few long-term editors. Now, with additions to the long-term staff, it will be even more of a stretch to cover all of our costs.

We know that many of our readers do not have a lot of money. But this is a serious situation, and we hope that you will all step up and do something to help the *Journal*. Our goal is not just to keep the *Journal* afloat. We want to solidly establish it as a sustainable publication. Ultimately, it's the *Journal's* monthly income that needs to increase, not just the amount that comes in from our twice-a-year fundraising letters.

There are lots of ways you can help. You could hold a benefit for the *Journal*, or send us some of the proceeds from one of your own fundraisers. EF! groups can also take advantage of our wholesale merchandise rates, or they can sell sub-

scriptions to the *Journal* and keep five dollars per sub.

If you have a more established income, you could increase the amount or frequency of your donations. Buy a subscription for your library. Get all your friends hooked on the *Journal*, and pressure your local bookstores to carry it. A wider circulation doesn't just help us financially, it spreads EF!'s empowering philosophy of biocentric direct action.

We really don't like taking up this space to ask for money. Requests of this kind have appeared in the *Journal* very rarely. We wouldn't make one now if things weren't truly serious.

We are committed to continue putting out the high-quality publication you've come to expect, one that we can be proud to associate with the name Earth First!. We hope that you, in return, can commit to helping us cover the costs of doing so.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact us at POB 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702; (520) 620-6900; collective@earthfirstjournal.org.

In Solidarity,
—EF! *Journal* Collective



Dear Shit fer Brains



Dear SFB,

I came to the Winter Organizers' Conference expecting open workshops, where everyone could hold a workshop on any subject. Instead, the whole schedule was decided beforehand and over two days, six hours of it was devoted to workshops on "fear and alienation," a workshop administered by two individuals. I heard that it was their very first EF! event ever. They informed us that all of us suffered "fear and alienation" and they were on a tour to help people overcome this. One of the two started the conference with a poem about the failed revolution and extolled George Jackson—a very subjective view of "the revolution" to say the least. We just basically fell in line to confirm to being fearful and alienated out of group think; "herd mentality" (it's not what I came for). Organizing conferences are usually just that: for organizing. We come together to shape and disseminate information on different bioregions so people know what's going on and make decisions based on that shared information. We did a little of that but not much, no introduction on the history of EF! as usual and the RRR was decided on before we got there. I hear that's because the previous RRR decided not enough people showed up at the OC to make the decision. At least 60 people showed up, enough to keep going from one event to the next as usual. Other than that the Dragoons were beautiful, awesome, magnificent as was the whole area. Overall I'm glad I came.

—SAN FRANCISCO DON

Warmest of Greetings,

I hope that all is well there with everyone and their

loved ones and with the health of the magazine. The info provided within its pages is worth far more than the price of the subscription.

I do not know the identity of the person whose kindness is responsible for providing me with this magazine—but I can only hope that whoever that staff person was does read this.

You (whoever you are) have made a friend for life—which embraces the magazine—be assured that upon my release or first opportunity I will be a lifelong supporter and subscriber. I have since the 1960s been a green radical—though somewhat out of touch with the movement. But now thanks to your goodwill I am coming up to date.

I cannot thank you enough for caring and just for being a part of the magazine and the movement. You are a good heart and without even knowing you on a personal level I can safely say: I love you I love your spirit and the world is a better place for you having lived in it.

Take care.

Your brother in spirit,

—CHARLES

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

Dear Seal Shit for Brains,

I am usually impressed with EF!J, but the Sea Shepherd interview was a letdown (see EF!J March-April 2005). It did not hold Sea Shepherd accountable to its mission. Instead, it

enabled Sea Shepherd's Alex Cornelissen to state conjecture as fact and make subjective judgment calls to justify a relatively pointless action.

While I do not disagree with Cornelissen's critique of Canada's seal hunt, he does not make a scientific case that the hunt is threatening the marine ecosystem, just that killing is gruesome. Although Sea Shepherd states upholding international laws as part of its mission, Cornelissen did not offer any legal justification for stopping the seal hunt. The action on the ice struck me as a waste of resources for little gain; it looks like a publicity stunt to garner financial support at best, incite mob action against poor people at worst.

Issues of greater importance demand action. In terms of legal justification, there are myriad aspects of the US's Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) being violated by pernicious activities such as the use of Low Frequency Active Sonar (LFAS), aquaculture and land-based industrial pollution.

Every time the US Navy and NATO test LFAS—the loudest sound ever produced by humans, a sonic club—it hammers the delicate sensory organs of whales, dolphins and other marine life within hundreds, possibly thousands, of miles. The National Marine Fisheries Service used the MMPA to stop LFAS testing in New England waters. Elsewhere however, this and other laws are being overridden in

the interest of "National Security." Where is Sea Shepherd?

Salmon farmers shoot seals. The seals are attracted to the densely packed salmon cages and then killed. Mid-water trawlers harvest thousands of tons of forage fish annually to feed the salmon, depriving wild marine life of a valuable food source. The trawlers also have a substantial bycatch of seals, dolphins, and the occasional whale. Where is Sea Shepherd?

Industrial pollution has turned beluga whales at the mouth of the Sanguanay River in Quebec into the most toxic marine mammals in North America. Agricultural runoff has turned an area the size of Connecticut (and growing) at the mouth of the Mississippi River into a biological Dead Zone.

The ability of the oceans to support life is rapidly being undermined, and where is Sea Shepherd? Like the establishment agencies that "Enforce The Laws," Sea Shepherd apparently prefers to harass poor folks whose behavior is symptomatic of much bigger problems. Considering what we're up against, we cannot squander resources alienating what should be our constituency. Sea Shepherd's supporters need to demand more thoughtful action.

Yours for the earth and sea,

—G. DE LAMAR

Dear SFB,

I just wanted to say that the author of "The Peace that

Keep letters to 300 words or less!

Must End" is clearly suffering from a common case of white guilt and self-loathing (see *EF!* March-April 2005). I think that if he became a deeper shade of green, he might become the radical "no-compromise" activist we so desperately need.

As it stands, he's content to waste space publicly displaying his self-flagellation, and reminds me of so many liberal whites who are more concerned with "recovering" from the addiction to racism than they are with the stark issues of environmental degradation. He's about as radical as my city's leftist counselor in charge of the recycling program.

I am sorry he does not approve of deep greens or those in favor of biocultural integrity. (Yes, I confess, I'm one of those dreaded White Nationalists who is concerned with maintaining biodiversity in all lifeforms.) The author is wrong to say that we feel that "the Earth on this side of the razor wire is more valuable than the rest." Actually, we're just as troubled by the pollution in Mexico City and the environmental record of China as we are with the problems in our own backyard. White Nationalists (WNs) (a more accurate term, since we are not White Supremacists) are quite capable of understanding the interconnectedness of the planet's biosphere.

You don't have to worry about encouraging WN's to throw wrenches into the system. In an era of a welcomed increase in tribalism, our revolutionary spirit is growing. WN ecovillages are being constructed as I write. And guess what? We're already by your side confronting "ExxonMobil and the US Forest Service."

And another thing, who isn't against over-population? The author's pathetic position seems to be: "Let's not engage in any 'racial profiling' because that might be misconstrued. Let's just sit back while

those intent on breeding the planet into oblivion continue on their merry way." Yes, I'll come out and say that the over-breeders happen to be non-white. Such breeding amounts to crimes against all of life on this planet. We should be handing out birth control and access to abortions for free! But I guess only a fiendish Nazi would advocate such a view.

The author "Problem Animal"—and too many who claim to be environmentalists—needs to look at reality, and not be consumed with his own private dreams of Utopia, in which all ethnic groups get along peacefully, and for all of eternity.

—GLORIA DE LIO

Dear SFB,

Thank you for publishing the long-overdue "The Peace that Must End: White Supremacy and Ecology." I imagine some *EF!*ers will freak out upon reading this article, which explores the relationship between racism and environmental destruction. Hopefully, those who feel defensive will look at the issues raised as an educational gift—we should be grateful for powerful voices challenging all kinds of injustice. In order to figure out what role radical (white) activists might play in challenging the white supremacist, ecocidal culture there are a few further areas I believe we need to explore. This includes understanding the ways in which people of color have been and continue to be dispossessed of land, particularly in rural areas. From racist agriculture subsidies to discriminatory lending practices, corporate and governmental programs promote white-washing in land ownership. Activists need to both understand the mechanisms of industry, which disproportionately locate toxic factories in communities of color, as well as examine why so many (white) environmental groups have

not responded to this reality and the underlying dehumanization that makes it possible. Finally, I love hiking in wilderness and breathing (relatively) clean air, and I am grateful to all who strive to protect lands. I recognize that in many parts of the country it is not safe for people of color to venture out into the woods because racist intimidation and brutality are all too common.

Our struggles will gain more potency when they are accessible for all to join. In the urgency to respond to every assault and crisis we must endeavor to look at our own racism and find ways to challenge all colonial influences in our thoughts and actions. With solidarity for all peoples we will increase the possibility of defending the planet and all its inhabitants.

—MAXINE WEINSTEIN



BY DR. FAITH M. WALKER

Fauna: n. Animal life.

Cabala: n. An esoteric, secret matter or mysterious art.

Immaculate tits get the chicks. Great Tits (*Parus major*), European woodland passerines, come decked out with two fundamental feathery features: white cheek patches and a black breast stripe. In a titillating and provocative display, a male points his breast forward and bill heavenward, and then proceeds to turn one cheek and then the other toward his lass or rival. Tits are impressed by the immaculateness of cheek patches—in other words, how sharp and regular their borders are. This signals his quality as a mate and as a combatant, because uneven borders indicate worn or damaged feathers. Such blowzy borders are a symptom of lice or poor fighting ability, since males peck at each other's patches. Tits with messy faces are harassed and driven from the best food sources, meaning that they search longer for tucker and thus often become food items themselves.

Females are also impressed by the size of a male tit's breast stripe. Those with substantial stripes are dynamo dads, being more defensive of the nest and attentive to their fledglings. Further, the benefit is genetic: Females lucky enough to pair with an attractively breasted beau have sexier sons, who eventually become cheeky chested studmuffins themselves.

Thus, all this flaunting and judging of bodies, currently occurring across Europe, is an excellent example of an honest sexual signal involving parts of the body that are subject to wear and tear in all but the most robust individuals.



Resistance Heats Up

In The BISCUIT

BY TINDER

In the wild Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon, resistance is growing to the largest logging project in modern US Forest Service (USFS) history (see *EF!* January-February 2004). The 2002 Biscuit Fire, a natural event that burned and cleansed the southern Siskiyou, is now being used as a poster child for the Bush administration's environmental policies. The USFS would

like us to think that the fire burned the Biscuit to a crisp, leaving a dead land in its wake. On the contrary, while it did burn hot and hard in some places, it burned in a mosaic pattern. The land is now ready for regeneration.

On March 7, logging was scheduled to begin in the Fiddler Timber Sale, just outside the 179,000-acre Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. Totalling 697 acres, or 14.7 million board feet, the sale is comprised entirely of Late Successional Reserve—"old-growth"—forests. USFS documentation reveals that it has taken 20 years to reestablish conifers on previously logged areas in the region, due to the steep terrain and dry, rocky soils.

Many of the Biscuit timber sales are in roadless areas or Late Successional Reserves, which are usually restricted from logging under the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. But after a fire, these areas are unprotected and open for extraction. While plans like the Healthy Forests Initiative seek to transform naturally burned areas into logged plantations, other people



Stumptown EF! blocks traffic in front of the Portland, Oregon, US Forest Service headquarters.

invested in the future of the forests aren't afraid of fire. We respect an intact ecosystem to take care of itself, burning and regenerating as part of its incredibly complex life cycle, and we aren't about to let these wild places be destroyed.

Holding the Line

In the dawn of March 7, a cavalcade of loggers, USFS officers and Josephine County sheriffs drove up USFS Road 4201 to the "Green Bridge" crossing over the Illinois River, only to encounter with 100 people blocking the

way. After holding the cavalcade off for an hour, preventing all access to the Fiddler sale units, the crowd was ordered to disperse. Seventy-two-year-old Joan Norman, however, remained seated in her chair on the bridge. "We have no laws in our forest so we will be the law," said Norman, before she was arrested.

A few miles up the road, above the fog of the Illinois River valley, the trucks were greeted by yet another road blockade. Earth Firsters had parked a broken-down Dodge on a tight mountainside curve, blocking

photos courtesy Rogue Valley Indymedia

the majority of the roadway. The remaining few feet of the roadside had been ripped apart, leaving the sale inaccessible. One woman had U-locked her neck to the steering wheel of the Dodge, while two others had their arms secured in lock boxes running through the underside of the truck and secured into cement buried in the gravel road.

When police arrived, they closed the road for 1,000 feet on both sides of the blockade. Those who remained at the blockade sat peacefully in the road but were violently arrested. The police tore the trapezius muscle of one man's right shoulder and cracked his head against his knees while loading him into the paddy wagon. They took a grinder to the steering wheel to remove the woman in the driver's seat. The two activists under the vehicle decided to unlock when, at great risk to their safety, a tow truck began to lift the Dodge above them. By the time vehicles began to drive through, logging had been delayed for a total of three and a half hours.

Every morning, people at the Green Bridge basecamp woke to greet the loggers on their way up the road, and on March 9 the long train of trucks was once again halted at the bridge. Two people sat in the road with their necks U-locked together, and an additional 15 people blocked the road. After the first USFS vehicle came to a halt, one person climbed underneath it and locked his arms around the driveshaft. Everyone who chose to remain on the bridge was eventually arrested. The two activists who were locked together were cut apart and the person under the truck was tortured with various pain-compliance tactics until he unlocked himself.

The logging on March 9 had been successfully delayed for three hours.

As local support grew and more people came to the camp, national attention focused on the campaign from radio, television and print, as well as many national forest-protection groups. The Siskiyou Project held a rally at the Green Bridge, with 100 people in attendance, and announced that a treesit had been erected in Sale Unit Five. The treesit, named "Perusha," was perched 80 feet up, in a scorched, but healthy 300-year-old

continued on next page

Why I Am a Forest Defender

BY JOAN NORMAN

FROM AN INTERVIEW BY Z

Joan Norman, 72, has participated in the civil rights, anti-Vietnam War, anti-nuclear and anti-globalization movements during her 40 years as an activist. On March 7, she was arrested for blocking a bridge that leads into the Fiddler Timber Sale.

I am not afraid. I am 75 years old. Do you know what this culture has in store for me, an old woman? They will wait for me to be sick at the end of my life and then strap me to feeding tubes, pump deadly drugs into me, put me on a machine to make my lungs go up and down and wait for me to die. I am not bound to go out that way. No, I would rather go out in a blaze, defending the world I love. I will be on the frontlines someday, and my soul will know the time to go, and I will just leave. I will make that decision. Knowing this, I am not afraid. I am more afraid that my grandchildren will think I did not try hard enough to leave them a legacy of peace and a world worth living in.

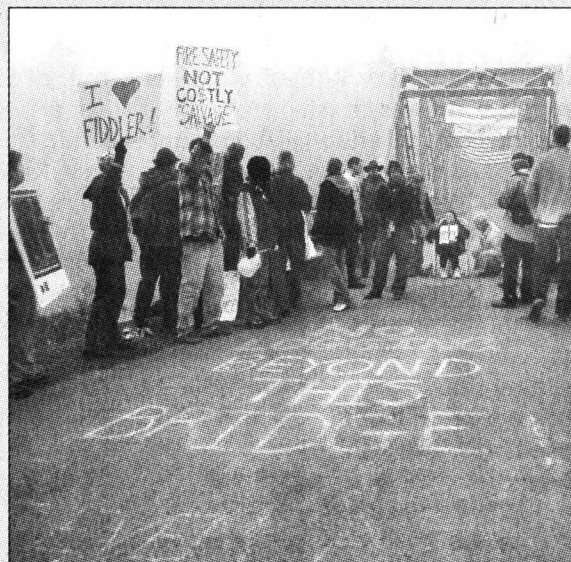
When it comes time to resist, I just do it. I sit down, and I don't move. I hold my own sovereign space and self in that spot.

Last Monday, they came and removed me from the bridge I was blocking by carrying me in my chair to the edge of the sheriff's vehicle. They put me down there and thought I would stay put. Then the officers went off to arrest someone else. I got up and moved my chair back to my space, my sovereign space. An officer yelled, "Hey, you are not supposed to do that! Get back over where I put you." I just laughed. People have been trying to get me to be where they put me all

my life. I have a right to stand up against evil, and I will.

This fight to save the forests came to me through my grandson. I was not much of an outdoors person. I had never had a chance to live near and explore a truly wild place. My grandson lived on the edge of a forest. He spent from early in the morning to nightfall exploring it.

He said, "Grandma, it's so beautiful and amazing in the forest, you have to come with me so I can show you." So I went with him. It was



The Green Bridge, leading into the Fiddler Timber Sale, was the site of numerous blockades in March.

hard for my old bones and joints. I had to try to go up these steep paths and over logs on the trail, but I did. And what he showed me was just so amazing.

We should all go into the forest with young children. They see it as it is meant to be seen, with the innocence of a being still connected to the Earth. They see it the way humans lived it for thousands of years. I can only say that you cannot read about nature and wild places, you have to go there. And once you do, no threat of jail will keep you from preserving them. We need to stand up and protect these places. This is why, at this time of my life, after all I have tried to defend, I am a forest defender.

continued from previous page

Douglas-fir. The sit was occupied for about a week, until most of the unit had been felled.

As dawn broke on March 14, the party of trucks was once again stopped at the Green Bridge—this time by 70 women blocking the way. As the trucks waited for law enforcement to arrive, the women on the bridge sang songs and danced behind an altar of fallen cedar boughs, glowing candles and serpentine rock cairns. After law enforcement ordered the group to disperse, 15 women in black remained seated, in addition to nine-months-pregnant Stacy Williams, her midwife and her support team. Behind the women, a lifeline reached across the roadway and over the side of the bridge, suspending a woman in a pod and a banner declaring: "Unit Cutting Boundary-Salvage is a Hoax." Everyone but Stacy Williams and her support team was arrested.

Before being taken to jail, community elder and activist Dot Fisher Smith, 76, said: "We are united in a historic confrontation, and we are wearing black today in solidarity with the blackened trees; to give voice to the voiceless. These grandmother trees must not be violently ripped from the Earth. Those trees want to fulfill their birthright by providing shade and shelter and retaining moisture for the newly regenerating forest, as has occurred naturally for countless thousands of years."

A camper up the hill who was sympathetic to the loggers, and whose campsite had been sort of a

staging area for the logging, hopped in his truck and started down the mountain to pick up loggers and taxi them to the sale units. Before he got to the Green Bridge, he was stopped by three women locked down in the road and by boulders littered across his path.

After all the women in the road had been arrested, police wandered

around and glared at the pod. After scratching their heads for a couple of hours, they called in search and rescue teams, who deployed a zodiac in the river to disengage the pod. When the road was finally cleared, 20 women had been arrested and logging had been staved off for nearly seven hours.

The USFS responded to this third delay in a week by issuing a federal closure around the Fiddler Sale, closing off access to more than 15 miles of road. Such closures of public land are considered to be illegal, and activists are planning a lawsuit to challenge this one. A new basecamp was established on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, just below the USFS property line. BLM rangers arrived at the new

rope tied to the sunroof, and they held up an activist on a platform 25 feet above the roadway. A banner hanging from the pod read: "These Forests Need Fire, Not the Removal of Old Growth." Police called in a cherry picker and the activist came down voluntarily.

Less than a week later, on March 30, Stumptown EF! brought the struggle to downtown Portland. At 11 a.m., EF!ers erected a 20-foot tripod in

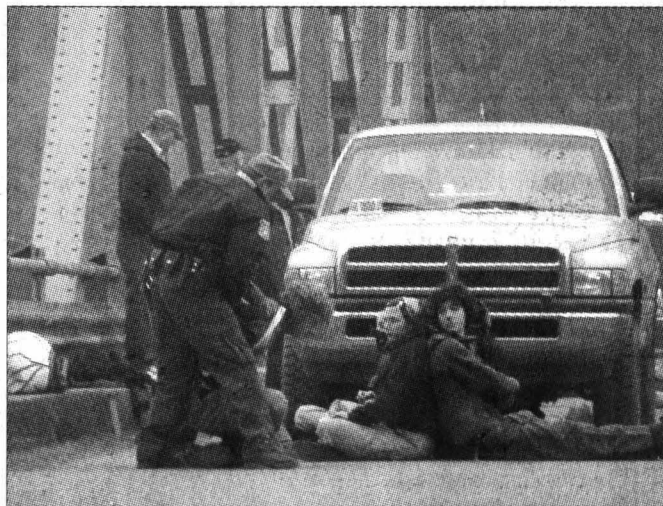


photo courtesy Rogue Valley Independent

Activists block the Green Bridge, leading into the Fiddler Timber Sale.

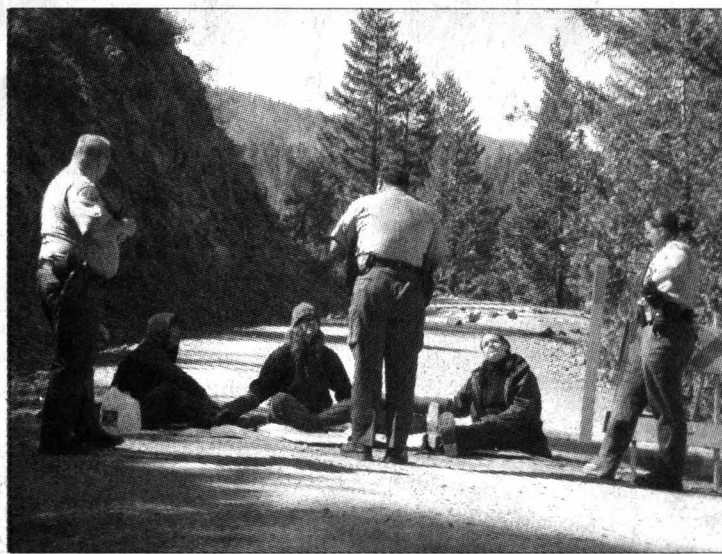


photo courtesy Rogue Valley Independent

Not so fast! A backup blockade stymies loggers and authorities on March 14, after the arrest of 15 women on the Green Bridge.

basecamp on the morning of March 22 to deliver a new closure order.

Defenders Undaunted

Two days later, the first log truck of the day was obstructed on the road by a bipod structure. An old Volvo was parked sideways in the road with two poles leaning out from it. The poles were suspended by a

front of USFS regional headquarters. An activist hung in a harness above the roadway, blocking traffic on 2nd Avenue for nearly two hours before police pulled out the legs of the tripod and lowered it to the ground.

The massive resistance to Biscuit logging is ongoing. It's been years since the Pacific Northwest has seen a campaign of this magnitude, and all the pieces are falling into place. Local support is tremendous, various national groups have come out to support the campaign, and the coalition of local grassroots

organizations has proved to be a force impossible to ignore.

The fire on the ground may be out, but our passions for these intact, wild places have been kindled, and now they are coming to a roar. Join the campaign!

For more information, contact the Oxygen Collective; www.02collective.org; (541) 659-2682.

ELF Arson Against Sacramento Sprawl

Four Activists Arrested and Charged

BY LAURIE COLLINS

Four people have been arrested and have entered not guilty pleas on Earth Liberation Front (ELF)-related charges—Ryan Lewis, Lili Marie Holland, Eva Rose Holland and Jeremiah Colcleasure. The charges arise from three recent incidents in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In Auburn and Lincoln, California, on December 27 and January 12, respectively, incendiary devices were found within the walls of new and unoccupied commercial buildings. On February 7, a newly built Sutter Creek apartment complex was set ablaze, causing \$50,000 in damage. Four newspapers in the area received communiqués claiming the action for the ELF.

The communiqué explains that the actions were meant to economically cripple JTS Communities, a major local developer. "It was done in honor of everyone who has felt helpless to sprawl and development, everyone who feels their rural lifestyles are being threatened by these mass-produced designer communities, everyone who has ever looked at that hill with chills down their spine and been sickened to the core... by the cancer spewing forth from Lincoln."

Ryan Lewis was arrested and charged with attempted arson for the Auburn action. The other three were arrested one month later. According to unconfirmed corporate media re-

ports, Lili Holland and Colcleasure have incriminated Eva Holland and Lewis. Colcleasure and the Holland sisters are out on bail.

After lengthy interrogation and a grand jury investigation, all four are now charged with conspiracy to commit arson in addition to other counts of arson and attempted arson. Lewis is charged with a total of nine counts for all three actions. Eva Holland is charged with three counts of attempted arson and one count of conspiracy

carry a 10-year minimum and a maximum 40-year sentence.

According to an unverified FBI report, the feds were tipped off to Lewis by a friend of his father's. Lewis' father then allegedly told the FBI that he thought his son was connected to the attempted arsons because of his political views. He said that he remembered seeing red diesel fuel spilled inside his son's vehicle, as well as black plastic bags and empty plastic containers. All of these are components used to construct the incendiary devices found at the action sites.

In a search of the Lewis' house, investigators claim to have found more bomb-making materials, a videotape of the Auburn construction site and a skateboard adorned with various militant revolutionary phrases and the slogan "CrimethInc." Graffiti at the Auburn and Lincoln sites included the phrases: "Enjoy the world—while you still can," "we will win" and "CrimethInc."

Only Lewis remains in custody, in a high-security lockdown facility. He says that he would "love to have regular correspondence with people hearing about daily activities, jokes they've heard, funny stories and things they see or beautiful experiences or situations."

Send letters of support to Ryan Lewis 4101338 8W312, Sacramento County Main Jail, 651 "I" Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA.



for the Lincoln and Auburn actions. Lili Holland and Colcleasure each face two counts of attempted arson and one count of conspiracy for the Lincoln action.

All of the charges are felonies. Each count of arson or attempted arson carries a mandatory sentence of five to 20 years. The conspiracy charges

COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE ELF (EXCERPT)

These actions were done in solidarity with all those engaged in sabotage and resistance around the world: Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Mexico, Brazil and especially the indigenous struggle against the onslaught of modernization....

We want to see full unemployment, we want to see zero voter turnout, we want to see smashed windows, ashes in place of offices and banks, freeways taken over by grass and buildings crack and fall. We want to see people creep

out of their protective cages in their gated communities and really meet and talk to their neighbors; we want to see ghettos evacuated, cities abandoned and weeds where geometric rows of genetically engineered corn once were. We want to see people kissing and playing, laughing and dancing; we want to see gifts instead of competition, people relearning how to be a part of nature and becoming wild again. We want life, real life without distraction....

With sincere love,
Agent Emma Goldman and the CrimethInc. Senior Officers of the Earth Liberation Front.

Peter Young Arrested After Seven Years

BY THE PETER YOUNG SUPPORT COMMITTEE

On March 21, Peter Young was arrested in San Jose, California, as a result of dumb luck on the part of local police. The activist community leapt into action immediately, recognizing the importance of the arrest and the imminent legal battle. It had been seven years without a peep from Young, who disappeared after his indictment on animal enterprise terrorism charges in 1998. Young is being held at the Santa Clara County Jail on local charges, but he will ultimately be transferred to Wisconsin to face federal charges for a series of fur farm raids in 1997.

Young's case has taken on marked significance in the activist community, symbolizing the increased demonization of social movements in recent years. Like many activists currently facing serious jail time, Young is being painted with the terrorism brush for nothing more serious than allegedly releasing animals into the wild. It is up to all of us to fight this and support him.

Upon arriving in jail, Young refused to take a tuberculosis (TB) test, as it contains animal products. Instead of exercising the alternate option for a TB test (a chest X-ray), jail authorities put him in solitary confinement and informed him that he was forfeiting his "privileges," including daily phone calls, reading materials and contact with other inmates. As an ethical vegan, Young found getting food to be a problem because, in solitary confinement, he had no access to other inmates to trade food.

Activists and attorneys on the outside have been working to get jail authorities to fulfill Peter's needs—a chest X-ray, access to the commissary to purchase food and writing materials, glasses so that he can see and the restoration of his rights as a prisoner. Literally hundreds of phone calls have poured into the jail, demanding proper care for Peter, and support letters have already begun to arrive. In response, the jail finally granted Peter a chest X-ray, declared him TB free and allowed him to meet with his lawyer. He should be out of solitary soon, and he is now receiving vegetarian meals. All the calls made a difference!



Peter Young is accused of liberating thousands of mink.

Case Background

In October 1997, five fur farms in Wisconsin and surrounding states were raided. Thousands of mink were released, causing fur farmers to lose more than one million dollars. The raids were never claimed by any group.

Peter Young and Justin Samuel were pulled over in the vicinity of the farms after suspicious fur farmers brought them to the attention of authorities. A vehicle search allegedly yielded animal rights literature and other "suspicious"

ALF Raid in Honor of Peter Young

On April 1, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) raided the Bluff, Illinois, fur farm of Kerry Littig, the top breeder of silver foxes in the US. ALFers destroyed breeding information and liberated dozens of foxes, vowing to return unless the farm is shut down.

In a communiqué, the ALF dedicated this action to Peter Young, who was recently arrested and charged in a series of 1997 fur farm liberations: "You inspire us immensely and are with us in every passing moment."

items. In September 1998, a federal grand jury indicted the duo on charges of animal enterprise terrorism and unlawful interference with interstate commerce, and they both dropped out of sight.

One year later, Samuel was arrested in Belgium and extradited to the US. Despite an enormous outpouring of support from the activist community, Samuel entered into a plea agreement with the US Attorney's office in which he implicated Young and promised to testify against him at any future trials or hearings. Now Young could pay the price for Samuel's betrayal.

How Can I Help?

Write a Letter: Letters are one of the only lifelines to the outside world for prisoners. Please take a few minutes to send letters to Peter. Let him know what is happening beyond the prison. However, please remember that all letters are read by authorities.

Financial Support: As an ethical vegan and as someone who is receiving a lot of mail that needs responses, Peter needs money in his account to purchase food, writing materials and other necessities. Money orders can be sent to him directly. Please visit the website for the most current information on where and how to send money.

In addition to commissary money, Peter needs legal funds. He is facing serious federal charges and a lengthy prison sentence. As a result, he needs the best legal assistance possible.

Books: Prison can be a very boring place. Peter has asked supporters to send books to help him pass the time. Check the website for updated information on how to send books to Peter.

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Arizona Wildlife and Chuk'shon Earth First!

Under Attack

BY CHUK'SHON EARTH FIRST!

Chuk'shon Earth First! (CEF!) continues to be the target of state repression for its successful campaign against the March 2004, US Forest Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) hunt for mountain lions in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area (see *EF!* May-June 2004). In December, FBI agents pulled Matthew Crozier from his bed and charged him and CEF!er Rod Coronado in a superceding federal indictment alleging that the two "spread mountain lion urine to confuse dogs used by trappers to hunt mountain lions... and... destroyed a mountain lion snare and ground motion sensor placed in the canyon to trap mountain lions." The four-count indictment carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison.

The feds seem to be hoping for a big victory against the radical environmental movement with this case. During the investigation, Doak Mahlik, FBI domestic terrorism agent in charge of prosecuting CEF!, told Crozier, "If you tell me who burned down Vail, all your charges will be dropped." But far from being in-



Government officials would like to imprison Chuk'shon EF!ers, just like they caged Sabino the mountain lion in April 2004.

Photo courtesy Arizona Game and Fish

timidated or testifying against Earth-defending comrades, CEF! and Phoenix Earth First! (PEF!) have continued our campaign against Arizona trophy hunting. Last Fall, CEF! documented and prevented the recreational killing of black bears, Gunnison's prairie dogs, mule deer, elk, sand-hill cranes and desert bighorn sheep. CEF! and PEF! have also continued to embarrass AZGFD and expose its sport hunting policies by gaining favorable media attention, commenting at public meetings and tabling at the same wildlife events as AZGFD.

In February, CEF!'s lion campaign was in the news again, when Coronado offered to plead guilty to three of four charges if AZGFD would agree to release a young, female mountain lion named Sabino. The lioness was captured in Sabino Canyon in April 2004, after AZGFD publicly stated that the hunt had ended. Federal prosecutors have informed Coronado and Crozier's attorneys that the only plea they are interested in is "guilty" to all charges.

Then on March 28—the one-year anniversary of the end of the Sabino Canyon lion hunt—Arizona state prosecutors, acting on a criminal complaint by AZGFD officer and lion hunter John Romero, filed four misdemeanor theft charges against Coronado and Crozier for allegedly stealing a lion snare one year before. The federal and state prosecutors seem to be disregarding a December 2004, FBI report, which states, "Coronado wanted to get a movement going in Tucson similar to the movement in Europe against hunting and taking trophy species. More violent acts would discourage support for Coronado's campaign, and property damage was not considered."

Never before has AZGFD faced so much public scrutiny and criticism of its policies, and this normally unaccountable, "good old boy" agency hates it. With a handful of concerned citizens, Arizona EF!ers continue to pose a serious threat to AZGFD trophy-hunting policies. We will continue the campaign to release Sabino the lioness, even as federal and state prosecutors prepare for Summer trials.

While legal defense funds remain a priority, we are also preparing for the 2005 Gunnison's prairie dog hunting season, which opens in June. We are inviting observers and international media to join us in the killing fields. Repression is evidence of success, and despite the threatened imprisonment of our members, CEF! will continue our campaign to protect Arizona's wildlife.

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

Peter Young Arrested

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Court Support: Unfortunately, Wisconsin is not a hotbed of activism. While there are some supporters there, more are always needed. Get the word out to sympathetic people in the Madison area. Supporters—especially at his Wisconsin court dates—will offer a moral boost and show him that he is not alone.

Remember, Peter is in there for the animals, and the activist community should be there for him.

Send letters of support to Peter Young, #05015987, Santa Clara County Department of Correction, 885 North San Pedro St, San Jose, California 95110, USA. Email messages can be sent to letters@supportpeter.com. They will be printed out and sent to him regularly.

Funds for his legal defense and for general support can be sent to Peter Young Support Fund, 740A 14th St #237, San Francisco, CA 94114 (make checks payable to Peter Young Defense Fund).

For more information, contact the Peter Young Support Committee, info@supportpeter.com; www.supportpeter.com.

Stupidity and Critics of the Ecology Movement

BY JOHN JOHNSON, KATÚAH EARTH FIRST!

Problem Animal's (PA's) recent attack on the Earth First! movement is a poorly written, ill-informed, politically correct propaganda piece (see *EF!J* March-April 2005). It starts off well enough, with a nice rant against consumer culture and white supremacy. But then PA says, "There exists a peaceful silence on the subject [racism] among white activists."

What movement are you paying attention to, PA? There has been an article in at least every other issue of the *EF! Journal* for the last three years challenging racism and other -isms within and/or outside of the EF! movement (see *EF!J* September-October 2004). The *Journal* is constantly running articles about non-white environmental struggles across the planet.

Before we go any further, let me state clearly that there is a lot of work still needed in EF!, the ecology movement, broader social movements and society as a whole when it comes to racism, sexism, classism and the lot. Regardless, PA's little hit piece is representative of what is stupid and wrong with many critiques of the radical ecological movement.

If PA had any knowledge of EF!'s history, he would know that when Dave Foreman and Miss Ann Thropy printed

THE BULLSHIT M^{THAT} MUST END

BY CAPTAIN PAUL WATSON

Hominid Triviality and Ecology

The number one problem that I have with the article "The Peace that Must End" is that it was written by a coward (see *EF!J* March-April 2005). The writer hides behind his pseudonym of "Problem Animal" as he sits in the shadows, bushwhacking people he knows little about.

For example, he makes an unsubstantiated accusation that there was a link between anti-immigration advocates and animal rights advocates running for the Sierra Club Board. That bogus conspiracy theory originated with Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope, who pulled the race card to discredit candidates who would have most likely fired his ass.

In fact, I am not aware of any anti-immigration directors connected to the Sierra Club. There is a movement to stabilize human population in the US, and that would include restrictions on immigration. It would not mean eliminating immigration. I say to Americans who want to see more immigrants coming into the country: You should sacrifice having kids to make room for people from other nations wanting

dumb, racist comments in the *Journal*, it sparked the debate that changed EF! forever. Every national EF! gathering I've been to in the last 14 years has had at least one (usually more) discussion circle or workshop about the issue, and they have not all been peaceful. Now, maybe some in the movement are not living up to PA's standards of action, but there is most certainly not a peaceful silence on the subject.

But now for the really brilliant part of this so-called "article": deep ecology equals Nazism! PA, you better understand both before you compare them! PA states, "The Nazi party actively supported such tenets of deep ecology as biodynamic farming, worship of Norse gods, anti-urbanism, forest preservation, anti-industrialism and a rejection of civilization itself."

First off, none of those things are "tenets" of deep ecology (worship of Norse gods? Where did you find that bit of nonsense?). Second, what is wrong with them, even if they were ('cept for the Norse god part)? Does anyone expect us to give up important worldviews, frameworks and ideas just because some Nazi scum paid lip service to them?

The Nazis may have had some weird, mystical rhetoric about loving the Earth, but their praxis was industrial; it was urban, it was Christian and they thoroughly and proudly proclaimed it to be the epitome of civilization. Just because some



to come here and have their own kids.

The population of the US is growing by 1.3 percent each year through legal immigration. This will give us a population of 500 million by 2050, and close to a billion by the end of this century. This does not even include the illegal immigration figures.

By the way, every new American is the equivalent of 25 new citizens of India. And most immigrants can hardly be described as environmentally sensitive individuals.

But for all you politically correct, open-border types, the cost of immigration is massive sprawl, damming up every river and using every square foot of land to feed and more and more people in the materially comforting style that they expect to enjoy in this most materialistic of nations.

I want more immigrants myself, but I'd prefer more grizzlies, wolves, birds and other species.

But enough of this.

I don't particularly care what Problem Animal says about me. He can make unsubstantiated accusations against me as much as he wants. His words have about as much impact as a fart in a windstorm.

But when he makes ridiculous and unwarranted accusations against my friend David Foreman, that is another matter entirely.

racist dipshit tries to borrow some ecological rhetoric, that does not mean there are links between these groups or worldviews.

I think maybe PA should get his understanding of deep ecology from the people who write about it and live it, not from neo-Nazi morons who are trying out some new rhetoric as a recruiting tool. According to the Church of Deep Ecology, "Deep ecology is the radical idea that all life has the right to exist, that no one species is more important than another" (see *EF!* November-December 2003). What part of that did the Nazis practice? Oh yeah, calling gays and Jews subhuman and killing them all, that's really recognizing the inherent rights and intrinsic value of all life. I guess PA missed page 70 of *Deep Ecology* by Devall and Sessions, where the *first* principle of deep ecology is that "the well being and flourishing of *human* and *nonhuman* life on Earth have value in themselves" (emphasis mine).

Or maybe, PA, you've missed the last 10 to 15 years of the *EF! Journal*, where attention to human needs in environmental and social problems has grown to the point of almost

crowding out nonhuman wilderness issues. Maybe you've missed all the rhetoric coming from wild-

erness activists about how humans *need* wilderness for survival, or how there are more *jobs* and a better economy in areas with lots of protected wilderness. Maybe you've missed where many of the hardcore biocentric activists

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Dave Foreman is one of the most inspirational, passionate and dedicated wildlife and wilderness defenders in the world. He did not flee EF! as this coward from the south shore of Lake Superior states. Dave simply did not want to involve himself in petty

human triviality. Instead, he plunged into the task of creating wildlife corridors and has dedicated himself to the objectives of conservation biology. Dave still remains one of the most dynamic environmental speakers on the planet. He is an articulate writer, a role model and a thoroughly biocentric activist.

The only person who would describe Dave Foreman as an insecure, white, alpha male is someone who does not know him or has not bothered to research what Dave Foreman has contributed to the environmental movement.

Problem Animal is a racist. He automatically assumes that white men are insecure, arrogant, dominant and all sorts of mean, nasty things. He suggests that all the problems in the world have been caused and are caused by white males.

My opinion is that white males share guilt equally with all other males and females of all other races and cultures.

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have abandoned EF! for other groups. PA, if you are going to level critiques such as this, then may I suggest that you please do some research and pay attention to what is actually going on in the EF! scene?

And what, exactly, are we supposed to do about the Nazis linking to our websites? Would you have us form a corporation and sue them? Give me a break. At least two active EF! groups (Idaho and Katúah) have openly challenged Nazis in the streets, and that has been covered extensively in the *Journal* (see *EF!* May-June 2004). It should be obvious from what is printed in the *Journal* that nobody, *nobody* who is currently publicly active in EF! has any shred of sympathy for a Nazi point of view. Again, do you want us to incorporate and issue a policy statement?

EF! activists have run off overt racists from our ranks. I witnessed it in 1993, at the Round River Rendezvous on Mt. Graham. I remember the Winter EF! meeting in '97, when the principles of environmental justice were brought up, and people liked 'em. Again and again, EF! activists have been challenging racism and sexism. Granted, it is mostly people of color and womyn who are forcing us to deal with these issues. Granted, if slacktivists would stay committed to the cause instead of doing the trendy, movement-hopping thing, we might get a little further in our work to undermine white privilege and patriarchy. Granted, EF! has a long fucking way to go in challenging our internal privilege, racism and sexism. Granted, so do I. But let's have some meaningful discussion on the matter

and not a reprise of what happened in the early days or some bullshit link with the Nazis.

PA cites not a single instance of EF! racism—and there *are* well known instances of such. My point is that PA is basing his writings on broad generalizations and stereotypes, not on reality. Yes, EF! needs to continue to hear a broad critique of our privilege, discuss it and act on it. No, we do not need to hear or read critiques that are dated, dumb, insulting, and that are poorly written.

PA implies that animal rights and deep ecology are somehow problems for the environmental movement. What's wrong with animal rights? What's wrong with deep ecology? These are not inherently perfect worldviews, but they are not inherently flawed, either. If you don't like deep ecology or EF!, then don't fucking work with us. I would say stop reading the *Journal*, but it's obvious that you are not doing that anyway

What we really have here is a thinly veiled attack on our ideology and praxis, the kind that has been going on for the last 25 years. Some of these attacks are not about making us better activists or helping us challenge our middle-class -isms—they are about diluting our movement's message and guilting us into working on human-centered campaigns with human-centered ideologies.

By all means, call me a racist; challenge my loud, boisterous drinking habits; and tell me to shut up so that folks with less privilege than me can speak up in a planning meeting. But *don't you dare* tell me what issues are more important to work on. I know what's important to me. I

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Did white men carry out a policy of genocide against American Indians? Absolutely. But how was this different from the genocidal policies of American Indian tribes against each other, both before and after the European invasion? Some of the imperialistic exploits of the Aztec in Mexico or the Thule in Labrador rival the Romans for sheer ruthlessness. Even the Makah of present day Washington State originally drove their war canoes across from Vancouver Island to wage a bloody war of extermination against the Ozette peoples, hundreds of years before Europeans arrived. They took the land by conquest. There are no Ozette left to reflect on that injustice.

The truth is that the Europeans did not have to teach genocide or land stealing to the Indians.

It would have been racist for us to have not opposed the Makah whalers,

because we would have been discriminating against them based on their race and not their actions.

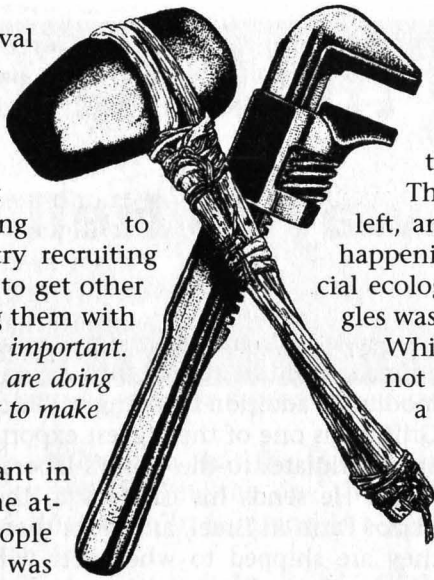
Racism works both ways. When a person is restricted from involvement in a society based on race, that is racism. When a person is given special privileges in a society based on race, that is racism.



The Farley Mowat

know what is important for the survival of non-humyn *and* humyn life in my bio-region and on this planet. I will act accordingly, and I have. If you don't have enough people for your urban-centered, social justice campaign, it is not the fault of those who are actually doing something to save wild nature. Maybe you should try recruiting from the general public and stop trying to get other activists to work on your issue by baiting them with guilt and racism. *All of these causes are important. They need all of us working on them. You are doing nothing helpful to your cause by attempting to make me feel guilty about mine.*

Before I became a full-time participant in the EF! movement, I spent a lot of time attempting to support the struggles of people of color. In some of those struggles, I was welcomed as an ally and I tried my best to offer service, and to follow their lead. I participated in semi-successful anti-police brutality and environmental justice campaigns in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In other struggles, I was met with open hostility, so I straight up asked what could I do. The leadership of some of those groups told me, roughly, "We [blacks] need to do our own thing. The best thing you can do to support our struggle is to go and organize amongst your own people. Promote anti-racism and engage in struggles that are meaningful to you and that work toward some



of the same goals—overthrow of the racist, imperialist, capitalist US death machine."

EF! is where I found that. When I came to the EF! movement, it was in turmoil. The old guard (Foreman and company) had left, and all this new, exciting organizing was happening. Integration of deep ecology with social ecology and anarchy and social justice struggles was all the rage.

While the work over the last ten years or so has not been perfect, there are attempts to have a more holistic approach and to reject the more classist, racist, anti-human strains of deep ecology that are promoted by a very distinct and identifiable minority within radical ecological circles.

I think most of us on the EF! scene welcome thoughtful critiques. But if y'all are gonna engage in sophomoric attacks, call us Nazis and undermine our work, I think by now you know where you can stick that kind of argument.

john johnson doesn't capitalize his name, 'cause he doesn't believe in capitalism. He is doing the best he can to destroy the bad parts of his privilege and to use the rest for the good of the Earth and the cause of revolution. He is currently engaged in a campaign to protect the land and the people from the ravages of mountaintop removal strip mining.

See www.mountainjusticesummer.org for details.

Speaking for myself, I can honestly state that I have little affection for the species *Homo sapiens*. However, I don't discriminate—I dislike all *Homo sapiens* equally. I like some of them as individuals when and if I get to know them. I certainly don't trust many of them, and I expect people to treat me in the same way.

I have met the enemy and it is us.

There are tens of millions of species on this planet, many of which are threatened by our own, and they are my primary concern. I don't get overly passionate about the trivialities of the human species, especially the relative trivialities of sexual and cultural politics.

I am guided by the three primary laws of ecology: the Law of Diversity, the Law of Interdependence and the Law of Finite Resources. These laws do not allow me to discriminate. I believe in diversity and I believe in interdependence. This holds as true for human movements as it does for natural ecosystems. Strength lies in diversity, and that is why I am a member and/or supporter of groups ranging from the Sierra Club to the Earth Liberation Front. Because of the law of Finite Resources, I am a strong advocate of reducing human populations and human consumption.

I also recognize that—as a human being living in these incredibly fucked up, human-designed, political and economic systems—I am a hypocrite. We all are. You cannot exist in the world we have created without being a hypocrite. We all are guilty of driving in cars or eating meat, consuming resources, and so on.

All we can hope to do is to minimize our ecological footprint. The sad reality is that relatively few people are doing so. Less than one thousandth of one percent of the six billion hominids on this planet even give a shit about the rest of the living species.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is an international marine wildlife conservation organization. We have projects on every continent. We have volunteers from around the world on our ships. We do not exclude anyone from participation. We are color-blind and gender-blind, and that is a fact.

We are working in Senegal and South Africa to protect fish and seals. We don't work with specifically black or white Africans. We do work with people who are black and white and are concerned about conservation. We work with individuals.

We work in Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. We don't work with exclusively Ecuadorians, Colombians or Brazilians. We work with individuals who are citizens of these countries, but their citizenship and ethnic affiliations are irrelevant.

Problem Animal seems to have a problem with racism, but I suggest that his problem is his own racism, motivated by guilt and his obvious lack of moral fiber.

Quite frankly, my priority is saving this planet from the likes of ourselves.

Captain Paul Watson is the founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and a founding director of the Greenpeace Foundation.

Breaking the Chain of Abuse

The Gateway to Hell Campaign

BY THE GATEWAY TO HELL CAMPAIGN

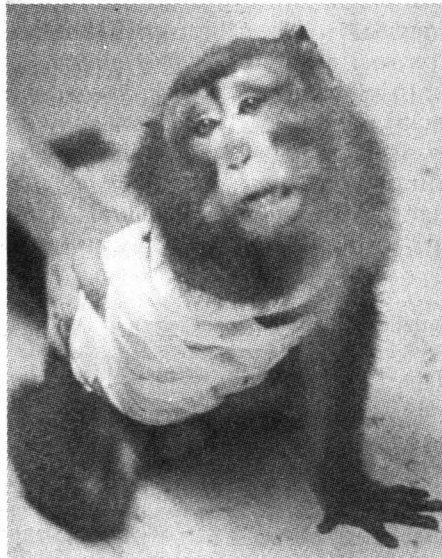
The pillaging of the great jungles and savannas of the world comes in many forms. One of the lesser-known methods is the kidnapping of wildlife for various markets around the world. There is a thriving global market in captured wild animals snatched from their native habitat and exported for use at vivisection labs, zoos and private collections. In January, the Gateway to Hell Campaign was launched to break the vicious trade in laboratory animals by targeting the middlemen necessary for their transport.

The Problem

While treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) attempt to regulate wildlife transport, there is a fortune to be made in breaking such laws. In addition, neither CITES nor the big conservation organizations make any effort to address the role played by the vivisection industry in keeping the trade alive. While conservationists focus on protecting small enclaves of specific species from kidnap and transport by individuals and small traders, they ignore the culpability of multinational corporations. Testing on primates is very big business, and there is a huge demand for these animals. It is largely the demand of Northern Hemisphere researchers that is putting so much pressure on the decimated ecology of the South.

The vivisection industry's dilemma is the difficulty of breeding primates in the numbers needed by laboratories. And why breed animals when you can simply snatch them from the wild, even though that contravenes international treaties? A few countries around the world have turned this into an art. For example, in the African island nation of Mauritius, one noted and enterprising "conservationist," Owen Griffiths of La Vanille

Crocodile Park, has realized that wild animals could be turned into a commodity. In addition to loving wildlife, Griffiths is one of the biggest exporters of primates to the world's laboratories. He sends his captives to the Mazor Farm in Israel, and from there they are shipped to whomever will pay for them. It is big business, and



Wild primates are kidnapped and shipped to a life of torture at the hands of vivisectionists.

other companies are getting in on the act. Wild-caught animals are being taken to holding centers by the hundreds and passed off as captive-bred animals to be sold for vivisection.

The trauma that these wild animals experience does not stop with the shock of being snatched from their family groups and the freedom of the wild. Once captured, they are kept in small cages with barely enough room to turn around. During travel, they are kept without food and water for prolonged periods of time and the stress is such that mortality skyrockets. The traders do not care; as far as they are concerned, these intelligent animals are nothing more than easily-replaceable commodities.

Once the trauma of the journey is over, the primates end up in vivisection labs, where most will be dead within a year. Some, however, have to endure a lifetime of torture. At Oxford University, two chimpanzees were deliberately brain damaged and forced to undergo 16 years of constant experiments. One primate was so badly mauled in a "moderate pain" experiment that it took four weeks of intensive nursing to return him to health. Just last year, Oxford police were called to investigate the highly-regarded Professor Edmund Rolls for cruelty after he refused to euthanize a primate that was suffering intensely, because he claimed that it was a valuable financial asset. Fellow professor John Stein dismissed any claims of cruelty, stating that the captive primates lived a life of ease because they were allowed to watch soap operas!

Roughly a quarter of all primate species are currently classified as endangered, and with the predation of humans and the destruction of their habitat, their plight is likely to worsen. Yet the demand for them in the labs of the Northern Hemisphere is growing, thanks to multinationals with the financial muscle to pay for it. Leading players such as China and Mauritius see this as a business opportunity, and they are keen to encourage expansion.

The Campaign

This problem is not going unnoticed. Animal rights groups such as the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) have done undercover work in Africa exposing the cruelty of the trade, and they have placed pressure on the participating airlines. Unfortunately, despite the horrific and compelling nature of its evidence, BUAV's influence did not extend beyond the UK. For instance, although Air China will no longer fly primates into the UK, it still supplies other countries with animals caught in the Chinese wilderness.



photo by Torm Wilson

Air Mauritius is one of the many airlines that import wild animals for the vivisection industry.

Thus, in late 2004, a group of activists came together to look at this problem in a fresh light. Their aim was to shut down the trade entirely, to stop the animals from being snatched out of the wild in the first place, while simultaneously crippling the vivisection industry.

Learning from the successful tactics of recent animal rights campaigns, the organizers looked for the true bottlenecks in this system. They asked themselves: Where is the weakest link in the chain; which set

many of them that the traders can just switch. Yet, the one thing all airlines have in common is a need for airports.

Ports of entry hold the key. Without port permission, planes cannot fly in the primates and ships cannot dock to offload them. These ports are the gateways on which everything depends. Thus, the Gateway to Hell campaign was born.

In recent months, activists have held demonstrations at Southampton, Manchester and Heathrow airports, informing travelers that future laboratory animals are among their fellow passengers. We have exposed airlines notorious for trafficking animals—including Aeroflot, Air China, Air France, Air Mauritius, El Al and Japan Airlines—to their shocked and horrified customers. The Gateway to Hell Campaign wants these ports and airlines to know that unless they join British Airways in refusing to ship wild-caught animals, activists will target them relentlessly.

Initially, the campaign will focus on the airports of the UK, but its ambitions are much greater. Ultimately, we aim to expand into a truly global campaign against a global industry, so that there will be no escape for the likes of Air China. Activists from different campaigns are being brought together to focus on breaking this particular link in the chain of ecological pillaging and animal abuse. The middlemen will be taken to task and held accountable; they will not be allowed to wash their hands of responsibility.

For more information, contact the Gateway to Hell Campaign, BCM Box 8231, London WC1N 3XX, England; 0845-458-3528; info@gatewaytohell.net; www.gatewaytohell.net.



The Gateway to Hell Campaign seeks to prevent vivisectionists from importing new victims.

of companies can the industry not survive without? The traders and the buyers are too entrenched and too spread out to be effectively targeted, given the resources at hand. However, between those partners are a multitude of businesses happy to profit from the trade, while claiming that what happens in the wild and in the laboratory has nothing to do with them. The BUAV exposed the airlines, but there are so

BARE BONES

Courts Uphold Wolf Protections

On February 1, two separate US District Court judges ruled against the most recent attempts to derail wolf recovery.

In response to the Bush Administration's repeated attempts to downlist the gray wolf from "endangered" to "threatened" based on recovery in only a few regions, an Oregon judge decreed that the species will continue to be protected in the entire lower 48 states.

In New Mexico, a US District Court ruled that reintroduction programs for the endangered Mexican gray wolf will continue.

"This is a great day for wolves," said Michael Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. "This ruling lifts a threat from our lobo populations, and the concurrent nationwide ruling means that science and not politics will form the basis for future wolf recovery planning throughout the US."

Dolphins Die After Navy Exercises

Seventy rough-toothed dolphins beached themselves off the shores of Key West on March 2, one day after Navy exercises in the area. At least 20 of the dolphins have died.

Environmental groups charge that Low Frequency Active SONAR, like that used by the Navy, disrupts the inner ear of marine mammals, as well as possibly shaking pockets of air within the bodies of marine animals. The extremely loud noise, inaudible to humans, may also disorient the underwater creatures and severely disrupt their migration and breeding patterns. The Navy refuses to disclose whether SONAR was used during the exercises, and has withheld information from necropsies performed on the dolphins.



Most Wanted Ecoterrorists

CHIMERAS

BY JOSH

Science has long been championed as a means of dispelling myth and superstition. But now, scientists are responsible for creating the very demons whose existence they once worked to disprove.

Chimeras are a perfect example of this trend. Named after a beast from Greek mythology that was part goat, part lion and part snake, chimeras are organisms composed of two different populations of cells, each with a distinct genetic code. While they can occur naturally when two non-identical twins fuse during pregnancy, cross-species chimerism was impossible until the advent of genetic engineering.

Chimeras are not to be confused with hybrids, which are created when genetic materials from two different species are combined to yield a third, unique species (e.g., mating between a zebra and a donkey results in a zeedonk). Chimeras, on the other hand, are organisms that *literally* contain parts from different creatures. Experiments in this field have been going on for decades, but achieved notoriety only recently, when scientists began unveiling their current efforts to produce animal-human chimeras.

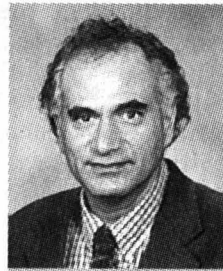
Below is a list of some chimeras currently being produced, along with the names, pictures and contact information of the crazies busy making them. Enjoy!

Pig-Human

In 2004, Dr. Jeffrey Platt and his team at the Mayo Clinic injected human hematopoietic (blood-producing) stem cells into pig fetuses. As

adults, these pigs were discovered to have both porcine and human blood. The scientists were surprised by the additional presence of hybrid cells containing both porcine and human genes—the first time such fused cells have occurred in a living creature.

Moreover, the scientists found that these hybrid cells are susceptible to porcine endogenous retrovirus (PERV)—a pig version of HIV. Pig cells cannot transmit PERV to human cells, but the hybrid cells can. Platt and crew are very excited



Dr. Jeffrey Platt



Dr. Marilia Cascalho

about the possibility that experiments in this area could yield insights into the origins of HIV and AIDS, but all they are doing is creating the conditions for a

new retroviral outbreak. Let Platt and his colleagues know that they're the real pervs!

- Mayo Clinic, Transplantation Biology, 200 First St SW, Medical Sciences 2-66, Rochester, MN 55905; (507) 284-4957 (fax); mayoresearch.mayo.edu/mayo/research/transplantation_biology.

- Jeffrey L. Platt, MD, Immunology Professor and Head of Transplantation Biology, (507) 288-0313; platt.jeffrey@mayo.edu.

- Marilia Cascalho, MD, PhD, Assistant Immunology and Pediatrics

Professor, (507) 538-1536; cascalho.marilia@mayo.edu.

Sheep-Human

Similarly, researchers at the University of Nevada-Reno have been injecting human stem cells into fetal sheep. As a result, human cells occur in the sheep's skin, liver, heart and pancreas. Dr. Esmail Zanjani and his cohorts hope that their work will pave the way for a new era in transplant sciences, when animals can be used to grow human organs (they have already created sheep whose livers are 80 percent human). In other words, these doctors are abusing animals now to perfect a way to abuse and exploit other animals later on, in order to cure heart disease, diabetes, liver failure and similar ailments often caused by an unhealthy, animal-based diet. Brilliant!



Dr. Esmail Zanjani

Equally repugnant are the findings of a recent *Reno Gazette-Journal* article, which reported that for the first decade of Zanjani's research, the experimental lambs and their ewe mothers were euthanized and incinerated when they had outlived their usefulness.



Dr. Almeida-Porada

In 2002, when the program began putting the mother ewes out to pasture as participants in a weed control experiment, 80 percent of these

ewes were killed by predators, drowned in a river or shot. While their bodies were supposed to be incinerated, there is evidence that some of the ewes may have been buried or even rendered. In short, animals involved in the sheep-human chimera experiments may have entered the food supply!

• Department of Animal Biotechnology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Nevada-Reno, Mail Stop 202, Reno, NV 89557; Max C. Fleischmann College of Agriculture, Room 103; (775)



Dr. Christopher Porada

784-6135; (775) 784-6644; (775) 784-1375 (fax); www.ag.unr.edu/ab.

• Esmail D. Zanjani, PhD, Department Chair, (775) 784-7737; (775) 784-7736 (fax); zanjani@scs.unr.edu; zanjani@unr.nevada.edu.

• Graça Almeida-Porada, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, (775) 784-6755; galmeyda@cabnr.unr.edu; almei_g@med.unr.edu.

• Christopher D. Porada, PhD, Assistant Professor, (775) 784-6750; cporada@cabnr.unr.edu.

Mouse-Human

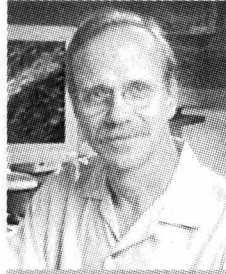
But the foulest, most disturbing, and most reprehensible experiments are those involving mouse-human chimeras. Dr. Irving Weissman (Stanford University), along with Dr. Fred Gage (Salk Institute) and Dr. Nobuko Ushida, have created mice with human brain cells at StemCells, Inc. By injecting human neurons into mouse embryos, they have already produced chimeric mice with brains that are one percent human, and they are planning to create mice with completely human brains later this year. There is no way to know if these chimeras will develop any human cognitive activity until after they are born, so the fetal mice will be killed and dissected in order to determine if they possess human neural architecture. If they do, the next step will be to observe adult,



Dr. Irving Weissman

human-brained mice for human cognitive behavior.

Henry Greely, head of Stanford's biomedical ethics committee, has approved of this research. "If the mouse shows human-like behaviors, like improved memory or problem solving," he said, "it's time to stop." To admit that this scenario—a human brain trapped in a mouse's body—is possible and to continue with the research anyway makes absolutely no sense.



Dr. Fred Gage

And there is also the possibility that human stem cells could migrate to the reproductive systems of the chimeric mice, resulting in fully human sperm and eggs. If two such chimeric mice mated, the result could be a human embryo growing inside a mouse's womb.



Dr. Henry Greely

Creepy? Yes. Cruel? Yes. But that's progress!

• StemCells, Inc., 3155 Porter Dr, Palo Alto, CA 94304-1213; (650) 475-3100; (650) 475-3101 (fax); www.stemcellsinc.com.

• Irving L. Weissman, MD, PhD, Director of Stanford University Stem Cell Institute and Founder/Director of StemCells, Inc., Stanford University School of Medicine, 300 Pasteur Dr, Stanford, CA 94305-5323; Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine, Room B257; (650) 723-6520; (650) 723-4034 (fax); irv@stanford.edu.

• Fred H. Gage, PhD, Genetics Professor at the Salk Institute and Founder/Adviser of StemCells, Inc., Salk Institute, POB 85800, San Diego, CA 92186-5800; Salk Institute, 10010 North Torrey Pines Rd, La Jolla, CA 92037; (858) 453-4100 x1012; gage@salk.edu.

• Nobuko Uchida, PhD, Director of Stem Cell Biology at StemCells, Inc., nobuko.uchida@stemcellsinc.com.

• Henry T. Greely, JD, Law Professor and Chair of Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics Steering Committee, Stanford Law School, Crown Quadrangle, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, CA 94305-8610; (650) 723-2517; hgreely@stanford.edu.

BARE BONES

Another Blow to Biotech

British farm-scale trials have concluded that genetically engineered (GE) winter canola causes more ecological harm than conventional varieties. Researchers found that growing herbicide-resistant canola encouraged the use of chemicals that killed off native plants. This, in turn, meant less food for wildlife. In response to the study results, released on March 21, biotech giant Bayer sought to withdraw its application to grow GE canola in the UK.

The UK is the only country to conduct such large-scale tests of GE crops. Even so, the trials were limited in scope.

"The farm-scale evaluations... were not a comprehensive assessment of the risks of growing GE crops," said Clare Oxbow of Friends of the Earth. "The government should pull the plug on this unnecessary and unpopular technology and invest in a truly sustainable farming future instead."

FWS Pressures Scientists to Change Data

According to a survey released in February by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, more than 200 US Fish and Wildlife (FWS) scientists have been pressured to alter official data in order to lessen protections for sensitive species. In addition, more than half of the 1,400 respondents knew of cases in which political pressure by commercial interests had caused the cover-up and revision of scientific conclusions deemed harmful to their businesses.

"Political pressures influence the outcome of almost all the cases," said Sally Stefferun, a biologist who retired in 2002 after 20 years with FWS. "As a scientist, I would probably say you really can't trust the science coming out of the agency."

DEFENDING HEALTHY FORESTS...

...from the "Healthy Forests" Restoration Act
in the Northern Rockies

BY NATIVE FOREST NETWORK

Throughout the Winter and early Spring, Northern Rockies forest activists have been getting into the field to protect wild places from logging under the so-called Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA).

Over the past year, activists have fanned out to monitor dozens of proposed logging projects, discovering that many include industrial logging in old-growth, unroaded wildlands and within important habitat for species such as lynx, grizzly, bull trout and goshawk. Fortunately, our collective forest monitoring efforts, combined with public pressure generated through community organizing and field trips, have forced the US Forest Service (USFS) to cancel a few of the more egregious timber sales.

While the USFS has been pumping out the "healthy forests" logging projects since 2003, it is just getting started

with logging projects authorized under the HFRA, which uses community protection and forest restoration as a smokescreen for more industrial logging in our public forests.

One such project is the so-called Middle East Fork "Hazardous Fuel" Reduction Project, in Montana's Bitterroot National Forest. This "Healthy Forests" project would mix a small amount of community wildfire protection with the logging of more than 6,000 acres of forest, including "regeneration" clearcuts in previously unlogged old growth.

On a recent monitoring trip, as we ascended an old logging road within the project area, we could clearly see that many of the proposed logging units were right next to old clearcuts from the 1960s or 1980s. The very last thing this forest needs is more logging.

With maps, notebooks and cameras in hand, we moved cross-country through a diverse, unlogged forest that

the USFS believes would be healthier if it were cut down.

As we dropped from the ridge into a small drainage within a "regeneration logging unit," we encountered massive Douglas-firs. First one-by-one... then whole groves. Although USFS talking heads have repeatedly described this area in largely negative terms—as a forest "infested" and "destroyed" by insects and disease—the forest became more enchanting and magical with each step.

The USFS claims that the trees are either infested with beetles or "at imminent risk of spread of the beetle epidemic." This is just the latest in a long line of USFS propaganda designed to stir up public fear about natural processes such as fire, insects, disease and windthrow. Predictably, the agency is also playing the "fire hysteria" card by telling community members that these forests need to be "thinned" to protect the community from wildfire.

Frontlines

Korean Nun Hunger Strikes for Salamanders

A Buddhist nun recently protested the South Korean government's plans to build a tunnel through Mt. Cheonseong by engaging in a 100-day hunger strike from October 26 to February 4. The development plan, which is intended to shorten rail travel between Seoul and Busan by one hour, threatens the Korean clawed salamander and more than 30 other unique species.

The Venerable Jiyul refused to eat anything besides water and salt in an effort to convince the government to cease construction. While the government did agree to work with environmental organizations on a new impact statement, construction has not stopped.

Wary of an alliance between environmentalists and bureaucrats, Jiyul is reportedly considering a new hunger strike.

Activists Invade London Oil Exchange

On February 16, the day that the Kyoto Protocol went into effect, Greenpeace activists stormed the trading

floor of London's International Petroleum Exchange. Bearing bullhorns and balloons, Greenpeace UK executive director Stephen Tindale and about 20 other protesters interrupted trading for a short period, before being attacked by disgruntled traders.

While electronic transfers were not affected by the action, open outcry trading ceased for roughly an hour—a definite victory in the fast-paced Petroleum Exchange.

When asked about the reason for the action, Tindale explained: "It was to send a message to the oil industry... that business as usual is no longer an option."

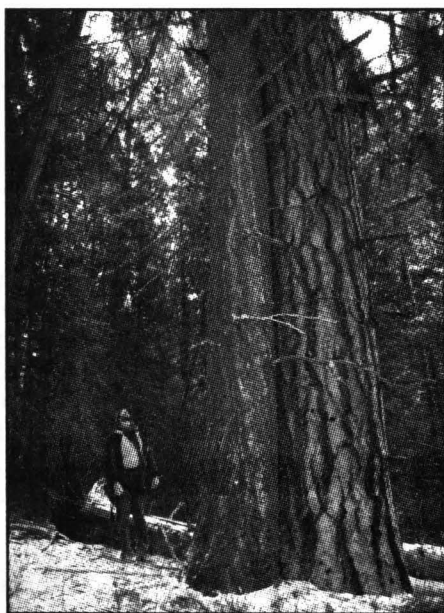
ALF Liberates 12 Ducklings from Factory Farm

On February 27, the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) rescued 12 ducklings from Woodland Farms in Tranquility, California. A communiqué from the ALF stated: "Ducks are waterfowl. In the wild, they spend a great deal of their day in water, immersing themselves in it and preening. The ducklings that we rescued... would never have seen a body of water during their short lives in the factory farm."

While we found evidence of trees that had been killed by beetles, the USFS is ignoring the fact that insect and disease mortality, even in "epidemic" proportions (which the project defines as one infested tree per acre) are natural and beneficial processes that forests and wildlife have evolved with for thousands of years.

We noticed that a large Douglas-fir tree, weakened by beetles and snapped in half by strong winds, is actually the perfect spot for squirrels to stash mushrooms and cones for the long Winter months. Rabbits and other small mammals are

drawn to these large downed trees for the relative safety they provide from predators. And let's not forget that these downed trees return important nutrients to the soil as they decay.



This massive Douglas-fir tree and ponderosa pine were spotted on a recent monitoring trip.

Throughout the forest, we found ample evidence of "tip-up" mounds, created by the root systems of fallen Dougs. These mounds provide important micro-sites where snow, water and seeds collect.

Further along, on a slope with a number of beetle-killed Douglas-firs, we sat and listened to a dozen woodpeckers hammering into the trees to feast on the nutritious beetles, the chorus reverberating around us in nature's version of surround sound. In fact, everywhere that we found beetle-infested trees, we also found woodpeckers at work.

All of these natural and essential processes will be lost if the USFS is allowed to move forward with its industrial logging scheme of targeting these enormous legacy Doug-firs.

As an alternative to the USFS's plan, local conservation groups have developed a "Community Protection and Local Economy Alternative." This plan would protect old-growth forests while implementing bona-fide restoration activities within the East Fork area. The plan would also provide superior wildfire protection to the East Fork community by focusing on homes and their immediate surroundings.

Call it the Circle of Life, Web of Life or whatever you want. The point is that life, death and rebirth—whether by fire, disease, insects, wind, predator/prey relationships or other natural processes—are, and always will be, an important part of naturally functioning ecosystems.

While the USFS might think it can make these forests better than natural, we'll put our faith in nature's ability every time.

For more information, contact the Native Forest Network, nfn@wildrockies.org; www.native-forest.org; POB 8251, Missoula, MT 59807; (406) 542-7343.

The Native Forest Network is planning field monitoring trips to the Bitterroot and other threatened forests in the Northern Rockies throughout the Spring and Summer.

Villagers Block Felling of 200-Year Old Oak

Vigilant residents of Shinfield, England, have successfully rallied to the aid of a mature oak tree. The beloved oak is currently blocking plans to widen a road and provide access to private development schemes.

On February 21, villagers staged a two-day vigil in defense of the oak and several other trees, despite harsh Winter weather. In response, the Wokingham District Council temporarily suspended the felling.

The cutting resumed on March 18, but villagers managed to defend the mature oak yet again. With a dozen protesters at its roots and another planted firmly in its boughs, residents declared the tree off-limits to developers. An inspection of the oak yielded evidence of roosting bats—a protected species—and led the council to issue a second stay of execution, pending the results of an ecological survey.

Pies in Their Eyes!

On the morning of March 4, *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour was pied by an animal rights activist as she entered a Chanel event in Paris, France. The editor has been criticized often by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals for her support of the fur industry. Visibly shaken at first, Wintour quickly played

off the incident, claiming that tofu pies are good for the complexion.

William Kristol, neo-conservative incubus and architect of Bush's foreign policy, was similarly creamed on March 29. As Kristol addressed college students in Richmond, Indiana, a student jumped onto the stage and pied the propagandist square in the face.

Direct Action Against GM-Fed Dairy

Anti-biotechnology activists have set their sights on Sainsbury, a leading UK supermarket chain that has broken its promise to stop selling products from animals raised on genetically modified feed.

In the early morning hours of February 26, 19 activists blockaded Sainsbury's regional distribution center at Emerson's Green, Bristol. Six protesters linked together in lock boxes and staged a "sleep in," successfully halting activity at the depot for more than three hours.

Less than a week later, two dozen protesters shut down another Sainsbury depot in Haydock, Merseyside. First, they blocked the main gate with a broken-down automobile. Two activists then locked themselves to the jalopy, while two others attached themselves to the emergency gate with U-locks. The blockade lasted two hours and cost Sainsbury more than \$500,000.

hit 'em where it hurts

COUNTER-RECRUITMENT, EARTH FIRST! STYLE

BY RAINBOW BRITE

As the US occupation of Iraq enters its third year, the military is becoming increasingly frustrated by its inability to meet recruitment quotas. Experiencing its first shortfall since 2000, the Army failed to satisfy its February recruitment goal by 27 percent. The Marine Corps and National Guard have experienced similar recruitment gaps in recent months, the first in a decade. Most notably, African-American enlistment in the Army has dropped 41 percent since 2000. In desperation, the military has stepped up its efforts, enlisting more high-school dropouts and offering more lucrative enlistment bonuses to an increasingly skeptical population.

The anti-war movement has responded to this development with a mix of jubilation and savvy. Recognizing the recruitment process as an area in which the military is uniquely vulnerable, activists have launched countless outreach and direct-action campaigns. At schools, career fairs, malls and other places where recruiters prowl, counter-recruiters are distributing information about the coercive tricks recruiters use and about the realities of war. Other activists have performed civil disobedience, blocking recruitment centers in an effort to hamper the enlistment process itself.

The recruitment center, however, must not become just another venue for silent vigils or choreographed arrests. It cannot serve as a mere symbol of our indignation, a good place to hold a sign on a Saturday morning. On the contrary, it presents an ideal target for a no-compromise, direct-action campaign against the American war machine. It is a gap in the armor of the Beast, and Earth First! knows just how to exploit it.

War as Ecocide

While the military's ideological and rhetorical targets are specific, war itself is far less discriminating. As "smart" as

US bombs may be, they cannot differentiate between good or evil, adult or child, Christian or Muslim, human or animal. Endangered species are not exempt from destruction, nor are fragile ecosystems safe from contamination. Iraq is not some barren desert immune to the ravages of war, but rather a collection of diverse ecosystems: grasslands and mountains; forests of oak, maple, hawthorn and pistachio trees; dozens of wetlands, coastal mangroves and coral reefs (see *EF!* May-June 2003).

As a tool of American corporate interests, the new Iraqi government will introduce many of the ecocidal programs associated with corporate globalization. For example, Order 81 of the unrepeatable Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Regulations institutes a system of patenting and licensing for seeds—rendering Iraqis' traditional system of seed development and sharing effectively illegal. The CPA has thus provided agribusiness with an assured monopoly and a tremendous profit, while completely nullifying Iraqis' food security and sovereignty.

In typical, biocentric fashion, EF! must acknowledge that the disenfranchisement, humiliation and slaughter of the Iraqi and Afghani populations are intimately linked with the murder of animals, as well as the obliteration of the environment itself. Each realm of destruction reinforces the others, creating a web of oppression that we are compelled to resist.

Direct Action Against the War

Although the anti-war movement is becoming aware of the strategic value of targeting military recruitment, it possesses neither the willingness nor the capacity to engage in the vigorous and diverse tactics required. The anti-war movement can continue singing, holding signs and getting arrested *ad infinitum*, but nothing will come of it. These tactics are merely appeals to a moral authority that does not exist; they are designed to assuage liberal guilt



Recruiter taking a photo of students in Worcester, Massachusetts. He obtained the kids' email addresses by offering to send them a copy of the picture.

photo by Kevin

through self-victimizing publicity stunts, not to achieve concrete results. To truly effect a change, we must accept the need for a diversity of tactics, strategically employed in an uncompromising manner.

EF! understands the scenario before us. The military is a corporation dedicated to making a profit through the unsustainable extraction of resources. The youth of the US—particularly those from working-class backgrounds and communities of color—are clearcut, processed and shipped overseas; they are herded, trained, slaughtered and sold. We know that to stop the cycle of violence, we must prohibit access to those resources. We must declare the youth of the US off-limits to recruiters!

Earth First!ers can achieve this through the use of many standard direct-action tactics. Lockdowns and barricades can be used to block access to recruitment centers. When recruiters set their sights on kids at the mall, sabotage their hunt by warning their prey and by directly interfering in the recruitment process. If you look the part, pretend to be interested in enlisting. Ask them long, involved questions. Flounder back and forth. Waste their time and take their materials.

The Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) model also holds a great deal of potential. We cannot focus merely on the recruitment centers themselves; we must identify secondary targets and apply pressure. The military does not produce its own advertising; it hires ad agencies. Campbell-Ewald represents the Navy, GSD&M promotes the Air Force and J. Walter Thompson handles the Marine Corps. In January, the Army signed a six-month, 100 million dollar contract with Leo Burnett USA. The Army also targets people of color by assigning individual advertising firms to specific ethnicities: Cartel Creativo handles Hispanic outreach, while Muse Communications and Vital Marketing focus on African-Americans. These companies have websites with tons of contact information; it's not hard to find out where their executives live. And don't forget this other lesson from SHAC: vomiting on outreach materials renders them automatically unusable.

Finally, we must not overlook the effectiveness of Animal Liberation Front (ALF) and Earth Liberation Front (ELF) tactics. Recruitment billboards are just as susceptible to removal or subversion as any other kind. All SUVs are bad, but the fancy ones that some recruiters drive to impress the kids are particularly heinous. And, perhaps most importantly, there are many ways of dealing with

the recruitment office itself. The same property destruction tactics that work on houses, businesses and fast food restaurants will work here.

These are not novel ideas. On March 28, 2003, the ELF visited a Navy recruiting station in Montgomery, Alabama, painted anti-war slogans on five vehicles and set fire to a large transport. In November and December 2004, a dozen vehicles parked behind recruiting stations in the Washington, DC area were set ablaze. A few recruiting stations themselves have been vandalized. If more radical saboteurs recognize recruitment centers as viable targets and act accordingly, they can impede recruitment on a national level.

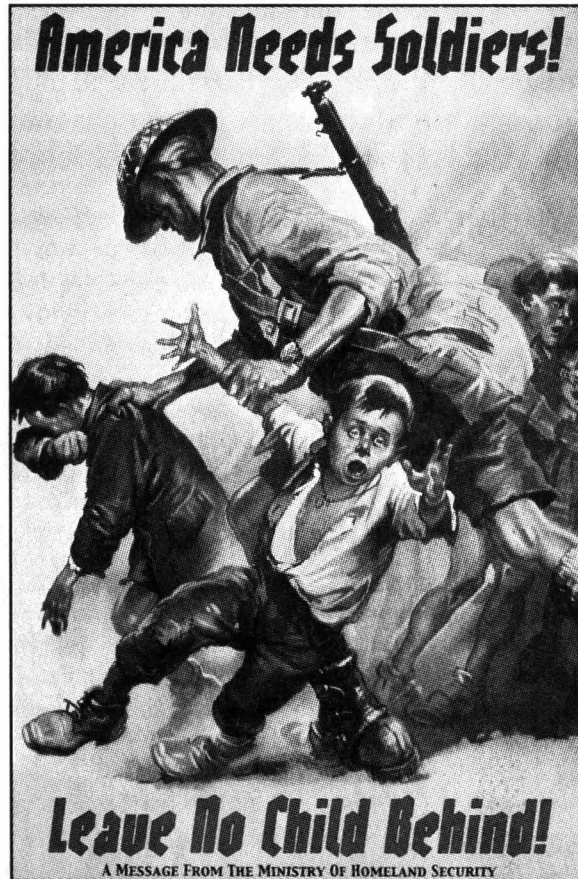
There is no reason to think that we cannot be successful in this campaign. The all-volunteer army is failing gradually all by itself; all we need to do is help it along. The fewer recruits the military receives, the more it will rely on retention of existing forces. The military has already instituted stop-loss policies, forcing soldiers to endure extended and multiple tours of duty. Morale is worsening, and more and more soldiers are claiming conscientious objector status or deserting. If we can impede the recruitment process, we can help spur more soldiers into taking a stand against a military that views them as expendable.

Prisoner Support

A final area that needs our attention as EF!ers is the realm of prisoner support. In any direct-action campaign, individuals will be arrested and some will be convicted. But activists who target recruiting facilities *must* recognize the possibility that they will be caught, prosecuted and imprisoned in accordance with harsh federal laws against anti-military sabotage, subversive activities and treason. In such cases, long prison sentences will be the rule, not the exception.

Those charged or imprisoned for their actions also need support from other activists. Unfortunately, we cannot count on the mainstream anti-war movement to operate in solidarity with those accused or convicted of property destruction, sabotage or any other tactic that exceeds that movement's narrow standard of allowable action. Simply put, the work of EF!, SHAC, the ALF and ELF are anathema to most anti-war activists; only we can sufficiently provide the support required by direct-action prisoners. While we do not have a flawless record on prisoner support by any measure, we do possess a movement-wide awareness of extreme charges and sentences, as well as a unique familiarity with the necessity for and demands of prisoner support.

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There is already a need for such work. The two cases that require our immediate attention are those of Brendan Walsh and David Segal.

In February, Walsh pleaded guilty to attempting to burn down a Vestal, New York recruiting station by throwing a Molotov cocktail through the window in April 2003. Walsh, who is only 20 years old, was sentenced to five years in federal prison and three years of supervision following his release.

On March 7, David Segal, a 19-year-old anarchist from Litchfield, Connecticut, pleaded not guilty to "committing a malicious act against the US government." The US district attorney alleges that in the early morning of January

31, Segal was caught vandalizing an Army recruitment center—breaking a window-pane, setting fire to the carpet within and sealing the lock of the front door with glue. If convicted, he faces five to 20 years in prison.

Despite the clear anti-war motivations behind these actions and the excessive harshness of the charges, Walsh and Segal have received little aid from activists in the New York area. If anti-war activists will not support them, then we must. Walsh and Segal need us to write them letters; to widen the visibility of their cases and of the grassroots movement supporting them; to emphasize the political nature of their alleged actions and the equally political nature of the charges and sentences; to

raise funds and to maintain this support regardless of their guilt or innocence.

But the greatest gift we can share with Brendan and David is to show our solidarity with them by supporting their cause—by recognizing radical, anti-war activism as a campaign worthy of our attention as Earth First!ers.

Send letters of support to Brendan Walsh, c/o Jeremy Shirvan, 2714 William St, Endwell, NY 13760-5822, USA. Contact information for David Segal is not available.

For 20 years, Rainbow Brite and the Color Kids have waged an underground, direct-action campaign against Murky and Lurky. They operate in solidarity with the Sprites—Rainbowland's indigent inhabitants.

Earth First! Organizers' Conference '05

BY MELYN AND LIAM

On the sunny Thursday afternoon of February 17, a group of us headed out to the Dragoon Mountains, just outside of Tombstone, Arizona, to set up before folks arrived the next day. We were already excited about our surroundings. For some of us it was our first time in the Arizona desert, and we were stunned. We got there late, so after dinner and some chatting we went to sleep.

After setting up the kitchen, tarped areas and latrine on Friday, we hiked around until people started to show up in the late afternoon.

Come evening, we had a good group of about 35. We ate dinner and circled up for a welcome meeting. We introduced ourselves, went over a quick weekend agenda and enjoyed the rest of the night.

Around 8 a.m. on Saturday, sleepy eyes started strolling in for a morning circle and Bioregional Roundup. Everyone talked about where they are from and what is going on in their bioregion. This

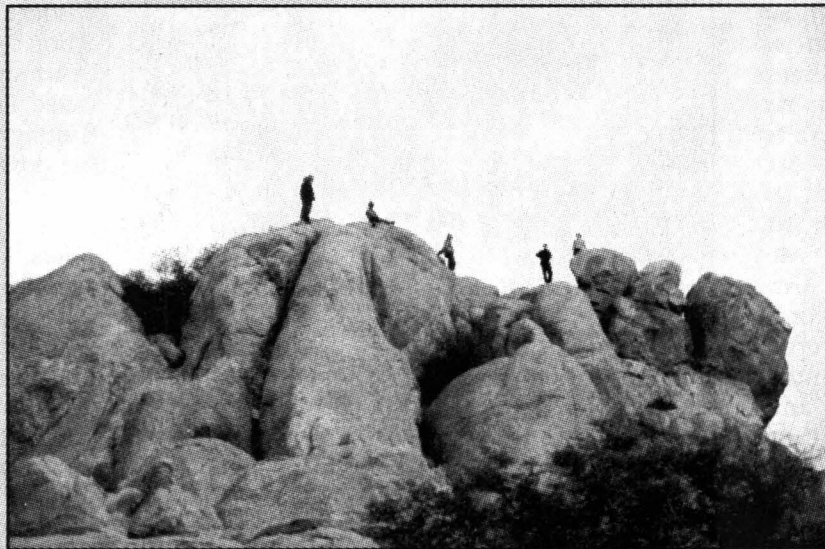
was followed by a full-day workshop facilitated by Laurel Luddite and Skunkly Monkly, authors of *Fire and Ice*. The workshop focused on reconnection to ourselves, to the Earth and to each other. The day was helpful for the group to become more familiar with one another.

Later, the Katúah EF!ers talked about Mountain Justice Summer and the fight against mountaintop removal coal

mining in northeastern Tennessee. The day brought us some rain, which must have surprised some folks not familiar with the Southwest. That evening, we sat around the fire with a tasty dinner and listened to music and poetry at the Warrior Poets Society's Night to Howl. We told stories, mingled and giggled for hours before returning to our sleeping bags under the stars.

Sunday morning, a group of folks woke up at 4:30 to witness the sandhill crane migration. They came back with amazed looks on their faces. Later in the day, there were discussions on working with people in rural areas and with indigenous

peoples. At the *EF! Journal* discussion, we welcomed Oskar as a long-term *Journal* editor and discussed what people like and dislike about the *Journal*. We went on tons of amazing hikes with folks knowledgeable in both geology and botany. We explored caves, old stone walls and various cacti, and we climbed up, over and around boulders everywhere. A group of people went on a hike to Cochise Stronghold, which was once a refuge of



Exploring the rock formations of the Dragoons at the OC

photo by Spocket

the great Apache chief and his warriors.

Overall, we enjoyed the Organizers' Conference and appreciated the focus on activists taking time out for our own personal issues, as individual people.

The Earth First! Journal and the OC organizers would like to thank the Food Conspiracy Co-op and others for their generous donations.

25th Anniversary Earth First! Round River Rendezvous Join us as we Celebrate Cascadian Secession! • July 4 - 11, 2005

The 2005 Earth First! Round River Rendezvous will be held on Wy'East (Mt. Hood) in the breathtaking snow-capped Cascadian mountains. We'll be near the Roaring River roadless area surrounded by ancient forests, clear-running streams and mountaintop lakes. Just up the Clackamas River is Big Bottom, a 1,000-acre, ancient forest grove with some of the biggest trees in the area. Nearby is the site of the successful Eagle Creek campaign, as well as Solo, one of many ancient forest timber sales still on the chopping block. Join us for hikes, stimulating workshops, rowdy rallies, campfires (weather permitting), unique stage performances, games, ecodefense trainings, strategizin', unusual behavior, tribal meetings, bad dancing (and some good), lots of music, swimming, ale swilling, plotting the demise of the US government, and just plain fun!

This year's RRR coincides with the declaration of Cascadian Independence from the now-occupying US government. Cascadian passports, license plates and other commemorative items will be available on site.

Come self-sufficient. Donation: Free-\$100 sliding scale, \$30 suggested. Directions and more information are on the back page. For even more information, check out EarthFirst2005.org or contact ef@cascadiarising.org.

A Year of Anniversaries

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Earth First!. It is also the 100th anniversary of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). In conjunction with the 25th EF! RRR and the 100th Anniversary of the Wobblies, we are very pleased to announce that the infamous Wobbly musician, Utah Phillips, and his son will be joining us for the RRR!

Since its inception, the IWW has been at the forefront of the radical labor movement, working to abolish the wage system and overthrow capitalism.

Stop by the IWW centenary (June 24-July 3) on your way out to the RRR or other events near you. (Contact centenary@iww.org or visit www.iww.org)

This year is also the 100th anniversary of the US Forest Service. That's 100 years of mismanagement of our publicly owned forests. Predictably, the US Forest Service is projecting a new green-washed image.

We suggest a new motto: "100 Years is Enough!"

Cascadian Independence!

We prowl millions of acres of asphalt, wading through a sea of shopping bags made from trees and oil. In the forest, diesel tractors churn up branches and precious topsoil into slash piles, which are set alight with gasoline. The suffering of the growing masses is drowned out by the ringing of cash registers, and the televised sounds of slick advertisement/entertainment lull us into complacency. The sales and advertising sectors contribute to our economy almost as much as the investments of corrupt governments fueled by black crude and a Texan handshake. Liars claim to be our leaders and are always trying to sell us what we don't need. It doesn't have to be this way.

It has been said that independence is a state of mind. We in the Cascadia

Bioregion are committed to achieving this state of mind, with the knowledge that lasting physical independence only follows spiritual independence. Red state, blue state: doesn't have much to do with it. There are natural rights that progressives have been trying to incorporate into the political and legal structures of the various civilization centers for thousands of years. When these rights to life, liberty and freedom from all forms of oppression are recognized in a community, individuals blossom and grow. We are working towards establishing these rights on a regional scale, and we support any other regions in their quest to attain independence.



Earth First! was there to stop them the first day an attempt was made to log ancient forests in the Biscuit fire area.



Welcome!

The **Cascadia Free State** welcomes you to an energizing, invigorating **Earth First!** cultural revival. We are emphasizing workshops and discussions on strategy, tactics, **EF!** culture, activist community, forest ecology, fieldwork, legal/political issues, medical trainings, campaign issues and fun games! We're leaving space open for y'all to bring your great ideas to the **Rendezvous** for inclusion. Plans are made to have workshops under most of the themes below for each day. For instance, planned are:

Monday, July 4, Independence Day:

Feasting and Celebration (all day and into the night!)

Tuesday, July 5:

Working with (and against) Corporate Media
Running a Campaign Office
Wildlife Identification

Wednesday, July 6:

Intro to Earth First!
Welcome to the Rondy
Rural Organizing
Handling Community Disputes
GAMES

Thursday, July 7:

Eastside Timber Sale Hikes
Blockades and Pods 1
Forest Ecology
Earth First! History
GAMES

Friday, July 8:

Blockades and Pods 2
Losing Your Activist Ego
Advanced Botany
Field Monitoring
Where Did All the Earth First!ers Go?

Saturday, July 9:

Timber Sale Hike
Powermapping
Plant Walk
GAMES Tournaments

Sunday, July 10:

Sunday is reserved for a "variety" show, action planning and civil disobedience training.

Monday, July 11:

Action(s)!

Many, many other workshops and activities are planned, so the earlier you come the more you can enjoy!

What is Earth First!?

Earth First! formed in 1980, in response to an increasingly corporate, compromising and ineffective environmental community. **Earth First!** is not an organization, but a movement. There are no "members" of **EF!**, only **Earth First!ers**. We believe in using all of the tools in the toolbox, from grassroots and legal organizing to civil disobedience and monkeywrenching. When the laws won't fix the problem, we put our bodies on the line to stop the destruction. **Earth First!'s direct action** approach draws attention to the crises facing the natural world. Guided by a philosophy of deep ecology, Earth First! does not accept a human-centered worldview of "nature for people's sake." Instead, we believe that life exists for its own sake, that industrial civilization and its philosophy are anti-Earth, anti-women and anti-liberty. Our structure is non-hierarchical, and we reject paid professional staff and formal leadership.



EARTH FIRST!

What is the Round River Rendezvous?

The **Earth First! Round River Rendezvous** is the annual, week long wilderness gathering of hundreds of folks from around the world dedicated to taking action to protect the Earth. This year marks the **25th anniversary of the Round River Rendezvous**. The gathering is named for Aldo Leopold's "Round River" metaphor expressing the ecological interdependence of living systems.

The RRR is coordinated by a local volunteer committee and includes workshops, campaign discussions, campfire music and a rally with performers and speakers. Perhaps the most important part of the **RRR** is the informal networking that goes on. At the end of each **RRR**, attendees can choose to participate in fun-filled actions supporting local issues.

So! Earth First! is having a rendezvous. But help me remember... Who are you?

Earth First! is a mentality, a shared affinity and a broad network of like-minded individuals. What holds us together is a belief that the health of ecosystems and the lives of wild things are just as important as the health and lives of humans.

Now I remember! You're those eco-terrorists I heard about on TV!

There's no question that *Earth First!* is known for our unorthodox activities. We climb up trees, build treehouses, and don't come down until the forest is saved. And if that doesn't work, we just might U-lock our necks to their steering wheels. Sometimes laws need to be broken to stop the rampant destruction of the *Earth*, but we do not harm living things or damage people's personal property. Who are the real eco-terrorists: the people butchering the planet and getting rich in the process, or those trying to stop the madness?

OK, so you're not going to burn my house down. But didn't Earth First! die out in the 90s? I don't hear much about them these days.

Folks don't like labels much these days, so many *Earth First!*-minded people don't call themselves *Earth First!ers*. In some places there are *Earth First!* groups, while in other places, like here in *Cascadia*, we are a movement that ties together a wide array of efforts. Regardless of name games, the spirit of putting ecosystems and the *Earth* first is alive and well, inspiring activism and actions of all sorts everyday, from efforts to save the last wild buffalo

to the building of community gardens.

But why Earth "first" when there are so many problems?

The planetary environmental crisis necessitates immediate action. Humans are having fundamental, systemic effects upon the entire life-support system of the planet — upsetting the world's climate, poisoning the oceans, destroying the ozone layer, and spreading acid rain, radioactive fallout, pesticides and industrial contamination. Never before — not even in prehistoric times — has there been such an intense period of extinction as we are now witnessing. Many biologists believe that vertebrate evolution may be drawing to a close due to the activities of humans. We are at our most important juncture since we came out of the trees 6,000,000 years ago. We're trying to save life itself, the continuous flow of evolution. It is our decision, right now, whether the *Earth* continues to be a living planet, or whether only rats and cockroaches will survive.

So Earth first, people second?

Earth First!ers believe oppression of humans and oppression of the *Earth* come from the same source: a basic disrespect for life. So much

of our society's values and way of life is based upon separating humans from nature and pillaging the natural world for resources. Many of us are striving to work together in a way that moves past the hierarchy, gender roles and other societal expectations that keep us from living in greater harmony with ourselves and nature — most of

us are not just in it for the trees. While focusing on defending the planet, *Earth First!ers* have not just supported, but spearheaded efforts in their communities to stop racism, male dominance, corporate globalization and oppression of indigenous people. In the southeastern US, *Katúah Earth First!* leads protests against the KKK and to protect communities downstream from landslides caused by coal mining operations. Here in *Cascadia*, *Earth First!ers* have been at the forefront of efforts to combat patriarchy and male dominance, with all-womyn treesit villages, road blockades and skill shares. We founded a historic alliance with steelworkers and dockworkers, provided tactical guidance for the protests that helped shutdown the WTO meeting in Seattle in 1999 and locked our bodies to gas pumps in protest of the oil empire. *Earth First!ers* continue to expand their focus on the points at which human oppression and *Earth* destruction meet.

All this sounds a bit depressing; do you all ever have fun?

True, these are dark days: Bush and Co.'s power is built on fear, whether it's fear of terrorists or fear of government repression. No doubt, the bastards would love to see us deported or in jail. But the ringing of resistance can shatter the glass walls of fear. In the meantime, we're putting the revel in rebel! We're as likely to be found camping in the forest and singing around the campfire as attending meetings, holding protest signs and planning creative acts of resistance.

So outside of the Rendezvous, how do I get involved? Just look for people "dancing in the forest?"

Check out the rest of this booklet for contact information for local crazy radical eco-defenders, drop us a line and join the community of resistance!



A recent early morning blockade at the Biscuit Fire "salvage" project in the Siskiyou

Cascadian Regions and Resistance

Wy'East/Mt. Hood

Cascadia is the name of the bioregion around the Cascade Mountains that stretches from Northern California up through British Columbia. The area designated by the occupying US government as the "Mt. Hood National Forest" contains 1.1 million acres located in between the Columbia River on the north and what was known as the "Willamette National Forest" on the south. Wy'East is home to pine marten, peregrine falcon, mountain lion, northern spotted owl, bob cat, cougar, black bear, fisher and red tree vole.

The forests of Wy'East range from the classic ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest with large, old Douglas firs and western hemlocks to dryer eastside transition forests dominated by ponderosa pines and oaks.

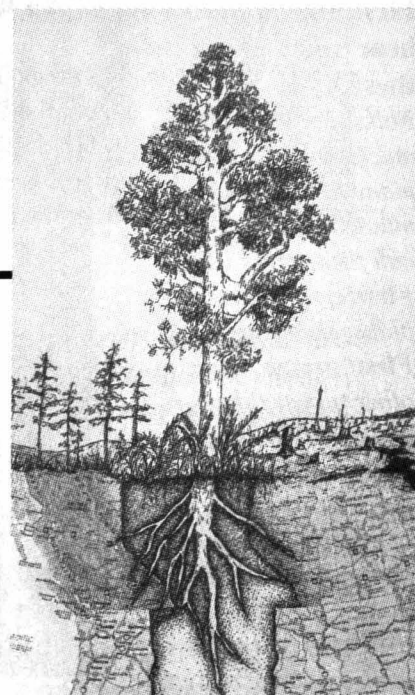
Wy'East has been heavily fragmented by industrial logging, and the forest has over 3,000 miles of logging roads. Currently, 40 logging projects threaten nearly 20,000 acres of Wy'East, and many of these projects primarily target ancient forests. Many of them involve large industrial-size clearcuts. These sales will negatively impact large tracks of wild land critical for the survival of ancient-forest dependent species.

Wy'East has a proud history of **direct action**. Most recently, activists have **blocked** roads at the Borg timber sale and set up a **treesit** at the Solo timber sale — both of which are currently stalled by litigation. In 1995-1996, thousands took part in **civil disobedience** to protect Enola Hill. April 20, 1999, marked the beginning of the three-year **treesit** at Eagle Creek. Sold in 1996 under the US President Clinton's Salvage Rider, the Eagle timber sales threatened a

500-acre roadless area and beautiful native forests. The resistance included the second longest road **blockade** in Cascadian history (second only to the infamous 11-month Warner Creek blockade in 1995-1996). The Eagle Creek sales were cancelled on April 9, 2002.

The Mt. Hood National Forest was originally managed as part of the Cascade Range Forest Reserve (1893) and the Bull Run Reserve (Portland's city watershed). Portions of the two reserves were merged in 1908 and renamed the "Oregon National Forest." The area received its current name in 1924.

The US government received this land as part of the 1855 treaty with the **Wasco** and **Willa Willa** (later Warm Springs) tribes, establishing the Warm Springs reservation. The **Paiute** tribe of southeastern Oregon moved onto the reservation in 1879. Under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, the three tribes were forced to restructure themselves as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation. Their reservation is located near the southeast boundary of the Mt. Hood National Forest, and extends southward towards the Willamette National Forest. Between 1871 and 1972 the boundaries of the reservation were in dispute, until an act of congress restored 61,360 acres previously managed as Mt. Hood and Willamette national forests and 17,251 acres privately managed to the Confederated Tribes.



Clackamas River Watershed

Welcome to the **Clackamas River Watershed**! This world-class temperate rainforest ecosystem is home to a thriving and diverse population of anadromous and resident fish living along side thriving populations of small to large vertebrates and invertebrates, spider to wolverine, eagle to giant salamander. The sky is the limit on species richness and diversity in the great green public lands just to the south and east of Portland.

In the last three years alone, 22 logging projects have targeted nearly 10,000 acres in this basin, including over 1,500 acres of clearcuts in ancient forests. Several projects are near the **Rendezvous** site, and well over a dozen elsewhere on **Wy'East** may be logged this **Summer**. But, we have tired of the wild being stripped out of our wildlands. Agitation, litigation and **direct action** have saved nearly 2,000 acres of ancient forests alone. You don't need to a weatherman to tell which way the wind blows.

Biscuit Fire Salvage Resistance

The lighting storm that sparked the Biscuit fire in Summer 2002 also sparked one of the most heated debates in recent memory over the fate of public forests. For two years following the fire the US Forest Service carved out the largest timber sale in history. Delays in the release of the original environmental impact statement (EIS) — due to input from timber interests and support from the Bush administration — resulted in an increase in the cut nearly five times from original projections!

The US Forest Service received more than 23,000 comments on the draft EIS for the proposed Biscuit salvage. Of those comments, 95% did NOT support the project! Unfortunately, the final EIS was released in July 2004 with little change. The amount of timber was reduced to 372 million board feet of timber! — still cut from ancient forest reserves, above salmon-bearing streams and in unspoiled roadless areas. It is still one of the largest

logging projects ever undertaken by the US Forest Service.

On the two-year anniversary of the fire, the US Forest Service decided to log 372 million board feet on nearly 20,000 acres of forest. This would cause nearly 40,000 acres of roadless wildlands to be unfit for future wilderness consideration due to roadless area fragmentation. As we enter the Spring of 2005, only the largest trees that died in the fire are merchantable and are therefore targeted in timber sales. Despite assurances by the US Forest Service, however, many trees targeted for logging at Biscuit are green and alive.

Scientists say that even in areas where the fire killed swaths of trees, post-fire logging would set back the development of old growth. Dead trees, known as snags, are ecological legacies in ancient forests. They build the soil, prevent erosion and are akin to condominiums for critters. The US Forest Service originally planned to log a fraction of the current Biscuit



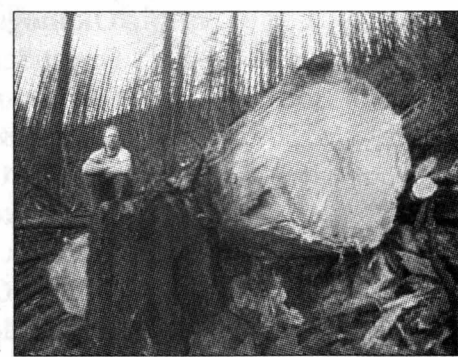
Womyn's blockade leaves the US Forest Service stumped!

proposal, and stay out of Inventoried Roadless Areas (protected under the Clinton Roadless Rule) and Late Successional Reserves. Now they are attempting to log it all as fast as possible before the logging can be stopped in the courts or on the ground.

Shock and Awe Logging Proposed for the Siskiyou

The US Forest Service has created some truly outrageous timber sales over the years, but the Bush Forest Service has just hit a shameful new low. Their plans to clearcut sensitive Biscuit fire-affected forests in **Cascadia's Siskiyou Wild Rivers Area** is the largest logging project in the history of the US national forests.

across 60,000 acres. That's enough to create a chain of log trucks 2,700 miles long — stretching from the Siskiyou Mountains to the East Coast. The preferred alternative proposes 518 million board feet of logging including 12,000 acres of Inventoried Roadless Areas.



One of the big ol' trees recently cut at the Fiddler timber sale

This monstrous timber sale threatens to shove chainsaws into the heart of the proposed Siskiyou Wild Rivers National Conservation Area — a place renowned for its world-class biological diversity, beautiful rivers and huge roadless forests. It is also the place where, 20 years ago, **Earth First!** activists first used **civil disobedience** to defend forests at the Bald Mountain Road **blockades**.

How large is this extreme scheme? Hold onto your climbing harness. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) contains proposals for up to 1.02 **BILLION** board feet of logging



Local resistance to the Biscuit Fire "salvage" sales takes many forms.

Want Some More Things To Do While You Are Out Here?

Fortunately, the "Washington" part of **Cascadia** is not witnessing the severe massacre of ancient forests like in the south, but that doesn't mean that we don't have our work cut out for us.

There are two different regions that should be on everyone's "Forests Under Threat Radar." The Okanogan and Wenatchee wilderness areas on the east slope of the **Cascades** are currently facing a number of timber sales (disguised under the "Healthy Forest Initiative" as "Dry Forest Restoration.")

Another opportunity for **Direct Action** rests in ancient forest preserves on the Olympic Peninsula in Jefferson County. A project referred to as the Dosewallips Road Realignment Project is underway. One old logging road washed away a couple of years ago, giving the county an excuse to rebuild a larger road through (surprise, surprise) ancient forest stands! This project is referred to as the Dosewallips Road Realignment timber sale.

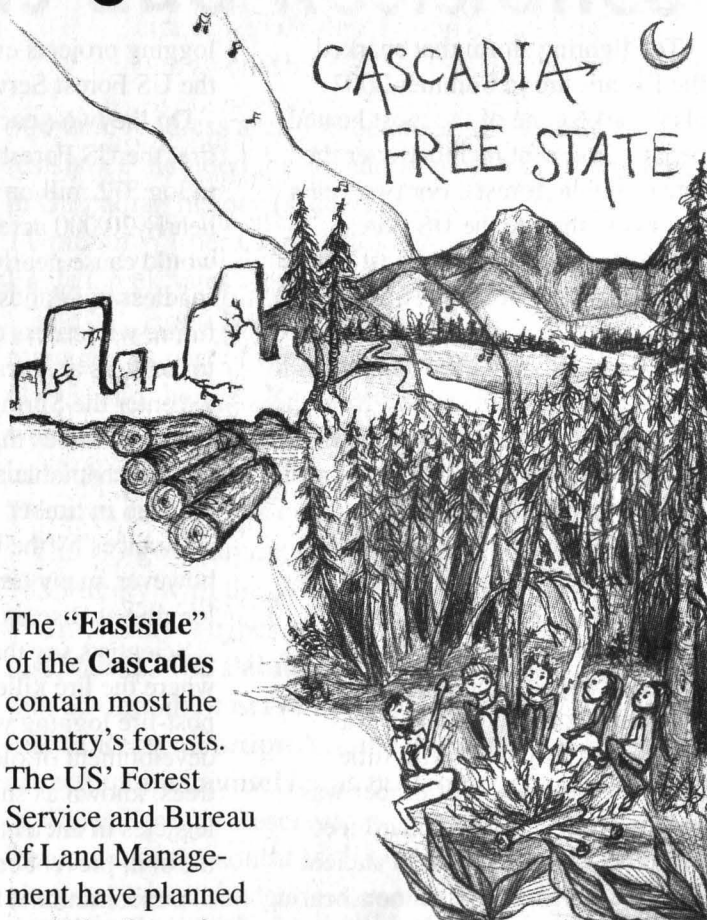
If anyone is looking for ways to plug into **direct action** opportunities RIGHT NOW, our friends in the Siskiyou (at the Biscuit) are in desperate need of help. There are no borders to forest protection! So... get yur butts over here and remember that friends are always better than flyers, and people are always better than posters!

To raise hell about the Okanogan and Wenatchee timber sales, contact US Forest Service District Ranger Glenn Hoffman at 600 Sherbourne, Leavenworth, WA 98826; 509.548.6977, 509.548.4067 (Voice/TTY),

fax: 509.548.5817 and Wenatchee National Forest Headquarters at 509.664.9200.

To do the same for the Dosewallips Road Realignment Project, see www.co.jefferson.wa.us.

For more information, contact **Olympia Earth First!** at POB 11426, Olympia, WA, 98508; wildcascadia@yahoo.com or olyef@cascadiarising.org



The "Eastside" of the **Cascades** contain most the country's forests. The US' Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have planned a whole slew of post-fire timber sales, sales in ancient forests and critical habitat, toxic herbicide and bio-control projects, mining, intentional species eradication, and livestock grazing. Bush's administrative rules such as Categorical Exclusions and Emergency Situation Determinations for post-fire timber sales are being tried first on the **Eastside**. Resistance activities include challenging the timber sales, trying to stop herbicide use and the use of various poisons directed against flora and fauna in the area formerly known as the John Day National Monument. **Volunteers** are needed to help with field checking of US government projects, setting up local public forums, ecologically sound restoration fire ecology, and tabling opportunities. This is a good opportunity for non-arrest involvement to learn activist skills and hike/camp in diverse forest ecosystems in southeastern **Cascadia**. To get involved, call the **Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project** at 541.385.9167. Leave your name, interest and contact information.



Taking the US Forest Service for a ride at Biscuit

EarthFirst2005.org

Future EF! Events

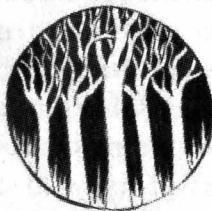
We're working to build local interest in this national gathering by holding slideshows and video presentations for high schools, colleges and community groups all over **Cascadia** this Spring. (If you'd like to request a presentation where you live, contact **Cascadia RiSiNG!** using the information below.) In the metropolis of Portland, the major city nearest to **Wy'East**, we'll have additional events and fundraisers (including one on May 15), an action camp in urban wildspaces, and a "History of Portland Forest Defense" forum on or around June 25. Nearby, in the **Columbia Gorge**, plans are on for a day-long music festival in May. For more information about all of these events, sign up for the twice-monthly **Cascadia RiSiNG!** email list at www.CascadiaRising.org, or look for postings at www.EarthFirst2005.org.

Forest Defenders in Cascadia

Many local groups have contributed to the **Rendezvous** and forest defense organizing efforts, with the help of many committed individuals.

Cascadia RiSiNG! EcoDefense helps facilitate communication between radical environmentalists throughout the bioregion, as well as concerted outreach activities. The website www.CascadiaRising.org is becoming the region's best source of radical eco-news. For more information, or to donate to towards the organizing of the **Round River Rendezvous**, contact:

Cascadia RiSiNG! EcoDefense
action@cascadiarising.org
503.493.7495
POB 12583, Portland, Cascadia 97212



The **Oxygen Collective**, based in Ashland, practices creative resistance through projects that address injustice in our communities and destruction in the natural world. They use a 40-foot biodiesel tour bus to create and enhance events, and then add live music, independent media, organic food and large-scale, participative art projects. The **Oxygen Collective** has played a pivotal role in educating the public about the **Biscuit** logging project and resistance to it. The **O₂ Collective's** website has more information on the **Biscuit** than most anywhere else.

O₂ Collective, POB 533, Ashland, Cascadia 97520
oxygen@o2collective.org www.o2collective.org

Wild Siskiyou

Action has been the group maintaining the recent basecamps around the Fiddler timber sale and organizing the civil disobedience actions. These are the folks to call if you want to go down to the Biscuit and see or take part in the action first hand. Wild Siskiyou Action was started in the **Summer** of 2004, setting up the initial **road blockade** at the Indi timber sale.

Wild Siskiyou Action

siskiyou@cascadiarising.org, 541.659.2682

Cascadia Earth First! organizes gatherings and nonviolent direct action where it is most desperately needed within the region.

Cascadia Earth First!

ef@cascadiarising.org
POB 10384
Eugene, Cascadia
97440

Kalmiopsis Earth

First!, named after the Kalmiopsis wilderness area which is surrounded by the Biscuit timber sale, has long been active in supporting nonviolent civil disobedience to protect the Siskiyou. If you are interested in helping and/or donating to the various direct action efforts in the Siskiyou, you should write checks to:

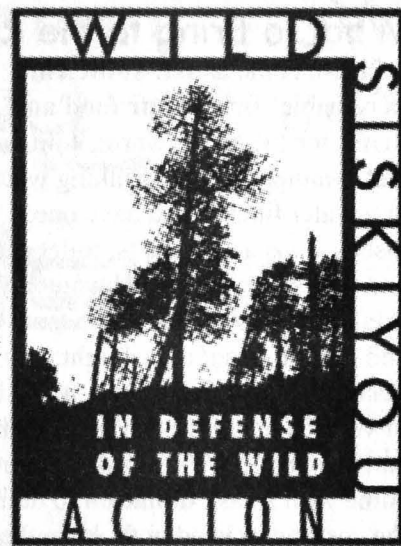
Kalmiopsis Earth First!

POB 185, Cave Junction, Cascadia 97523

Stumptown Earth First! has been making some surprise appearances around the Portland area in the last few months, including the city's first downtown tripod road blockade. Look for more fun from Stumptown EF!ers in the future!

Stumptown Earth First!

stumptownef@cascadiarising.org



What to Bring to the RRR

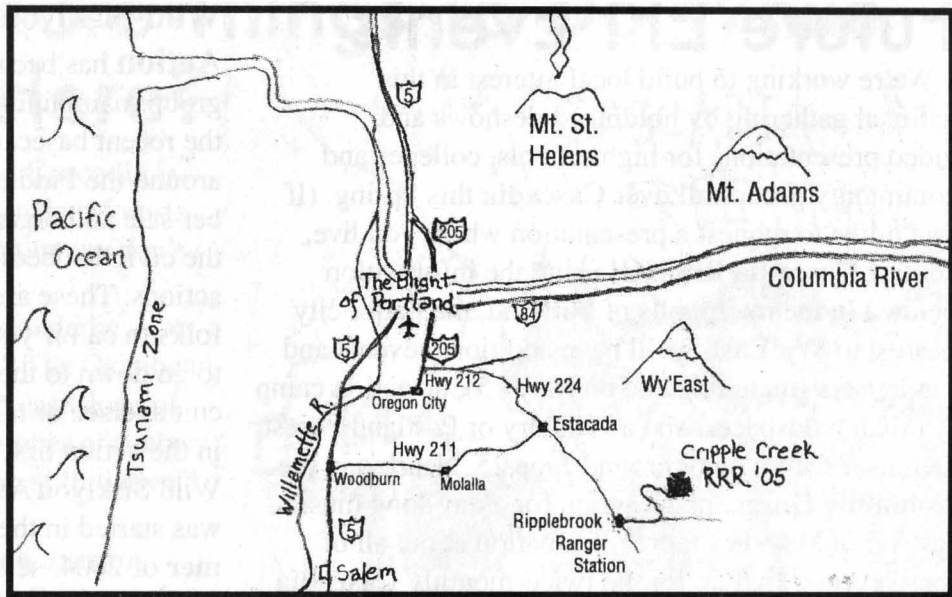
Please come as **self-sufficient** as possible! Bring **your food and drink** for the week; warm, cold and wet weather clothes; drinking water or a water filter if you have one; dishes, cups and utensils; toilet paper and non-toxic soap; washwater and drinking water containers; a tent and sleeping bag; a flashlight; any materials you need to run a workshop of your choice; toys and instruments and costumes. We also ask that you come with a cash **donation** to defray the costs associated with the gathering and to provide seed money for the **EF! Organizers Conference** next Spring and the **2006 RRR**. \$30 is the recommended contribution, but no one will be turned away. We ask that all who come bring respect for the land and the community that gathers there. So please plan on contributing and working to ensure that outcome.

ZERO Tolerance for Oppressive Behavior

In order to create a safe and productive environment for activism and community, we have a **zero tolerance** policy towards oppressive behavior at the **2005 EF! RRR**. We will be abiding by the anti-oppression guidelines adopted by the **Cascadia Rising Eco-Defense Network** member groups in the Summer of 2003. (The complete guidelines are available at www.CascadiaRising.org.)

Oppressive behavior is defined as behavior that demeans, marginalizes, threatens or rejects people or non-human animals based on a characteristic that cannot readily be justifiably changed. Examples are a person's gender, age, sexual orientation, race, mental health, culture, general appearances, income status as homeowner, renter or squatter, being a parent or a child, employed or unemployed, level of experience in activism, etc.

Any type of sexual, verbal or physical assault will be taken seriously and dealt with accordingly.



Up On Cripple Creek, We Call You!

This year's site for the **Round River Rundayoo** is up in the headwaters of **Cripple Creek**, a tributary of the lovely **Clackamas River**, on the southern edge of a **Roaring River** roadless area abutting the **Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness**, southeast of the urban blight known as Portland.

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1a (from the North): Take I-5 south to I-205 and continue south. If yer coming in on a jet (whaddaposer!) to PDX, this is where you start reading. Take State Hwy 212 east a couple miles and turn southeast on 224. Head to Estacada ('bout 18 miles). Go to Step 2.

Step 1b (from the South): Take I-5 north past the urban blight of Salem about 20 miles to the exit for Woodburn and State Hwy 211. Take 211 east through Molalla and Colton til you get to Estacada. Go to Step 2.

Step 1c (from Missoula and out thataway): Head west on I-84 til you hit I-205. Head south. Read Step 1a.

Step 1d (from Bend and points southeast): Get over the Cascades and take a right. Read Step 1b.

Step 2: Estacada is yer last stop for gas and supplies. Save yer mischeivous ways for other places. After tending to the last of your material wants, get back on 224 and continue up the Clackamas River about 23 miles or so to the Ripplebrook Ranger Station and, pay attention now, make a left on FS 4631, go a couple miles til you hit 4630. Continue in an easterly way on 4630 about a mile and take a left on 4635. Wind up and around on this about 9 miles and take FS 140 (a right) and another mile will send you past the trail head for Cripple Creek and Cache Meadow and onto a large quarry/parking platz/pistol range. Take your gear up Trail 702 into **Cache Meadow**. There are dandy sites for groups large and small the length of the trail to its intersection with 517 at the main meadow, and for a good ways in either direction on that path. Elevation ranges from 4,200' up to a bit over 5,000' before you crest the ridge to Serene Lake. There's water but bring your filter, purification tablets or other magic stuff. **Welcome to our home!**

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF THE WEIRD

Dolphin Gets Rubber Tail

In November, captivated audiences at the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium in Japan witnessed the reemergence of Fuji, a 34-year-old dolphin, into the world of animal performers, all thanks to a \$95,000 artificial fin. Three-quarters of the captured dolphin's tail had previously been amputated because of a mystery disease.

Commenting on the reaction of aquarium visitors, breeder Masaya Kowami said, "Visitors have told us she looks happy. Although she can swim without the artificial fin, the speed is very slow and she certainly cannot jump without it." The down side is that the animal can only wear her fake appendage for 20 minutes a day, lest it fall off or be eaten by the other animals.

The company that produced the artificial fin, Bridgestone Corporation, also makes race car tires. A Bridgestone spokesperson said, "We make tires, we specialize in foos of sort," and noted that the company considers all offers that land on the table. Ten prototypes were made before Bridgestone could find one that worked.

Nature Bites Back: Antelope Uprising

On December 4, a 500-pound wildebeest repeatedly rammed and then trampled its owner to death. The animal was kept in captivity, along with other "exotic" animals, on the farm of Klaus "Dick" Radandt in North Liberty, Indiana. Radandt, 64, died of blunt force trauma to the chest and head, and was found by his wife lying in the barnyard behind their house.

This does not bode well for those interested in domesticating the wild antelope, a native to the plains of East

Africa. It seems the wildebeest didn't like being kept in captivity in freezing temperatures, and having his horns cut down to stumps.

Nature Bites Back: Anti-War Animal Gremlins

In February, a band of mice grounded four Dutch F-16 aircraft after using some of the jets' critical wiring for construction of their winter abodes. Mice had presumably entered the base from the nature preserve next door.

Birds and mice have really been on the attack in the Netherlands, and bosses at Dutch airports have stepped up security against the creatures. They have put out dog patrols,

ing area had been colliding with aircraft, causing serious damage to the crafts' engines.

Nature Bites Back: Feline Sniper

A cat in Iron County, Michigan, has shot its owner. For purposes of protection, the cat will not be referred to by name.

On the evening of March 9, the feline alighted from the windowsill above the counter in the kitchen of Joseph Stanton, 29, who stood cooking at the time. The cat then kicked Stanton's 9-millimeter pistol, resulting in a gunshot wound to the abdomen of the unsuspecting Stanton.

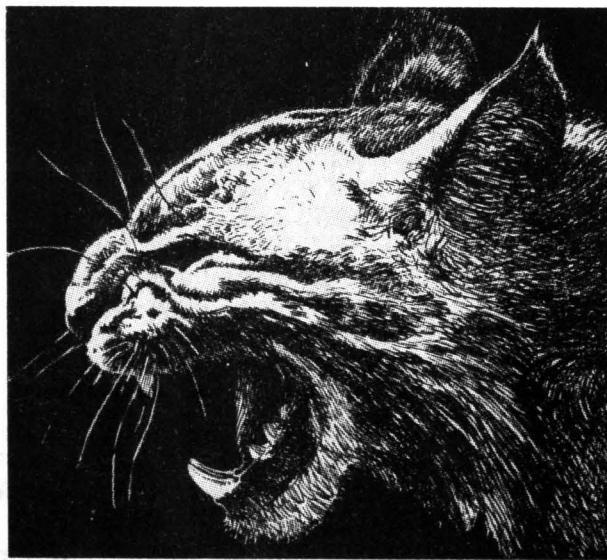
Nature Bites Back: Horses Revolt

A brother and sister horse team demolished two cars in Labrador, Newfoundland, on March 11, after exhaust fumes from an idling vehicle became too much for them to handle. The horses had just been tied up after dutifully dragging their owner, Tom Angiers, to a meeting of the Labrador Premier Cabinet, so that Angiers could promote agricultural tourism.

Angiers said, "Rusty got a little edgy because the exhaust fumes were hitting him in the face, so as I was trying to get the vehicle to move, Rusty

tossed his foot backwards a little bit... I guess he hit a nerve in his foot. It spooked him. He jumped ahead and Becky jumped ahead."

The horses then trotted across an intersection and into a parking lot, where their sleigh crashed into two cars, doling out serious damage. The two made it several blocks before Angiers could get them to stop.



alarms and tapes with recordings of people shouting in order to rid airports of attacking rodents.

In a related story, Dutch tulip growers were called upon in early March to plant thousands of tulips along the runways of Amsterdam's Schipol Airport after bird collisions became a serious problem. Birds looking for rodents in the surround-

Murder & land

AN AMERICAN NUN'S MURDER IN BRAZIL MAY WAKE A GLOBAL AUDIENCE

BY ISABELLA KENFIELD AND DAWN PLUMMER

The February 12 killing of American nun Dorothy Stang and its mainstream media coverage shone a brief light on the drastic situation of land conflicts in Brazil. For more than 30 years, Stang struggled on the frontlines alongside poor peasants in the fight against logging and the destruction of agrarian communities in the Amazonian state of Pará. Her life was ended by six close-range shots fired by two gunmen in the employ of loggers and ranchers. Only 10 days later, a second high-profile murder occurred in the nearly extinct Atlantic forest of Rio de Janeiro state. Fifteen-year veteran environmental activist Dionisio Ribeiro Filho died of a shotgun wound to the head in a similar struggle to defend a preserve from loggers.

While Stang's death represents the most internationally noticed killing of an environmental activist in Brazil since the death of rubber tapper Chico Mendes in 1988, hundreds of landless heroes and heroines have also been killed in the land conflicts that have become commonplace in Brazil's contentious regions.

A martyr in the movement for justice in Brazil, even in death Stang brought much-needed and long-overdue international attention to Brazil's land struggle. For Brazilians, land-related deaths are a familiar story. According to a 2003 human rights report by São Paulo-based Rede Social, 1,280 murders were registered among rural workers, lawyers, technicians, religious people and workers' leaders engaged in the fight for land between 1985 and 2000. Only 10 percent of these cases were ever prosecuted. During the same period, 6,330 rural workers were arrested due to their political activities in the fight for land reform.

As the struggle for land reform intensifies, the violence increases. According to the Brazilian human rights group Justica Global, 73 rural workers were killed in 2003, and 53 in 2004. More than 40 percent of these were killed in Pará. Perhaps the most infamous massacre of members of the Landless Workers Movement (MST) occurred at Eldorado dos Carajás, also in Pará, on April 17, 1996, when 19 landless workers were killed and 67 wounded.

New Corporations, Old Story

Much of this violence is linked to historic concentrations of wealth and poverty. According to MST leader João Pedro Stedile, the "poverty, unemployment and social inequality that exist in the Brazilian countryside are the fruits of 500 years of an agrarian model that has given priority to exports ever since the arrival of the Europeans and their interests. The agribusiness model is organized to produce dollars and products that interest Europeans and Asians, not Brazilians. And for this reason, it does not produce food, jobs or social justice."

Thirty million people in the Brazilian countryside live in conditions of absolute poverty, and 50 million Brazilians go hungry every day. Brazil has the most unequal distribution of land in the world, with one percent of the population owning 46 percent of the land. Although the country has the largest agricultural border in the world, it also contains 4.5 million families of landless workers. Both urban and rural lands lie idle so that speculators can play around with them, raising property values for the benefit of the owners.

The struggle over land in Brazil, particularly in the countryside, must also be framed within the larger context of the globalized production and consumption of Brazil's natural resources. While the US media condemned Stang's murder, they failed to comprehensively illuminate the struggle over land in Brazil. A March 2 editorial in the *New York Times* called for the Brazilian government to "punish the killers" and implement more rule of law in the region. But who are these killers? The editorial placed responsibility solely upon the Brazilian government and its inability to reckon with landowners in the timber industry; it failed to acknowledge the responsibility of transnational corporations and the consumption patterns of wealthy countries, both of which depend on Brazil's agroexport sector. Increasingly, Brazil's natural resources are being drawn into the global system of production and consumption, under the control of transnational corporations.

While agriculture is historically central in Brazil's economy, it has become what some call the economy's "green

“The agribusiness model is organized to produce dollars and products that interest Europeans and Asians, not Brazilians. And for this reason, it does not produce food, jobs or social justice.”

—João Pedro Stedile MST leader

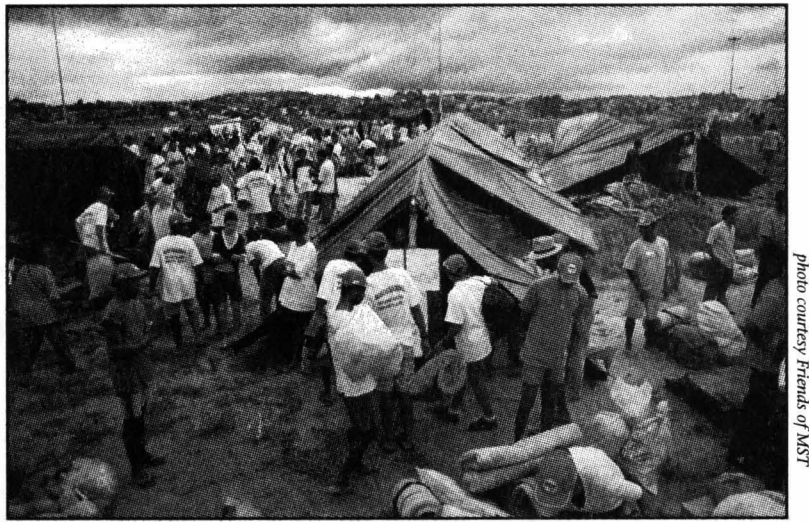


photo courtesy Friends of MST

An MST encampment, or “tent city,” where people sometimes live for years before land is granted.

anchor,” with total agricultural production representing 33 percent of the Gross Domestic Product and 42 percent of the country’s exports. The rapid expansion of soy production has fueled the recent agroexport boom.

US Department of Agriculture reports show a 65 percent increase in Brazilian soy acreage between 2000 and 2005. Behind the soy revolution are, among others, the agribusiness giants Monsanto, Cargill and Arthur Daniels Midland, which encourage the proliferation of transgenic soy seeds and a conventional agricultural system dependent on toxic insecticides, fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides. Like Brazilian landowners, these companies are determined to maintain the agroexport platform and the current system of land ownership. Transnationals’ interests in Brazil are supported by soy-expansion projects financed by the World Bank and other multilateral donor organizations, as well as the foreign policies of governments in the Global North, especially the US.

The People Fight for Land

Land conflicts are not unique to the rural landscape, however. Mechanized, agroindustrial, rural development schemes force small farmers out of the country and into the city, leaving urban areas desperate for housing, food and jobs for their swollen populations. The poor live precariously alongside the heavily guarded luxury housing of Brazil’s elite. This polarization also leads to conflict. On February 16, an eviction of more than 12,000 occupants of an urban encampment called “Dream Realized” (Condomínio Sonho Real) in Goiânia, Goiás, resulted in two deaths, 31 injuries and more than 800 arrests by military police.

As the destructive and violent global agribusiness system wreaks greater havoc, social movements such as the MST are mobilizing poor, rural Brazilians to resist, demanding a radical break from the current system of production and profits. At the center of this struggle is the demand for land reform and the creation of a family-based, sustainable agricultural system that produces food for the internal market.

The most famous and important of these movements is the MST, which pressures landowners and governments

to carry out land reform by staging well-planned, non-violent occupations of unproductive private lands. These occupations are reliant upon a clause in the Brazilian Constitution, which states that any land not performing a social function can be legally expropriated by the state. Formed in 1984, the MST today claims more than 1.5 million members and is considered to be the leading movement for rural land reform and social change in history.

Today, 240,000 people fill landless encampments on roadsides throughout the country, awaiting the fulfillment of promises made by Workers’ Party president and longtime labor leader Luis Inacio “Lula” da Silva. Lula’s National Plan for Agrarian Reform was supposed to resettle 400,000 families during his first term and regularize the land tenure situation of another 130,000. So far, fewer than 30,000 of the proposed 115,000 families have been settled. Between January and December 2004, the government expropriated only enough land to settle 25,000 families.

Facing increased attacks from agribusiness interests and inadequate action on the part of the Brazilian government, the MST is fighting hard to regain momentum for agrarian reform. From mid-April to early May, more than 10,000 rural workers marched 180 miles to converge on Brasilia and deliver a message to the public and the governing Workers’ Party: land reform is critical to Brazil’s development of social equality, food security and a vibrant civil society.

For more information, contact Friends of the MST, 651 Vanderbilt Street 7T, Brooklyn, NY 11218, USA; (212) 253-8850; dawn@mstbrazil.org; www.mstbrazil.org.

Isabella Kenfield is a volunteer for Friends of the MST who is currently working with the MST in Brazil. She holds an MS in community development from the University of California-Davis and has extensively researched the topic of agrarian reform.

Dawn Plummer is the national coordinator of Friends of the MST and a PhD Student in Political Science at the City University of New York’s Graduate Center. She works with poor people’s movements in Brazil and the US.

MASSACRE IN BRAZIL:

dreams made real

this is a short scene from the eviction of a squatters' encampment in the city of goiania in the state of goias in brazil—this is deep interior brazil where agribusiness is king—this was an autonomous, spontaneous urban occupation of more than 3,000 families, some of the poorest people in south america—they built low impact dwellings with water wells and small organic gardens—the occupation was called Sohno Real, “real dream”—their struggle for land and justice continues

BY BRAD WILL

dawn came on confused and quiet—a few milling about—it was the quietest i had ever seen the camp—so beautiful with the light low and cool—then the alarm sounded—people started appearing slowly from all points—gathering around a car with a sound system for news—it was plain and simple—30 trucks on their way all full of military police—all the time the siren didn't stop ringing—more people came up to the barricades—many ran off to tell their loved ones—surprisingly it was less panicky than the night before—they were solidifying the barricades quickly but there was little more to do—outside there was a quick interview of police brass for the corporate press—they had blocked all the roads leading to the camp

in the distance i could see the military police unloading from buses—they were geared up like storm troopers with green and black war paint—i photographed a line of women who had formed in front of the barricades and were praying and crying, some with their children in their arms—soon there were about a hundred troops lined up in formation in three squadrons—i started to realize just how hopeless this was

a call went out for everyone to be at the barricade—a huge block of peaceful pilgrims collected there—all ages and races with their hands in the air—the resistance fighters had mostly vanished—the military police started to move in, in formation with shields raised tight like a turtle shell—i didn't see anyone even throw a stone—suddenly behind me there was an explosion—it was a concussion grenade launched from a tear gas rocket—i was hiding behind the edge of a brick wall and was completely confused how it could be behind me with my eyes on the police—another explosion directly behind me and i felt the

slam against my skin and my ears went deaf ringing—they were already in the camp—it was pandemonium—everyone was running and screaming—as i ran i saw them coming from my flank—and aiming to shoot again not more than thirty feet away—then all hell broke loose—suddenly there was gas, rubber bullets, concussion grenades on all sides—immediately i recognized the sound of real bullets—i tried twice to stop and film but only for seconds until bullets flew nearby—they were advancing on either side of me in large groups—it wasn't safe anywhere in the streets—i saw two women face down in the street—i don't know if they were alive—at my feet i saw blood mixed in the dry dirt—everywhere people running in panic and screaming and trying to find some shelter from the barrage—i headed to a backyard, trying to cut through the backs of houses and was slowed by barbed wire between the yards—there were tall yucca plants giving me some cover as i ran—the military units were already past me on the main avenue and running rampant—they were shooting at anything that moved

i looked up and a door opened and a woman was motioning for me to come in—i ran inside with another older couple and they slammed the door to total darkness—inside there were two babies trying to scream but they were gagging on the tear gas—they showed me a bucket of water to wash off the gas—a man opened the door to look out and i came around to film—i saw the military point at us and yell something—we had our hands in the air but he and another raised their guns to shoot—as the door slammed shut the bullets hit the house—we all hit the ground—one woman was having a panic attack—i could smell gas from just outside creeping in—they cracked a window to breathe and i could see two women with babies and a tiny young girl on the bed—the whole home was one small room and made of simple bricks and used

(right)

People living in the encampment form a human barricade as the military police approach.

(bottom right)

A young boy holds shells fired into the squatters' encampment.

(bottom left)

A horse pulls a cart along a road in the encampment.

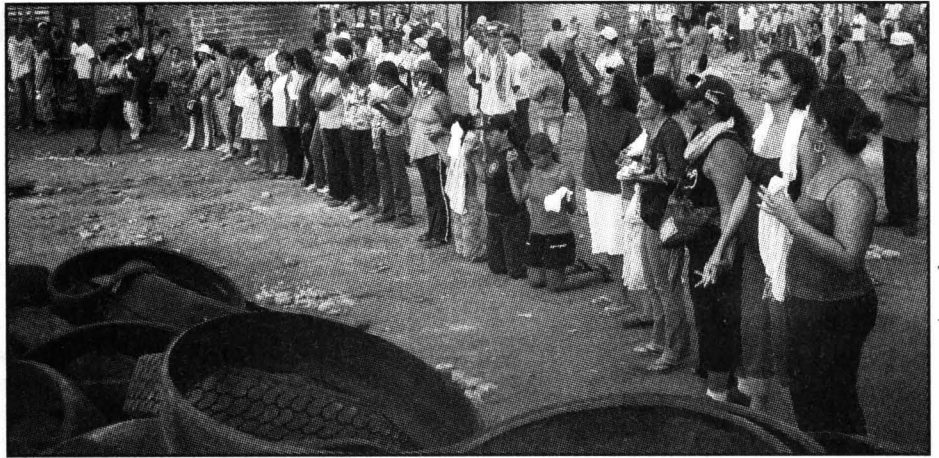
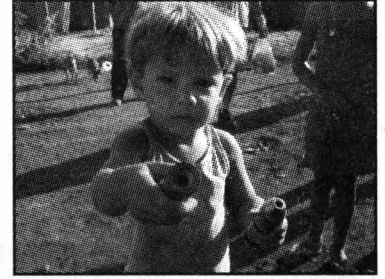


photo by Brad Will



photo by Brad Will



courtesy Brazil IMC

furniture with two beds right next to the kitchen—it was really beautiful and simple—I imagined the bulldozer destroying it all with us inside

the babies started to recover from the gas and the man opened another window but he was seen by military and there was more shooting—everyone was screaming to get on the ground—the sound of shots and screaming was constant outside—I was trembling—there were police right outside yelling orders to come out—the man yelled something back about being peaceful—I yelled that I was international press—he opened the door—I raised my hands high with video camera in one hand—they were in regular uniforms—the woman who was panicked before passed out right in front of her husband—he grabbed for her—the police made as if they were going to shoot—screaming at him to put up his hands but they couldn't see that his hands were holding his wife—I yelled we needed a doctor—it meant nothing to them—finally he raised his hands and dropped her there on the ground

I started walking out—they had pistols drawn and pointed at my head—I couldn't understand what they were screaming at me but they looked like they would shoot—I kept repeating I didn't understand—I was an international journalist—they mimed to keep my head down—as I walked out with my head down a few of them ran up and slammed into me, twisting my arms and kicking my feet out—I got punched in the head and another jumped on top of me—after they ripped the camera out of my hand and had me in plastic cuffs they started kicking me again—I got one of the officers' names who beat me—torres—he seemed like he was in command and picked me up and started screaming questions at me—I asked if he spoke Spanish and he screamed no one speaks Spanish in here—one of the

others handed him my camera and I got a woman cop to put my glasses in my front pocket—they started ripping through my bag—I told them again I was a journalist from New York City—they started to cut my bag off my back but I managed to explain how to get it off—they yanked me back to the main avenue and motioned me to head off toward the main entrance—the plastic cuffs were so tight even the adrenaline couldn't stop the pain—I was completely confused but saw women with children walking in the same direction and just followed them leaving my video camera still running in Torres' hands

there were troops still coming in with different kinds of uniforms—there was still shooting but a lot of it was further away, deeper in the camp—as I was walking I recognized a policeman from the corporate press interview—he stopped me and started looking through my bag—I told him I was a journalist from the US—it seemed to mean nothing to any of them—as he was rifling through my things a huge military policeman with a mask and a black bullet-proof vest stopped and looked at my credentials—he said they were fake and slammed me upside the head with an open hand so hard I almost fell off my feet except the other officer, who was smiling now, still had me by the arm and was holding me steady for the other

he led me toward the entrance where the barricades had been pushed aside—in front of me were hundreds of detainees kneeling on the ground—two cuffed together at the wrist—there was black smoke coming up in a half dozen different parts of the camp—I could still hear the shooting...

Brad Will is based in NYC and does solidarity work in South America with Black Bridge International and Indymedia Global Network. He is working on a video documentary about radical movements, sustainability and rebellion in Latin America.

ARMED WITH VISIONS

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GILGAMESH LOGGING CO.

5 Milleniums

Gilgamesh: hero of Sumerian epic—
first written in cuneiform 2600 to
2900 B.C. in the fertile crescent—
Assurbanipal, Assyrian king, 700 B.C.
is main source.

Industry's smoke/smog chokes west coast
three months---near November, storm approaching.
We flee up California into Oregon, 101-----
Maples, alders, oaks golden metal sky
one mile inland, vanish up canyon slopes
in clearcut quilt work!

Log trucks roll by, downshift, up grade!
Diesel overhauls our generation's harvest.
Saplings under fourteen inches---third cut
regrowth: mulched and chipped into toxic stews
glued for particle board construction:
dilution: solution to pollution.

Steel skeletons slough corrugated scales:
logger relics rusting sawmill compounds
in vacant lots outskirts of town-----
Up slopes, robots track plantation products
take what's left: quick killing in Xmas trees
soak up holiday cheer's merriment: bonuses
south of the border down Mexico way.

Meanwhile, RV asphalt parking lot crumbles
into Winchester Bay---we're taking showers
on guard, checking out sights in tool's
winning race west extracting resources.
Acid clouds dissolve centuries
obscure forests for trees.

But, into the forest green mist---Gilgamesh
entrepreneur, prince of Uruk Inc.
his sidekick wild man, Enkidu, ten steps behind
hunt the heart of the woods: terrible Humbaba
keeper of the Sacred Forest Primeval!

Gilgamesh, proud and golden one
fourth in line from the great flood.
Son of Lugulbanda, sets his name
where no man's name is written:
fame and fortune of his own making
subdue an evil proclaimed to the land
where the way was broad, the going good
and the ancient ones grew strong
beautiful, wise in the centuries.

Awed for a week, our two heroes wander
amazed; then, cut the first tree.
It thundered to the heavens
shook the mountain to its very spine-----
Terrible Humbaba, keeper of the forest
let out a wail---slapped his thigh in scorn! For he knew
his time was done
and the forest would fall.

For the fragrant gates of mighty Uruk
brought down by great Sargon---
Sacred cedar walls of Solomon's temple
Babylon ravaged, burned to the ground---
Galleys of Persian hordes, the Greek raiders
sinking to Mediterranean's blue---
Marseilles' Sacred groves falling
Caesar's blade sparing nothing to his fate---
Cornering the market keeper's share
new world's plunder in catacombs of our mines---
Civil obedience to conformity rules day
forests razed-----

Chris Olander

she takes her stand

she takes her stand high
up in the redwood trees
listening to them singing
to the sun singing to the stars
singing to each other
hour after hour day after day
as they have done
century after century after century
she listens to the long tales
of the ancient ones
Rain Fog Lightning Snow
Whirling Wind and in it
the voices of the ancestors
relearning the meaning of Time
as they turn the trees
all shades of green and silver
while below the forest's silent wisdom
is shattered as loggers hurl
up threats and chain
saws whine and tree
after tree after tree
falls

ellen cooney

The Trail

I walked up to my standing friend and asked
"Why are you so silent?"
It swayed in the wind and smiled down at me
I could almost understand its whisper:
"My job is to simply live; your job is to interpret
our needs to them. You fight for us."

I came back a few months later and sat down dejected.
My friend is dying; it has just been hacked down by
malicious loggers.
I cried "My friend, why didn't you stand up for
yourself?"
It whispered, "I did my job, I stood where I rightfully
belong.
Where were you to stand up for me?"
I lament "I tried! But not enough people will listen to
me."

My dying friend closed its eyes
"Such is true. They need to follow
our example of banding together
as a community. We need you
and all of your warrior friends
to fight for us.
Farewell."

Shall we continue to say goodbye to our old standing
friends,
watch them go one by one?
Or shall we continue to defend them?
It's truly up to each of you.

RaVen Crow Sequoia
November 13, 2004

Send poems to
Warrior Poets Society
P. O. Box 14501
Berkeley CA 94712-5501

Great North Mountain, Virginia/ Pine Mountain, Kentucky

It has been a month or more since
the chestnut oak parted its lips
to taste my hand. Touch of palm
against wet mouth and the teeth entered me,
needle – hair – filament – fine. Light as arrow
feather they pierce skin, and then explode
I turned from the tree's embrace
as fire lanced my hand, skin enflamed
with this sacred kiss: Creeping through my body
till I wondered if my breath would stop
bearing so much pain. So much delight
in receiving tongue of tree; in the bulb
of my thumb, still today the tracks are clear.
Skin bubbled back, miming the trace of lifeline.

A year ago, on another mountain slope
I laid my hand on cousin tree. This one
smooth of bark, no longer standing.
American chestnut bole, leaned against sandstone
cliffs, the peak of Appalachia's forest heart.
The smooth giant, slick with rain, tricked my feet
and I fell, hand first, into her arms.
Mother chestnut, I wept against your fallen body
cradling my broken hand – tears for the axe
bite of blight that took you from me, left us
dying in each other's arms.

My hand is inoculated now with spore and saliva,
blade and bruise. My blood has taken in the love
and grief that cloak our mountains – green forest
grows in my cambium tissues, forests' destruction
stains my sapwood veins.

What work for these hands of mine, dipped in living
trees?

Christina Wulf
Virginia/Central Appalachia

*Clear as cut glass
& just as dangerous*



Biodiesel:

Salvation or Disaster?

BY ALEXIS ZIEGLER

Biodiesel is the fastest-growing alternative fuel in the US. For its proponents, biodiesel promises to deliver us into an age of clean and renewable fuel. Yet if present trends continue, biodiesel is more likely to escalate human misery around the world for years to come.

Biodiesel's proponents claim that they are recycling discarded cooking oil. But is that oil really waste? In my hometown of Charlottesville, Virginia, used oil is collected by one of the four largest rendering companies in the US—Valley Proteins, which reprocesses dead animals, inedible slaughterhouse remains and used cooking oil into a wide variety of products. From a financial report, we learn that "Valley Proteins turns the raw materials it collects into commodity goods, which are sold to over 170 customers.... The company's finished products are quoted on established commodity markets or priced relative to substitute commodities...." About 80 percent of the fats from rendering are used in livestock feed. The rest are reprocessed into other products, including pet foods, chemicals and lubricants.

Note the phrase, "products are... priced relative to substitute commodities." Used cooking oil is not a discarded product—it is reprocessed and put on the market to vie with "substitute commodities." Any of the many companies using products from Valley Proteins is likely to purchase the cheapest adequate product, regardless of its source. If the buyers should run short of used vegetable oil, they would simply turn to products made from virgin oil instead.

If biodiesel consumption were to remain within the supply of used vegetable oil, that would all be fine. The problem is that the consumption of fossil diesel radically exceeds

the supply of used oil. Americans use nearly a billion gallons of petroleum a day; the entire output of all of the rendering companies in the US is a billion and a half gallons per year. If the entire annual output of used vegetable oil were diverted into the fossil fuel market, it would last us 36 hours. And that simply begs the question of where industry would turn to for all that cattle feed.

system. In 2004, global grain stocks were reduced to their lowest point in 30 years. Do you know when the world fish catch peaked? In the early 1980s. Irrigated farmland produces a lion's share of human food, but the global supply of irrigated farmland per capita has shrunk considerably. Even though the US has the most productive agricultural system in the world, it now teeters on the brink of agricultural

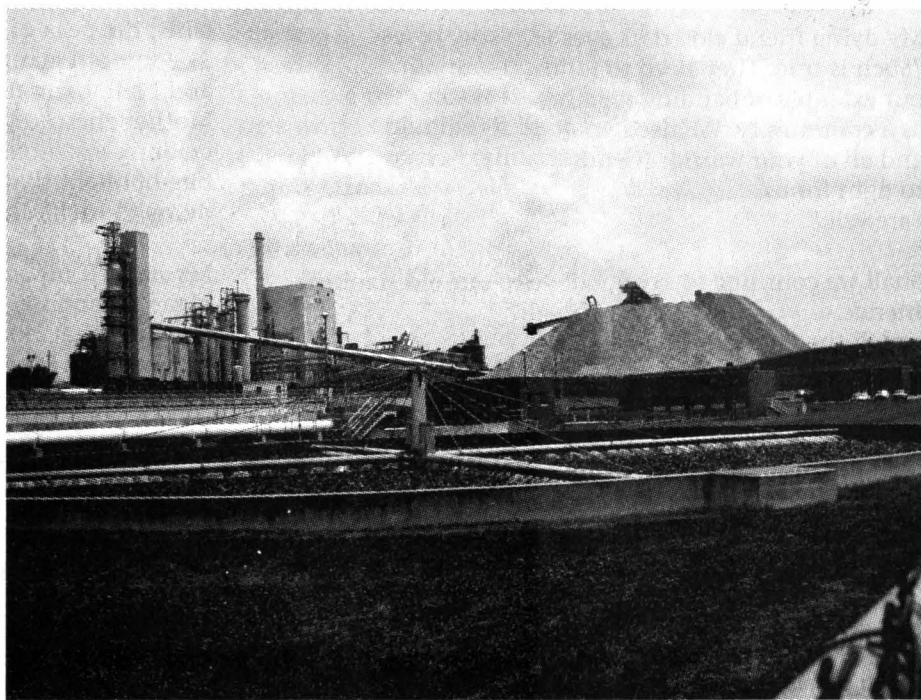


photo courtesy Dogwood Alliance

Chip mills like this one are falsely presented as sources of "environmentally friendly" alternatives to fossil fuels.

Is biodiesel renewable? Any resource is renewable only if it is extracted at a rate no greater than it is replenished. Overcutting a forest or overfishing a fishery renders a renewable resource non-renewable. Given that biodiesel potentially involves taking human food, like soy, corn and other oil-producing plants, and feeding it to automobiles, the renewability issue is paramount.

If we are going to feed human food to cars, we should take stock of the status of the global food production

debtorship. Beginning in the 1990s, the US has imported more food than it has exported in some years.

Given that the amount of farmland per person, irrigated and not, has substantially decreased, how is it that we continue to feed growing populations? Because we have been replacing soil with oil. Worldwide, the amount of energy we invest in each calorie of food has climbed steadily with increased use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. According to

David Pimentel, a researcher at Cornell University, American agriculture now invests three calories of fossil fuel for each calorie it produces. That is long before anyone considers putting those food calories into a gas tank.

If biodiesel is ecologically expensive, then won't the market correct the problem by keeping biodiesel financially expensive? Maybe, but for biodiesel's extra edge—guilt relief. There are a lot of progressive Americans who want to help the environment, but whose lifestyle is as car-dependent as anyone else's. In Fall 2004, Congress passed an excise tax relief to encourage the use of biodiesel. The horse is out of the gate.

If Americans are convinced that biodiesel is a "green" fuel, and we drive up the consumption of vegetable oil, we simply shift the weight of demand onto the virgin vegetable oil market. That isn't just a theory. In my home state of Virginia, the Soybean Association has been offering a cash rebate for first-time biodiesel purchases of up to \$500. The only motivation for such action is to bolster the price of virgin oil. This isn't about used fryer oil any longer.

Biodiesel is a powerful movement that is rapidly gaining force. As cars with their savage buying power are put into market competition with the hundreds of millions of humans already trying to live on a dollar a day, the latter will lose the tug of war. The global poor, for whom vegetable oil is already a scarce item, will do without.

All of this begs the question: If not biodiesel, then what? We have to have some source of energy, for transportation and otherwise. The issue is whether

you work on the problem from the demand side or the supply side.

If you take any modern energy system and try to address it from the supply side, you will fail. Already, there is a movement to use biofuels to generate the nation's electricity. That means that massive tree-chipping operations

have started descending on our national forests, converting lush, green ecosystems into moonscape and chips. The chips are then burned instead of coal to generate electricity, thus keep-

If Americans are convinced that biodiesel is a "green" fuel, and we drive up the consumption of vegetable oil, we simply shift the weight of demand onto the virgin vegetable oil market.

ing the tumble driers of America in operation. If you try to meet US energy demands from the supply side, you are simply going to throw unsustainable weight onto already overstressed biological systems.

Neither can we deal with transportation fuel by attacking the problem from the supply side. According to Pimentel, biofuels such as ethanol represent a net energy loss. Even if we disregard the energy used to distill ethanol, about 11 acres of corn must be used to fuel one car for one

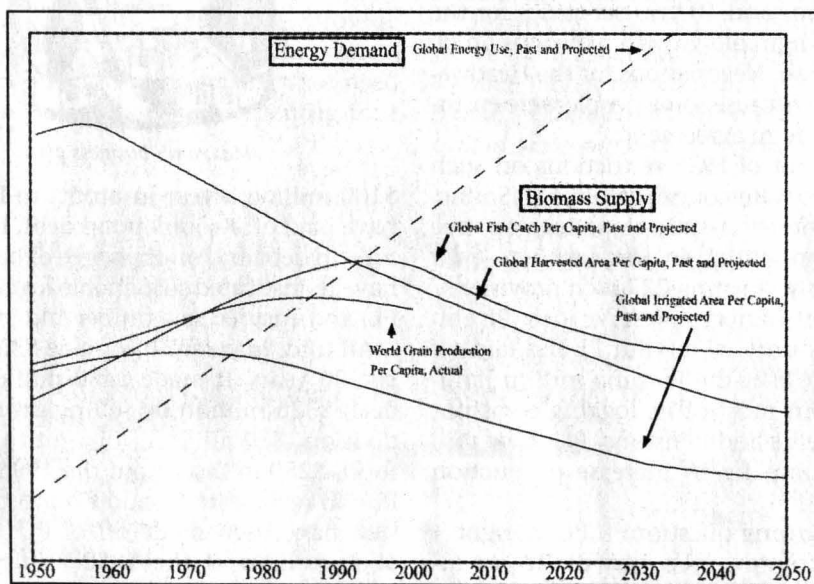
If you try to get your energy from any "alternative" source, the same supply-side principle applies. If you tried to supply the average American household with photovoltaic panels, it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Not only is that financially unfeasible, but the panels themselves represent a huge environmental cost. The only feasible way to supply a household with alternative energy is to first dramatically reduce the energy consumption of that household.

Why are we trying to solve our ecological problems with all the wrong answers? Because the right answers challenge our lifestyle. It is absolutely impossible to support the American lifestyle in a sustainable fashion with *any* energy source. Biofuels are not merely a neutral bystander; they are enormously destructive. Supply-side biofuels perpetuate the myth that our lifestyle can continue, if only we find the right fuel—biodiesel, ethanol, hydrogen, etc. "President" Bush supports hydrogen; Congress supports biodiesel and ethanol. Think about it.

Single-family housing, as well as individual automobiles, are simply unsustainable, regardless of our energy source. So what then are the solutions? Live close enough to where you work and play so that you don't have to drive. Refuse to own a car. Live cooperatively. For mainstream liberals, that may sound absurd. But that is precisely why the entire discussion about biofuels is misguided, because real solutions demand a more radical perspective. Real answers are social and ecological, not technological. Turning the beast of industrialism

with its voracious appetite away from fossil fuel and into our forests and fields is not an answer.

Alexis Zeigler is an activist in central Virginia who works on environmental, transportation and media issues. His writings are posted on his website, coneveg.org.



Current food production cannot meet present rates of fuel consumption. Source: World-Watch Institute; see *Beyond Malthus*, Lester Brown, 1999.

year—but the global supply of grain-land per person was .57 acres (notice the decimal) in 1950, and is projected to be .17 acres in 2050. Biodiesel represents similar ecological absurdities, yet both biodiesel and ethanol have Congressional support. How we do cherish the myth of technology.

Maxxam Extorts More Logging

BY KAREN PICKETT

Extortion, threats to public officials, spittin' in the eye of Mother Nature—it's all in a day's work for Maxxam.

Pacific Lumber (PL) is once again holding ancient redwoods hostage and threatening dire consequences for local communities and for protected ancient trees if it doesn't get what it wants. On top of that, it is delivering fairly unveiled threats to government officials.

We've seen this before. During Headwaters Deal negotiations in 1998-1999, PL's extortion efforts were for money (half a billion taxpayer dollars) and concessions on its Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This time, it is demanding the suspension of regulatory limits on its logging. Maxxam Chief Executive Officer Charles Hurwitz himself met in private with top aides of California "Governor" Arnold Schwarzenegger in January to issue PL's threats and demands. Hurwitz said that unless PL gets the green light on logging in flood-prone watersheds, where its previous logging has wreaked havoc for residents and endangered fish habitat, then the company would go belly up.

Deceive and Plunder

Why is bankruptcy a threat to the public trust and not just to the company's assets? Hurwitz maintains that bankruptcy would invalidate the terms of the 1999 Headwaters Deal, including stream protections and 50-year set-asides for the last substantial chunks of virgin old-growth redwoods on PL property. But that just isn't so. Negotiations for the Headwaters Deal were brutal, partly because some people were ensuring that it would be a long-term agreement.

PL has tried to squirm out of HCP restrictions on such things as logging too close to watercourses before. Last Spring, it tried to "loosen" restrictions on steep-slope logging, tree felling close to streams and cutting in wet weather—even though it was already grossly violating 227 such provisions.

The company says that it wants to preserve jobs (PL employs about 820 people county-wide). But PL has laid off many of its mill workers (38 at the Fortuna mill in January) and now contracts out most of its logging so as not to be responsible for benefits and pensions. PL's new mill technology allows the company to increase production with fewer workers.

Which brings us to a burning question: If PL thought it was on the brink of bankruptcy, then why did it just invest millions in revamping its flagship mill to a high-tech operation, calling it "the foundation for the growing PL Company?" Is it because this new mill will take smaller trees (remember Louisiana Pacific in Mendocino County in the 1990s?) and will use fewer workers for greater production? Did PL just assume that its arm-twisting in Sacramento would work?

Let's be real. In the 19 years since the takeover of PL by Maxxam, the company has raked in huge profits by logging valuable, old-growth redwood, selling off PL assets and of course reaping the benefits of the Headwaters Deal, sending



Maxxam's business plan

\$100 million a year in profits to Houston. Maxxam could have paid off its junk bond debt, but instead it has kept PL fully in debt and on the verge of bankruptcy. Hurwitz could have re-instituted sustainable logging (like the pre-Maxxam PL) and ensured saw timber and jobs in perpetuity.

All told, Maxxam has made \$3.6 billion off of PL in the last 20 years. It made \$480 million from the Headwaters deal, \$325 million by selling off the cutting and welding division, \$60 million from gutting the employee pension fund, \$250 million from the 1998 bond sale and \$37 million in real estate, in addition to the \$2.5 billion in profits that have been made off of PL's timber. Yet it still owes \$760 million of the \$870 million debt incurred in the takeover 20 years ago, and now it's crying bankruptcy.

PL's greedy overcutting has led to predictable results. It is fairly simple math. Contrary to the management style of the "old" PL, by 1999 the harvest had skyrocketed to 10 times PL's historic average and three times its previous maximum. Company officials had to know that down the line, the accelerated rate of harvest would lead to less logging and less employment, meaning mills would have to be shut down and employees laid off.

In 1993, Maxxam refinanced its debt, taking hundreds of millions of dollars out of the company, while returning

Plans from California Government

the debt to its 1985 level. In 1998, Maxxam refinanced again, this time mortgaging all the company's timberlands, leaving PL with as much debt as ever but without its greatest asset. Then the corporados lobbied the state forestry agency for a high rate of harvest to meet their "outstanding financial obligations."

Agency Caves to PL Threats

Fast forward to the present stage, with water agency officials as major characters because of the devastating effect the increased logging has had on streams in Humboldt, and the increased power given the water board by recent legislation. The water board began looking at watersheds a few years ago and said that cumulative logging had caused increased sedimentation and flooding. The flooding can be traced back to when PL was first acquired by Maxxam, but things got much worse around 1996. The infamous Stafford slide, which buried several homes and inspired the Luna treesit, was in 1997.

Around this time, it became clear that it was not just the dreadlocked treesitters who were railing against PL's management style. The logging-caused flooding has damaged people's homes, vehicles, septic systems and wells. The Health Department has told people that any time it floods, they need to put on waders, rubber gloves and masks and scrub their whole house out because of septic contamination. PL was ordered to provide trucked-in drinking water for residents in one watershed because of well contamination. Flooding that used to happen about twice a decade is now happening four or five times a year.

At the end of February, the regional water quality agency's executive officer, Catherine Kuhlman, gave PL the 50 percent solution, allowing PL to clearcut more steep hill-sides in the blighted Freshwater and Elk River watersheds. The decision flies in the face of independent scientific data, which shows that logging by PL is causing permanent damage to the two Northern California areas that the Clean Water Act lists as sediment-impaired.

Then on March 16, the board of the regional water agency caved to intense political pressure and overruled its own staff by approving even more logging—75 percent of what PL was demanding in the impaired watersheds.

"They didn't split the baby. They mutilated the baby," said Richard Geinger, a Humboldt County restoration activist, at the packed hearing. The company could gross an additional \$20 million in revenue. On April 6, the first good news in this saga arrived, when the state water board issued a stay on logging in two watersheds in response to an appeal of the regional board's action. Naturally, PL is challenging the stay, so the decision will go to a hearing before the full state board.

At March's meeting, the regional water quality board chairwoman, Beverly Wasson, angrily chastised PL executives for threatening Kuhlman. Kuhlman said that she was in a meeting with two PL representatives and her attorney when she was told, "If we didn't give them the harvest plans they wanted, I would have no future, no career."

Meanwhile, we've got treesitters, we've got lawsuits, we've got legislation. Got bankruptcy? Stay tuned.

Karen Pickett has been an Earth First! devotee since her biocentric epiphany in the early '80s. She has been on the tail and trail of Maxxam since it invaded California in the mid-'80s.

Law and Order, Judi Bari Style

BY SARAH

The Forest for the Trees: Judi Bari v. the FBI, directed by Bernadine Mellis, Redbird Films, 2005.

The Forest for the Trees: Judi Bari v. the FBI is Bernadine Mellis' recently released documentary detailing the victory of Bari's civil suit against the FBI. Mellis is the daughter of Bari's lead lawyer, Dennis Cunningham, and a legal perspective dominates the hour-long documentary.

The absent Bari (who died before her suit came to trial) is the center of the film, and she is depicted as the sole driving force behind Redwood Summer, perhaps at the expense of the dedicated community of activists involved in many aspects of the campaign. Yet, the main cast of characters is ultimately the legal team.



Viewers wishing for an elucidation of EF! principles, the history of the redwoods campaign or even a comprehensive perspective on Bari's background will be disappointed.

However, the 54-minute film does an excellent job describing (and refuting) the charges against Bari and Darryl Cherney that resulted from their injury in a 1990 car bomb attack.

The film features high courtroom drama, explicates the significance of the ruling and highlights the hard work of the legal team. Mellis takes the stance that Bari was targeted for her work uniting loggers and EF!ers, which the film documents quite convincingly.

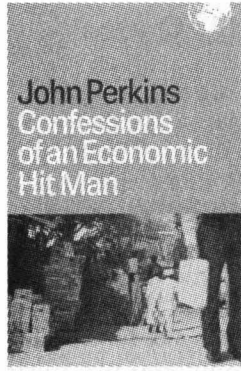
The Forest for the Trees does a great job of drawing the viewer into the courtroom. Most importantly, it is inventive and artistically enjoyable—always a plus for movement films.

Colonialism Through Economics: An Insider's Story

BY WALT STATON

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man by John Perkins, Berret-Koehler Publishers, 2004.

If the words "World Bank" and "International Monetary Fund (IMF)" tend to give you migraines. If hearing about corporations like Halliburton and Bechtel gives you nightmares. And, most importantly, if you are taking a class in economics where the assigned reading begins with Adam Smith and ends



with Milton Friedman, you need to read this book.

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man traces the author's life through nearly 20 years of work for engineering giant Chas T. Main, where he was planted by the National Security Agency. The book vividly exposes how mega-corporations and the US government work closely together on a path of imperialism.

Instead of using overt military power like the colonial forces of the past, the new weapon of choice is economics. During Perkins' years with Main, economic hit men were trained to travel to foreign countries, research their weaknesses, then help draft plans for World Bank "development"

projects that would force these countries into eternal debt. If the hit men failed, they were quickly followed by CIA "jackals," who led coups or assassinations to install more friendly regimes. Only if the jackals failed would the US resort to military intervention.

Unlike other writers on this topic, John Perkins exposes the beast from deep inside, providing the names, dates and places that we've only been able to speculate about before.

Perkins makes it very clear that this economic colonialism is very carefully planned by a small, select group of people. Every loan, every development project initiated by these institutions, is specifically designed to cripple and enslave the world, nation by nation. That's all.

Perkins shows how after World War II, the US instituted policy of long-term economic domination so carefully crafted that professors were actually planted in respected universities to publish papers espousing the wonders of neoclassical economics.

The book takes us around the world to peasant villages in Indonesia, General Torrijos' office in Panama, the royal House of Saud in the Arabian Peninsula, the deserts of Iran and the rainforests of Ecuador.

Despite all that Perkins has experienced and exposed, he's still a patriot with an unyielding faith in US democracy. That said, this is a great (and quick) book to read. Then pass it on to your parents.

Deadlier than Dinosaurs

MICHAEL CRICHTON'S ELF WANTS TO KILL YOUR CHILDREN!

BY JOSH

State of Fear: A Novel by Michael Crichton, HarperCollins, 2004.

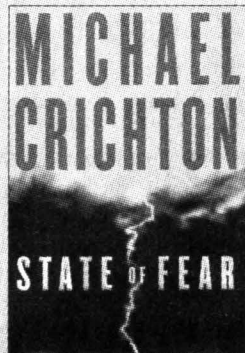
The new techno-thriller from Michael Crichton, author of *Jurassic Park*, has received considerable attention for its allegation that global warming does not exist. However, reviews have been predictably silent on *State of Fear's* other contention: that all environmentalists—from the Sierra Club to the Earth Liberation Front (ELF)—are not rational dissenters, but rather devotees of a faulty ideology comparable to religious fundamentalism and equally dangerous.

The novel's outlandish plot centers on an environmental nonprofit so desperate for validation that it bankrolls a nefarious scheme by the "Environmental Liberation Front," wherein all the natural disasters falsely predicted by climate change alarmists will be created artificially. All that stands in their way is a motley crew of covert government types and reformed environmental lawyers. These "heroes" manage to have awkward and artificial conversations with each other about the barbarity of nature, indigenous people and postmodern relativism, while simultaneously battling evil and saving the world.

Although Crichton tries to hide behind his novel's genre, his very real contempt for the entirety of the environmental movement is obvious. It is no coincidence that Crichton's ELF is a tight network of drunken, ignorant thugs who nevertheless possess the funding, know-how and desire to kill millions of people. Equally intentional is his allegation that nonprofits funnel millions of dollars into underground, "terrorist" groups.

Even creepier is Crichton's eagerness to punish environmentalists in dementedly ironic ways: ELFers are mauled by SUVs, and a Hollywood actor who praises traditional, hunter-gatherer societies is mutilated and eaten alive by Melanesian cannibals (pretty much the only people of color in the entire book). These are not pragmatic deaths that serve the plot, but macabre suggestions of what Crichton would like to do to people like us.

State of Fear is clearly not the nobly-conceived, rationally-presented treatise that Crichton claims. It is reactionary propaganda that dismisses the threat of climate change and, instead, presents "ecoterrorism" as the only imminent danger to humanity and the planet. When a book like this is published, we should be worried. When it becomes a best seller, we should be very, very afraid.



Ask an EF! Lawyer

He's Working on *Your* Side!

BY STU SUGARMAN

Dear EF! Lawyer,

How could that rancher's SLAPP suit against the Center for Biological Diversity have succeeded?

—STUNNED AND AMAZED

Dear Amazed,

Cattle have been unraveling North America's biological diversity since Columbus brought them from Europe in 1494. Today, cattle ranching destroys millions more acres of federal land than forest cutting. It dries up streams and upland habitat by packing soil and removing bank-stabilizing vegetation. The wolf, bear, desert tortoise, sage grouse and countless other species have been driven nearly to extinction by cattle ranchers. Yet the government still permits the mythical Marlboro Cowboy to wreck our deserts, despite the widespread damage he causes. It adds insult to injury to know that these water-loving animals are incapable of making it in the wild *anywhere* without the cowboy's help.

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) is a non-profit organization whose noble mission is, in part, to "secure a future for animals and plants hovering on the brink of extinction, [and] for the wilderness they need to survive." CBD's determination to protect species brought to the brink of extinction by grazing has made confrontation with cattle ranchers inevitable. By the time of its recent trial, CBD had already filed more than 170 lawsuits against the federal government in the name of imperiled species.

This conflict began when CBD appealed a US Forest Service (USFS) decision allowing apparently excessive cattle grazing on an allotment within southern Arizona's Coronado National Forest, a decision that CBD believed would further threaten the already troubled Sonora chub and Chiricahua leopard frog. The USFS leased grazing privileges on this allotment to wealthy banker Jim Chilton and his wife Sue, who happens to be the chairwoman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. CBD provided pictures to the USFS to prove that the allotment was in horrible shape from the Chiltons' severe overgrazing.

CBD issued a press release announcing its appeal and posted a copy of the appeal on its website. Mr. Chilton filed a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) against CBD and some of its employees, claiming that the press release and appeal photos told lies that damaged him and harmed his business (see EF!)



January-February 2004, "Ask an EF! Lawyer" for more about SLAPP suits).

A Pima County jury agreed with Chilton (in a 9-1 vote) and awarded him \$100,000 of the \$200,000 that he requested for actual damages, plus \$500,000 to punish CBD.

CBD points out certain mistakes at the trial that may have caused this strange verdict. First, the judge should have dismissed this SLAPP suit against CBD, a group that did nothing more than ask the federal government to enforce its own laws. Second, Chilton was just plain wrong when he argued that CBD's press release and photos falsely depicted the conditions on the ground where his cattle had grazed. Third, Chilton incorrectly claimed that there is no habitat for the Sonora chub or Chiricahua leopard frog on the allotment. Finally, Chilton even argued, in a bit of culture war rhetoric, that CBD is run by dreaded vegetarians!

When I learn of strange decisions like this one (CBD has otherwise been remarkably successful in its court battles, racking up routine legal victories for numerous species facing extinction) I start thinking of other reasons for it. I think that maybe the Pima County jury was biased in favor of ranchers, against environmentalists or both. It could also be that people in the jury got sucked in by Chilton's constant attempts to invoke that old cowboy myth and felt sorry for the poor old cattle rancher/banker, his powerful wife and his herd of life-snuffing bovines. Whatever the reason for it, CBD will fight the loss on appeal and we, too, should continue to support CBD's struggle. We certainly won't win every battle, but we must keep fighting and we will win the war.

If you wish to donate to CBD's legal defense fund, please contact Keri Dixon, (520) 623-5252 x312; kdixon@biologicaldiversity.org.

Do you have a legal question? Contact Stu Sugarman, c/o Walker, Warren and Watkins, 838 SW 1st Ave, Ste 500, Portland, OR 97204; quixote516@yahoo.com. Please write "Dear EF! Lawyer" in the subject line.

Prisoner Support Works!

Josh Demmitt Starts His Sentence

BY THE JOSH DEMMITT SUPPORT GROUP

In January, Josh Demmitt was sentenced to 2.5 years for fires that caused \$300,000 worth of damage to Brigham Young University's Ellsworth Meat and Livestock Facility in Summer 2004.

A lot has been happening with Josh as he has settled into the first month of his 2.5 year sentence, and we've been incredibly happy with the amount of support that everyone has shown. Here's what's been going on:

Josh's support campaign has helped to place information and articles on Josh with *Bite Back!*, *No Compromise*, the *Earth First! Journal*, *Break the Chains*, the Animal Defense League, the Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, Free's Defense Network, animalliberationfront.com and many others.

Josh has been receiving loads of mail, books and magazines. People in the US, UK, Italy and Germany have written to him, and Josh has told us that "mail call" is his favorite part of the day. We purchased credit for Josh at AK Press, so that he can order books for himself. He's gotten into a graphic design class and runs a lot in the yard. We hope you're a vegan powerhouse when you get out, Josh.

January found us busy making T-shirts and merchandise, planning support events and coming up with new and better ways to help Josh. Members of Josh's support group attended the Grassroots Animal Rights Conference in February to share an information and merchandise table with Friends of Jeffrey Luers. Andrew Stepanian and Benjamin Persky of the support group both spoke at the conference as well, as part of a panel of former animal liberation prisoners. We had Josh Demmitt T-shirts for sale, leaflets, letter writing supplies, a huge card for everyone to sign and lots of information on more ways to help.

Josh had some trouble finding enough vegan food to eat and getting the prison officials to take his diet seriously at first. We responded by asking the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine to mail the prison the legal precedents that guarantee prisoners the right to vegan food, as well as recipes and simple meals that would provide a nutritiously adequate diet. Josh's former attorney, his family and a few activists with experience

in dealing with prison officials made several calls and wrote letters on Josh's behalf.

Activists from the support group were ignored, ridiculed and lied to, and when we heard that Josh had lost 15 pounds in three weeks, we called on his supporters to take action. We requested that people make polite phone calls to the prison, requesting that Josh meet with a dietician to get a nutritious vegan diet. The call to action was forwarded extensively, and resulted in prison officials receiving so many calls that they hung up on callers who said Josh's name.

To our surprise, FCI Sheridan responded not by seeing that Josh received medical attention and food, but by putting him into solitary confinement—a disciplinary measure entirely unwarranted, and most likely illegal. We became extremely concerned about his health. Josh's family and attorney contacted the prison, and the support group spoke with Josh's case counselor and

began planning for possible legal action. We waited anxiously to hear from Josh after his phone privileges were restricted to a couple of calls a week.

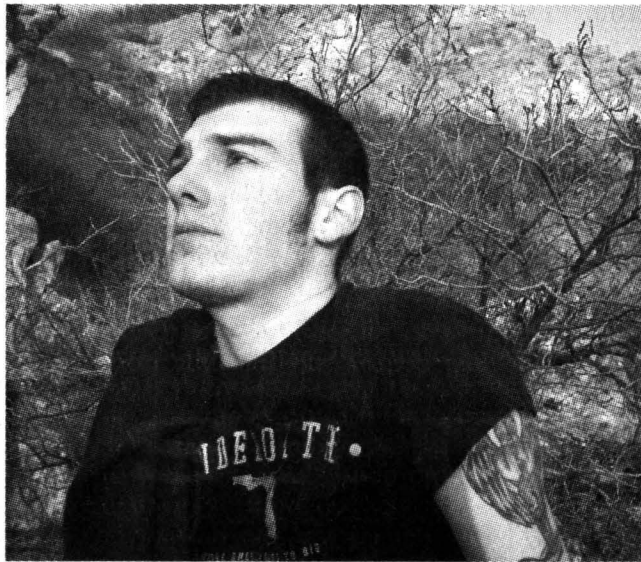
Then we finally heard great news from Josh and the prison. Afraid that "300 People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals" protestors would show up at the prison," the warden of FCI Sheridan personally assured the support group that Josh would be released from solitary confinement. She reportedly met with Josh three times and showed him around the kitchen, pointing out the vegan items available. The warden also promised to assign Josh a "mentor"—a

low inmate who eats a vegetarian diet and will show Josh how he can get enough food.

This is irrefutable proof that prison support works. We are incredibly thankful for all the help you provided, in phone calls, letters and legal support for Josh. Please keep it coming!

Send letters of support to Joshua Demmitt, #12314-081, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA.

For more information, contact the Josh Demmitt Support Group, c/o Animal Defense League, POB 1587, Huntingdon, NY 11743; supportjosh@riseup.net; www.supportjosh.org.



Josh Demmitt

photo courtesy Josh Demmitt Support Group

Repression of Mexican Forest Defenders Continues

Free Felipe Arreaga Sánchez!

BY VERONIQUE BASSOT

Felipe Arreaga Sánchez, co-founder of the Organization of Environmentalist *Campesinos* of the Sierra Petatlán (OCESP), was arrested on November 3 and falsely charged with homicide and criminal organization. These accusations were fabricated by local businessman Bernardino Bautista Valle, in conjunction with local authorities.

Arreaga's unjust imprisonment and the arrest warrants issued against 14 other OCESP leaders are obvious signs that the criminalization of OCESP and its members has not stopped, in spite of their successful campaign to force Boise Cascade out of the Sierra Petatlán.

OCESP: Defending the Sierra

In 1995, the infamous transnational Boise Cascade received permission to log the Sierra Petatlán in the state of Guerrero, México. Boise Cascade found an ally in local political boss Bautista, who worked to ensure the nonresistance of the local community. Bautista soon became well known for his acts of intimidation and manipulation against the local collective farming committees (*ejidos*).

Local peasant farmers (*campesinos*), led by Arreaga and others such as Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Carbera, founded OCESP in 1998 to resist and confront Boise Cascade's operations in their region. Some members of OCESP were former employees of Boise Cascade, and had evidence that the company was cutting hundreds more trees than the government had authorized. According to the National Commission of Biodiversity, the deforestation of the Sierra Petatlán and Coyuca de Catalan was as high as 40 percent from 1992 to 2000.

OCESP's energetic campaign against the illegal logging finally bore fruit when Boise Cascade abandoned the region in 1998, arguing "difficult trading conditions." Similarly, other forest exploitation permits in Petatlán have been canceled after road blockades and other resistance by OCESP.

Of course, this did not please Bautista. He responded by joining forces with local authorities to launch a campaign of defamation and repression against the members of OCESP. The Sierra Petatlán was soon militarized, and several OCESP leaders fled the area. Felipe Arreaga left his community and sought refuge elsewhere so that he could continue his environmental work.

In 1999, the military arbitrarily detained Montiel and Carbera. They were illegally transferred to the barracks of

the 40th Infantry Battalion in Altamirano City, where they confessed under torture to illegal possession of weapons and to harvesting illegal products (drugs). After two years of imprisonment, they were finally released on the order of President Vicente Fox, but they were never declared innocent and no one was brought to justice for their torture.

Free Felipe!

Despite the climate of repression, Arreaga and his wife, Cesa Baldovinos, went on to organize a reforestation campaign in the Sierra Petatlán, as well as organic farming projects.

Now Arreaga and 14 other members of OCESP are falsely accused of murdering Bautista's son in 1998. The case against them is so shoddy that one of the named defendants actually died in 1996! Of the two witnesses against the defendants, one has already admitted to naming Arreaga only because of pressure and threats leveled against him by Bautista and judicial police. Other witnesses attest that Arreaga was in another town on the day of the murder, being treated by a doctor for his bad back.

The charges of "criminal organization" have already been dropped due to lack of evidence. Arreaga and the 14 others are obviously innocent, and they have been targeted only because of their human rights work to defend the forest. Arreaga has been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International.

As friends of the Earth and of human rights, please take action and urge the Mexican authorities to release Felipe Arreaga Sánchez, cancel the 14 outstanding arrest warrants against the other OCESP leaders and investigate the constant harassment and persecution of OCESP. Appeals can also be made to Mexican embassies in other countries.

Send letters of support (in Spanish) to Felipe Arreaga Sánchez, Cárcel Preventiva de Zihuatenejo, Calle Paseo de la Deportiva s/n, Col. Deportiva, Zihuatenejo, Go. CP 40880, Mexico. Letters in English, Spanish or German may be sent to him via econoticias@sosbahia.org.

For more information, including contact information for local Mexican authorities, contact Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, tlachinollan_internacional@yahoo.com.mx; www.tlachinollan.org.

Veronique Bassot is the International Program Coordinator of "Tlachinollan," the Human Rights Center of La Montaña. She is currently working to secure the legal defense of Felipe Arreaga Sánchez.



photo by Rodrigo Cruz/Tlachinollan/Pro Medios

Felipe Arreaga Sánchez

Prisoners in the Struggle: Support Them!

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

Prisoner and Legal Updates

•Tre Arrow, CS#05850722, North Fraser Pretrial Centre, 1451 Kingsway Ave, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1S2, Canada. Arrow's extradition hearing has been postponed until June 27. He is facing extradition to the US to stand trial for his alleged involvement in the arson of logging trucks and an Earth Liberation Front (ELF) arson of vehicles owned by a sand and gravel company. For more information, visit www.trearrow.org.

•Jorge Cruz Hernández, #26318-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Cruz is scheduled to be released on June 6, after serving 1.5 years for actions taken during a celebration of the end to the US Navy bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

•Josh Raisler Cohn was sentenced in February to 30 days for taking part in a Greenpeace action that involved scaling a coal smokestack and hanging a banner that read, "The Bush Energy Plan Kills, Clean Energy Now." Cohn and his co-defendants were initially charged with USA PATRIOT Act felonies and threatened with 90 years in prison. After taking plea bargains, Cohn and his co-defendants served their time and have all now been released.

•Amanda Cerezo García, CP Alicante II, Ctra. N-330, km 66, 03400, Villena, Spain. Cerezo, a well-known vegan anarchist, has been accused of torching a vehicle used for environmental destruction and of sending a letter bomb to a neo-Nazi politician. While imprisoned, she has been translating animal liberation material into Spanish.

•Sarah Gisborne LT5393, HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent, ME1 3LU, England. In February, Gisborne was sentenced to 6.5 years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage to vehicles owned by people linked to Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS).

•Johan Jaatinen, Anstalten Skenas, SE-610 31 Vikbolandet, Sweden. On April 4, Jaatinen was sentenced to six months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

•Charles Arthur Jordan IV, #68163065, Federal Prison Camp Sheridan, POB 6000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly planning to damage equipment at a quarry near Portland, Oregon. Jordan has been moved to the above address.

•Matthew Lamont, an Earth Firster, was released in October after serving nearly three years for possession of an incendiary device. He is now appealing the legality of his conviction.

•Stephen Marshall, #68511-065, FDC-Sheridan, POB 5000, Sheridan, OR 97378, USA. Awaiting trial for allegedly planning to damage equipment at a quarry near Portland, Oregon. Marshall has been moved to the above address.

•Christopher "Dirt" McIntosh, #30512-013, FDC Seatac, Federal Detention Center, POB 13900, Seattle, WA 98198, USA. McIntosh was arrested on February 14 and charged with involvement in a joint Animal Liberation Front (ALF)/ELF arson against a Seattle, Washington, McDonald's in 2003. If convicted of all charges, he faces a minimum of 30 years in prison. For more information, visit www.supportchris.org.

•José Montañez Sanes, #26317-069, MDC Guaynabo, POB 2147, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00922-2147. Montañez is scheduled to be released on May 29, after serving 1.5 years for actions taken during the Vieques victory celebration.

•Sergio Maria Stefani was found guilty on April 4 of planting an incendiary device outside a butcher shop. He was sentenced to time served and is now under house arrest while awaiting trial for his alleged involvement in a letter-bombing campaign.

•Mordecai Vanunu was charged in March with 22 counts of violating the terms of his release. Upon his release in April 2004, after serving 18 years for exposing Israel's secret nuclear weapons program, Vanunu was barred from communicating with foreign journalists and from attempting to leave Israel (see *EF!* July-August 2004).

•Helen Woodson, #03231-045, FMC Carswell—Admin Max Unit, POB 27137, Ft. Worth, TX 76127, USA. Serving eight years and 10 months for actions violating her parole, including dumping a cup of red paint over the security apparatus of a federal court and making warnings ("threats") of weapons of mass destruction. In March 2004, Woodson 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. She has been moved to the above address.

Awaiting Trial or Sentencing

•William Frediani, Casa di Reclusione, Via Maiano 10, 06049 Spoleto (PG), Italy. Awaiting trial for allegedly participating in direct action, using firebombs and promoting sabotage. Frediani is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

•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.

•Alessio Perondi, Via Pianezza 300, 10151 Torino, Italy. Awaiting trial, accused of promoting sabotage and participating in direct action. Perondi is a member of *Il Silvestre*.

Animal Liberation

•Dave Blenkinsop, EM7899, HMP Rye Hill, Onley, Warwickshire CV23 8AN, England. Serving 10 years for attacking the managing director of HLS, rescuing 600 guinea pigs from a lab

supplier and planting incendiary devices under slaughterhouse vehicles.

•Hanna Ekegren, Box 1005, 718 92 Frovi, Sweden. Serving 10 months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

•Daniel Hedqvist, Torsgården, 618 33 Kolmården, Sweden. Serving 10 months for openly damaging 18 machines at a chicken processing plant.

•Paul Le Boutillier, KA9326, HMP Wealstun, Walton Rd, Wetherby LS23 7AZ, England. Serving 2.5 years for making phone calls to animal abusers, including HLS shareholders, hunters and agricultural suppliers.

Ecodefense

•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. 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.

•Ibai Ederria, Carcel de Pamplona, C/San Roque Apdo 250, 31080-Iruñeiz Pamplona, Navarra, Spain. Serving nearly five years for sabotaging machinery at the controversial Itoiz dam construction site.

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

•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, Kansas, North America. Serving 80 years for aggravated assault on federal agents, escape and bank

robbery. Chubbuck funneled money that he stole from banks to the Zapatista Army of National Liberation in Chiapas, Mexico.

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

MOVE

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

•Debbie Simms Africa, #006307, Janet Holloway Africa, #006308, and Janine Philips Africa, #006309, 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.

•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

•Robert "Rob Los Ricos" Thaxton, #12112716, MCCF, 4005 Aumsville

Hwy, Salem, OR 97301, USA. Serving a seven-year mandatory minimum sentence for throwing a rock at a cop at a 1999 Reclaim the Streets action in Eugene, Oregon.

•Fran Thompson, #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, Vandalia, MO 63382-0300, 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.

•José Pérez González, #21519-069, Federal Prison Camp, POB 725, Edgefield, SC 29824-0725, USA. Serving five years.

•José Vélez Acosta, #23883-069, Federal Correctional Complex, US Penitentiary, POB 1033, Coleman, FL 33521-1033, USA. Serving two years and nine months.

Prisoner Support Groups

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

•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; www.freefreenow.org.

•New York City Jericho Movement, POB 774, Bronx, NY 10458, USA; www.jerichony.org.

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

•Prison Book Program, 1306 Hancock St, Ste 100, c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore, Quincy, MA 02169, USA; www.prisonbookprogram.org.

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

announce

BLUE RIDGE DIRECT ACTION SKILLSHARE GATHERING

MAY 13-15

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA

Have you ever wondered what you could do to help further the revolution? Do you have a skill that you would like to teach people, or a skill that you would like to learn? Do you like to camp in beautiful mountains with a lot of really cool people? If so, then you should come to the Blue Ridge Direct Action Skillshare Gathering. On the weekend of May 13-15, activists from all over will be gathering in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains to learn, teach, share and have a rockin' good time. We will be teaching many things, including primitive skills, tree-climbing/sitting/setting/getting, deconstruction of the system and much more. Also, if you have a skill or anything you would like to teach, then bring it and share it. Everyone is welcome, it's totally free, and we will be having a great time. For more information, contact Jamie, travelingbolete@yahoo.com or Jared, fly_trap@ecomail.org.

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SUMMER TRAINING CAMP

MAY 24-31

SOUTHERN APPALACHIA

Mountain Justice Summer is a campaign to challenge mountaintop removal coal mining practices across central and southern Appalachia. Greedy coal companies are destroying the life-giving natural and cultural heritage of Appalachia. We need your help this summer!

The Mountain Justice Summer Training Camp is kicking off this Summer's activities. The camp will teach participants the basics about mountaintop removal coal mining and this Summer's campaign, with an emphasis on nonviolence, tactics, and education.

The 24th is a check-in day. Be on time because courses start early the next day. Food will be provided. Dorm space is limited (and costs extra), so bring a tent or some tarps for shelter. This is a very structured camp and people are expected to participate throughout the entire event. There are four required courses for everyone who comes to the camp: nonviolence training, dealing with threats from the coal industry, Appalachian culture and mountaintop removal basics. Grassroots organizing, media skills, action skills and other topics will also be offered. Please check the website for updates and details, and please fill out the registration form. You must register for this camp! We need to know how much food to get, dietary restrictions, etc.... Please bring money! The camp will cost \$20-\$50 sliding scale to cover rent, food and gear. If you are flat broke, contact us about poverty rates and potential scholarships. We also need folks to come prepared to participate in Mountain Justice Summer events for much of the Summer.

If you have any questions about the training camp or if you would like to be involved, please email mountainjusticesummer@hushmail.com. For more information visit www.mountainjusticesummer.org. If you don't use computers, call (865) 522-6527.

EARTH FIRST! PNW SPRING RENDEZVOUS

MAY 27 - 31

Activists of: Puget Sound, North Cascades, Columbia Gorge, Olympic Peninsula and Vancouver Island invite you to join us for a weekend of workshops, trainings and direct-action campaign planning in a threatened ancient forest near Seattle. Our Winter event had 60+ people attending! There will be many more of us this Spring, so we'll need more musicians to join us! For more information, contact (360) 789-7843; olyef@cascadiarising.org.

ROAD BLOCK NATIONAL NETWORKING CONFERENCE

JUNE 4

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

The Road Block national networking conference is a unique opportunity to meet with people from around the country who are opposing road schemes, and to learn from each other and share strategies for defeating road schemes. The conference is for those actively fighting roads, and priority will be given to those in local groups. A £10 donation per attendee is suggested.

For more information, visit www.roadblock.org.uk.

WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE

JUNE 11

EVERYWHERE

June 11 will see naked bike rides in more than 1,000 cities across the globe. Human beings who oppose car culture and oil wars and who believe in a society more accepting of nudity will ride together to focus attention on the horrific cost to our planet from oil dependency (and to have fun). All are welcome. Bare as you dare is OK.

For more information, visit www.worldnakedbikeride.org.

BIODEMOCRACY 2005 RECLAIM THE COMMONS!

JUNE 18-21

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia RAGE (Resistance Against Genetic Engineering) is mobilizing with local and national groups to coordinate BioDemocracy 2005: Reclaim the Commons! From June 18-21, Philadelphia will be abuzz with a grassroots convergence for non-GMO foods, biodiversity and global justice. Plans include an Anti-wars March on June 18 (against wars on nations, animals and the Earth),

ments

a teach-in and counter-conference featuring international speakers on June 19 and 20, and a Summer Solstice day of action on June 21. Also in the pipeline is an anti-vivisection conference for animal rights activists, a Food Not Bombs International Gathering celebrating its 25th anniversary and much more!

For more information, contact Philadelphia RAGE (c/o Student Environmental Action Coalition), (215) 222-4711; phillyrage@riseup.net; www.reclaimthecommons.net; www.biodev.org; www.june21.org.

GREEN AND BLACK URBAN GATHERING

JUNE 19-22

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

This June 19-22, thousands of wealthy capitalists and biological profiteers representing the Biotechnology Industry Organization will convene in Philly to celebrate and promote their dangerous manipulation of life's very building blocks for private gain.

We are calling for anti-authoritarian, eco-positive radicals and allies to gather during the anti-biotech mobilization and share our vision of liberation and harmony among all living communities. While we recognize wilderness defense, sustainable communities and other "off the grid" approaches as valid and worthy of support, we wish to focus this gathering on enacting a radical ecological praxis in the belly of the beast—the industrial, urban areas where more than half the world's people live. We will be organizing several days of skillshares, actions and cultural events on themes likely to include gardening, squatting/sustainable urban living, resistance to car culture, physical and mental health, anti-oppression community dynamics, post-consumer resource reclamation and more. We are also actively soliciting ideas for workshops and events. Come to Philly this June to oppose biotech and sow the seeds of widespread resistance to industrial capitalism. We can

and will destroy this machine from within. Let's get busy! To share your ideas or get involved, contact the Under the Pavement Organizing Collective, underthepavement@gmail.com; www.gbug.org.

NEW YORK CITY BIKE AND TRANSIT CONFERENCE

JUNE 24-JULY 4

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Join us for a semi-International Bike Summer, beginning after the June 24 Critical Mass and continuing until the July 4 holiday. These seven days will provide enough time for a broad range of discussions, exhibits, rides and other events. Activists and enthusiasts from around the country and world are being invited to express themselves, compare notes and make plans for more effective actions on behalf of sane and human-scale transport. Proceedings will all be free and simulcast on the Internet to the extent possible, to provide for a maximum of interactivity. Each subject will have a full day to explore current conditions and possible remedies for the health, economic and transportation catastrophes in which we are currently enmeshed.

For more information, contact (212) 431-0600; meetme@theautomat.com; www.lightwheels.com.

FERAL VISIONS AGAINST CIVILIZATION THE THIRD ANNUAL GREEN ANARCHIST GATHERING

JULY 27-AUGUST 3

SOUTHERN APPALACHIA

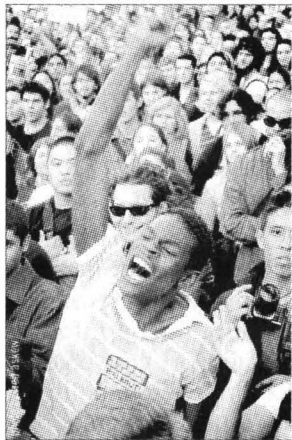
As we embark on the process of rewilding—of opening ourselves to the wild desires that lie latent in our hearts and bodies—we can look to each other for knowledge and inspiration. We can never live as if we weren't born into civilization's logic of control and distrust, but we *do*

have the power to begin to decivilize ourselves now.

A recent surge of interest in primitivist and anti-civilization ideas has supported publications, gatherings and all sorts of collaborations. The informal Black and Green network converges to share and collaborate, cross-pollinate and inspire each other through our interaction in a wild place.

The exact location will be announced on the website and on a toll-free voicemail one week before the gathering. Some of the subjects we've focused on in the past include anti-civilization theory, emotional recovery from civilization, radical communication, ecofeminism, nihilism, indigenous solidarity, anarcho-primitivism, symbolic culture, post/anti-leftism, insurrectionism and direct action strategy. As for skillsharing, in the past we've seen hide tanning, arrow-fletching, basketry, shelter building, wild foods gathering, friction fire-making and roadkill skinning. Kids, parents and folks thinking about future parenting are encouraged to come participate in kids' activities and to share experiences with raising children outside of civilization, feral parenting, teaching ecological awareness and un-schooling. For more information, contact (866) 460-2945; feralvisions@greenanarchy.org; www.greenanarchy.org/feralvisions.





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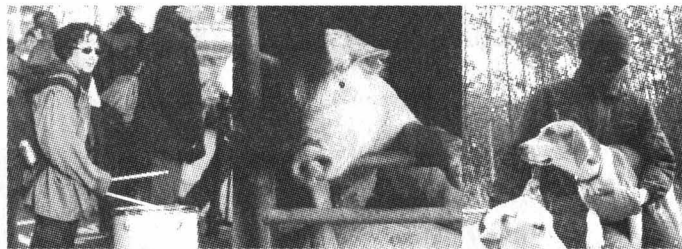
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WEEKEND OF RESISTANCE

FOR JEFF 'FREE' LUERS JUNE 10 - 12



June 12, 2005 marks the five-year anniversary of the imprisonment of Jeff "Free" Luers. Jeff was sentenced to more than 22 years in prison for burning three Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) at a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon. He set fire to the SUVs to call attention to climate change and to protest oil wars and environmental destruction. Despite what some might think of his tactics, Jeff was motivated by compassion and a desire to protect life, not to harm it.

Prior to his arrest, Jeff was a popular community activist in Eugene. He was well-known because of his involvement with national forest protection, anti-police brutality activism, free food programs in a local park and teaching women's self-defense. Since his imprisonment, Jeff has continued to be extremely active and to fight oppression with his words.

On June 12, 2004, social and environmental activists in eight countries participated in an "International Day of Action" in solidarity with Jeff. They organized nonviolent protests and community events to show their support for Jeff and their disgust at his cruel sentence. The FBI responded by creating a "Green Scare," sending out a memo warning of planned "terrorist attacks" by the "Earth Liberation Front" on that date. Of course, all of the events were peaceful and public, ranging from concerts and demonstrations to video showings and dinner parties. Even some mainstream media outlets recognized the FBI memo for what it was—a manipulative, dishonest attempt to incite

fear. Some participants in the June 12 day of action withstood intense harassment including being photographed, videotaped and questioned. One group was even evicted due to the FBI hysteria.

Since last year's Day of Action, support for Jeff has continued to grow. People all over the world see Jeff as a political prisoner and acknowledge that his sentence is meant to deter resistance to oppression. As the political climate in the US and abroad continues to become more corrupt and repressive, the conditions are ripe to expose the hypocrisy of the system. Opposition and dissent are needed now, possibly more than ever before.

During the weekend of June 10-12, social justice activists from across the world are again called upon to show their outrage at Jeff's imprisonment and the continued abuse of dissident prisoners across the globe. State repression is meant as a deterrent to social and environmental movements everywhere. Jeff received a sentence of more than 22 years for an action that harmed no one. Typical arson charges in Oregon result in sentences of less than five years. Last year, the judge from Jeff's case sentenced a man to 18 years for child molestation. Charles Graner, Jr., responsible for the brutal torture and sexual harassment of Iraqi prisoners of war at Abu Ghraib prison, received only 10 years! Every day in every city, cops receive little or no punishment for their crimes against the public. This cannot be tolerated!

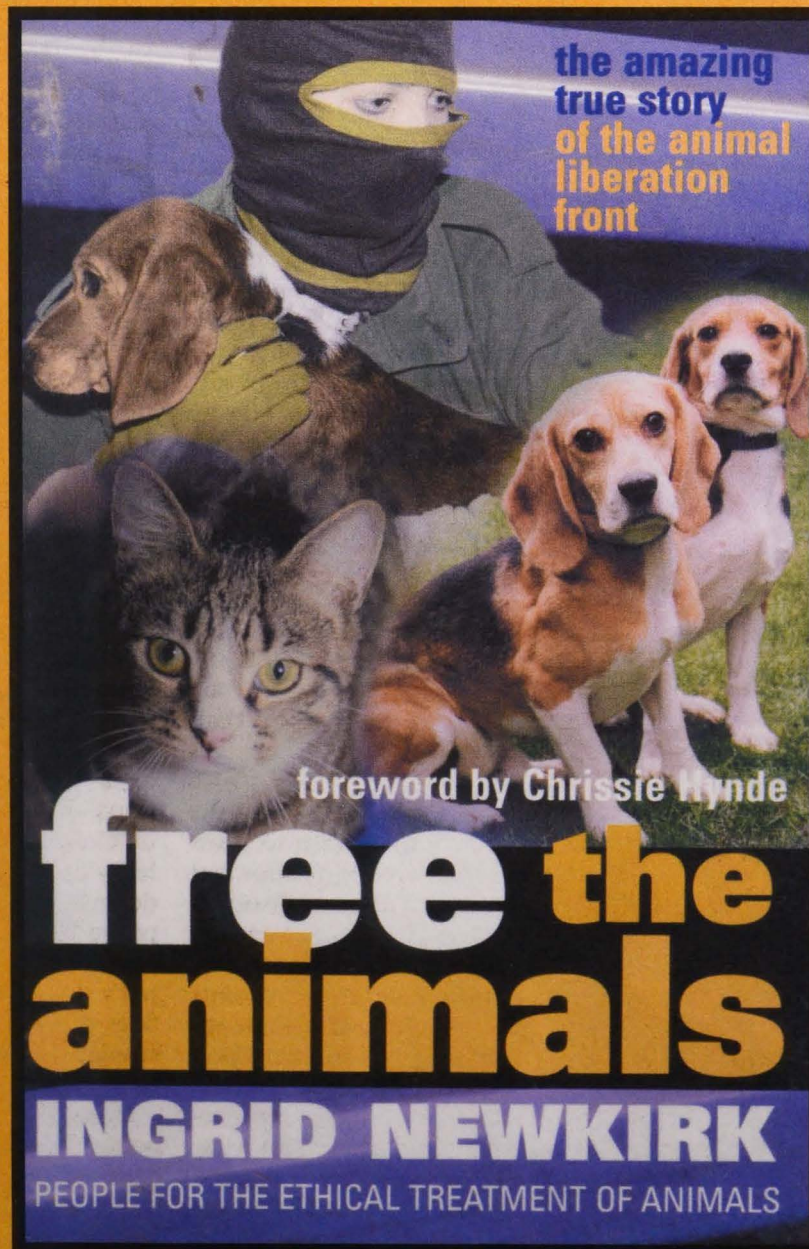
There is no central organizing body or group to check in with for the Weekend of Resistance, but the Jeff Luers Support Network can help by providing you with flyers, graphics, videos, zines and stickers. Begin planning your event now. Read more about Jeff's case and about other political prisoners. Plan an action that makes sense for your area: a demonstration, treesit, music festival, teach-in, stenciling campaign, rally, protest at an American consulate or embassy, or a public forum. Circulate petitions. Write letters to the governor of Oregon asking him to look into Jeff's case. Contribute to Jeff's legal defense. Do what you think is appropriate. But please remember to think about how your actions could affect Jeff's upcoming appeal. Ask yourself: does this help or hurt Jeff? Does this strengthen the movement or weaken it in the long term?

Fight for the political prisoners because they have fought for you—against racism and poverty, war and imperialism, and the pillaging of the natural world. They're in there for us—we are out here for them!

For more information, contact Free's Defense Network, POB 3, Eugene, OR 97440; freefreenow@mutualaid.org; www.freefreenow.org. For more information about political prisoners, visit www.thejerichomovement.com.

"The day will come when the rest of the animal kingdom may acquire those rights which never could have been withheld from them but by the hand of tyranny."

—Jeremy Bentham



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